

Communication No. 2312

Decisions of the Council

The ISU Council met on April 6, 2020 via an online meeting to replace the cancelled meeting that was scheduled for the World Figure Skating Championships in Montreal, Canada. The following were among the decisions taken by the Council during the meeting. Further online meetings will be held during April 2020 and the decisions also published in due course.

1. ISU Congress 2020 postponement to 2021

Further to the ISU letter dated March 24, 2020, the ISU Members have, by a wide majority, voted in favour of postponing the 2020 Congress to June 2021 (the detailed voting results will be sent to ISU Members). After consultation with the Figure and Speed Skating Association of Thailand, the Council decided that the 2021 Congress of the Union will be held in **Phuket, Thailand at the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa tentatively from Monday, May 31 through Friday, June 4, 2021**. A formal invitation by ISU Circular Letter to ISU Members will follow in due course.

In the meantime, please note that the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa, has confirmed that deposits made for reservations for the initially planned 2020 Congress remain valid.

Referring to the ISU letter dated March 24, 2020 and since the 2020 ISU Congress will not take place as scheduled, the Council, in line with Article 10, paragraph 4 of the ISU Constitution, shall ask ISU Members for a mail vote on the motions on the Agenda that the Council considers urgent and essential for the correct administration of the ISU. When considering this provision, and also taking into account legal advice, the Council has concluded that in order not to risk possible court challenges against mail votes on the basis of an alleged violation of membership rights, the term "*urgent and essential for the correct administration of the ISU*" needs to be construed in a narrow way. Only motions whose immediate entering into force is necessary or which are critical for the correct functioning of the ISU may be put to vote. Typically, this is the case only for Congress Agenda items listed below. Therefore, such a mail vote will not include motions concerning amendments to the Constitution, General Regulations, Special Regulations and Technical Rules which call for a meaningful debate which is basically the core purpose of the Congress.

The urgent and essential agenda items identified by the ISU Council for the correct administration of the ISU being subject to a mail vote are:

1. Approval of the Minutes of the previous Congress (2018 Sevilla) (Art. 31, paragraph 8 of the ISU Constitution)
 2. Report by the Auditors (including the 2019 Financial Statements, Notes to the Financial Statements and Annual Report 2019 of the Council) with respect to the financial administration of the ISU since the last Congress, the approval thereof and the discharge of the Council, Director General, Treasurer, and the Sports Directors with respect thereto. (Art. 31, paragraph 14 of the ISU Constitution)
 3. A Budget for the years 2020 and 2021 and the approval thereof (Art. 31, paragraph 17 of the ISU Constitution).
- The Minutes of the 2018 Congress have already been distributed to ISU Members and are also available on the ISU website (<https://www.isu.org/inside-isu/rules-regulations/isu-congresses/24245-full-isu-congress-2018-minutes-16042019-1/file>)
 - The Report of the Auditors (including the 2019 Financial Statements, Notes to the Financial Statements and Annual Report 2019 of the Council) will be distributed during the month of May 2020.

- For the 2020-2021 Budget, the ISU Secretariat, Treasurer and the Council need some time to properly assess the negative financial consequences of the cancellation and pending possible postponement of three ISU 2020 Championships. The Budget will therefore be finalized and published during the Spring.
- In line with Art. 10, paragraph 4 of the ISU Constitution, the Council shall ask ISU Members for a mail vote on the above-mentioned items as soon as possible but latest six weeks after the originally fixed date of the planned 2020 Congress (by July 20, 2020).
- All other reports (President, Development Coordinator, Disciplinary Commission, Legal Advisors, Status Reports on the Four Year Plans) will be prepared for presentation during the 2021 Congress and cover the three year period between the 2018 and 2021 Congresses.

As to the Proposals for amendment of the ISU Constitution, General Regulations, Special Regulations and Technical Rules, the following procedure shall apply:

1. All Proposals currently submitted for the 2020 Congress Agenda by ISU Members, the Technical Committees and the Council remain valid and included on the Agenda for the 2021 Congress.
2. ISU Members and Technical Committees as well as the Council may further amend their Proposals and add new Proposals in accordance with the provisions of Article 30, paragraph 2 of the ISU Constitution, namely:

a) Constitution, General Regulations, Special Regulations

ISU Members and Technical Committees must send new and/or amendments to previously submitted proposals on the current 2020 Congress Agenda, for changes in the Constitution, General Regulations and Special Regulations for inclusion in the agenda to the Secretariat **by December 1, 2020**.

New and/or amendments to previously submitted proposals on the current 2020 Congress Agenda, of the Technical Committees must be submitted for preliminary review by the Legal Advisors **by November 15, 2020**.

A summary of proposals from ISU Members, the Council and Technical Committees for changes in the Constitution, General Regulations and Special Regulations shall then be sent to all ISU Members, the Council, the Sports Directors and the Technical Committees **by January 31, 2021**.

ISU Members and Technical Committees may submit amendments to their own previous proposals to the Secretariat **by March 30, 2021**.

An updated agenda for the Congress including such amendments, as well as amendments to Council proposals, will be published in an ISU Communication to all ISU Members and Office Holders **by April 30, 2021**.

b) Technical Rules

ISU Members may send proposals for changes in the Technical Rules for the consideration of the respective Technical Committees and the Sports Directors to the Secretariat **by September 1, 2020**.

A summary of proposals for Technical Rule changes from the Technical Committees, approved by the respective Sports Directors and the respective Vice President, and of the Council shall then be sent **by January 31, 2021** to ISU Members and Office Holders.

ISU Members and Office Holders may submit comments on the proposed Technical Rule changes **by March 1, 2021** to the Secretariat for consideration by the respective Technical Committees and the respective Sports Directors.

An updated summary of proposals for Technical Rule changes from the Technical Committees and the Sports Directors, approved by the respective Vice President (Article 16, paragraph 3.e) applies) and of the Council, shall then be included in the Congress Agenda and published through an ISU Communication to all ISU Members and Office Holders **by April 30, 2021**.

c) Urgent Matters (Proposals)

In accordance with Article 30, paragraph 5 of the ISU Constitution, Urgent Proposals must reach the ISU Secretariat not later than three weeks before the ISU Congress, namely **by May 10, 2021**. No Urgent Proposals from ISU Members relating to Technical Rules are acceptable.

d) Format of Proposal – Inclusion of Budget

All proposals must be written in English. All wording in new paragraphs and new wording in existing paragraphs must be underlined. Proposals causing expense to the ISU, either directly or through hosting agreements with ISU Members, must be accompanied by a budget.

e) Exceptional circumstances

If during the time until the next Congress exceptional circumstances related to the correct administration of the ISU should require urgent and essential Rule changes, Rule suspensions or exceptions to Rule requirements, then the ISU Council will make use of the extraordinary powers granted to the Council under Article 17, paragraph 1.q) of the ISU Constitution.

2. Postponement or definite cancellation of pending 2020 ISU Championships

Mindful of the escalating negative COVID-19 developments, the resulting world-wide human tragedy and the measures taken by the public authorities, the ISU Council has previously announced that the following ISU Championships could not be held as planned:

ISU World Short Track Speed Skating Championships, Seoul, March 13-15, 2020
ISU World Figure Skating Championships, Montreal, March 16-22, 2020 (including ISU Skating Awards)
ISU World Synchronized Skating Championships, Lake Placid, April 3-5, 2020.

The ISU has communicated to all stakeholders that considering the current uncertain developments surrounding the Coronavirus pandemic, a rescheduling and/or relocation of the above-mentioned Championships within the current season, even if the season would be extended by several weeks after its normal end in early April, cannot be reasonably considered. While the window of opportunity is quickly closing, the ISU remains for the time being open to consider the rescheduling of the above-mentioned Championships during the period of October to December 2020. This possibility however strongly depends on the development of the coronavirus pandemic. An underlying condition for considering such rescheduling would be that in the next two weeks there is a clear improvement worldwide and a horizon that would again allow serious and specific planning.

The ISU Council is monitoring the situation day by day and will discuss the options again during its next planned on-line meeting scheduled for April 16, 2020 and will thereafter communicate its conclusion to all stakeholders.

3. Applications for and allotments of ISU Championships seasons 2022/23 through 2024/25

Further to the ISU letter dated February 19, 2020 informing ISU Members that the deadline for applications for ISU Championships is postponed to August 31, 2020 and might include applications for the ISU Championships during the seasons 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25, and further to the postponement of the 2020 ISU Congress to June 2021, the ISU Council has further evaluated this issue.

The Council concluded that Rule 127/3.b) of the ISU General Regulations as currently in force does not exclude that the Council extends the timeline of ISU Championships applications and allotments beyond the indicated seasons in the above-mentioned Rule. The Council furthermore agreed that under the current exceptional circumstances due to the COVID-19 crisis, the deadline for applications for ISU Championships remains as indicated in the February 19, 2020 letter, namely August 31, 2020.

For the sake of better medium-term planning in the Speed Skating Branch where the balanced allotments of ISU Championships and ISU World Cups is essential and requires medium-term planning, the Council therefore decided to invite applications for ISU Speed Skating and Short Track Speed Skating Championships for evaluation and decision during its October 2020 meeting as follows:

Season 2022/23 Championships applications to be considered by the ISU Council for Provisional Allotments in line with Rule 127, paragraph 3.b) of the ISU General Regulations.

Seasons 2023/24 and 2024/25 Championships applications to be considered by the ISU Council for "Tentative Allotments" which subsequently remain subject to confirmation as Provisional Allotments as per Rule 127, paragraph 3.b). Such applications for Tentative Allotments may include multiple optional venues with the final venue to be decided at the time of the Provisional Allotment.

For the Figure Skating Branch, for which the Grand Prix events are basically hosted by the same six ISU Members and consequently have less impact on the medium-term planning of ISU Events, the procedure remains as per Rule 127, paragraph 3.b), hence only applications for ISU Figure Skating Championships for the season 2022/23 will be requested.

An ISU Communication including all relevant details for such applications (dates of Championships, applicable conditions for Championships applications, necessary information to be provided etc.) will be published during April 2020.

4. ISU World Speed Skating Championships Format

Since the 2018 Congress, there have been the following developments on the subject matter:

- November 28, 2018 circulation of a Memorandum prepared by the Vice President Speed Skating and the ISU Speed Skating Technical Committee with a request for feedback from ISU Speed Skating Members.
- February 6, 2019 discussions during the Speed Skating ISU Conference in Salzburg, Austria.
- March 17-18, 2019 Council meeting in Tokyo with conclusions as per ISU Communication 2234, point 9 regarding the programs for ISU World Speed Skating Championships 2021 and 2022.
- July 2019, September 2019 and March 2020 Working Group meetings among ISU and ISU Member representatives from ISU Members having reacted to the November 28, 2018 ISU Memorandum.

Based on the feedback from the above-mentioned discussions, the Council decided upon the following sequence of formats for the season 2020/21 through 2025/26:

2020/21 Pre-Olympic season – Beijing – February 25-28, 2021 (Olympic Test Event)

Single Distances format (as already announced in ISU Communication 2234, point 9).

Competitions in the following individual distances (Single distance formats, as specified in Rule 208, paragraph 2.1):

for Ladies: 500, 1000, 1500, 3000 and 5000 meters, Mass start;

for Men: 500, 1000, 1500, 5000 and 10000 meters, Mass start;

Team competitions, for Ladies and Men: Team Pursuit, as specified in Rule 208, paragraph 2.1.

2021/22 Olympic season – Hamar – March 3-6, 2022

Allround & Sprint format (as already announced in ISU Communication 2234, point 9).

For Ladies and Men: Competitions in Allround combination and in Sprint combination, as specified in Rule 201, paragraph 1.2 and in Rule 208, paragraphs 2.2 and 2.3, respectively;

Team competitions, for Ladies and Men: Team Sprint, as specified in Rule 208, paragraph 2.1.

2022/23 Post-Olympic season – dates to be announced

Single Distances format (details basically same as season 2020/21, to be confirmed).

2023/24 Mid-Olympic cycle season – dates to be announced

Allround & Sprint format (details basically same as season 2021/22, to be confirmed).

and Single Distances format (details basically same as season 2020/21, to be confirmed).

organized as two separate Events.

2024/25 Pre-Olympic season – dates to be announced

Single Distances format (details basically same as season 2020/21, to be confirmed).

2025/26 Olympic season – dates to be announced

Allround & Sprint format (details basically same as season 2021/22, to be confirmed).

While the above-mentioned solution deviates from the general concept of having only one ISU World Speed Skating Championships Event per season by making an exception for the mid-Olympic cycle season, it reflects the preference of ISU Speed Skating Members for a World Championships in Single Distances (same as Olympic program) in all non-Olympic seasons, and the continued interest in the Allround and Sprint Combination formats especially among ISU Members with a strong Speed Skating tradition.

5. Figure Skating Officials Status

The ISU Council discussed information provided by the Vice President Alexander Lakernik on the activity and status of Figure Skating Officials, based on his discussions with the Chair of the three Figure Skating Branch Technical Committees and Sports Director, Charlie Cyr.

a) Because of Covid-19 pandemic, all seminars and competitions of the end of the season 2019/20 were cancelled which resulted in a lack of re-certification requirements for some Officials.

In these exceptional circumstances the Council decided that the Lists of Officials for the season 2019/20 will also be valid for the season 2020/21, except for those Officials who no longer fulfil the age requirements.

b) Because of Covid-19 pandemic, the Frankfurt Global Seminar (with Examination) 2020 was cancelled. This year it was planned for the Seminar to include Technical Panel members for promotion from International to ISU categories and new candidates for all Officials positions. Now this Seminar will have to be moved to 2021. However, some Officials who fulfil all requirements in 2020 might not fulfil them in 2021.

In these exceptional circumstances the Council decided that in 2021 Technical Panel members for promotion from International to ISU categories and new candidates for all Officials positions will be accepted if they fulfil the requirements of the year 2020 or the requirements of the year 2021 (or both).

Full details will be sent to ISU Members shortly.

6. Figure Skating Requirements season 2020/21

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic many Skaters will not be able to prepare properly for the next season and it will be very difficult for them to learn new programs. Bearing this in mind, the three Technical Committees (SPTC, IDTC, SySTC) proposed, and the Council decided, to maintain the basic requirements of the season 2019/20 for the season 2020/21. The situation varies between disciplines because for Ice Dance and Synchronized Skating all new requirements are published in ISU Communications, but for Single and Pair Skating some of these requirements are in the Rule Book. The details are indicated below.

- Ice Dance: the Pattern Dances for all Novice categories and the Rhythm Dance for Juniors and Seniors will not be changed.
- Synchronized Skating: the requirements for the Well Balanced Short and Free Programs for all categories will not be changed.
- Single and Pair Skating: the requirements for the Short Program as specified in the Single and Pair Skating Technical Rules 611 and 620 for season 2020/21 will be valid.

All 3 Committees propose for the next season slight changes in SOV, Levels and GOE which will be published in ISU Communications in due course.

7. Designation of Synchronized Skating Challenger Series events season 2020/21

The Council approved the Challenger Series in Synchronized Skating Calendar for the season 2020/21 as follows:

Hong Kong / HKG	November 27-28 or December 4-5, 2020
Irvine / USA	December 10-13, 2020
Gdansk / POL	December 17-19, 2020
Turku / FIN	January 14-17, 2021
Salzburg / AUT	January 21-23, 2021

For the Challenger Series in Figure Skating, the decision was postponed to the next meeting.

8. ISU Council meeting

The Council agreed to hold its next on-line meeting on April 16, 2020.

The ISU Council joins in mourning those who have lost their loved ones due to the coronavirus and wishes a quick recovery to those who have been infected and are undergoing treatment.

Also, grateful thanks go to all the health care workers and emergency services throughout the world who, at the risk of their own lives, keep us safe on a day to day basis. Thank you.

Tubbergen,
April 8, 2020
Lausanne,

Jan Dijkema, President

Fredi Schmid, Director General