

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

Project/Function/Area of activity: **Coaches/Skaters education & monitoring of Technical Rules**

Decision Package prepared by: **Ice Dance Technical Committee (IDTC)**

Statement of specific results & benefits to be obtained:

- Continued education of Ice Dance Coaches and Skaters keeping them up to date with current Rules, procedures and technical/scientific/medical development of the sport and making them sensitive to potential problems and solutions.
- Improvement of the overall coaching experience and skating knowledge of Ice Dance Coaches and Skaters (including Junior and Novice levels) within all ISU Members.
- Maintenance of clear and up-to-date competition and Technical Rules and procedures in line with the development of the sport
- Education of general public on rules of Ice Dance in the light of the ISU Judging System.

Recommended activities to obtain benefits:

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

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
1. Organizing and Holding of Regional Coaches Seminars and workshops by the IDTC in cooperation and with support of the Sports Directorate and facilitated by a Project Manager.	X	X	X	X
2. Continuing IDTC policy of inviting National Coaches for Ice Dance and Coaches for Singles, who in future wish to work with Ice Dance couples, to attend ISU Sponsored and Recognized Ice Dance Judges Seminars	X	X	X	X
3. Preparation, correction, production and periodic revision by the IDTC of teaching materials such as DVDs, handbooks, training programs, Power Point presentations of technical requirements for the current season etc. for Coaches and Skaters.	X	X	X	X
4. Development by the IDTC of annual Pattern Dance and Free Dance Requirements.	X	X	X	X
5. Conducting Meetings with Coaches at all Championships to receive feedback from coaches, in particular on suggestions of technical requirements for coming seasons	X	X	X	X
6. Continuing IDTC policy of organizing the Annual Meetings with Coaches, Skaters and Judges at the World Championships to inform them about the most important technical aspects related to the forthcoming seasons.	X	X	X	X
6. Continual Dialogue for the furtherance of the Sport of Ice Dance:	X	X	X	X
6.1 Attending events and meetings including workshops between the IDTC and the Representative of Sports Directorate, the S&PTC and SySTC, Medical Advisors other ISU Office Holders, Officials, and Member representatives to evaluate the technical development of the sport including its competitions formats.	X	X	X	X

Recommended activities to obtain benefits:

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

6.2 Continue technical dialogue between the IDTC and Officials, Coaches and Skaters regarding innovations and/or improvements for the betterment of the sport of Ice Dancing by hosting an annual meeting at various ISU Championships.	X	X	X	X
6.3 Continue liaison if the IDTC with S&PTC and SySTC by holding regular joint meetings to discuss subjects of common interest.	X	X	X	X
7. Bi-annual review by the IDTC of Technical Rules and procedures and preparation and submission of corresponding proposals to the ISU Congress. Editing of Special Regulations and Technical Rules based on Congress decisions.		X		X
8. Periodic preparation and submission of reports to the ISU Council/Sport Directorate giving the IDTC's view of the development of the sport and making proposals concerning the technical development of Ice Dance including its International competitions and ISU Events. In particular but not limited to, the close monitoring by the IDTC of the technical development of ISU Championships, ISU Grand Prix and Junior Grand Prix Events and the International Competitions.	X	X	X	X
9. Preparation of ISU Communications for clarifications of technical requirements, Rules and procedures	X	X	X	X
10. Continuation by the IDTC of updating the scripts for announcers distributed by the IDTC to increase the knowledge of the arena audience about Ice Dance rules.	X	X	X	X
11. Media Relations and Education:				
11.1 Continuation by the IDTC of updating the media guides in cooperation with the ISU media personnel to increase the knowledge of the media about Ice Dance rules.	X	X	X	X

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

Committee/Commission:	Ice Dance Technical Committee (IDTC)
Project/Function/Area of activity:	Coaches/Skaters education & monitoring of Technical Rules

Since the ISU Congress 2014 in Dublin, the IDTC has performed activities as planned in order to achieve the specific results and benefits stated in the 2014/2018 Four-Year Plan. However the following areas required specific attention:

- 1. Continued education of Ice Dance Coaches and Skaters keeping them up to date with current Rules and technical development of the sport and making them sensitive to potential problems and solutions**

1.1. Meetings with Coaches and Skaters

IDTC members conducted Meetings with Coaches at all Championships to receive feedback from Coaches, in particular on suggestions of technical requirements for coming seasons:

- January 2015, Stockholm, Sweden in conjunction with European Championships
- February 2015, Seoul, South Korea, in conjunction with Four Continents Championships
- February 2015, Tallinn, Estonia, in conjunction with World Junior Championships
- January 2016, Bratislava, Slovakia, in conjunction with European Championships
- January 2016, Taipei, Chinese Taipei, in conjunction with Four Continents Championships
- March 2016, Debrecen, Hungary, in conjunction with World Junior Championships.

The Annual IDTC Meetings with Coaches, Officials and Skaters were organized at the World Championships 2015 in Beijing, China and 2016 in Boston, USA, with a total attendance of over a hundred twenty persons including Sports Director Figure Skating Krisztina Regöczy and representatives of the Media.

The main purpose of these meetings was to inform Coaches and Skaters about technical requirements for the coming seasons including some of the requirements for season 2017/18, in particular the required Rhythms for the Short Dance, and updates to calling and marking guidelines.

Essential new information was given to the Coaches at the meeting in Boston, USA, by the IDTC regarding the most important aspects of the IDTC proposals for the forthcoming ISU Congress in Dubrovnik:

- **Remove the extra 30 seconds that is given to the first competitor in each group to reach the starting place.**
- **Introduction of the concept of a “Combination Step Sequence”**
- **Allow IDTC to make exceptions to “Clothing” Rule.**
- **Change the time allowance for the Short Dance to 2:40 plus or minus 10 seconds**
- **Introduction of Basic Level for Step Sequences**
- **Change the number of GOE’s that can be assigned by the Judge from 7 to 10 scores- to have more possibilities in evaluation of quality.**
- **Update the Components definitions and criteria in order to avoid possible overlapping and make the criteria more understandable and clear.**

- **Change the Draw for the starting order for the final 2 Groups in the Free Dance (applicable to ISU Events, Olympic Winter Games and Winter Youth Olympic Games).**
- **Change the warm up time for Short Dance to 4 minutes.**
- **Define a procedure in the case where there is an interruption between the time the skater is called to the start and taking the starting position.**
- **Define Types, Groups and Styles of Step Sequences.**
- **Increase maximum duration of Short Lifts to 7 sec.**
- **To remove sitting on the partner's shoulder or back from the list of Illegal poses and give the couples a chance for more variety in the Lifts**
- **For the Short Dance, allow touching of the ice with the Hand(s) depending on the rhythms chosen for the season.**
- **Modify the Music Restrictions for the Free Dance to include change of tempo/rhythm and expression.**
- **Allow for more than one Choreographic Element to be included in the well balanced Free Dance program.**

1.2. Ice Dance Development Seminars

The second International Ice Dance Regional Development Training Seminar for Coaches and Ice Dance Couples from Asia and the Pacific Region was resumed on August 2014 and was held in Seoul, Korea, after one year break due to increasingly unsettling political situation in that area in Summer 2013. Unfortunately we were not able to finalize the organization of this Seminar in 2015 due to limited ISU Budget for developing projects.

It is very important to continue the development of Ice Dance in new areas where it is not yet traditionally pursued. This Seminar is the only organized help for Ice Dance in this region. The IDTC plans to organize the Development Seminar again in Seoul, Korea in August 2016.

The third International Regional Ice Dance Development Training Seminar for Ice Dance Coaches and Couples of beginner / Novice age and level for European Members was held in Torun in August 2014.

The intention of this Seminar is to re-initiate Ice Dance in countries that had couples before, but have no or very little activity now and also to introduce Ice Dance in new areas.

The ISU Ice Dance Development Training Seminars for Junior and Novice Ice Dancers and their Coaches were held in Oberstdorf, Germany, in April/May 2015 and 2016. The aim of this global Seminar is the development of Ice Dance Coaches and their Couples to a higher technical level .

Those Training Seminars were held with the financial support of the ISU Development Office. Since these Seminars proved to be very successful with proven, good results, the standardized plan of their continuation should be established for the long term.

1.3. Preparation of teaching materials

IDTC prepared and produced every season new Educational DVDs with "live examples" and "exercise examples" of Required Pattern Dance Key Points for Junior and Senior Short Dance, which helped the coaches to better prepare couples for the competitions.

2. Maintenance of clear and up-to-date competition and technical rules and procedures in line with the development of the sport

In accordance with Technical Rules, some technical requirements must be decided for each season by IDTC, in particular the list of Pattern Dances for Novice International Competitions, the Required Elements for Short Dance and Free Dance, and the Rhythms for Short Dance. Those decisions for seasons 2014/15 and 2015/16 were published in ISU Communications.

In accordance with Technical Rules, some technical requirements are decided by IDTC with an ongoing validity, in particular guidelines for calling and judging. When it was necessary, those requirements were updated and/or redrafted. Updates and redrafts were published in ISU Communications before competitive seasons 2014/15 and 2015/16 started.

Minor updates and redrafts, in particular those in connections with Rule changes adopted by the 2016 ISU Congress, will be published together with those changes in an ISU Communication before competitive season 2016/17 starts.

On behalf of the ISU Ice Dance Technical Committee Halina Gordon-Poltorak, Chair

May 2016