

# INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION

## Communication No. 1649

### **SINGLE & PAIR SKATING, ICE DANCE and SYNCHRONIZED SKATING**

#### **GUIDELINES FOR INTERNATIONAL NOVICE COMPETITIONS**

(Replaces ISU Communications 1288 & 1331; 1397, 1528)

#### **A. Introduction**

It is not only the obligation and task of an International Federation to support high level performances, to organize international events and to administer the sport, but also to care about the future and the development of its various branches.

To secure the future of the ISU, it is therefore necessary to work in a very supportive and constructive way towards the recruitment of young skaters and to put in place a progressive formation and structure. The support of the Novice category and the structure of levels and requirements, as well as a clear age rule, are required to maintain the ISU today in a good position today.

The different Levels of Novices (Basic Novice and Advanced Novice) may encourage the organizers to open their events, in a comparable competitive situation, to all competitors and their different ability and grade of education in skating. The category of entries should be subject to the decision of the entered members.

The organizer decides on the disciplines and subgroups to be included in the event. The Member/Club entering skater(s)/team(s) will decide on the subgroup their athletes will participate.

It is understood that, at a certain age, Novice skaters/teams can participate in Junior competitions/events and vice versa.

The ISU is willing and prepared to support, with its expertise, the area around the Novices and the step into the junior category. With the following steps and information the ISU is taking action to secure the further development of the Figure Skating Branch.

The purpose of this Communication is to regulate International Novice Competitions for the Figure Skating Branch falling under Rule 107, paragraph 10. It is also recommended that organizers of Interclub competitions falling under Rule 107, paragraph 14 apply the General and Technical Requirements included in this Communication.

In case of interpretation, doubts etc. the ISU Council will take the final decision.

## **B. General**

### **1. Entries**

Entries to the competitions are made by the Members (for International Competitions) or Sections/Clubs (for Interclub Competitions), which must be a member of the Member, based on the age and the level of the skaters.

**2. Age requirements (Rule 108, paragraph 2. new d) and paragraph 3. new c) ): in International Competitions, a Novice is a Skater who has met the following requirements before July 1<sup>st</sup> preceding the event (the specific date: before July 1st, applies to all indicated dates):**

- has reached at least the age of ten (10)
- has not reached the age of fifteen (15)

Two subgroups offering a different technical package are established:

- **Basic Novices**
- **Advanced Novices**

Furthermore, in Single Skating, two subgroups by age are established for the Basic Novices:

#### Basic Novice A

- a) has reached at least the age of ten (10)
- b) has not reached the age of thirteen (13) for Girls and Boys in singles competitions

#### Basic Novice B

- a) has reached at least the age of thirteen (13)
- b) has not reached the age of fifteen (15) for Girls and Boys

No subgroups by age are established for Basic Novices in Pair Skating, Ice Dance and Synchronized Skating. Synchronized Skating is using the subgroups for Basic Novices to clarify the number of skaters per team.

No subgroups by age are established for Advanced Novices in all disciplines.

### **3. Officials:**

- a) ISU Rules 337 and 720 on the composition of panel of Officials apply, except for the international qualification of the Officials. In each event there should be at least one (1) Judge and one (1) member of the Technical Panel acting with an international qualification.
- 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 420, paragraphs 1 and 2, and 816, paragraphs 1 and 2 regarding the Report of the Referee and the Report of the Technical Controller apply.

## C. SINGLE & PAIR SKATING

### 1. General Requirements for Novice competitions Single and Pair Skating

Segments of events to be skated in Novice Single and Pair Skating competitions:

- a) Single Skating events shall consist of
- \* younger subgroup (Group A) Basic Novice                      Free Skating only
  - \* older subgroup (Group B) Basic Novice                      Free Skating only
  - \* Advanced Novices    Short Program and Free Skating
- b) Pair Skating events shall consist of
- \* Basic Novice (one group)                      Free Skating only
  - \* Advanced Novices                              Free Skating only

c) Duration of the Programs:

Single Skating

Basic Novice subgroup A	Free Skating 2:30 min, +/- 10 sec.
Basic Novice subgroup B	Free Skating 3:00 min, +/- 10 sec.
Advanced Novice	Short Program max. 2:30 min Free Skating 3:00 min, +/- 10 sec. for girls Free Skating 3:30 min, +/- 10 sec. for boys

Pair Skating

Basic Novice	Free Skating 3:00 min, +/- 10 sec.
Advanced Novice	Free Skating 3:30 min, +/- 10 sec.

### 2. Technical Requirements for Novice competitions Single Skating

#### 2.1 *Single Skating Basic Novice A - Girls and Boys (younger subgroup)*

**A well balanced Free Skating program for Singles A must contain:**

- a) Maximum of 4 jump elements for Girls and Boys one of which must be an Axel type jump. There may be up to two (2) jump combinations or sequences. Jump combinations can contain only two (2) jumps. A jump sequence can contain any number of jumps, but only two most difficult jumps will be counted.  
Triple jumps are not permitted.
- b) There must be a maximum of two (2) spins of a different nature (abbreviation), one of which must be a spin combination with or without change of foot (minimum of six (6) revolutions in total) and one spin with no change of position and with or without change of foot (minimum of six (6) revolutions in total).
- c) There must be a maximum:
- (i) for Girls one (1) step sequence or one (1) spiral sequence consisting of max. two (2) spiral positions. The sequence (step or spiral) will have a fixed Base value and evaluated in GOE only.
  - (ii) for Boys maximum of one (1) step sequence with a fixed Base value and evaluated in GOE only.

The Program Components are only judged in

- Skating Skills
- Performance/Execution

The Factor of the Program Components is 2.5.

### **Levels explanations:**

For Basic Novice A Singles, in all elements which are subject to Levels, only features up to **Level 2** will be counted. Any additional features will not count for Level requirements and will be ignored by the Technical Panel.

## **2.2. Single Skating Basic Novice B - Girls and Boys (older subgroup)**

**A well balanced Free Skating program for Singles B boys and girls must contain:**

- a) Maximum of 5 jump elements for Girls and 6 jump elements for Boys one of which must be an Axel type jump. There may be up to two (2) jump combinations or sequences. A jump combination can contain only two (2) jumps. A jump sequence can contain any number of jumps, but only two most difficult jumps will be counted.  
Only two (2) jumps with two and a half (2 1/2) or more revolutions can be repeated either in a jump combination or in a jump sequence.
- b) There must be a maximum of two (2) spins of a different nature, one of which must be a spin combination (minimum of ten (10) revolutions in total) and one a flying spin or a spin with a flying entrance (minimum of six (6) revolutions in total).
- c) There must be a maximum:
  - (i) for Girls one (1) step sequence or one (1) spiral sequence consisting of max. two (2) spiral positions. The sequence (step or spiral) will have a fixed Base value and evaluated in GOE only.
  - (ii) for Boys maximum of one (1) step sequence with a fixed Base value and evaluated in GOE only.

The Program Components are only judged in

- Skating Skills
- Performance/Execution
- Interpretation

The Factor of the Program Components is

- for boys 2.0
- for girls 1.7

### **Levels explanations:**

For Basic Novice B Singles, in all elements which are subject to Levels, only features up to **Level 2** will be counted. Any additional features will not count for Level requirements and will be ignored by the Technical Panel.

## 2.3 *Single Skating Advanced Novice - Girls and Boys*

### **Boys**

The **Short Program for Boys' Singles** shall consist of the following elements:

- a) Axel Paulsen or double Axel Paulsen
- b) Double or triple jump immediately preceded by connecting steps, may not repeat jump in a)
- c) One jump combination consisting of two double jumps or one double and one triple jump, both jumps may not repeat jump in a) or b)
- d) Camel or sit spin (minimum of six (6) revolutions) with change of foot and no flying entrance
- e) Spin combination with only one change of foot and at least one change of position (minimum of five (5) revolutions on each foot)
- f) One step sequences with full utilization of the ice surface (straight line, serpentine/ circular)

### **Girls**

The **Short Program for Girls' Singles** shall consist of the following elements:

- a) Axel Paulsen or double Axel Paulsen
- b) Double or triple jump immediately preceded by connecting steps, may not repeat jump in a)
- c) One jump combination consisting of two double jumps or one double and one triple jump, both jumps may not repeat jump in a) or b)
- d) Layback or sideways leaning spin (minimum of six (6) revolutions)
- e) Spin combination with only one change of foot and at least one change of position (minimum of five (5) revolutions on each foot)
- f) One step sequence with full utilization of the ice surface (straight line / circular / serpentine)

### **Boys and Girls**

**A well balanced Free Skating program for Singles must contain:**

- a) Maximum 6 jump elements for Girls and 7 jump elements for Boys one of which must be an Axel type jump. There may be up to two (2) jump combinations or sequences. A jump combination can contain only two (2) jumps. A jump sequence can contain any number of jumps, but only two most difficult jumps will be counted.  
Only two (2) jumps with two and a half (2 1/2) revolutions or more can be repeated either in a jump combination or in a jump sequence.
- b) There must be a maximum of two (2) spins of a different nature, one of which must be a spin combination (minimum of ten (10) revolutions) and one a flying spin or a spin with a flying entrance (minimum of six (6) revolutions).
- c) There must be a maximum of one (1) step sequence

### **Levels explanations:**

For Advanced Novice Singles, in all elements which are subject to Levels, only features up to **Level 3** will be counted. Any additional features will not count for Level requirements and will be ignored by the Technical Panel.

The Program Components are only judged in

- Skating Skills
- Transitions
- Performance/Execution
- Interpretation

The factors for the Program Components is

- |    |               |      |
|----|---------------|------|
| a) | Short Program |      |
|    | - for boys    | 1.0. |
|    | - for girls   | 1.0  |
| b) | Free Skating  |      |
|    | - for boys    | 1.5  |
|    | - for girls   | 1.7  |

### **3. Technical Requirements for Novice competitions Pairs**

#### **3.1 *Pair Skating Basic Novice***

Basic Novice competitions will consist of a Free Skating program only.

**A well balanced Free Skating program must contain** a maximum of:

- a) Two different lifts of Group 1 to 2, one arm holds not allowed (full extension of the lifting arm of the partner is not required)
- b) One Lutz Twist lift (single)
- c) One solo jump (single or double)
- d) One solo spin, no change of foot, change of position optional, minimum five (5) revolutions or one pair spin, minimum 5 revolutions
- e) One pivot figure \*)
- f) One spiral sequence consisting of max. two (2) spiral positions. The sequence will have a fixed Base value and evaluated in GOE only.

\*If a death spiral is executed, it is marked according to ISU Technical Rules Single & Pair Skating. In other cases there are no Levels.

#### **Levels explanations:**

For Basic Novice Pairs, in all elements which are subject to Levels, only features up to **Level 2** will be counted. Any additional features will not count for Level requirements and will be ignored by the Technical Panel.

The Program Components are only judged in

- Skating Skills
- Performance/Execution

The factor of the Program Components is 3.5

### 3.2 *Pair Skating Advanced Novice*

**A well balanced Free Skating program must contain** a maximum of:

- a) Two different lifts of Groups 1 to 4, one arm holds not allowed, (in group 1 and 2 full extension of the lifting arm of the partner is not required).
- b) One Lutz Twist lift (single or double)
- c) One Throw jump (single or double)
- d) One solo jump (single or double)
- e) One solo spin or solo spin combination (minimum of five (5) revolutions in total) or pair spin or pair spin combination (minimum of five (5) revolutions in total)
- f) One death spiral or any other pivot figure \*)
- g) One spiral sequence with at least two (2) spiral positions with fixed Base value and GOE only
- h) One step sequence: serpentine, circular or straight line with full utilization of the ice surface

\*If a death spiral is executed, it is marked according to ISU Technical Rules Single & Pair Skating 2010. In other cases for the Death Spiral there are no levels.

#### **Levels explanations:**

For Advanced Novice Pairs, in all elements which are subject to Levels, only features up to **Level 3** will be counted. Any additional features will not count for Level requirements and will be ignored by the Technical Panel.

The Program Components are only judged in

- Skating Skills
- Transitions
- Performance/Execution
- Interpretation

The Factor of the Program Components is 1.8

## **D. ICE DANCE**

### **1. General Requirements for Novice competitions Ice Dance**

Segments of events to be skated in Novice Ice Dance competitions are:

a) Ice Dance events shall consist of

Basic Novice	2 Pattern Dances and Free Dance
Advanced Novice	2 Pattern Dances and Free Dance

b) Duration of Free Dance:

Basic Novice	Free Dance 2:30 min., +/- 10 sec.
Advanced Novice	Free Dance 3:00 min., +/- 10 sec.

### **2. Technical Requirements for Basic Novice competitions Ice Dance**

#### **2.1 Pattern Dance**

Rule 639, 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 June 1<sup>st</sup>, to become effective on July 1st of the year following the announcement.

**Two (2) Pattern Dances** are to be skated for Basic Novice. For the 2010/2011 season:

**#1 Fourteen step      #4 European Waltz**

The Scale of Values of the Pattern Dances may be updated and will be published in ISU Communications.

#### **2.2 Free Dance**

Rule 610 shall apply except that vocal music is **not** permitted. The use of vocal music shall be considered as a violation of music restriction and penalized as per Rule 653, paragraph 1 n) (ii) and Rule 409, paragraph 1.

Requirements for the music and the costume: as per ISU Communication 1610 and subsequent updates of this ISU Communication (except that music may not be vocal).

#### **A Well Balanced Free Dance program must contain**

a) **One (1) Short Lift** (as defined in Rule 604, paragraph 16), chosen from the following Types of Lifts:

- a) Straight Line Lift
- b) Curve Lift
- c) Rotational Lift

In addition, one (1) additional Lift (up to 6 seconds) without any requirement for the Level of Difficulty is permitted (provided it is not an Illegal Lift), but only the first Lift



performed will be identified and considered in determining the Level of Difficulty. However if a third Lift is performed, it will be considered by the Technical Panel as an extra element.

In case a Stationary Lift is performed as the Lift with a Level of Difficulty, it will be identified by the Technical Panel to occupy a box, given No Value, and considered as an extra element (element not according to the Well Balanced Program).

- b) One (1) Step Sequence in hold** of any type of Groups A or B (as defined in Rule 603, paragraph 3).

The restrictions listed in ISU Communication 1610 and subsequent updates of this ISU Communication apply.

- c) One (1) Set of Synchronized Twizzles** (as defined in Rule 604, paragraph 14 a) and b): only the first set of Synchronized Twizzles skated will be identified and considered for the Level of Difficulty.

The **Dance Spin** is not included in the list of Required Elements for the Basic Novice Free Dance. Nevertheless, a spinning movement skated by the couple together in any hold around common axis on one foot (or two feet) with any number of rotations is permitted. A couple may choose to use this movement as part of their choreography. The Technical Panel will ignore these movements and the Judges will not consider these movements as one of the permitted stops.

### **Levels explanations**

For Basic Novice Free Dance, in all Required Elements, only features up to **Level 2** will be counted. Any additional features will not count for Level requirements and will be ignored by the Technical Panel.

All **Program Components** are judged with the following factors:

Skating Skills	1.10
Transitions/ Linking Footwork/Movements	0.90
Performance/Execution	0.90
Composition/Choreography	0.90
Interpretation/Timing	0.90

## **3. Technical Requirements for Advanced Novice competitions Ice Dance**

### **3.1 Pattern Dance**

Rule 639, paragraph 1: for Novice International Competitions, the list of Pattern Dances will be announced annually by the Ice Dance Technical Committee in an ISU Communication not later than June 1<sup>st</sup>, to become effective on July 1st of the year following the announcement.

**Two (2) Pattern Dances** are to be skated for Advanced Novice. For the 2010/11 season, one Pattern Dance shall be drawn from each group before the first practice of the competition:

Group 1:	<b>#5 American Waltz</b>	<b>#9 Starlight Waltz</b>
Group 2:	<b>#12 Kilian</b>	<b>#20 Tango</b>

The Scale of Values of the Pattern Dances may be updated and will be published in ISU Communications.

### **3.2 Free Dance**

Rule 610 shall apply except that vocal music is **not** permitted. The use of vocal music shall be considered as a violation of music restriction and penalized as per Rule 653, paragraph 1 n) (ii) and Rule 409, paragraph 1.

Requirements for the music and the costume: as per ISU Communication 1610 and subsequent updates of this ISU Communication (except that music may not be vocal).

#### **A Well Balanced Free Dance program must contain**

**a) Two (2) different Types of Short Lifts** (as defined in Rule 604, paragraph 16), chosen from the following Types of Lifts:

- a) Straight Line Lift
- b) Curve Lift
- c) Rotational Lift

In addition, one (1) additional Lift (up to 6 seconds) without any requirement for the Level of Difficulty is permitted (provided it is not an Illegal Lift), but only the first two Lifts performed will be identified and considered in determining the Level of Difficulty. However if a fourth Lift is performed, it will be considered by the Technical Panel as an extra element.

In case a Stationary Lift is performed among the two Lifts with a Level of Difficulty, it will be identified by the Technical Panel to occupy a box, given No Value, and considered as an extra element (element not according to the Well Balanced Program).

**b) One (1) Spin** (as defined in Rule 604, paragraph 14 e), but not more

**Note:** A Combination Spin is not permitted. In case a Combination Spin is performed instead of a Spin, it will be identified by the Technical Panel to occupy a box, given No Value, and considered as an extra element (element not according to the Well Balanced Program).

**c) One (1) Step Sequence in hold** of any type of Groups A or B (as defined in Rule 603, paragraph 3).

The restrictions listed in ISU Communication 1610 and subsequent updates of this ISU Communication apply.

**d) One (1) Set of Synchronized Twizzles** (as defined in Rule 604, paragraph 14 a) and b): only the first set of Synchronized Twizzles skated will be identified and considered for the Level of Difficulty.

#### **Levels explanations**

In all Required Elements, all features up to **Level 4** will be counted.

All **Program Components** are judged with the following factors:

Skating Skills	1.10
Transitions/ Linking Footwork/Movements	0.90
Performance/Execution	0.90
Composition/Choreography	0.90
Interpretation/Timing	0.90

## **E. Synchronized Skating**

### **1. Technical Requirements for Basic Novice competitions**

#### **1.1 Team composition**

##### **Basic Novice A**

Basic Novice A shall consist of twelve (12) skaters with a maximum number of four (4) alternate skaters. At the National level, Members may permit a different team composition.

##### **Basic Novice B**

Basic Novice B shall consist of sixteen (16) skaters with a maximum number of four (4) alternate skaters. At the National level, Members may permit a different team composition.

#### **1.2 Free Skating**

Basic Novice A and B competitions will consist of a Free Skating program only.

**A well-balanced Free Skating program must contain the following six (6) required elements:**

- a) One (1) Block
- b) One (1) Circle
- c) One (1) Intersection
- d) One (1) Line
- e) One (1) Movement in Isolation
- f) One (1) Wheel

Maximum element levels can be skated but the level awarded will be one level lower than the maximum defined in the ISU Technical Rules.

Other elements may be incorporated into the Free Skating program as transitional elements and might reflect the Judges scores for Interpretation. The program content sheet should indicate which extra Elements are transition Elements.

- Definition/criteria of recommended Elements and Features are in accordance with Rules 903 and 911.
- Difficulty Groups of Elements and Features and the description of their requirements are in accordance with the valid (corresponding) ISU Communication.

##### **a) Holds**

Minimum of three (3) different recognizable holds are required. There will be a deduction made by the Referee if there is not the required number of holds in the program.

##### **b) Duration of Program**

The length of the program is 3 minutes +/- 10 seconds.

The time must be reckoned from the moment that the Team begins a skating movement (glide) until arriving at a complete stop at the end of the program.

**c) Music**

Vocal music using lyrics is permitted.

**d) Program Components**

The Program Components are only judged in

- Skating Skills
- Performance/Execution
- Interpretation

The Factor of the Program Components is 1.7

**e) Illegal elements**

The illegal elements are following the restrictions in Junior Free Skating (in addition the Vaults are illegal elements for Novices), (see Rule 912, paragraph 9 b).

**2. Technical Requirements for Advanced Novice competitions**

**2.1 Team composition**

An Advanced Novice team shall consist of sixteen (16) skaters with a maximum number of four (4) alternate skaters.

**2.2 Free Skating**

Advanced Novice competitions will consist of a Free Skating program only.

**A well-balanced Free Skating program must contain the following seven (7) required elements:**

- a) One (1) Block
- e) One (1) Circle
- f) One (1) Intersection
- g) One (1) Line
- e) One (1) Movement in Isolation
- f) One (1) Wheel
- g) One (1) Step Sequence (either circle or block formation)

Maximum element levels can be skated but level awarded will be one level lower than the maximum defined in the ISU Technical Rules.

Other elements may be incorporated into the Free Skating program and will be judged as transitions and/or choreography components. The program content sheet should indicate which extra Elements are transition Elements.

- Definition/criteria of recommended Elements and Features are in accordance with Rules 903 and 911.
- Difficulty Groups of Elements and Features and the description of their requirements are in accordance with the valid (corresponding) ISU Communication.

**a) Holds**

Minimum of three (3) different recognizable holds are required. There will be a deduction made by the Referee if there is not the required number of holds in the program.

**b) Duration of Program**

The length of the program is 3 minutes 30 seconds +/- 10 seconds.

The time must be reckoned from the moment that the Team begins a skating movement (glide) until arriving at a complete stop at the end of the program.

**c) Music**

Vocal music using lyrics is permitted.

**d) Program Components**

The Program Components are judged in

- Skating Skills
- Performance/Execution
- Transitions
- Interpretation
- Choreography / Composition

The Factor of the Program Components is 1.0

**e) Illegal elements**

The illegal elements are following the restrictions in Junior Free Skating (in addition Vaults are illegal elements for Novices), (see Rule 912, paragraph 9 b).

Milano,  
October 7, 2010  
Lausanne,

Ottavio Cinquanta, President  
Fred Schmid, Director General