



Question & Answer Clarification Document

ICE DANCE

2026-2027

UPDATE 12 October 2026

ICE DANCE – Q&A CLARIFICATION DOCUMENT

Season: 2026–2027

Prepared for: Skaters, Coaches, Officials

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Purpose

This document provides official clarifications and answers to frequently asked questions regarding the application of ISU Communications No. 2794, 2795, 2797, and 2798.

It serves as a practical reference for the Ice Dance Community (Skaters, Coaches, Officials) to ensure consistent interpretation of technical specifications, GOE evaluation, deductions, and responsibilities.

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1. General & Technical Specifications

No.	Question	Clarification / Answer
1.1	SET OF TWIZZLES How many entry edges are there for the required twizzles?	There are four (4) entry edges FI, FO, BI, BO however, for the season 2026/27 there are 8 options accepted (LFI, RFI, LFO, RFO, LBI, RBI, LBO, RBO)
1.2	FD - SPIN For option 2 level 4 can you repeat middle feature a), b) or d)?	Yes. Each middle feature must be preceded and followed by 3 rotations. However, option d) can be combined with option a) or b) simultaneously.
1.3	RD - CDE What is the meaning of "acrobatic movement" in the CDE?	An acrobatic element is a movement with ANY of the following characteristics: strength, balance, flexibility or agility. An acrobatic movement is a controlled movement requiring a significant demonstration of one or more of the following characteristics: strength, balance, flexibility or agility.
1.4	RD - CDE What does "presentation to all four sides of the rink" mean?	The couple is considered as one unit . As long as one of the two skaters presents to each of the four sides of the rink, they have fulfilled the requirements.
1.5	RD - CDE What pattern is required for the CDE?	Short Axis, Long Axis or Diagonal (Short and Long Axis may be shifted) The CDE may be skated on a short Axis, Long Axis or Diagonal pattern. A Short Axis or Long Axis pattern is not required to cross the center of the ice.
1.6	RD - CDE During a CDE, the partners may separate to perform an acrobatic movement. Does this count as the permitted separation within the CDE?	No. A separation used solely to perform an acrobatic movement does not count as the permitted separation within the CDE, provided the partners reunite immediately after the movement.
1.7	RD - Holds What does Extended/sustained basic "Hand in Hand" position mean?	Side by side, hand in hand with fully extended arms.
1.8	FD – step sequences pattern If the couple perform a MiSt pattern for the Style B step sequence, can the couple do a DiSt pattern for ChSt?	Yes.
1.9	RD - GW 1st keypoint What is the correct foot placement for step 34?	The LBO edge is placed on the ice between the toe and instep of the skating foot, with no more than a half a blade distance.
1.10	FD - One Foot Turns Sequence Does the OFT sequence have to end simultaneously?	Yes. The Sport Rules state that the One Foot Turn Sequence consists of "turns performed on one foot by each partner simultaneously." Other than the first turn, the remaining turns do not have to be performed at the same time; however, the sequence must be completed together. This does not apply if one partner makes a mistake involving a loss of control resulting in a touchdown or fall.
1.11	LIFT In a combination lift can an accepted entry or exit upgrade the level of the other lift?	Yes. Based on the additional principles of calling, it is accepted to upgrade any level of lift.
1.12	RD – PDE In a pattern dance element, is a wrong step prior to or after the key point considered by the TP for the level?	No. The TP strictly assesses the steps stated in the chart as the key points. Wrong steps are evaluated by the judges awarding the GOE accordingly.

1.13	PD – PDE Is performing a wrong step in a PDE considered an interruption?	For Pattern Dance Elements, an interruption occurs when the continuity of the element is disrupted and one or more prescribed steps are missed, for example due to a fall, stumble, loss of balance, or touchdown. An interruption is the result of an obvious error that causes the sequence of prescribed steps to be broken. A wrong step, a step held for the wrong number of beats, a poorly executed step, or an incorrect free leg action do not, by themselves, constitute an interruption, provided the sequence continues without missing any prescribed steps. Such errors should be reflected in the GOE and, if they occur within a Key Point, considered by the Technical Panel when evaluating that Key Point.
1.14	PD – PDE Cross Roll Does the new skating blade have to be placed on the outside edge.	No. There is no requirement for the new skating blade to be on an outside edge when it is placed on the ice. (Rule 704 of the Sport Rules)
1.15	PDE 2WW Is the swing roll part of the key point features in key point 1 and 2?	Yes. According to sport rule 704: Swing Rocker or Counter – a type of Rocker or Counter in which the free leg swings smoothly past close to the skating leg before the turn and after the turn is either moved past the skating leg and held behind over the tracing or allowed to swing forward.
1.16	RD Is separation allowed during the permitted stop in Junior RD?	Yes. During the permitted stop the partners may separate (Rule 709 para g.) but such separation must not exceed the duration of one measure of the music and should not exceed two arm lengths apart.
1.17	Everyone's responsibility What action should be taken if the computer system incorrectly accepts, calculates or fails to identify an element that does not comply with the program requirements?	Officials must be fully aware of the applicable program requirements and should not rely solely on the automatic verification provided by the computer system. If the system incorrectly accepts or calculates an element, or fails to apply the expected warning or asterisk (*), the Technical Panel must verify the elements entered and ensure that the call is corrected before authorization. For example, if only two Choreographic Elements are required and a third is called and entered into the system, the additional element must not be counted. If a Judge notices a possible discrepancy concerning an element or the number of elements entered, the Help function may be used to draw the Technical Panel's attention to it. The Referee may also communicate with the Technical Controller when necessary. The computer system is a support tool and does not replace the responsibility of the officials to ensure that the final result complies with the applicable program requirements.
1.18	1 GW What action does the technical panel take if the PDE Golden Waltz (1GW) starts on the left side of the judges, before passing the Short Axis?	The technical panel recognises and calls the element and gives the level according to the level requirements. However, the pattern requirements would not be fulfilled, so consequently the Judges need to make a GOE deduction.
1.19	CDE What is the Tech Panel's calling procedure for the CDE?	There is no prescribed calling procedure however this is a suggested procedure that panels have used and liked. The TS1 will call each feature option as they see it successfully performed. If any member of the Tech Panel wants a review, they say review as soon as the feature is called, they don't wait until the CDE is finished. At the end the TS1 would call the level and review if needed.
1.20	Group C Twizzle Entry How does the Tech Panel assess the Group C Twizzle Entry when a toe hop or similar movement is involved?	The entry movements/steps may include different types of movements, including a toe hop or similar movement, as long as the movement is performed continuously and directly into the set of Twizzles, without a break in the rhythm, continuity, or complexity of the execution. A series of complex steps ending with a toe hop type movement to reset before the entry of the twizzles, can be seen as a break in the continuity and complexity of the series of steps.

1.21	Hickory Hoedown What are the dance positions in the Hickory Hoedown PD?	The Hickory Hoedown is a symmetrical half-rink pattern dance, where the Kilian position is used from steps 1 to 17 followed by closed position for the rest of the dance. At the repeat of the dance, the skaters resume Kilian position.
1.22	Combination Lift In a Combination Lift, can the entry or exit of a lift be used to upgrade the other lift, if the entry or exit was NOT ABLE TO BE AWARDED to the initial lift?	No, the entry or exit feature must have been awarded to the initial lift in order to be used to upgrade the other part of the combo lift.

2. Clarifications for Judges and Referees

No.	Question	Clarification / Answer
2.1	SET OF TWIZZLES How to consider negative features for required twizzles?	Execution not simultaneous and / or lack of unison: 1-2 negative features per twizzle(s)
2.2	RD – CDE How do the judges react if the separation and touching the ice is longer than 5 seconds?	Judges consider it as a negative feature „Not permitted items in any Element” (2 per each)
2.3	“e” symbol How does the “e” symbol effects the GOE?	If a Choreographic Element receives an “e,” reduce the established GOE by one grade (maximum final GOE = +4).
2.4	Silent Stand Protocol What materials may Ice Dance Judges bring to and use at the Judges’ stand?	Judges may use only official ISU documents or reference materials specifically authorized for use during the competition. Season 2026/27 Ice Dance judges also can use an additional reference sheet to record their scores only for the running segment of the competition. Any notes taken during the competition must relate exclusively to the performance being evaluated.
2.5	Everyone’s responsibility What action should be taken if the computer system incorrectly accepts, calculates or fails to identify an element that does not comply with the program requirements?	Officials must be fully aware of the applicable program requirements and should not rely solely on the automatic verification provided by the computer system. If the system incorrectly accepts or calculates an element, or fails to apply the expected warning or asterisk (*), the Technical Panel must verify the elements entered and ensure that the call is corrected before authorization. For example, if only two Choreographic Elements are required and a third is called and entered into the system, the additional element must not be counted. If a Judge notices a possible discrepancy concerning an element or the number of elements entered, the Help function may be used to draw the Technical Panel’s attention to it. The Referee may also communicate with the Technical Controller when necessary. The computer system is a support tool and does not replace the responsibility of the officials to ensure that the final result complies with the applicable program requirements.
2.6	RD / FD What is the main difference between performing the Rhythm Dance and the Free Dance?	In the 2026/27 season, the difference may be less obvious due to the removal of several previous Rhythm Dance restrictions. However, the fundamental concept remains. The Rhythm Dance is still subject to specific restrictions regarding separations, stops and hand-in-hand holds, which contribute to distinguishing it from the Free Dance. The Rhythm Dance should have a clearly recognisable dance identity connected to the prescribed style and seasonal requirements. The movement vocabulary, body action, timing, partnering, character and use of dance holds should support this identity throughout the program, rather than making the RD look like a shorter Free Dance containing the required elements. In the Free Dance, couples have considerably greater freedom to create and develop their own dance identity, style, movement language, partnering and use of holds according to their chosen music and choreographic concept.

		Rhythm Dance may start to look like a Free Dance when the required elements are performed, but the overall program does not clearly maintain the prescribed dance identity and style. If the movement vocabulary, body action, timing, partnering, dance character and use of holds do not consistently support the required identity, the program may give the impression of a shorter Free Dance containing the required RD elements rather than a genuine Rhythm Dance.
2.7	RD/FD Where can Judges reflect that a Rhythm Dance does not sufficiently demonstrate the identity and character of an RD?	This should primarily be reflected in the Program Components, particularly Composition. If the movement vocabulary, body action, timing, partnering, dance character and use of holds do not sufficiently support the required RD identity, this should influence the evaluation of the relevant Component criteria.

3. Typo Corrections

No.	Typo Correction reference	Correction
3.1	Novice Communication 2794	Page 5 - 2.2 Chart Required Section or Sequences for Paso Doble should read "2 Sequences (2 rounds)"
3.2	Novice Communication 2794	Page 7 Key points for American Waltz Key Point 2 should read "Woman Steps 7-9 (LBO-SwR, RFO-Sw3 , <u>LBO-SwR</u>)"