

International Skating Union

ISU Synchronized Skating Media Guide

2017/18

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ISU Contact

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Introduction

Originally called Precision Skating, Synchronized Skating was introduced in the 1950s. The ISU officially recognized the discipline and changed the name to what it is known as today. The first ISU World Synchronized Skating Championships took place in 2000 and were held in Minneapolis (USA). It is the only team sport within the ISU, and a team consists of 16 skaters (plus up to 4 alternates). It is a highly technical form of Figure Skating characterized by speed, precisions, unison, intricate formations, synchro elements, difficult footwork, spectacular lifts and exciting transitions.

The first ever ISU World Junior Synchronized Skating Championships took place in Helsinki, Finland in March 2013. The event was initially to be held every two years but from the 2017 season on, it will be held as an annual event.

The list of [ISU Office Holders](#) and the [ISU Members](#) are updated as and when necessary.

Rules and Regulations

General Rules

ISU Championships are held in accordance with the International Skating Union (ISU) Regulations. The ISU Judging System used at the Figure Skating events is the one adopted by the 2004 ISU Congress. It is constructed as follows:

Championships Officials

For all ISU Championships the following Officials are necessary:

1. A Referee
2. A panel of 9 Judges maximum
3. A Technical Controller
4. A Technical Specialist
5. An Assistant Technical Specialist
6. A Data Operator
7. A Replay Operator

Technical Panel

The Technical Panel is composed of the Technical Controller, the Technical Specialist and the Assistant Technical Specialist, each one from different ISU Members (countries). A Data Operator assists them for recording purposes. An instantaneous slow-motion video replay system operated by a Replay Operator supports the Technical Panel in the identification of the performed elements.

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The Technical Specialist, assisted by the Assistant Technical Specialist, identifies and calls the performed elements and the specific Levels of Difficulty of certain performed elements (e.g. Group Lift Element, Intersection Element, Linear Element/Block or Line, Move Element, No Hold Element, Pair Element, Rotating Element/Circle or Wheel etc.). He/She also identifies illegal or additional elements and falls.

The Technical Controller authorizes or corrects all calls, supervises the Data Operator and can propose corrections, if necessary. In case of disagreement, the majority among the three Officials prevails.

Judges

Under the ISU Judging System (the same as in Figure Skating and Ice Dance), the Judges focus entirely on evaluating the quality of each element performed (Technical Score) and the quality of the performance (Presentation Score).

Their scores will be based on specific quality criteria for each Element and will provide a comprehensive assessment of each team's skills and performance, without comparing each team in relation to all others. The Judge enters the scores through a touch screen unit. At ISU Events Judges may review, in real time, certain Elements of the teams' performances by means of an instantaneous Video Replay System.

There will be a panel of a maximum of 9 Judges' per segment. The scores of these 9 Judges will form the result. Out of these scores, the highest and lowest score of each Element and Program Component are ignored and the average will be taken from the remainder, generating the trimmed mean (average score).

Technical Score

The score for the Element is composed of a "Base Value" of each element (Technical Panel) and the so-called "Grade of Execution - GOE" (Judges).

A group of experts, including experienced skaters and coaches, have worked out a summary list of each Element's Base Value as well as its "Level of Difficulty". The level of points of the Base Value depends on the difficulty of the Element.

Some elements such as Pivoting Block, Traveling Wheels, Linear Elements, Move Element, etc. are further broken down depending on their "Level of Difficulty".

These element Base Values and Levels of Difficulty ensure that skaters receive the appropriate and consistent credit for every element performed. The Base Value of all recognized elements are reviewed and published annually by the ISU in a Communication.

The name of the identified element will be listed instantaneously on the Judge's screen. The Judge then simply grades the quality of the element on a scale of +3, +2, +1, 0, -1, -2, -3. With this scale and the resulting "quality judgment", the Judge can either increase or decrease the Base Value of each performed Element.

The total of all the Elements scores gives the Technical Score.

Program Component Score

In addition to the Technical Score, the Judges will award points on a scale from 0.25 to 10.00 with increments of 0.25 for the Program Component Score to grade the overall presentation of the performance.

The Program Component Score for **Synchronized Skating** comprises of (Short Program and Free Skating):

- **Skating Skills:** Overall skating quality: edge control and flow over the ice surface demonstrated by a command of the skating vocabulary (edges, steps, turns etc.), the clarity of technique and the use of effortless power to accelerate and vary speed.
- **Transitions:** The varied and purposeful use of intricate footwork, positions, movements, holds and formations that link all Elements. Transitions provide continuity of movements from one element to another and also include the entrances and exits of Elements.
- **Performance:** Involvement of the Teams (Skaters) physically, emotionally and intellectually as they translate the intent of the music and composition.
- **Composition:** An intentionally developed and/or original arrangement of all types of movements, according to the principles of musical phrase, space, pattern and structure.
- **Interpretation of the Music/Timing:** The personal, creative and genuine translation of the rhythm, character and content of music to movement on ice.

Final Score

The Total Segment Score is obtained from the Technical Score plus the Program Component Score, after having subtracted any deduction (for example 1.0 for a fall of one person).

Then, the Short Program and the Free Skating scores are added together to form the final score.

The participant with the highest total score wins.

Availability of Data and Statistics

At the end of each segment, a list will be published which includes all relevant scoring data for Teams.

Under the ISU Judging System there is far more data available to analyze than before. This data can help the National Federations, athletes and coaches to improve future performances.

The media, skating fans and general public can find statistics and detailed data on the ISU website: www.isu.org

Officials Accountability

The teams performances are video recorded and can be reviewed on DVD at any time.

A computer checks and identifies possible anomalies of the Technical Panel or the Judges. If anomalies are identified action is taken. Officials who make repeated errors are subject to sanctions.

Required Elements Short Program

Short Program:

The Short Program is a program of up to 2:50 min duration that includes specific required Elements that are selected each season, by the ISU Synchronized Skating Technical Committee, from a list of Synchronized Skating Elements (similar to the required Elements in Figure Skating). The sequence of Elements is optional. Synchronized Skating Elements consists of, but are not limited to, shapes that are easily identified by the average audience member.

For the season 2017/2018 the following five (5) required Elements were selected:

SENIORS

1. **Intersection** Element + Point of Intersection (pi)
 - Whip Intersection
 - Additional Feature (point of intersection) is required
 - Features are permitted and will be counted if correctly executed
2. **Move** Element
 - One (1) Free Skating Move (fm) must be executed by each skater
 - One (1) fm must be an unsupported spiral executed with the free leg extended to the back executed by at least ½ of the team
 - Any other fm(s) that the team wishes to include is a free choice of the team
 - A minimum of four (4) skaters must attempt an fm
 - Features are permitted and will be counted if correctly executed
3. **No Hold Element**
 - Additional Feature (Step Sequence) is required
 - Features are permitted and will be counted if correctly executed
4. **Pivoting** Element – Block
 - Pivoting – executed in three (3) lines is required
 - Change of pivot point is optional and will be counted if executed correctly
5. **Traveling** Element – Wheel
 - Travel must be executed in a four (4) spoke wheel
 - Features are permitted and will be counted if correctly executed

JUNIORS

1. **Intersection** Element + Point of Intersection (pi)
 - Angled Intersection
 - Additional Feature (point of intersection) is required
 - Features are permitted and will be counted if correctly executed.
2. **No Hold** Element
 - Additional Feature (Step Sequence) is required
 - Features are permitted and will be counted if correctly executed
3. **Pivoting** Element – Block
 - Pivoting – executed in four (4) lines is required
 - Change of pivot point is optional and will be counted if executed correctly
4. **Synchronized Spin** Element
 - An upright spin is required
5. **Traveling** Element – Wheel
 - Travel must be in a three (3) spoke wheel
 - Features are permitted and will be counted if correctly executed

Well Balanced Free Skating Program

The Free Skating program contains different Elements that are also selected from a list of Synchronized Skating Elements, and are linked together by a variety of transitional elements and moves. The free skating program for Seniors is 4 min 30 seconds +/- 10 seconds in length. The free skating program for Juniors is 4 min +/- 10 seconds in length.

For the season 2017/2018 the following six (6) required Elements were selected:

SENIORS

1. **Two (2) Different Group Lift** Elements
 - a) **Group Lift** Element with rotations
 - Must include rotations required for the level
 - b) **Group Lift** Element that glides
 - May rotate but rotations are not required
2. **Two (2) Different Intersection** Elements
 - a) **Intersection** Element + Point of Intersection (pi)
 - Additional Feature (Point of Intersection (pi)) is permitted and will be counted if executed correctly
 - b) **Intersection** Element
 - Additional Feature (Point of Intersection (pi)) will not be counted
 - Teams are encouraged to be creative in all phases of this intersection
3. **No Hold** Element
4. **Pair** Element

Plus A Choice one (1) Element from each of the following Groups:

Group A

- **Move** Element
- **Synchronized Spin** Element

Group B

- **Creative** Element
- **Combined** Element

Group C

- **Linear** Element – Block
- **Linear** Element – Line
- **Rotating** Element – Circle
- **Rotating** Element – Wheel

For the season 2017/2018 the following four (4) required Elements were selected:

JUNIORS

1. Two (2) Different Intersection Elements

a) **Intersection** Element + Point of Intersection (pi)

- Additional Feature (Point of Intersection (pi)) is permitted and will be counted if executed correctly

b) **Intersection** Element

- Additional Feature (Point of Intersection (pi)) will not be counted
- Teams are encouraged to be creative in all phases of this intersection

2. No Hold Element

3. Pair Element

PLUS A Choice of one (1) Element from each of the following Groups:

Group A

- **Move** Element
- **Synchronized Spin** Element

Group B

- **Creative** Element
- **Combined** Element

Group C

- **Linear** Element – Block
- **Linear** Element – Line
- **Rotating** Element – Circle
- **Rotating** Element – Wheel

ISU Events and Championships Calendar for 2017/18

March 2018		
16 – 17	ISU World Junior Synchronized Skating Championships	Zagreb Croatia
April 2018		
6 – 7	ISU World Synchronized Skating Championships	Stockholm Sweden

Media Accreditation

The ISU recently launched the ISU Online Media Accreditation System for ISU Championships. The system is to be used by all media including writing press journalists, photographers, freelancers, television/radio non right holders and right holders. Each individual creates their personalized profile in the system that will enable them to apply for accreditation to multiple Championships.

Television and radio right holders should contact the ISU Media Team in order to obtain access to the system.

Access the [ISU Online Media Accreditation System](#) now to apply for your media accreditation.

Medal Tables

ISU World Synchronized Skating Championships

Overall

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Finland	8	9	5	22
2	Sweden	6	4	1	11
3	Canada	2	4	6	12
4	Russia	2	0	1	3
5	USA	0	1	5	6

ISU World Junior Synchronized Skating Championships

Overall

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Finland	2	3	1	6
2	Russia	1	0	1	2
2	Canada	0	0	1	1

Medalists

World Championships

Results of the ISU World Synchronized Skating Championships 2017 are available [here](#).

Year	Place	Gold	Silver	Bronze
2017	Colorado Springs, USA	Russia - Paradise	Finland - Marigold IceUnity	Canada - Nexxice
2016	Budapest, HUN	Russia - Paradise	Finland - Rockettes	USA - Haydenettes
2015	Hamilton, CAN	Canada - Nexxice	Finland - Marigold Ice Unity	Russia - Paradise
2014	Coumayeur, ITA	Finland - Marigold IceUnity	Canada - Nexxice	Finland - Rockettes
2013	Boston, USA	Finland - Team Unique	Canada - Nexxice	USA - Haydenettes
2012	Gothenburg, SWE	Sweden - Team Surprise	Canada - Nexxice	USA - Haydenettes
2011	Helsinki, FIN	Finland - Rockettes	Finland - Marigold Ice Unity	USA - Haydenettes
2010	Colorado Springs, USA	Finland - Rockettes	Finland - Marigold Ice Unity	USA - Haydenettes
2009	Zagreb, CRO	Canada - Nexxice	Finland - Team Unique	Sweden - Team Surprise
2008	Budapest, HUN	Finland - Rockettes	Sweden - Team Surprise	Canada - Nexxice
2007	London, CAN	Sweden - Team Surprise	USA - Miami University	Canada - Nexxice
2006	Prague, CZE	Finland - Marigold IceUnity	Sweden - Team Surprise	Finland - Rockettes
2005	Gothenburg, SWE	Sweden - Team Surprise	Finland - Rockettes	Finland - Marigold IceUnity
2004	Zagreb, CRO	Finland - Marigold IceUnity	Sweden - Team Surprise	Finland - Rockettes
2003	Ottawa, CAN	Sweden - Team Surprise	Finland - Marigold Ice Unity	Canada - Les Suprêmes
2002	Rouen, FRA	Finland - Marigold IceUnity	Sweden - Team Surprise	Canada - Black Ice
2001	Helsinki, FIN	Sweden - Team Surprise	Finland - Rockettes	Canada - Black Ice
2000	Mineapolis, USA	Sweden - Team Surprise	Canada - Black Ice	Finland - Marigold Ice Unity

World Junior Championships

Results of the ISU World Junior Synchronized Skating Championships 2017 are available [here](#).

Year	Place	Gold	Silver	Bronze
2017	Mississauga, CAN	Russia - Junost	Finland - Fintastic	Finland - Musketeers
2015	Zagreb, CRO	Finland - Musketeers	Finland - Fintastic	Canada - Les Supremes
2013	Helsinki, FIN	Finland - Musketeers	Finland - Fintastic	Russia - Junost