

**2026/27 Records of Clarifications from SYSTC
For Synchronized Skating 12-16 Judges, Technical Officials, Coaches
and Skaters**

Q & A No. 1

General

Question #1:

Are Juniors permitted to execute a flying entry or Death Spirals if they are done during a Connection or in an Element which is not the Pair Element?

Answer:

The restrictions for a Flying Feature and Death Spiral positions are only limited to the Junior Pa. Juniors may include Flying Features and/or Death Spiral positions in Connections and other Elements than the Pa.

Creative Dance Element

Question #1:

How is the requirement for the Element to start from a barrier and end at a barrier further defined? Must a Team stop at or touch the barrier to make it clear that they are at the barrier to showcase the Element has started or ended?

Answer:

The Team does not have to stop or touch the barrier to showcase that the Element has started or ended. However, the Team should demonstrate clearly when the CrD begins by clearly starting their movements at the barrier. For example, only skating past the barrier and changing axis does not constitute a clear starting point for the Element.

Question #2:

What is the call if a Team changes axis, meaning that they start at a barrier, then change axis and end the CrD at another barrier which is not the opposite barrier compared to the one they started at?

Answer:

In such case, the Element does not meet the Basic Requirements of starting at a barrier and ending at the opposite barrier. The call should be NV.

Question #3:

The Technical Panel Handbook states that mirror image pattern is permitted in the CrD. Does this mean that part of the Team can start at one barrier and the rest of the Team at the opposite barrier?

Answer:

Yes, this is permitted and included in using mirror image. In all ways of execution, all Skaters have to end the Element at the opposite barrier that they started from for the Element to be confirmed.

No Hold Element**Question #1:**

Can a team pivot in the Junior FS/Senior SP NHE where Features are not permitted if they do not execute any turns/steps or just one turn/step during the pivot?

Answer:

Yes. According to the Well Balanced Program requirements (ISU Communication 2779), Features are not permitted but turns/steps on a diagonal axis as well as non-listed jumps and any jumps of less than one revolution are permitted without penalty. In addition, executing any NHE Feature(s) that do not meet the Feature requirements are permitted, such as pivoting less than 90 degrees or without turn(s), only part of the Team changing place etc.

Step Sequence Additional Feature**Question #1:**

If a Team is attempting a level Base, must the two required turns be executed correctly or is attempting two recognizable turns acceptable for level Base?

Answer:

Attempting two recognizable turns is acceptable for level Base. The turns do not have to be correctly executed for level Base. For levels 1-4, the required turns and steps must be correctly executed.

Pair Element – General**Question #1:**

If an Entry Feature is included, does the Element start from the start of the Feature? It is not listed in the Sports Rules.

Answer: Yes, if an Entry Feature is included, the Element begins with the beginning of the Feature. This applies to all Elements where an Entry Feature is listed as an option.

Question #2:

Entry Variation – Sliding Movement

The Supported Skater must get up from the sliding movement to enter the first fm/DS position. Is the leg that they use to first rise from the slide considered a change of edge, change of foot or turn?

Answer:

The Supported Skater must be permitted to rise from the Sliding Movement to enter the first fm/DS position. If the Supported Skater uses only one leg to rise from the ice, the leg/foot used to stand up is not considered a change of edge, change of foot or turn between the Entry Feature and the DS/fm. In this case, a change of edge, change of foot or turn is permitted before the entry edge to the Pa.

Question #3:

Can changes be done during the Element, such as Change of Shape, Change of Partner etc?

Answer:

Yes, this is permitted as long as the Pa requirements are met.

Junior Pair Element**Clarification:**

Technical Panel Handbook, page 19, talks about the different ways of executing the Change of Position. For sake of clarity, the underlined part is added:

If a Team uses both one-foot and two-foot positions, the One-foot fm Feature is not counted unless the change of position to a two-foot fm is done after completing the required rotations on one foot (or vice versa).

Question #1

Which fm positions are permitted? Is for example a Biellman position permitted?

Answer:

The Difficulty Groups Communication (ISU Communication 2787) lists the fms that can be used for the Jr Pa. Only the listed fms are counted towards the Element level. Any rotations and/or Features done in a fm that is not listed for the Junior Pa are not counted towards the Element level and therefore a Biellman is not acceptable. As stated in ISU Communication 2787, the acceptable fms are spread eagle, ina bauer, hydroblading, basic and difficult spiral variations, upright extension 135° or higher and unsupported spiral.

Question #2:

Can a Supported Skater change feet to exit the Junior Pa if they have already exited the last one-foot fm position?

Answer:

The Difficulty Groups Communication (ISU Communication 2787), page 15, states that Supported Skater(s) must be clearly on one foot and edge from the entry and including the exit of the DS/fm (for one-foot fms) unless otherwise stated. The entry/exit of all one-foot fms must be on one foot, meaning that the supported skater must have completed the required rotations and exited the fm position (for example, become upright or exit the position otherwise) on one foot. Once this is

completed, they can exit on the same foot or change feet. If Skaters are using a two-foot fm as their last fm position before ending the Element, they may exit the position while continuing to skate on two feet.

Question #3:

When executing the Change of fm position Feature, does it matter how many degrees of rotation are in each position?

Answer:

No. It is sufficient that both positions are correctly executed and visibly held. The total required rotations (360 or 720 depending on the attempted difficulty level) must be met during the Pa.

No Hold Element

Question #1:

Can a team pivot in the Junior FS/Senior SP NHE where Features are not permitted if they do not execute any turns/steps or just one turn/step during the pivot?

Answer:

Yes. According to the Well Balanced Program requirements (ISU Communication 2779), Features are not permitted but turns/steps on a diagonal axis as well as non-listed jumps and any jumps of less than one revolution are permitted without penalty. In addition, executing any NHE Feature(s) that do not meet the Feature requirements are permitted, such as pivoting less than 90 degrees or without turn(s), only part of the Team changing place etc.