

Communication No. 2238

SYNCHRONIZED SKATING

**GUIDELINES FOR INTERNATIONAL NOVICE
COMPETITIONS AND WELL-BALANCED
PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

(Replaces ISU Communication 2184)

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GUIDELINES FOR INTERNATIONAL NOVICE COMPETITIONS

1. Entries

Entries to the competitions are made by the ISU Members (for International Competitions) or Sections/Clubs (for Interclub Competitions), which must be a member of the ISU Member, based on the age and level of the Skaters.

2. Age Requirements (Rule 108, paragraph 4.c):

In International Competitions, a Novice is a Skater who has met the following requirements before July 1st preceding the event (the specific date: before July 1st, applies to all indicated dates):

- has reached at least the age of ten (10)
- has not reached the age of fifteen (15)

Two subgroups offering a different technical package are established:

- **Basic Novice**
- **Advanced Novice**

3. Deductions for Interruption(s) in performing the program for ALL Novice categories:

For every Interruption of:

- more than 10 seconds up to 20 seconds: - 0.5
- more than 20 seconds up to 30 seconds: - 1.0
- more than 30 seconds up to 40 seconds: - 1.5
- more than 40 seconds by one or several Skaters: - 2.0
- Interruption of the program with allowance of up to three (3) minutes to resume from the point of interruption: - 2.5 per program

As the values of those deductions are not the standard ones provided by Rule 843, paragraph 1.n), the Referee must give specific instructions to the system operator and check the correct input in each instance.

4. Deductions for Falls* for Novice

* A Fall is defined as loss of control by a Skater with the result that the majority of his/her own body weight is on the ice supported by any other part of the body other than the blades e.g. hand(s), knee(s), buttock(s), or any part of the arm (Rule 953, paragraph 1).

Fall	Rule 953, paragraph 1	-0.5 for every Fall of one (1) Skater
		-1.0 for every Fall of more than one (1) Skater at one (1) time
		-1.5 Maximum Fall Deduction per element

As the values of those deductions are not the standard ones provided by Rule 953, paragraph 1. and Rule 843, paragraph 1.n), the Referee must give specific instructions to the system operator and check the correct input in each instance.

5. Officials:

- a) ISU Rule 971 on the composition of panel of Officials applies, except for the International qualification of the Officials. In each event there should be at least one (1) Judge and one (1) member of the Technical Panel acting with an International qualification.
- b) The same ISU Rules regarding judging, refereeing and the work of the Technical Panel apply as in Junior and Senior International Competitions.
- c) Rule 923, paragraphs 1 and 2 regarding the Report of the Referee and the Report of the Technical Controller apply.

6. Technical Requirements:

6.1 Team Composition

Basic Novice

Basic Novice shall consist of twelve (12) to sixteen (16) Skaters with a maximum number of four (4) alternate Skaters. At the National level, ISU Members may permit a different team composition.

Advanced Novice

Advanced Novice shall consist of sixteen (16) Skaters with a maximum number of four (4) alternate Skaters. At the National level, ISU Members may permit a different team composition.

6.2 Free Skating

Novice competitions will consist of a Free Skating program only.

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS may or may not offer the opportunity for Advanced Novice Teams only, to compete two (2) times at the event.

For events where Advance Novice Teams skating two (2) Free Skating programs, the Total Segment Score for each Free Skating program will be multiplied by a factor of 0.5 and added together to the Teams Total Competition Score.

6.3 Duration of Program (Rule 952, paragraph 2)

Novice: Three (3) minutes

The Team is allowed to finish the Free Skating within ten (10) seconds plus or minus the required time. The timing must be reckoned from the moment that a Skater begins to move (arms, head, etc.) or to skate until arriving at a complete stop at the end of the program.

6.4 Music

Vocal music using lyrics is permitted.

6.5 Program Components

The Program Components are only judged as follows:

Basic Novice	Advanced Novice
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Skating Skills• Performance• Interpretation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Skating Skills• Transitions• Performance• Interpretation• Composition

The factor for each of the Program Components is 1.6.

The factored results are rounded to two (2) decimal places and added.

The sum is the Program Component Score

7. Well-Balanced Free Skating Program Requirements 2019/20

7.1 BASIC NOVICE (Six (6) Elements)

MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING SIX (6) REQUIRED ELEMENTS:

- 1 **Intersection** Element
 - Additional Feature (Point of Intersection) is optional and will be counted if executed correctly
- 2 **Pivoting** Element – **Block**
- 3 **Traveling** Element – **Circle**
- 4 **Move** Element
 - Up to four (4) different fm's
- 5 **Linear** Element – **Line**
- 6 **Rotating** Element – **Wheel**

NOTE: Maximum Element levels can be skated, but the level awarded will be one (1) level lower than the maximum defined in the ISU Technical Rules. The highest Difficulty Group of an Additional Feature may be attempted and will be called as executed.

7.2 ADVANCED NOVICE (Seven (7) Elements)

MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING Six (6) REQUIRED ELEMENTS:

- 1 **Intersection** Element
 - Additional Feature (Point of Intersection) is optional and will be counted if executed correctly
- 2 **Move** Element
 - Up to four (4) different fm's
- 3 **No Hold** Element
 - Additional Feature (Step Sequence) is optional and will be counted if executed correctly
- 4 **Pivoting** Element – **Block**
- 5 **Traveling** Element – **Circle**
- 6 **Twizzle** Element
 - A series of two (2) twizzles, one (1) in each rotational direction is required

PLUS A Choice of one (1) Element from Group A

- 7 **GROUP A**
Artistic Element – **Line**
OR
Artistic Element – **Wheel**

NOTES:

The No Hold Element and Twizzle Element may not be executed one after the other.

Maximum Element levels can be skated, and the level will be called as executed.
Maximum levels of Additional Features can be skated and will be rewarded according to the execution of the team.

The Base Value of the Elements will be the same for those Elements listed as a choice of one (1) Element shown within a Group (A or B).

7.3 NOTES for Basic Novice and Advance Novice:

Other Elements may be incorporated into the Free Skating program.

The program content sheet should indicate which extra Elements are transition Elements.

- Definition/criteria of recommended Elements and Additional Features are in accordance with Rule 990, paragraphs 3 and 4.
- Difficulty Groups of Elements and Additional Features and the description of their requirements are in accordance with the valid (corresponding) ISU Communication.

Illegal and non-permitted Elements

Illegal and non-permitted Elements are following the restrictions of Rule 992, paragraphs 2 and 3.

Novice teams are not allowed to include vaults, Group Lifts or un-sustained lifts.