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Lausanne, Switzerland

59th Ordinary ISU Congress: Charting the roadmap to ISU Vision 2030

While a thrilling skating season has recently concluded, the International Skating Union (ISU) now prepares to host its highly anticipated 59th Ordinary Congress, scheduled to take place from June 10-14th in Las Vegas (USA). Against the backdrop of a fast-changing sports landscape and drawing upon the [ISU Vision 2030](#), this year's Congress sets the stage for decisive deliberations expected to shape the future strategic direction of the ISU and the development of ice-skating disciplines.

Spanning over five days of meetings, presentations and debates, more than 350 participants will unite in Las Vegas, including ISU Members, Office Holders and staff. As the ISU's governing body with the highest authority, the Congress – held every two years – acts as a pivotal platform to delve into a wide range of structural, regulatory and strategic topics to foster the organization's continued growth.

The 2024 Congress (view [2024 Agenda](#)) promises to set a milestone for a transformative phase ahead with the [ISU Vision 2030](#) taking center stage. Adopted by the Council in 2023, this strategic roadmap will bring to the delegates' table a series of concrete action plans to be discussed for implementation purposes. In an era of rapid technological advancements and shifting consumer behaviors, this program aims at modernizing the ISU at multiple levels – event formats, branding & promotion, broadcasting, fan engagement, innovation and sustainability – while sustaining a strong commitment to the ISU's legacy and core values of fairness, openness, clean sport and safeguarding.

Spearheaded by the ISU President, Jae Youl Kim, ISU Director General, Colin Smith, together with the ISU Council, the forthcoming strategic debates will include among others the following topics:

Inception of new events formats:

- Creation of vibrant/creative event presentations and experiences (on and off screens) to drive higher outreach, interest, attendance and engagement.
- Announcement of the ISU Short Track World Tour (bringing together the 6 World Cup Series events) with a new highly dynamic and entertainment-oriented show production, creating compelling new propositions for partners and sponsors to generate revenue for ISU, Members and skaters and invest into growing the sport.

Upgrading of TV broadcasting presentation:

- Leveraging of high-quality broadcasting platforms, technologies and programs while modernizing the TV graphics to spur accessibility and amplified reach.

Innovative branding/communication approaches

- Crafting compelling narratives, brand identities and communication channels to resonate with diverse audiences, elevate visibility and expand the skating community.

Enhancement/diversification of digital promotion and engagement channels:

- Harnessing cutting-edge digital tools to connect closer with audiences worldwide and cultivate online communities.
- Development of a new digital ecosystem prioritizing the fan experience, while concurrently enhancing efficiencies and creating visually captivating platforms and content.

Sustainable growth

- Increasing/maximizing sources of revenues (TV, media, sponsors) and offer attractive exposure opportunities.
- Implementing environmentally conscious standards and practices across all operations based on the [ISU Sustainability Strategy](#).

Safeguarding

- Mental and physical well-being of skaters supported by initiatives creating a safe and clean competitive environment (read [here](#)).

Internal restructuring

- Managerial and functional restructuring changes to streamline organization/operations, strengthen resources and empower teams to achieve the [ISU Vision 2030](#) goals for progressive growth and global impact, while improving services to the Members.

The ISU President, Jae Youl Kim, expresses great enthusiasm for these forward-thinking priorities designed to better position ice-skating sports in the current era and for the generations to come:

“This 59th Congress represents a landmark event for the ISU and the wider sports community. We are excited to collectively shape the future of ice-skating disciplines by incorporating greater entertainment, innovation, inclusivity and sustainability. It is our mission to embrace new initiatives while safeguarding our proud traditions to remain relevant for the current audiences and appeal to young generations of skaters and fans.”

Congress Program

The full Congress agenda and detailed proposals are available in the [ISU Communication 2629](#). Hereafter is a summary of the program:

- **June 8-9:** Council Meetings & Technical Committee Meetings
- **June 10:** Opening of the Congress / Branches Workshops
- **June 11-13:** Full Congress / Figure Skating and Speed Skating Branch Sessions
- **June 14:** Full Congress and Closing Session

WHERE TO WATCH

The 59th Ordinary ISU Congress will be available as a live stream on the [Skating ISU YouTube Channel](#). Further details will be provided in due course.

To know more about the ISU Congresses, visit the dedicated webpage [here](#).

About the International Skating Union

The International Skating Union (ISU), founded in 1892, is the oldest governing international winter sport federation and the exclusive international sport federation recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) administering the sports of Figure Skating (Single & Pair Skating and Ice Dance), Synchronized Skating, Speed Skating and Short Track Speed Skating worldwide. The objectives of the ISU are to regulate, govern, promote and develop its sports on the basis of friendship and mutual understanding between athletes. Currently three ISU disciplines are included in the Olympic Winter Games program (Figure Skating, Speed Skating and Short Track Speed Skating). For further information please visit [isu.org](#).

Appendix Overview of selected key proposals

Deliberations will also focus on addressing updates pertaining to the ISU Constitution, General Regulations, Special Regulations and Technical Rules across all ice-skating disciplines.

Hereafter is presented a selection of constitutional and regulatory proposals (not an exhaustive list) that will be discussed during the 2024 ISU Congress. For a complete overview of all proposals subject to the Congress's decisions, please refer to the [ISU Communication 2629](#).

ISU Constitution and General Regulations

- Resolution to grant authority to the ISU Council to undertake preparation of a new Constitutional framework for the ISU and submit it for discussion and adoption to an Extraordinary ISU Congress in 2025.
- Proposal to allow hybrid in-person and/or online participation/voting for extraordinary ISU Congresses and for ordinary ISU Congresses where no elections are held.
- Specify that the Chair of the Athletes Commission shall be a member of the Council and enhance the representation of the Athletes on the Council by deleting requirements for them to be of a different Branch and ISU Member from the President.
- Creation of Short Track World Tour to allow for a new branding/marketing event concept and better commercialization of the current ISU World Cup Short Track Speed Skating competitions.
- Limit age classification to 11-12 years old for the Junior D category in Speed Skating and Short Track Speed Skating international competitions for health protection purposes.

Special Regulations and Technical Rules

Speed Skating:

- Include Mixed Relay as a new event at ISU Speed Skating Championships (similarly to Junior World Cups and World Cup events) with World Records to be recognized/registered for this event.
- Extend the program at World Championships to include competitions for all defined titles (Single Distances, Allround and Sprint combination and Team Events) on an annual basis.
- Adjust competition program and set of titles at the World Junior Speed Skating Championships
- Reintroduce the format where total time of two races (with different starting lanes) will determine the results of the 500m event at ISU Championships and Olympic Winter Games.
- Introduce a «Yellow Card» as a sanction to be imposed by the Referee, in case of repeated Racing Rule violations, unsporting behavior as well as unsafe, harmful or hazardous offence - similar to what is used in Short Track Speed Skating and many other sports.

Short Track:

- Restructure the Short Track Rule (Specific Regulations + Technical Rules) book by merging the presentation of rules that belong together for streamlining and simplification purposes.
- Create more flexibility in building/scheduling the race program at ISU Short Track Speed Skating Championships (re-distribution of distances over competition days) to achieve a more balanced event for Skaters, audiences and media – and ultimately increase the public's interest.
- Rebrand the ISU World Cup Short Track and rename it as "ISU Short Track World Tour" to create more attention and commercial value to the series.
- Add the Junior World Cup Short Track series (introduced in season 2023/24) as a permanent part of the ISU Short Track Competition program.
- Establish World Team Championships and include an overall title at the World Championships.
- Clarify the definition of racing rule infringements as well as the criteria and procedures for sanctioning these infringements.
- Make eyewear protection mandatory in all ISU Events, Olympic Winter Games and Winter Youth Olympic Games.

Single Skating:

- Reduction of one Jump element in Free Skating (from 7 to 6).
- An Euler jump to become a non-listed jump, and can be only be used once within one jump combination in the Free Skating, thus adding the possibility to have another jump in a jump combination.
- Limit the number of repetitions to a maximum of three times, of the same type of jumps in the Free Skating programs.
- Replace one spin with levels with one choreographic spin enhancing creativity and connection to the music.
- Somersault type jumps to be removed from the list of illegal elements.

Pair Skating:

- Replace one of the required lifts by a choreographic lift for greater variety and freedom purposes.
- Switch the Pair Spin combination to a choreographic spin to encourage more entertaining and creative programs.
- Remove the choreographic sequence to give more time to interpret the programs.
- Somersault type jumps to be removed from the list of illegal elements.

Ice Dance:

- Re-define the duration of a lift to a minimum requirement of 3 seconds.
 - This would allow changing the duration of lifts to the following:
 - Short lifts - 8 seconds maximum
 - Combination lifts - 13 seconds maximum
- Adjust the duration of a short lift or a combination lift to be changed from one season to the next allowing for more flexibility and safety evaluation for the prevention of injury.

Synchronized Skating:

- Introduce a Senior combined category regrouping the Senior Elite 12 and Senior (due to similarity of age requirements) in all international competitions.
- Require a Minimum Total Elements Scores and Combined Total Element Scores for qualification purposes at ISU Championships.
- Establish the starting order of the Free Skating as the reverse order of the result after the Short Program for all international and ISU competitions.
- Simplify and re-organize the Technical Rules to leave more freedom for the choreography.
- Remove un-sustained lifts from the list of illegal elements for all categories.

For further details about the ISU Congress 2024 Proposals, please read the [ISU Communication 2629](#).