Communication No. 2689

SYNCHRONIZED SKATING

GUIDELINES FOR INTERNATIONAL NOVICE COMPETITIONS
(Replaces ISU Communication 2631)

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GUIDELINES FOR INTERNATIONAL NOVICE COMPETITIONS

1. Entries

Entries to the competitions are made by the ISU Members.

2. Age requirements (Rule 108, para 4 c))

In International Competitions, a Novice is a Skater who has met the following requirements before July 1st preceding the event (the specific date: before July 1st, applies to all indicated dates):

- has reached at least the age of 10
- has not reached the age of 16

Two subgroups offering a different technical package are established:

- **Basic Novice**
- **Advanced Novice**

3. Deductions for Interruption(s) in performing the program for ALL Novice categories

For every Interruption of:

- more than 10 seconds up to 20 seconds: **-0.5**
- more than 20 seconds up to 30 seconds: **-1.0**
- more than 30 seconds up to 40 seconds: **-1.5**
- more than 40 seconds by one or several Skaters: **-2.0**
- if second interruption more than 40 seconds or program not completed, the Team is withdrawn
- Interruption of the program with three minutes, Rule 965 para 4 b) -2.5
- Adverse condition prior to the program with three minutes, Rule 965 para 6 -2.5

As the values of those deductions are not the standard ones provided by Rule 843, para 1 m), the Referee must give specific instructions to the system operator and check the correct input in each instance.

4. Deductions for Falls for Novice

A Fall is defined as loss of control by a Skater with the result that the majority of his/her own body weight is on the ice supported by any other part of the body other than the blades e.g. hand(s), knee(s), buttock(s), or any part of the arm (Rule 953, para 1).

Fall	Rule 953, para 1	• -0.5 for every Fall of one Skater

As the values of those deductions are not the standard ones provided by Rule 953, para 1 and Rule 843, para 1 m), the Referee must give specific instructions to the system operator and check the correct input in each instance.

5. Officials

a) ISU Rule 910 regarding the appointment of Officials apply, except for the requirement of their international qualification and the age of the Official. In International Competitions the minimum age of National officials shall be twenty-one years and the maximum age shall be seventy-five years.
However, in each event there must be at least one Judge and one member of the Technical Panel and the Referee 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) Rule 923 regarding the Report of the Referee and the Report of the Technical Controller apply.

6. Technical Requirements for Basic and Advanced Novice competitions

a) Team composition

A Team shall consist of 12 to 16 Skaters with a maximum number of four alternate Skaters. At the National level, ISU Members may permit a different Team composition.

b) Free Skating

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

c) Technical requirements

Maximum element levels can be skated and the level will be called as executed.
Maximum levels of Features and Additional Features can be skated and will be rewarded according to the execution of the Team.

Other Elements may be incorporated into the Free Skating program.

- Definition/criteria of recommended Elements, Features and Additional Features are in accordance with Rule 990.
- Difficulty Groups of Elements, Features and Additional Features and the description of their requirements are in accordance with the valid ISU Communication.

d) Duration of Program

Rule 952, para 2 c)

Free Skating: Novice: 3 minutes.
The Team is allowed to finish the Free Skating within 10 seconds plus or minus the required time.
The timing must be reckoned from the moment that a Skater begins to move (arms, head, etc.) or to skate until arriving at a complete stop at the end of the program.

e) Music

Music selected should be appropriate for the age group.

f) Factor of the Program Components is 2.67.
The factored results are rounded to two (2) decimal places and added.
The sum is the Program Component Score

g) Illegal elements

The illegal elements are following the restrictions of Rule 992, para 2.
Advanced Novice Teams are not allowed to include Vaults and Lifts.
Basic Novice Teams are not allowed to include Vaults, Lifts **and Un-sustained Lifts**.