

INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION – FOUR YEAR PLAN 2014/15 – 2017/18

Project/Function/Area of activity:

Officials Education and Assessment

Committee/Commission:

Single & Pair Skating Technical Committee (SPTC)

Statement of specific results & benefits to be obtained:

- Improve the level of knowledge and experience of ISU, International and National Technical Controllers, Technical Specialists, Judges, Referees, Data and Replay Operators and in particular strive for the improvement in the following areas:
 - o properly identify all elements and flaws
 - o apply proper rules and guidelines for evaluation of the elements and components
 - o further understand all the criteria and correct use of marks
 - o correctly evaluate performances.
- Recruit new knowledgeable Officials especially in countries where only a limited number of these Officials exists:
 - o evaluate potential Officials during ISU Officials Seminars
 - o assist Members in the development/education of Technical Controllers, Technical Specialists, Referees, Judges, Data and Replay Operators
- Improve the Technical Rules related to Technical Controllers, Technical Specialists, Judges and Referees when necessary to avoid ambiguities.
- Monitor development of the sport and propose changes and amendments to existing Rules
- Create and implement new guidelines for the performance evaluation of Technical Controllers, Technical Specialists, Referees and Judges.

Recommended activities to obtain benefits:

2014/15 2015/16 2016/17 2017/18

1. Improvement and expansion of the Officials education programs.				
1.1 Continuation by the SPTC of annual ISU sponsored and recognized Judges seminars.	X	X	X	X
1.2 Continuation by the SPTC of the education of Technical Controllers and Technical Specialists.	X	X	X	X
1.3 Continuation by the SPTC of ISU recognized seminars and target curriculum to the knowledge of the respective ISU Member (if possible through funding from the Development Program).	X	X	X	X
1.4 Continuation by the SPTC of specialized seminars such as Pair Skating, Components Marks, Technical Controllers/Specialists Seminar, Referees and Moderators seminars.	X	X	X	X
1.5 Continuation of Pair Skating education program for ISU/National Judges in conjunction with the proposed International Pair Skating Development project.	X	X	X	X
1.6 Production/updating and making available by the SPTC the necessary educational materials, i.e.				
o create and update materials on marking the GOE	X		X	
o create and update materials on marking components		X		X
o create and update Technical Panel Manuals.	X	X	X	X
1.7 Improvement of the seminars by SPTC enlisting the assistance of				
o Coaches	X	X	X	X
o Choreographers	X	X	X	X
o Music experts	X	X	X	X
o Communication experts	X		X	
o Media/TV experts.		X		X

Recommended activities to obtain benefits:

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
2. Continuation of the organization and supervision by the SPTC of Referee's and Technical Controller/Specialist's Seminars including in-depth education on the Rules and improvement of communication skills with the assistance of media and communication experts.	X	X	X	X
3. Continuation of IJM and Technical Panel mini-seminars moderated by a TC Member at ISU Championships.	X	X	X	X
4. Education and Training of moderators by the SPTC in cooperation with communication specialists and possibly with assistance from the Development Program				
o to improve the education technique of moderators through practical and simulation exercises	X		X	
o to develop a program to train new moderators.		X		X
5. Formulation and distribution by the SPTC of seminar materials for national seminar in ISU Members countries.		X		X
6. Update the ISU website with specific information related to details and definitions of the elements available for Members, Officials, Skaters, Coaches and Media.	X	X	X	X
7. Improvement of the quality of Round Table Discussion by SPTC instructing Referees to include when available the use of DVD replay sequences.	X	X	X	X
8. Officials Assessment	X	X	X	X
Maintenance by the SPTC in cooperation with the ISU Secretariat of an Officials Database (Activity Book) in order to trace the Officials activity and performances. Assessment and performance evaluation of the Officials by the SPTC, when necessary issuing Performance Assessments (Assessment 1-4) and corresponding promotions, demotions or status-quo of the Officials level of judging/refereeing.				
9. Creation and update of the new guidelines for the evaluation of judging which include not only the so called "corridor", but allow to trace serious errors of the Judges who are inside this corridor.	X			X
10. Continuation and improvement by the SPTC of the yearly Officials Examinations.	X	X	X	X
11. Trial judging of the candidates at International Competition being held in conjunction with a Sponsored or Recognized Judges Seminar.	X	X	X	X
12. Close follow-up by the SPTC of the technical development of skating through event attendance and dialogue with Technical Controllers/Specialists, Judges, Referees, Coaches and Skaters and other Office Holders and Officials. Identify critical areas for proper officiating propose the necessary Rule changes to Congress or issue the necessary clarifications through ISU Communications.	X	X	X	X

Status Report to the 2016 ISU Congress on the Four Year Plan 2014/15-2017/18

Committee/Commission: **Single and Pair Skating Technical Committee (S&PTC)**

Project/Function/Area of activity: **Officials Education and Assessment**

The S&PTC has performed the activities as planned in order to achieve the specific results & benefits stated in the 2014 Four-Year Plan.

1. The Committee worked on improvement and expansion of the Officials education programs.

1.1. In the 2014-2015 season 7 Judges Recognized Seminars were conducted in:

- France, Courchevel, August 20-23, 2014
- Japan, Osaka, November 27-29, 2014
- Australia, Brisbane, December 3-5, 2014
- Italy, Milan, April 10-12, 2015
- Ukraine, Kiev, May 8-10, 2015
- Great Britain, Manchester, May 15-17, 2015
- Russia, Novogorsk, June 6-8, 2015.

In the 2015-2016 season 4 Judges Recognized Seminars were conducted in:

- Finland, Vantaa, September 18-20, 2015
- Canada, Toronto, May 6-8, 2016
- Gdansk, Poland, May 25-27, 2016
- Austria, Vienna, June 23-26, 2016 (planned).

Three Pair Skating Sponsored Judges Seminars were conducted in:

- Poland, Torun, April 16-19, 2015
- Germany, Berlin, May 12-15, 2016
- Russia, Sochi, June 29-July 2, 2016 (planned).

1.2. There were 2 Global joint with Ice Dance and Synchronized Skating Seminars for Technical Specialists/Controllers in Frankfurt, Germany (July 2014 and 2015) followed by the Examination.

1.3. Following invitations of ISU Members, SPTC Members moderated many National Seminars with the goal of increasing the knowledge of Officials, Coaches and Skaters.

1.4. Several specialized Officials Seminars were conducted:

- Poland, Torun, April 16-19, 2015
- Pair Skating (see above)
- for Technical Panel Members (see above)
- for International and ISU Referees followed by Examination (in the frame of the Frankfurt Global Seminar 2015)
- for Program Components (Oberstdorf 2014 and in the frame of the Frankfurt Global Seminar 2015)
- for new International Judges followed by Examination (in the frame of the Frankfurt Global Seminars 2014 and 2015).

1.5. The Sponsored Pair Skating Judges Seminars 2015 and 2016 were conducted in conjunction with International Pair Camps funded by ISU. There was also an additional Workshop for Judges with little knowledge of Pair Skating.

1.6. The necessary educational materials were produced, updated and made available by the SPTC, i.e.

- on marking the GOE (plus and minus GOE guidelines and videos updated every year)
- on marking components (amended text prepared by the Group of Component Moderators, approved by the Technical Committee and included as a proposal in the Congress 2016 Agenda)
- on Technical Panel Guidelines (Technical Panel Handbooks updated every year).

1.7. When necessary, various experts were used at the ISU Officials Seminars.

2. The SPTC continued the practice of organizing and supervising the Referees and Technical Controllers/Specialist Seminars with the goal of in-depth education on the Rules.

3. At every International Competition there's an Initial Judges Meeting. At ISU Championships this Meeting is conducted separately for each discipline and moderated by a Technical Committee Member. In the season 2015-2016 this Member was conducting the General and Technical part of the Meeting while the Referee was conducting the Components part. Referees could receive the basic Components presentation through the dropbox.

At each ISU Championships in every discipline separately there was the Technical Panel mini-seminar which consisted of 2 to 3 hour part prior to the event supervised by the Figure Skating Sport Director and a Technical Committee Member and the concluding part after the event. The Technical Controllers and Specialists prepared and made their presentations at the mini-seminars.

4. Moderators of the ISU Sponsored and Recognized Seminars were Technical Committee Members as well as other ISU Officials trained for the purpose.

5. The Components presentation and other seminar materials could also be used at National seminars of the ISU Members.

6. Latest specific information related to details and definitions of the elements was available to ISU Members, Officials, Skaters, Coaches and Media in Questions & Answers on the ISU website.

7. The Committee worked on improvement of the quality of Round Table Discussions. When available the DVDs of the Event were used at the RTD.

8. The activity of Officials is registered in the Activity Books maintained by the Committee in cooperation with the ISU Secretariat. The Committee together with the ISU Sport Manager and the ISU Sport Director worked hard on improvements of the system of Performance evaluation. The guidelines for evaluation were published in ISU Communications: 1893 for the season 2014-2015, 1962 for the season 2015-2016.

9. The system used in the season 2015-2016 used not only the so called "corridor", but also traced errors of the Judges who were inside the corridor by studying every mark which was too far from the average. Also in this "experimental" season the decision was not to issue any Assessments based on the quality of judging. Judges were just informed of their errors by Letters of Observations.

10. Yearly Officials Examinations were conducted in July in Frankfurt (New International Judges) and in September in Oberstdorf (ISU Judges). Referees Examinations are conducted every second year in July in Frankfurt (last time in 2015). The Committee works hard on improvements of examination questions and organization.

May 2016