Communication No. 2794

ICE DANCE

GUIDELINES FOR INTERNATIONAL NOVICE COMPETITIONS 2026/27

UPDATE NOVEMBER 09th, 2026

It is a requirement for certain Technical Specifications to be announced annually by the Ice Dance Technical Committee which also applies to the guidelines for Novice International Competitions.

- Pattern Dances for International Competitions (including Key Points and Key Point Features)
- Music requirements for Pattern Dances for International Competitions,
- Required Elements for Free Dance

Furthermore, please refer to the following additional Communications to be published separately:

- Communication Requirements for Technical Specifications with ongoing validity, effective July 1, 2026:
  - Criteria for Levels for all Required Elements

- Communication Marking Guides effective July 1, 2026:
  - Marking Guide for GOE for Pattern Dances, Pattern Dance Elements, Rhythm Dance/Free Dance
  - Components charts for Pattern Dances and Rhythm Dance/Free Dance
  - Who's Responsible for Pattern Dances and Rhythm Dance/Free Dance

All other rules are published in the Sports Rules Single & Pair Skating and Ice Dance 2026

June 15, 2026

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1. GENERAL INFORMATION, SEASON 2026/27

Entries

All entries are made based on the age and the category of the Skaters. Entries to the competitions must be made by the ISU Members (for International Competitions) or Sections/Clubs (for Interclub Competitions). The latter must be a member of the ISU Member.

Category		BASIC NOVICE	INTERMEDIATE NOVICE	ADVANCED NOVICE
Competition Segments		2 Pattern Dances and Free Dance	2 Pattern Dances and Free Dance	2 Pattern Dances and Free Dance
Age restriction		has not reached the age of fourteen (**14**)	has not reached the age of sixteen (**16**)	has reached the age of ten (**10)** and has not reached the age of sixteen (**16**) for girls (Singles/Pairs Skating/Ice Dance) and boys (Single Skating) and eigtheen (**18**) for boys (Pair Skating/Ice Dance)

ALL DEDUCTIONS FOR NOVICE CATEGORIES ARE HALF THE NORMAL DEDUCTIONS FOR JUNIOR/SENIOR.
THE CHART WITH ALL DEDUCTIONS IS INCLUDED IN A SEPARATE COMMUNICATION

As the values of the deductions are different from the standard ones provided by Rule 353, paragraph 1.n), the **Referee** must give specific instructions to the calculation system operator and must check the correct input of deduction values in each instance.

Officials:

a) ~~Rule 420 6,~~ regarding the appointment of Officials apply, except for the requirement of their international qualification. However, in each event there must be at least one (1) Judge and one (1) member of the Technical Panel and the Referee with an international qualification. National officials may be aged from 21 years to 75 years.

b) The same ISU Rules regarding judging, refereeing and the work of the Technical Panel apply as in Junior and Senior International Competitions.

c) ~~Rules 433~~, ~~paragraphs 1 and 2~~ regarding the Report of the Referee and the Report of the Technical Controller for Advance Novice apply.

General Information for Pattern Dances – All Novice Categories

Calling Process without Key Points: Basic Novice	Technical Panel identifies Sequences/Sections of the Pattern Dance as **Basic Level** when **50%** of the Sequence/Section is completed by both partners; **Level 1** when **75%** of the Sequence/Section is completed by both partners. **Level 2** when **90%** of the Sequence/Section is completed by both partners. Technical Panel identifies and calls falls.
Calling Process with Key Points: Intermediate and Advance Novice	Technical Panel determines the Level of every Section/Sequence. At **Intermediate** Novice **up to Level 3** and **Advanced** Novice **up to Level 4**
For events with two Pattern Dances	The total score for each PD will be multiplied by **a factor of 0.5 in Basic Novice, 0.75 in Intermediate Novice** and **1.0 in Advanced Novice**

MUSIC REQUIREMENTS FOR PATTERN DANCES AND FREE DANCE FOR INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

~~Rule 707, paragraph 5 provides that,~~ in International Competitions, the current series of ISU Ice Dance music shall be used for the Pattern Dance unless the Ice Dance Technical Committee has decided that the music for one or several Pattern Dances is to be provided by the Couple, following certain requirements. For season 2026/27, Couples shall provide their own music for all Pattern Dances. ~~According to Rule 707 paragraph 6~~: After the completion of the last step of the Pattern Dance, the couple must reach their final pose within 20 seconds. If this time limit is exceeded, a "Pattern Dances Program time" deduction according to Rule 353, paragraph 1. n) shall apply. The music must be chosen in accordance with the Rhythm of the Pattern Dance and may be vocal. The Tempo throughout the required Sequences must be constant and in accordance with the required Tempo of the Pattern Dance (~~see ISU Handbook Ice Dancing 2003~~) plus or minus 2 beats per minute (for dances with 4/4 timing) and plus or minus 3 beats per minute for waltz rhythms. Music created digitally or with AI is permitted.

Music and theme must be age appropriate in tone, content, and presentation, ensuring suitability for the developmental stages of the Novice categories.

2. PATTERN DANCES - BASIC, INTERMEDIATE, ADVANCED NOVICE – SEASON 2026/27

~~Rule 711, paragraph 1:~~ for Novice International Competitions, the Pattern Dances will be announced annually by the Ice Dance Technical Committee in an ISU Communication not later than May 31st, to become effective on July 1st of the season following the announcement.

Note: ~~Rule 707, para 6 -~~ After the completion of the last step of the Pattern Dance, the couple must reach their final pose within 20 seconds (exception: Paso Doble + Choreographic Element). If this time limit is exceeded, a deduction ~~according to rule 353 para 1. n)~~ shall apply per the "Who is Responsible" chart published in a separate Communication.

BASIC NOVICE
Two (2) Pattern Dances are to be skated from the following. These will be drawn before the first practice on site:

- **Willow Waltz, Hickory Hoedown and Tango Fiesta**

INTERMEDIATE NOVICE

Two (2) Pattern Dances are to be skated from the following. These will be drawn before the first practice on site:

- **Fourteen Step, Foxtrot and American Waltz**

ADVANCED NOVICE

The following two (2) Pattern Dances are to be skated:

- **Paso Doble Plus and Blues**
  - Paso Doble Plus - Timing commences with the first movement and the maximum duration of the Paso Doble Plus is one (1) minute and 10 seconds. This includes two (2) sequences of the Paso Doble and one (1) Choreographic Element performed in any order. The Choreographic Element may not be performed in between the Paso Doble sequences.

2.1 PATTERN DANCES SEASON 2026/27

All Novice categories	**All Pattern Dances will be skated in the order listed and must be performed with the first sequence executed in front of the judges' stand. If not, the Referee will stop the couple and instruct them to restart on the correct side without deduction. The first Step of the dance must be on beat 1 of a measure. Couples shall provide their own music for all Pattern Dances. Tunes 1-5 of the ISU Ice Dance music may also be chosen. Each team's music for the official practice will be played for both Pattern Dances (Each couple skate the first Pattern Dance to their own music and then each couple skates the second dance to their own music) Warm-up 3 minutes, max 6 couples. The first 30 seconds are without music, followed by 2 minutes and 30 seconds of the 6th tune of the ISU Ice Dance music to be played**						
		Pattern Dance	**# of sequences**	**Music**	**Pattern**	**Components/ Factors**	**Warm up Music**
Basic Novice **No Key Points, Called to max Level 2**	Pattern Dance 1	**Willow Waltz**	2 Sequences	Rhythm: Waltz ¾, Tempo 45 measures of 3 beats (135 beats per minute) plus or minus 3 beats per minute	Set Pattern	Timing Presentation Skating Skills Factor: 0.7	the 6th (last) tune of the European Waltz ISU Ice Dance music
	Pattern Dance 2	**Hickory Hoedown**	2 Sequences	Rhythm: Country Western (Hoedown) 4/4, Tempo 26 measures of 4 beats, (104 per minute) plus or minus 2 beats per minute	Set Pattern		Hickory Hoedown Music – available on the ISU website under "Music Rhythms Additions"
	Pattern Dance 3	**Tango Fiesta**	2 Sequences	Rhythm: Tango 4/4, Tempo 27 measures of 4 beats, (108 beats per minute) plus or minus 2 beats per minute	Set Pattern		the 6th (last) tune of the Tango ISU Ice Dance music
Intermediate Novice **Key points called to max Level 3**	Pattern Dance 1	**Fourteenstep**	4 Sequences	Rhythm: March 6/8 or 2/4, Tempo 56 or 28 measures of 4 beats (112 beats per minute) plus or minus 2 beats per minute	Set Pattern	Timing Presentation Skating Skills Factor: 0.7	the 6th (last) tune of the Fourteenstep ISU Ice Dance music
	Pattern Dance 2	**Foxtrot**	2 Sequences	Rhythm: Foxtrot 4/4, Tempo 25 measures of 4 beats, (100 beats per minute) plus or minus 2 beats per minute	Optional Pattern		the 6th (last) tune of the Foxtrot ISU Ice Dance music
	Pattern Dance 3	**American Waltz**	2 Sequences	Rhythm: Waltz ¾, Tempo 66 measures of 3 beats, (198 beats per minute) plus or minus 3 beats per minute	Set Pattern		the 6th (last) tune of the American Waltz ISU Ice Dance music
Advanced Novice **Key points called to max Level 4**	Pattern Dance 1	**Paso Doble Plus**	2 Sequences	Rhythm: Paso Doble 2/4, Tempo 56 measure of 2 beats, (112 beats per minute) plus or minus 2 beats per minute	Optional Pattern	Timing Presentation Skating Skills Factor: 0.93	the 6th (last) tune of the Paso Doble ISU Ice Dance music
	Pattern Dance 2	**Blues**	2 Sequences	Rhythm: Blues 4/4, Tempo 22 measure of 4 beats. (88 beats per minute) plus or minus 2 beats per minute	Optional Pattern		the 6th (last) tune of the Blues ISU Ice Dance music

2.2 PATTERN DANCE PERCENTAGE OF STEPS INFORMATION SEASON 2026/27

CATEGORY	DANCE		DURATION IN SECS PER SEQUENCE	REQUIRED SECTION or SEQUENCES	No OF STEPS PER SECTION OR SEQUENCE	No of Steps				
						10%	25%	50%	75%	90%
Basic Novice	Willow Waltz	132 – 138 bpm	23.4-24.6	2 Sequences (1 round)	22	2	6	11	17	20
	Hickory Hoedown	102-106 bpm	~~21.3 22.3~~ 22.6-23.5	2 Sequences (1 round)	~~16~~ 23	2	~~4~~ 6	~~8~~ 12	~~12~~ 17	~~14~~ 21
	Tango Fiesta	106-110 bpm	~~15.8-16.5~~ 17.5-18.1	2 Sequences (1 round)	~~14~~ 16	~~1~~ 2	4	~~7~~ 8	~~11~~ 12	~~13~~ 14
Intermediate Novice	Fourteenstep	110-114 bpm	10.5-10.9	4 Sequences (2 rounds)	14	1	4	7	11	13
	Foxtrot	98-102 bpm	16.5 – 17.1	2 Sequences (1 round)	14	1	4	7	11	13
	American Waltz	195-201 bpm	28.8- 29.4	2 Sequences (1 round)	16	2	4	8	12	14
Advanced Novice	Paso Doble Plus	110-114 bpm	16..8-17.5	2 Sequences ~~(1 round)~~ 2 rounds	28	3	7	14	21	25
	Blues	86 - 90 bpm	24.0 – 25.2	2 Sequences (1 round)	18	2	5	9	14	16

2.3 KEY POINTS AND KEY POINTS FEATURES FOR PATTERN DANCES, SEASON 2026/27

General note:
The process used by the Technical Panel to identify Key Points and their correct execution is the same process as for identification of Required Elements and Levels (i.e by majority).
Key Points Features: Must include correct turns, edges, foot placement and timing.

Correct or incorrect execution of Key Points is reported on the Judges Details per Skater chart as:

- "Yes": meaning, "all Key Point Features are met and all Edges/Steps are held for the required number of beats", or
- "Timing": meaning, "all Key Points Features are met but one or several Edges/Steps are not held for the required number of beats", or
- "No": meaning, "one or several Key Point Features are not met, whether or not Edges/Steps are held for the correct number of beats.
- "X": meaning, "none of the steps within a Key Point were attempted".

Note:

- Cross Roll (Forward/Backward)

Requirement/description: Rolling action of the free leg passing continuously the skating foot to the next outside curve. At the same time, the body weight transfers from one outside curve to the new outside curve to create a rolling movement.
For Cross Rolls, the free foot passes the skating blade/foot and is placed on the ice in front/back of the skating blade/foot. There is no requirement for the new skating blade to be on an outside edge when it is placed on the ice.

- Push/Transition to the next step

A change of edge within the last ½ beat of the step is permitted to prepare the push/transition to the next step

- Correct holds are the prescribed holds per the Pattern Dance descriptions

BASIC NOVICE
For Pattern Dances, there will be no key points described and up to **Level 2** will be evaluated.
The Judges evaluate the Pattern Dance with the GOE.

Characteristics of Levels for Basic Novice Pattern Dances:

Basic Level	Level 1	Level 2
50% of Pattern Dance is completed by both partners	**75% or more of Pattern Dance** is completed by both partners	**90% or more of Pattern Dance** is completed by both partners

INTERMEDIATE NOVICE

Key Point Features: must include correct turns, edges, foot placement, timing and holds

Characteristics of Levels for Intermediate Novice Pattern Dances:

Basic Level	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
50% of Pattern Dance is completed by both partners	75% of Pattern Dance is completed by both partners 1 Key Point is correctly executed	75% of Pattern Dance is completed by both partners 2 Key Point are correctly executed	90% of Pattern Dance is completed by both partners 2 Key Point are correctly executed

Fourteen Step

	Key Point 1	Key Point 2
FO1Sq and FO3Sq	Woman Steps 1-4 (RBO, LBI-Pr, RBO, LBO-SwR)	Man Steps 8-10 (RFI OpMo, LBI, RBO)
Additional Key Point Features	1. Progressive: Not performed as a chasse	
	Key Point 1	**Key Point 2**
FO2Sq and FO4Sq	Man Steps 1-4 (LFO, RFI-Pr,LFO,RFO-SwR)	Woman Steps 12-14 (LFO OpMo, RBO,LBI)
Additional Key Point Features	1. Progressive: Not performed as a chasse	

Foxtrot

	Key Point 1	Key Point 2
FT1Sq	Man Steps 3-4b (LFO, CR-RF03,LBO)	Woman Steps 13-14 (LFI, RFI)
Additional Key Point Features	1. Correct Cross Roll	
FT2Sq	Woman Steps 5-6 (CR-LFO3, RBO)	Man Steps 13-14 (LFI, RFI)
Additional Key Point Features	1. Correct Cross Roll	

American Waltz

	Key Point 1	Key Point 2
AW1Sq, AW2Sq	Man Steps 1-3 (RFO-Sw3, LBO-SwR, RFO-SwR)	Woman Steps 7-9 (LBO-SwR, ~~RBO~~ RFO-Sw3, LBO-SwR)
Additional Key Point Features	1. Correct Swing Three Turn	1. Correct Swing Three Turn

ADVANCED NOVICE

Key Point Features: Must include correct turns, edges, foot placement, timing and holds

Characteristics of Levels for Advanced Novice Pattern Dances:

Basic Level	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
50% of Pattern Dance is completed by both partners	75% of Pattern Dance is completed by both partners 1 Key Point is correctly executed	75% of Pattern Dance is completed by both partners 2 Key Points are correctly executed	90% of Pattern Dance is completed by both partners 3 Key Points are correctly executed	100% of Pattern Dance is completed by both partners 3 Key Points are correctly executed

Paso Doble + Choreographic Element

	Key Point 1	Key Point 2	Key Point 3
PD1Sq	**Woman and Man** Steps 1-~~6~~ 7 (RBO, LBI-Pr, RBO, LBI-Ch RBO, LBI-Ch, RBO)	**Woman** Steps 17-23 (RFI, LFO, XB-RFI, LFO, RFI-Ch, LFO, RFI-Ch, LFO)	**Man** Steps 17-23 (LBI, RBO, XF-LBI, RBO, LFO, RFI-Ch, LFO)
PD2Sq	**Woman** Steps 12-17 (XB-LBI, RBO, XB-LBI, RBO, XF-LFI, RFI)	**Man** Steps 12-18 (XF-RFI, LFO, RFI-Pr, XB-LFO OpMo, RBO, LBI, RBO)	**Woman and Man** Steps 25-28 **Woman Steps**: (LFO, CR-RFO, CR-LFO, CR-RFO-SwR) *Note: Open Mohawk is **NOT** considered for the Key Point* **Man Steps**: (LFO, CR-RFO, CR-LFO, CR-RFO-SwR)
Choreographic Element	**One (1) Choreographic Element** chosen from the following and performed either before or after the (2) Paso Doble Sequences. May not be performed in between the Paso Doble Sequences. The Choreographic Element must reflect the chosen character of the Pattern Dance. ~~or the GOE will be no higher than +1. Reduced in according~~ Choreographic Lift Choreographic Sliding Movement Choreographic Spinning Movement Choreographic Twizzling Movement		

Blues

	Key Point 1	Key Point 2	Key Point 3
BL1Sq	**Man** Steps 3-5 (RFO, CR-LFO3, RBO)	**Woman** Steps 12-13 (LFI-ClCho, RBO)	**Man** Steps 12-13 (LFI-ClCho, RBO)
BL2Sq	**Woman and Man** Steps 7-11 (CR-RFO-SW, LFO, RFI-Pr, LFO, RFI-Pr	**Woman** Steps 14-17 (CR-LBO, RFI, LFO3, RBO)	**Man** Steps 14-17 (CR-LBO, RFI, LFO, RF-Ch, LFO)

3. FREE DANCE REQUIRED ELEMENTS: BASIC, INTERMEDIATE, ADVANCED NOVICE, SEASON 2026/27

Category	BASIC NOVICE	INTERMEDIATE NOVICE	ADVANCED NOVICE
Levels	**Called to maximum Level 1**	**Called to maximum Level 2**	**Called to maximum Level 3**
Lifts	—	**Maximum 1 Short Lift** Maximum 7 seconds Choice of Straight line, Curve, Stationary or Rotational lift	**Maximum 1 Short Lift** Maximum 7 seconds Choice of Straight line, Curve, Stationary or Rotational lift
Dance Spins	**1**	**1**	**1**
	• **Dance Spin - Specifications** • Dance Spin - A spin skated by the Couple together in any hold. To be performed on the spot around a common axis on one foot with or without change(s) of foot by one or both partners		
Step Sequences	—	—	**1 Style B** Circular or Serpentine, Midline or Diagonal Performed in Prescribed Holds
Sequential Twizzles	**1**	**1**	**1**
	• At least two Twizzles for each partner and must **NOT** be in contact between Twizzles • Up to **2** steps between Twizzles (Each push and/or transfer of weight while on two feet between Twizzles is considered as a step)		
Choreographic Elements	**Two (2) Choreographic Elements**: • **One (1)** of which must be a **Choreographic Character Step Sequence** And • **One (1) additional chosen from**: Choreographic Lift Choreographic Sliding Movement Choreographic Spinning Movement Choreographic Twizzling Movement		**Two (2) Different Choreographic Elements** chosen from: Choreographic Character Step Sequence Choreographic Lift Choreographic Sliding Movement Choreographic Spinning Movement Choreographic Twizzling Movement **The type of Choreographic Element attempted in the Pattern Dance "Paso Doble + Choreographic Element" cannot be repeated in the Free Dance.** A repeated Choreographic Element will receive the * symbol as Element not according to the well-balanced program requirements (*), the element will receive NO value but will NOT receive a deduction.

Note: Specifications to Step Sequence Style B, Free Dance:

Not permitted: Stops, Loops, Retrogression, Hand-in-hand hold with fully-extended arm, Separations of more than 2 arm lengths and/or exceeding 5 seconds

The pattern of the Step Sequence (Style B) must maintain the integrity or basic shape of the chosen pattern.

Note: For Basic Novice and Intermediate Novice (FD) if a Choreographic Character Step Sequence is not performed within the first two Choreographic Elements, the second performed Choreographic Element is identified as not according to the well-balanced program

requirements receives a (*) symbol. The Choreographic Character Step Sequence performed as a subsequent Choreographic Element shall not be identified.

3.1 DEFINITION OF CHOREOGRAPHIC ELEMENTS - NOVICE

- **Choreographic Character Step Sequence**
  The following requirements apply:
  - Performed anywhere in the program
  - Must be placed around the Short Axis (within 10 meters on either side of the Short Axis) and must proceed from barrier to barrier. The requirement from barrier to barrier is fulfilled when at least one of the partners is not more than 2 ~~arm lengths~~ meters from each barrier.
  - May be in hold or not touching
  - Touching the ice with hand(s) is allowed
  - Touching the ice with any part (or parts) of the body with controlled movements is **allowed only for Advanced Novice**
  - Touching the barrier at the start or finish of the Choreographic Character Step is not permitted and it will be taken into account by the Judges when assessing the GOE.
  - Distance between partners is permitted as a maximum of 2 arms lengths apart (2 meters)
  - Not permitted: Retrogressions, Loops

- **Choreographic Lift: Dance Lift of minimum 3 seconds and up to ten (10) seconds**
  The following requirements apply:
  - performed after all the other required Dance Lifts

- **Choreographic Sliding Movement:** performed anywhere in the program, during which both partners perform sliding movements on the ice.
  The following requirements apply:
  - Sliding movement by both partners at the same time on any part of the body for at least 2 seconds. The start and ending of the Choreographic Sliding Movement does not have to be performed simultaneously.
  - May be in hold or not touching, or a combination of both and may also rotate.
  - Controlled Sliding on 2 knees or any part of the body will not be considered as a Fall/Illegal Element by the Technical Panel during this element.
  - Sliding Movement which finishes as a stop on 2 knees or sitting/lying on the ice is identified as a Choreographic Sliding Movement and a deduction for Fall is applied.
  - Performing basic lunge movement by both partners at the same time will NOT be considered as a Choreographic Sliding Movement.

- **Choreographic Spinning Movement:** spinning movement performed anywhere in the program, during which both partners perform at least 2 continuous rotations in any hold,
  The following requirements apply:
  - on one foot or two feet or one partner being elevated for less than 2 rotations, or a combination of the three,
  - on a common axis which may be moving.

- **Choreographic Twizzling Movement:** twizzling movement performed after the required Set of Twizzles, composed of 2 parts.
  The following requirements apply:
  - for both parts: on one foot or two feet or a combination of both,
  - for the first part: at least 2 continuous rotations performed simultaneously and both partners must travel (cannot be on the spot)

- for the second part: at least one of the partners has to perform at least 2 continuous rotations with up to 3 steps between the first and second twizzling movement, one or both partners can be on the spot or traveling or a combination of both.

3.2 GENERAL INFORMATION FOR NOVICE FREE DANCE (AND PATTERN DANCE WHEN APPLICABLE)

Category	BASIC NOVICE	INTERMEDIATE NOVICE	ADVANCED NOVICE	
Duration of Free Dance	2 minutes (+/- 10 seconds)	2 minutes 30 seconds (+/- 10 seconds)	3 minutes (+/- 10 seconds)	
	Program time: Referee deduction: -0.5 up to every 5 sec lacking or in excess			
Duration of Warm-up	Free Dance (All Novice categories): three (3) minutes, maximum five (5) Couples.			
Components Factors	• Composition • Presentation • Skating Skills Factor: 1.0	• Composition • Presentation • Skating Skills Factor: 1.0	• Composition • Presentation • Skating Skills Factor: 1.33	
Music	• All music, including classical music, must be cut/edited, orchestrated or arranged in a way that it creates an interesting, colorful, entertaining dance program with different dance moods or a building effect. • Must have at least one obvious change of tempo/rhythm and expression; this change may be gradual or immediate. • May be vocal and must be suitable for ice dance as a sport discipline. • Must have a rhythmic beat and melody, or rhythmic beat alone, but not melody alone. (per Communication 2698) • May be without an rhythmic beat for up to 10 seconds at beginning or end of the program. • May be without an rhythmic beat for up to 10 seconds during the program. • Music and theme must be age appropriate in tone, content, and presentation, ensuring suitability for the developmental stages of the Novice categories. •			**Music Requirements:** Referee + Judges Deduction: -1.0 per program
Stops	• After the clock is started with the first movement, couple must not remain in one place for more than 10 seconds. • During the program, unlimited full stops of up to five (5) seconds are allowed.			**Choreography restrictions:** Applied to violations outside of elements Referee + Judges Deduction: -0.5 per program
Separations	• The number of separations to execute transitional footwork or moves is unrestricted. • Distance allowed is maximum 2 arm lengths apart during separations • Duration of each separation (excluding Required Elements) can be no more than 5 seconds. • Separations at the beginning and/or end of the program may be up to 10 seconds, no restrictions on the distance of separation.			
Touching ice with hand(s)	• Not permitted — except during a Choreographic Sliding Movement or Choreographic Character Step Sequence in the Free Dance, and during the Advanced Novice Pattern Dance (Paso Doble + Choreographic Element, if a Choreographic Sliding Movement is performed).			
Costume and prop (also applicable for Pattern Dance)	• Must be modest, dignified, not give the effect of excessive nudity and appropriate for athletic competition – not garish or theatrical in design. Clothing however may reflect the character of the chosen music. • Skaters may wear trousers of any length • Accessories and props are not permitted.			**Costume and prop:** Referee + Judges deduction -0.5 per program