

Communication No. 2526 UPDATED

Competition and Event Regulations - Article 8

Residence & Citizenship and Clearance Procedure

The ISU Council deemed it appropriate to update ISU Communication No. 2526 following the entry into force of the Competition and Event Regulations (“**CER**”) and, in particular, Article 8 concerning Residence & Citizenship.

A. Legal Basis

a) Single Skating

For Single Skating, the position is as outlined in Article 8.2.1, Article 8.2.3 and Article 8.3 CER.

b) Pair Skating and Ice Dance couples

For Pair Skating and Ice Dance couples, the position is as outlined in Article 8.2.2, Article 8.2.3 and Article 8.3 CER.

c) Synchronized Skating

For Synchronized Skating, the position is as outlined in Article 8.2.4 and Article 8.3 CER.

B. Clearance Procedure

- a) For Skaters subject to a clearance requirement, and who are not yet in the possession of a Clearance Certificate, the ISU Member they intend to compete for, must submit to the ISU Office **by July 1 of a year** an application for a Clearance Certificate, together with the required necessary documentary evidence and a completed Questionnaire (see attachment).

In exceptional cases, when the application was submitted to the ISU Office before July 1, but the requirements for obtaining a Clearance Certificate are fulfilled only after July 1, but not later than 30 days before the first day of the event in which the ISU Member desires to enter the Skater, the application may be considered and a Clearance Certificate granted once the documents confirming fulfilment of the requirements have been received.

The application for partners of Pairs and Ice Dance couples may be submitted at any time, but not later than thirty (30) days before the first day of the event in which the ISU Member desires to enter the Skater.

- b) “Citizenship” shall be evidenced by a passport issued for international travel, an official certificate of citizenship issued by the competent national authority or a refugee passport. Any kind of special permit is not a “certificate for citizenship”.

- c) “Residence for one year” means and shall be evidenced by documentation demonstrating to the ISU’s satisfaction (acting reasonably) that the individual has maintained continuous stay in the country of residence **for a minimum of 180 days** within the past calendar year. This requires above all that a residence permit or equivalent document is issued by the country of residence allowing for a stay of a minimum of 180 days per year for a minimum of 1 year.
- d) “Continuous stay” can be split in a number of stays during a calendar year which all counted together total to a minimum of 180 days. A residence permit alone or a contract of rental of an apartment or house without further evidence of effective stay there for the required period is not sufficient. Further evidence can be an income tax statement, an income tax declaration submitted to a tax authority of the country of residence, a national insurance number issued by that country, tax returns, travel documentations, election registration, and other certificates, affidavits and letters issued by authorities, schools, private persons such as landlords, house administrators, employers and other similar means of evidence.
- e) An application for a residence permit can be considered in lieu of a residence permit if a regular residence permit has been neither granted nor dismissed within a twelve-month period after the application has been filed, provided that:
- a certified copy of the application is submitted with the filing stamp indicating the name of the receiving authority and the date of filing and
 - a document confirming that the applicant is entitled to stay in the country while the application is being processed.

In case there is no filing stamp on the copy of the application, a separate certificate issued by the receiving authority confirming the filing of the application and the filing date must be produced.

- f) In the exceptional case that a Skater is entitled to reside in the respective country of which he is not a citizen without needing any kind of permit, the applying ISU Member must provide evidence proving the legal basis on which the Skater is residing in the country. The weight given to the respective evidence will depend on the particular circumstances of each case.
- g) For Clearance Certificates granted on the basis of residence, proof of residence shall be reconfirmed annually by the ISU Member entering the Skater through submission of the documentation referred to above by 1 June of each year. If reconfirmation is not submitted by that date, the ISU Office shall notify the ISU Member and set a final deadline of thirty (30) days. Until reconfirmation has been provided and accepted by the ISU Office, the Skater shall not be eligible to be entered in ISU Events and International Competitions on the basis of that Clearance Certificate. If residence is not reconfirmed within the final deadline, the Clearance Certificate granted on the basis of residence shall lapse. This is without prejudice to the Skater's right to submit a new application.
- h) A Skater, subject to clearance or not, may skate for only one ISU Member in ISU Events and International Competitions in the course of the same season (July 1 – June 30). This also applies to Skaters who compete in several ISU sport disciplines.
- i) If the ISU Office considers the documents presented by the ISU Member insufficient for proving fulfilment of the residency requirements, it may require additional documents and/or conduct direct inquiries.

- j) Documents submitted to the ISU Office for the purpose of proving compliance with Article 8 CER which are not written in English shall be accompanied by a certified English translation. Such certification must be issued by a competent authority, notary public or other person authorized under the laws of the country concerned. The ISU Office may request original documents where necessary.
- k) ISU Members as well as Skaters are responsible to give full, correct and true information on all relevant facts and circumstances in the connection of a Clearance Certificate. Any violation of this obligation may lead to a sanction as outlined in the ISU Code of Ethics and/or other applicable ISU Regulations.

C. Permission of the prior ISU Member

- a) A Skater who has previously competed in any ISU Event and/or International Competition for an ISU Member and intends to compete in the future for another ISU Member must obtain formal permission from the ISU Member previously represented. Such permission shall not be unreasonably withheld.
- b) The permission shall be issued on official letterhead and signed by the authorized representatives of the ISU Member.

D. ISU Database of valid Clearance Certificates

The ISU Office maintains a record of valid Clearance Certificates. The ISU Office may make relevant information from this record available to ISU Members and to the Organizing Committee of an ISU Event or International Competition to the extent necessary to verify that Skaters entered for a competition hold a valid Clearance Certificate. The scope of information shared and the means of access shall be determined by the ISU Office. ISU Members must inform the ISU Office without undue delay of any erroneous or outdated data (e.g. grant of a new citizenship, change of the country of residence and/or of the residence status)..

E. Validity and consequences of Clearance Certificates

- a) A Clearance Certificate is valid only as of the date stated therein which date shall take into account the 12 months waiting period according to Article 8.2.3 CER. The 12 months waiting period starts to run on the day following the last day on which a Skater competed as representative of the former ISU Member.
- b) Skaters subject to a Clearance Certificate may compete in ISU Events and International Competitions only from the date of issuance of their Clearance Certificate. It is the duty of the ISU Member registering a Skater for whom a Clearance Certificate is required to check that a valid Clearance Certificate is given when the Skater will be registered.
- c) If a Skater subject to a Clearance Certificate participates at an ISU Event or International Competition without a valid Clearance Certificate, the results of the respective Skater shall be annulled, including forfeiture of medals, points and prizes, and their ISU Member shall reimburse the costs incurred by the Organizer. In addition, the ISU Member and the Skater may be subject to fines and/or other disciplinary sanctions.

F. Exceptions and Right to Rejection

Article 8.5 CER authorizes the Council to waive the requirements of Article 8 CER. However, such exceptions may be granted only in special circumstances (e.g. cases of serious hardship).

In exceptional cases (such as, in the case of a refugee, stateless or neutral athlete), the Council itself may enter a Competitor for a specific event. A Competitor entered by the ISU does not count towards the quota of the country of their citizenship or residence. A respective application by an ISU Member shall be submitted by the same deadline of July 1 of a year.

Article 8.6 CER authorizes the Council to reject an application from an ISU Member for a Clearance Certificate for any Skater, even if all formalities and requirements under these Regulations have been met, if the Council determines that granting such application would be detrimental to the development of the sport. An example would be if a Member relies substantially or entirely on acquiring Skaters developed by other Members instead of developing their own Skaters.

G. Application to Officials

In accordance with Article 8.8 CER, the provisions of A a) and B – F and H of this Communication also apply to ISU Officials. However, the deadline to submit a Clearance Certificate to the ISU Office for ISU Officials in respect of an upcoming season shall be April 15 of the preceding season.

H. Entry into Force and Transition Rule

This Communication enters into force on September 7, 2026. It does not affect Clearance Certificates issued before that date. Such Clearance Certificates shall stay in force subject to continued compliance with the conditions of Article 8 CER and this Communication (including, where applicable, the annual reconfirmation of residence).

Skaters holding a Clearance Certificate issued on the grounds of residence and validly issued before the entry into force of this Communication shall retain the validity of that Clearance Certificate for the 2026/27 season (July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027).

Nothing in this Section affects the Council's power under Section F (Article 8.5 CER) to waive the requirements of Article 8 CER in cases of serious hardship, including where a new requirement would otherwise apply to action taken in good faith prior to its adoption.

September 7, 2026

Jae Youl Kim, President

Colin Smith, Director General

Article 8 CER - Residence & Citizenship - Questionnaire

Discipline

Last Name (exactly as in passport)

First Name (exactly as in passport)

Place of birth (city & country)

Date of birth

Current citizenship(s)

1. Country:

Held from birth Obtain on:

2. Country:(if applicable):

Held from birth Obtain on:

Current permanent residency

Start of continuous residence

Former residency

Clearance request based on

Citizenship

One-year residence

Former ISU partner if applicable

New ISU partner if applicable

Former ISU Member represented

Applicant ISU Member (full name)

Has the Skater ever represented
another ISU Member in an ISU Event
or International Competition?

Yes No

If yes, name and dates of the last
competition

Place and date

Signature of the applicant ISU Member Full name/position ISU Member representative

Please refer to ISU Communication 2526 for the applicable procedure.

For Pair and Ice Dance Couples, this questionnaire must be completed for both Skaters.
The following documents must be attached to this questionnaire:

- Skater's passport.
- Release letter from the former ISU Member or, if not applicable, a declaration from the Skater (signed by the parents if the Skater is a minor) that she/he has never represented any other ISU Member internationally.

Additional documents to be submitted for request based on one year residence:

- Copy of the residence permit for a stay of a minimum of 1 year or, where the Skater is entitled to reside without a permit, equivalent official evidence of registered residence.
- Evidence that the individual has maintained continuous stay in the country of residence for a minimum of 180 days within the past calendar year.

Please return the questionnaire and all documents to clearance@isu.org