

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

**Project/Function/Area of activity:**

**Officials' Education and Assessment**

**Committee/Commission:**

**Synchronized Skating Technical  
Committee (SySTC)**

**Statement of specific results & benefits to be obtained:**

- Continued education of the Synchronized Skating Officials (Judges, Referees, Technical Controllers and Technical Specialists).
- Improve the level of knowledge and experience of ISU/International Judges, Referees, Technical Specialists and Technical Controllers; in particular, strive for the improvement in the following areas:
  - Correct identification and evaluation of the difficulty levels for Elements, Step Sequences and Features
  - Correct use of deductions for errors, falls, illegal elements/features etc.
  - Correct evaluation and use of GOE and Program Components, both in Short Program and Free Skating.
- Continued recruitment of new and young Officials especially in countries where only a limited number of Officials exist. Training and certification of National Level Officials on behalf of members.
- Improve Technical Rules related to judging/refereeing when necessary to avoid ambiguities and missing elements.
- Improve the knowledge and expertise of Referees / Competition Managers in Events management and organizational skills.

**Recommended activities to obtain benefits:**

|  | 2014/15 | 2015/16 | 2016/17 | 2017/18 |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. <u>Improvement and Expansion of the Officials' Education Programs.</u>  |         |         |         |         |
| 1.1 Continuation by the SySTC of arranging annual ISU recognized and sponsored Judges and Referees seminars / continue to invite Coaches to these seminars.  |         | X       | X       | X       |
| 1.2 Continuation by the SySTC, in conjunction with the Sport Director, of arranging annual technical seminars for the purpose of re-certification and promotion of TS/TC, as well as training new candidates for appointments (Frankfurt seminar). |         | X       | X       | X       |
| 1.3 Continuation by the SySTC of arranging specialized seminars such as combined Judges/Referees seminars, specific item Judges/Referees seminars and TC/TS Refresher seminars.  |         | X       | X       | X       |
| 1.4 The SySTC production/updating and making available by the necessary educational materials:   |         |         |         |         |
| • Video footages of the ISU SyS Championships  |         | X       | X       | X       |
| • PowerPoint presentations for educational seminars  |         | X       | X       | X       |
| • Intermediate Coaches Seminar – CD / Video  |         | X       | X       | X       |
| • Update existing videos (GOE and positive GOE)  |         | X       | X       |         |
| • Program Components ISU video; new transitions part for SyS and examples of SyS programs updates  |         |         | X       |         |
| • Judges Handbook / Judges Seminar Modules   |         |         | X       | X       |
| • Referees Handbook edition 2015 to 2018; update forms   |         | X       | X       | X       |
| • Technical materials for TS and TC; including Call Charts (ISU First Aid), Guidelines for Fitness, Nutrition, Bio-mechanics, Music, Choreography  |         | X       | X       | X       |

**Recommended activities to obtain benefits:**

2014/15   2015/16   2016/17   2017/18

|   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1.5 Development of seminars by the SySTC enlisting the assistance of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Coaches</li> <li>o Choreographers</li> <li>o Music experts</li> <li>o Communication experts</li> <li>o Media/TV experts</li> </ul>  | X | X | X | X |
| 2. Continuation of the organization and supervision by SySTC of Referee Seminars including in-depth education on SyS Rules and regulations, marking, event management and improvement of communications skills.   | X | X | X | X |
| 3. Continued education by SySTC on the proper conduct of the Judges Meetings and Round Table Discussions, including proper use of DVD and other materials in the SyS Referee Seminars.  | X | X | X | X |
| <u>Monitoring of Officials' Activities</u>  |   |   |   |   |
| 3.1 Maintenance by the SySTC in cooperation with the ISU Office an Officials' Database (Activity Book) in order to track all activities and performances; Assessment and performance evaluation of the Officials by the SySTC - recommending issuance of warning letters for International competitions, and corresponding promotions, demotions or status quo of the appointment level of Officials. | X | X | X | X |
| 3.2 Monitor Officials' activity and assist Officials in getting needed activity to stay current.  | X | X | X | X |
| 3.3 Review Referee Reports and monitor Judges' performance throughout the year; note concerns in the Officials' Database.   | X | X | X | X |
| 3.4 Review Technical Controller Reports and monitor TS / TC performance throughout the year; note concerns in the Officials' Database.  | X | X | X | X |
| 3.5 Review OAC Reports on Judges' performance; note concerns in the Officials' Database.  | X | X | X | X |
| 3.6 Continuation by the SySTC of improving and updating the yearly ISU Judges Examination according to the new Rules.   | X | X | X | X |
| 3.7 Close follow-up by the SySTC of the technical development of Synchronized Skating through event attendance and dialogue with Judges, Referees, TS/TC, Coaches and Skaters and other Office Holders and Officials. Identify critical areas for improvement of judging and refereeing.  | X | X | X | X |
| 3.8 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**

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|---|--|
| <b>Committee/Commission:</b>              | <b>Synchronized Skating Technical Committee (SyS TC)</b>             |
| <b>Project/Function/Area of activity:</b> | <b>Coaches/Skaters education &amp; monitoring of Technical Rules</b> |
|   | <b>Officials Education</b>   |

**The SySTC has carried out and performed all planned activities and achieved the goals that were specified in the Four Year Plan.**

### **IMPROVEMENT AND EXPANSION OF THE OFFICIALS EDUCATION PROGRAM.**

The SyS Technical Committee has engaged in an on-going review of the way in which the ISU delivered education to our officials and coaches with a view to targeting more closely the needs of different groups of Coaches and Officials. In pursuit of this goal, the structure of SyS Coaches, Judges, Referees, Specialists and Controllers education seminars was further updated.

The seminar and training camp for Championship event officials to fully prepare the judging and technical panels for the execution of their duties at the World Synchronized Skating Championships, the Junior World Synchronized Skating Championships and the Junior World Challenge Cup has been moved to a bi-annual basis. The seminar continues to be considered to be a highly effective and interesting approach to delivering practical on-ice training combined with classroom based information delivery on regulations and program evaluation. The Autumn Global Coaches seminar has been discontinued in line with the other figure skating discipline. This has been replaced with a newly formatted comprehensive development seminar for Junior level skaters and their coaches. This has been done in conjunction with the ISU Development Program. The skaters and coaches have already been able to start participating in events at international level – a testament to the success of the program.

The SyS TC were delighted to be able to participate in the regular Frankfurt seminar and this was, as ever, perfectly organised and very successful in delivering the seminar and exam workload. This has been further extended to offer National level technical education to support those ISU members who are newer to the Synchronized Skating discipline.

The education and evaluation of new judges, referees and technical controllers has been incorporated successfully into the annual Frankfurt seminar.

Regular judges and referee update seminars were hosted by member federations in France and Switzerland.

### **DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES**

1. The SyS TC has been working to bring new countries into the international competitive circuit and we saw Iceland send teams to international competition with Latvia and Turkey

competing at world events. It was also pleasing to see China entering international events at Novice and Junior level for the first time.

2. The SyS TC produced a new promotional DVD's for the use of ISU members to help with the promotion of the discipline. This was distributed to all member federations for use at their own events to give an introduction to our discipline.
3. The Synchronized Skating competition calendar continues to growing with a new international event being hosted in Finland to help extend the Synchronized Skating season. The SYS TC continues to provide support and advice for countries looking to host new events. The objective of spreading the dates of events is gradually coming to fruition with new events now taking place from October.
4. The Junior World Synchronized Skating Championships have proved a great success thanks to the excellent organisation and support given by the host countries. Participation continues to grow and the technical standard continues to impress.
5. The SyS TC have issued guidelines for Referees in a new handbook as well as providing a comprehensive guide for our technical specialists and controllers for calling elements.
6. The SyS TC were delighted the Synchronized Skating was included in the Grand Prix Final in Barcelona. It is hoped that this will be the beginning of an on-going participation in the Grand Prix series of events.
7. The SyS TC have undertaken a radical review of the rules and regulations involving our senior coaches for the SyS discipline and senior representatives from major TV companies. Further recommendations for significant changes in program construction and evaluation have resulted from this consultation process. This will afford more creative freedom to the team coaches that we believe will result in further development of the discipline and more varied and interesting programs for the public and media.
8. The SyS TC were delighted with the overwhelming success of the innovative Shanghai Trophy event that was run in conjunction with our Short Track Speed Skating colleagues. This was so well received that the second edition has already been announced. This is a testament to how innovative approaches can help move our sport forward for the benefit of all disciplines.
9. The SyS TC were delighted to be able to work in co-operation with the ISU Development Co-ordinator to support a number of events targeted at grass roots competitive development. We look forward to continued successful co-operation with the Development Commission.
10. The SyS TC will continue to work tirelessly towards inclusion of the discipline in the Olympic Winter Games program.

May 2016