

Status Report to the 2018 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 2016 in Dubrovnik, 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 2017, Ostrava, Czech Republic in conjunction with European Championships
- February 2017, Gangneung, South Korea, in conjunction with Four Continents Championships
- February 2017, Tallinn, Estonia, in conjunction with World Junior Championships
- January 2018, Moscow, Russia, in conjunction with European Championships
- January 2018, Taipei, Chinese Taipei, in conjunction with Four Continents Championships
- March 2018, Sofia, Bulgaria, in conjunction with World Junior Championships.

The Annual IDTC Meetings with Coaches, Officials and Skaters were organized at the World Championships 2017 in Helsinki, Finland and 2018 in Milan, Italy, 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 2018/19, in particular the required Rhythms for the Short (Rhythm) Dance, and updates to the calling and marking guidelines.

Essential new information was given to the Coaches at the meeting in Milan, Italy, by the IDTC regarding the most important aspects of the IDTC proposals for the forthcoming 2018 ISU Congress in Seville:

- **The current “Short Dance” has prescribed “Rhythms” which are selected by the IDTC for each season. The name “Rhythm Dance” more accurately reflects the style of the program.**
- **New Pattern Dances are included to the list in the Rules.**
- To allow more than one Choreographic Element in the Rhythm Dance
- Prior to inputting the Component Marks, judges will evaluate the overall Free Dance as YES/PARTLY/NO for a bonus/no action/deduction with respect to the specific focus announced in an ISU Communication for each season. As an example, for the 2018/2019 season – “Entertainment” will be the focus for evaluation. The value of the bonus or deduction will be announced each season in a Communication”
- Introduction of the Team Results by ISU Members in International Competitions.
- **Introduction of Basic Level for Pattern Dances, Lifts, Twizzles and Spins**
- **Change the number of GOE’s that can be assigned by the Judge from 7 to 11 scores - to have more possibilities in evaluation of quality.**

- Change the duration of warm up for Pattern Dance(s) – to three (3) minutes; thirty (30) seconds without music followed by two minutes and thirty seconds (2.30) of the 6th (last) tune of the ISU Ice Dance music
- Change the size of the group for Pattern Dance Warm up - maximum 6 Couples;
- Change the duration of the Warm up for Free Dance (All Novice categories): three (3) minutes,
- **To continue to develop more opportunities for all levels of skaters to participate at competitions, the Novice category is divided into three groups:**
 - **Basic Novice - has not reached the age of thirteen (13);**
 - **Intermediate Novice - has not reached the age of fifteen (15);**
 - **Advanced Novice - has reached the age of ten (10) and has not reached the age of fifteen (15) for girls (Singles/Pairs Skating/Ice Dance) and boys (Singles) and seventeen (17) for boys (Pair Skating/Ice Dance).**
- **Change the Draw for the starting order for the final 2 Groups in the Short Dance (applicable to ISU Events, Olympic Winter Games and Winter Youth Olympic Games).**
- **Define and clarify a procedure in the case where there is a problem with music**
- **To remove some of the restrictions 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.**
- **Allow for more than one Choreographic Element to be included in the well balanced Short Dance program.**
- **The creation of additional Choreographic Elements**

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 2016 and was held also in 2017 in Seoul, Korea, after one year break due to limited ISU Budget in 2015 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 2018.

The 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 2017 and will be organized in August 2018 as well. 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 to also 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 2017 and 2018. The aim of this Global Seminar is the development of Ice Dance Coaches and their Couples to a higher technical level. As a part of the Coaches education, the Ice Dance Technical Committee Chair conducted two separate Conferences: one dedicated for Coaches participating at the Advance Novice Seminar and the other one for those participating at the Basic Novice Seminar.

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 the 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 2016/17 and 2017/18 were published in ISU Communications.

In accordance with Technical Rules, some technical requirements are decided by the IDTC with 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 2016/17 and 2017/18 started.

Minor updates and redrafts, in particular those in connections with Rule changes adopted by the 2018 ISU Congress, will be published together with those changes in an ISU Communication before competitive season 2018/19 starts.

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