

INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION

Communication No. 1164

SYNCHRONIZED SKATING

DECISIONS OF CONGRESS

Please be advised that the following major technical Rule changes and amendments (underlined) were accepted at the 49th ISU Ordinary Congress in Kyoto, Japan, June 2002:

A. ISU CONGRESS DECISIONS RELATED TO TECHNICAL REGULATIONS

I. DEFINITIONS OF THE TERMS USED IN SYNCHRONIZED SKATING:

Rule 703. paragraph 7, 13, 14, 15 new, paragraph 10 revised
Definitions of the terms used in Synchronized Skating

7. Lifts in Synchronized Skating:

An action in which skater(s) is elevated to any height and set down. During the action, the lifting skater(s) must not raise both hands higher than their head. Any rotations and/or positions and changes of positions during the lift are permitted except sitting or lying on lifting skater(s) shoulder or back. The lifting skater may rotate but not more than one and a half (1 ½) revolution. Lifts should enhance the music chosen and express its character, but not be a display of acrobatics. Those lifts are permitted in senior free skating only.
Acrobatic lifts are defined as moves in which the skater is held by the blade(s), foot (feet), leg (s) or arm(s) and swung around. These or other such actions which display sheer feats of strength are not permitted.

10. Movements in isolation:

Movements in isolation are elements where some skaters are isolated from the rest of the team. These movements must show a relationship to the overall elements and enhance the musical interpretation. Movements in isolation (provided these movements are not illegal movements) such as short spins, jumps, spirals etc. and other unique or innovative movements are allowed in free skating only.

13. Moves in the Field: This is a sequence of movements which may include spirals, arabesques, spread eagles, Ina Bauers and flowing moves with strong edges, which can be connected with linking steps and step sequences.

14. Spin: A spinning movement with more than one (1) revolution performed on one (1) foot on the spot.

15. Twizzle: A travelling turn on one foot with one or more rotations which is quickly rotated with a continuous (uninterrupted) action. The weight remains on the skating foot with the free foot in any position during the turn then placed beside the skating foot to skate the next step.

II. SHORT PROGRAM – GENERAL REQUIREMENTS / MUSIC

Rule 705 paragraph 1c) and e), revised and h) new.

c) Free skating movements (such as lunges, spirals, Ina Bauers, spread eagles) are not considered as steps in the short program but may be used as identifiable / recognizable connecting movements between the required step sequences and during transitions. Free skating movements must be used in the required Moves in the Field Sequence element, in the Senior Short Program.

e) Any music including vocal music using lyrics is permitted. However, the teams must skate the program in time to the music. Additions of the sounds of applause or cheers are not permitted.

- g) The choreography and elements should be executed facing towards all sides of the ice rink and not excessively facing one side only.

II. SENIOR SHORT PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Rule 705, paragraph 2

The **Senior** Synchronized Skating Short Program shall consist of the following required elements, divided into two (2) groups. The groups, that are effective on July 1st each year are:

Group A 2002-2003

a) Intersection

- (i) One (1) Line intersection without center point
- (ii) One (1) optional intersection that incorporates movement of one part of the team through another part of the team
- (iii) Two (2) different intersections required

b) Wheel

- (i) One (1) three line parallel wheel
- (ii) One (1) optional wheel shape
- (iii) One (1) wheel at any time
- (iv) Two (2) different geometrical shapes

c) Block

- (i) Closed block
- (ii) Maximum of six (6) lines minimum of three (3) lines
- (iii) At least two (2) changes of axis
- (iv) At least two (2) different configurations
- (v) At least two (2) step sequences and one (1) of them must be in a straight or diagonal line pattern incorporating a no hold

d) Spin

- (i) Upright position or any variation thereof
- (ii) At least three (3) revolutions
- (iii) One (1) change of foot is permitted

e) Moves in the Field Sequence

- (i) Any formation(s) is permitted
- (ii) Circular Pattern

Group B 2003-2004

a) Intersection

- (i) One (1) Box (Square) intersection
- (ii) One (1) optional intersection that incorporates movement of one part of the team through another part of the team
- (iii) Two (2) different intersections required

b) Circle

- (i) Any type or combination of a circle(s) to a maximum of two (2) circles at any time
- (ii) At least two (2) different holds
- (iii) At least two (2) step sequences

c) Block

- (i) Closed block
- (ii) Maximum of six (6) lines minimum of three (3) lines
- (iii) At least two (2) changes of axis
- (iv) At least two (2) different configurations
- (v) At least two (2) step sequences and one (1) of them must be in a straight or diagonal line pattern incorporating a no hold

d) Spin

- (i) Upright position or any variation thereof
- (ii) At least three (3) revolutions
- (iii) One (1) change of foot is permitted

e) Moves in the Field Sequence

(i) Any formation(s) is permitted

(ii) Serpentine Pattern

Remarks Senior:

INTERSECTION

- In the Line intersection without center point, two (2) lines must approach each other from the opposite directions. (The second intersection may not be a line intersection without a center point)
- In the Box (Square) intersection, the number of skaters in each of the four (4) lines must be as close to equal as possible.
- The intersection(s) may occur simultaneously or separately as long as every skater is involved in the intersection.
- Skaters may execute different movements at any time during the intersecting element.
- There are no required holds or step sequences and any combination or variety thereof may be used.
- No jumps except dance jumps are permitted.
- Free skating moves (such as lunges, spirals, Ina Bauers, spread eagles) are permitted, however, back spirals are illegal elements.
- Intersecting element must be continuous but there may be some steps or transitions between two intersecting elements.

WHEEL

- There must be two (2) different geometrical shapes and a shape must not be repeated. To fulfil the requirement for a geometrical shape, a wheel must rotate at least 180 degrees in that shape.
- The wheel may revolve either clockwise or counter-clockwise or a combination of both directions. There are no required holds or step sequences and any combination or variety thereof may be used.
- No jumps except dance jumps are permitted.
- Free skating moves (such as lunges, spirals, Ina Bauers, spread eagles) are permitted.
- Separations are permitted.

CIRCLE

- There may be different numbers of skaters in each of the circles.
- The circle(s) may revolve clockwise or counter-clockwise or a combination of both directions. The circles must not be linked or intersecting. The circles may travel together and/or separately and may revolve and/or travel in opposite directions.
- All skaters must execute the same steps and use the same hold except during the change of direction and free skating moves.
- The step sequences may be executed on opposite feet and the skaters may be skating in either a forward or backward direction.
- Different heights and different free leg extensions may be used.
- No jumps except dance jumps are permitted.
- Free skating moves (such as lunges, spirals, Ina Bauers, spread eagles) are permitted except during the required step sequences. These free skating moves must be done at the same time in both circles but need not be the same by all skaters.
- Separations are permitted.

BLOCK

- The number of skaters in each line must be as close to equal as possible.
- The block must travel at least the full length of the ice surface.
- All skaters must execute the same steps and use the same hold except during the change of direction and free skating moves.
- One (1) step sequence must be executed with a no hold. During this step sequence all skaters must perform the same steps in a diagonal or straight-line pattern and must not hold on to each other. This step sequence should start and end as close to the end of short barriers as possible and must cover at least 2/3 of the length of the ice surface.
- The step sequences may be executed on opposite feet and the skaters may be skating in either a forward or backward direction.
- Different heights and different free leg extensions may be used.
- No jumps except dance jumps are permitted.

- Free skating moves (such as lunges, spirals, Ina Bauers, spread eagles) are permitted except during the required step sequences. These free skating moves must be done at the same time in all lines but need not be the same by all skaters.
- Separations are permitted.

SPIN

- In the upright position, all skaters must be in the same position at the same time (rotating clockwise, counter-clockwise or both). Layback or sideways leaning position is permitted. The chosen position should be maintained at least for three (3) revolutions.
- After three (3) revolutions a change of foot, position and /or additional revolutions are permitted.
- Variations of the head, arms or free leg as well as fluctuations of speed are permitted as long as it is done at the same time by all skaters.
- The movements of the skaters during all the phases of approaching, performing and exiting from the spin should be completely synchronized. All skaters should have the same position at the same time.
- The change of foot must be executed in the form of a step over and not as a jump.
- Spins cannot be commenced with a jump.

MOVES IN THE FIELD

- This is a sequence of movements (team skating as one unit), which may include spirals, arabesques, spread eagles, Ina Bauers and flowing moves with strong edges, which can be connected with linking steps and step sequences. The element must not be linked to the block element.
- All skaters must perform the same sequence of moves at the same time or one half of the team must perform one sequence of moves and the other half of the team another sequence of moves.
- Skaters may pass by each other.
- There are no required holds or step sequences.
- The circular pattern must be skated in a complete circle or oval (starting with a free skating move) utilizing the full width of the ice surface (either clockwise or counter-clockwise but not a combination of both)
- The serpentine pattern must be skated in bold curves (at least two) starting and ending close to the short barrier and travelling the full length of the ice surface

IV. JUNIOR SHORT PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Rule 705, paragraph 3

3. The **Junior** Synchronized Skating Short Program shall consist of the following required elements:

a) Circle:

- Any type or combination of a circle(s) to a maximum of two (2) circles at any time;
- At least two (2) different holds;
- At least two (2) step sequences.

b) Line:

- Any type or combination of single or double straight line(s) that travels the full length of the ice surface and moves in either a horizontal and/or longitudinal direction;
- At least two (2) different holds;
- At least two (2) step sequences.

c) Block:

- Closed block;
- Maximum of six (6) lines minimum of three (3) lines;
- At least two (2) changes of axis;
- At least two (2) different configurations;
- At least two (2) different holds;
- At least two (2) step sequences.

d) Wheel:

- One (1) wheel at any time;
- Two (2) different geometrical shapes.

e) Intersection:

- (i) Any type of element that incorporates movement of one part of the team through another part of the team;
- (ii) Maximum of two (2) intersections.

Remarks Junior:

CIRCLE

- There may be different numbers of skaters in each of the circles.
- The circle(s) may revolve clockwise or counter-clockwise or a combination of both directions. The circles must not be linked or intersecting. The circles may travel together and/or separately and may revolve and/or travel in opposite directions.
- All skaters must execute the same steps in all circles and use the same hold except during the change of direction and free skating moves.
- The step sequences may be executed on opposite feet and the skaters may be skating in either a forward or backward direction.
- Different heights and different free leg extensions may be used.
- No jumps except dance jumps are permitted.
- Free skating moves (such as lunges, spirals, Ina Bauers, spread eagles) are permitted except during the required step sequences. These free skating moves must be done at the same time in both circles but need not be the same by all skaters.
- Separations are permitted.

LINE

- The maximum number of lines is two (2). The lines may but do not have to be parallel. The lines may have different numbers of skaters.
- The lines must start and end parallel to and close to the short barrier travelling the full length of the ice surface.
- The line must end at the opposite barrier to the start. As long as parallel lines are in close proximity, one of the lines may be slightly forward of the red hockey line at the start and/or end of the element.
- Lines may move horizontally and/or vertically and retrogression is permitted. Some minor deviation in the straight line(s) is permitted when changing from horizontal to vertical or reverse. Pivot lines may be used but they must not pivot more than 90 degrees at any one time. Lines may be joined or separate and may pass by each other when going from either a single to parallel lines or parallel to a single line.
- All the skaters must execute the same steps and use the same hold except during the change of direction and free skating moves.
- The step sequences may be executed on opposite feet and the skaters may be skating in either a forward or backward direction.
- Different heights and different free leg extensions may be used.
- No jumps except dance jumps are permitted.
- Free skating moves (such as lunges, spirals, Ina Bauers, spread eagles) are permitted except during the required step sequences. These free skating moves must be done at the same time in all lines but need not be the same by all skaters.
- Separations are permitted.

BLOCK

- The number of skaters in each line must be as close to equal as possible.
- The block must travel at least the full length of the ice surface.
- All the skaters must execute the same steps and use the same hold except during the change of direction and free skating moves.
- Different heights and free leg extensions may be used.
- No jumps except dance jumps are permitted.
- Free skating moves (such as lunges, spirals, Ina Bauers, spread eagles) are permitted except during the required step sequences. These free skating moves must be done at the same time in all lines but need not be the same by all skaters.
- Separations are permitted.

WHEEL

- There must be two (2) different geometrical shapes and a shape must not be repeated. To fulfil the requirement for a geometrical shape, a wheel must rotate at least 180 degrees in that shape.
- The wheel may revolve either clockwise or counter-clockwise or a combination of both directions. There are no required holds or step sequences and any combination or variety thereof may be used.
- No jumps except dance jumps are permitted.
- Free skating moves (such as lunges, spirals, Ina Bauers, spread eagles) are permitted.
- Separations are permitted.

INTERSECTION

- The intersection(s) may occur simultaneously or separately as long as every skater is involved in the intersection.
- Skaters may execute different movements at any time during the intersecting element.
- There are no required holds or step sequences and any combination or variety thereof may be used.
- No jumps except dance jumps are permitted.
- Free skating moves (such as lunges, spirals, Ina Bauers, spread eagles) are permitted, however, back spirals are illegal elements.

V. FREE SKATING – WELL BALANCED PROGRAM

Rule 711, paragraph 1 / revised and 2

1. Synchronized Free Skating consists of a well balanced program composed and skated to music of the team's own choice. A good program contains elements such as circles, lines, blocks, wheels, intersections and movements in isolation linked together harmoniously by a variety of transitions and executed with a minimum of two footed skating. Synchronized Skating refers to the importance of unison, the accuracy of formations and precision of the team, all incorporated into a program of a specified time limit.

2. A well balanced program contains:

- a) a variety of circles, lines, blocks, wheels and intersections of which no element is dominant. There must be a balance among all elements;
- b) for senior teams maximum five (5) movements in isolation (see Rule 703, paragraph 10)
- c) for junior teams maximum four (4) movements in isolation (see Rule 703, paragraph 10)
- d) step sequences of an intricate variety used to enhance both the elements and the transitions;
- e) for both senior and junior teams there must be minimum of two (2) clearly recognizable step sequences. A step sequence can be incorporated in any part of the free skating and must be long enough to be clearly recognizable and may not incorporate more than one cross over in a row.
- f) for senior teams there must be at least four (4) different holds;
- g) for junior teams there must be at least three (3) different holds;
- h) the number of each element listed above may be varied, but an excessive number or lack of any element or excessive/repetitive use of the same steps and/or holds must be penalized by the judges in the mark for technical merit, since this is against the objective of a well balanced program;
- i) both for the senior and junior free skating programs, the five basic elements (circles, lines, blocks, wheels, intersections) and movements in isolation must be clearly recognizable and there must be a balance between those elements. The team must predominantly act as one unit;
- j) the choreography and elements should be executed facing towards all sides of the ice rink and not excessively facing one side only. (not in proposals)
- k) the penalty for an unbalanced program is 0.2. The deduction must be made in the mark for technical merit. There is no specific deduction for excessive/ repetitive use of the same holds and /or steps but it should be reflected in the mark for technical merit;

VI. FREE SKATING – ILLEGAL ELEMENTS

Rule 711, paragraph 3

Illegal Elements:

3 a) Senior Free Skating

- a) lifts other than as defined in Rule 703, paragraph 7
- b) jumps of more than one (1) revolution;
- c) intersections incorporating back spirals;
- d) prolonged lying or kneeling on the ice at the beginning, end and/or during the program;
- e) highlighting

3 b) Junior Free Skating

- a) lifts of any variety;
- b) jumps of more than one (1) revolution;
- c) intersections incorporating back spirals;
- d) prolonged lying or kneeling on the ice at the beginning, end and/or during the program;
- e) highlighting

When illegal elements are included, a deduction of 0.1 must be made both for the technical merit and presentation marks, each time an illegal element is performed.

VII. FREE SKATING – MUSIC

Rule 711, paragraph 4

Any music including vocal music using lyrics is permitted. However, the teams must skate the program in time to the music. Additions of the sounds of applause or cheers are not permitted. If the music is not according to the requirements a deduction of 0.1 must be made in the presentation mark.

VIII. GENERAL MATTERS – CLOTHING

Rule 702, paragraph 2 b) and c) / revised

- b) Men must wear full length trousers; no tights are permitted and the clothing must not be sleeveless.
- c) Clothing and make-up must not be theatrical and must not highlight any skater.

IX. GENERAL MATTERS – DURATION OF PROGRAMS

Rule 704, paragraph 1b. – Duration of Short Program

The time must be reckoned from the moment the team begins to move or to skate until arriving at a complete stop at the end of the program.

Rule 704, paragraph 2C - Duration of Free Skating

The team is allowed to finish their program within ten seconds plus or minus the required time. The time must be reckoned from the moment the team begins to move or to skate until arriving at a complete stop at the end of the program(the rest unchanged)

X. GENERAL MATTERS – PARTICIPATION IN COMPETITIONS / CITIZENSHIP

Rule 109, paragraph 2 d) / revised

In the case of Synchronized Skating teams, up to 25% of a team may be from a foreign Member, if so permitted by the National Association of the country in which the skater is a citizen, but such skaters shall only represent one Member in the course of the same year (July 1-June 30). Restrictions specified in paragraph 2 b) do not apply.

B. ISU CONGRESS DECISIONS RELATED TO JUDGES

I. DUTIES OF JUDGES

Rule 821, paragraph 9 / new

9. Judges are forbidden to bring any form of electronic communication system to the Judges' Stand.

III. URGENT MATTER NO. 29 - CANADA FIGURE

Details regarding the adopted amended Urgent Matter No. 29 (Canada Figure) will follow shortly in a separate Communication.

Milan,

July 10, 2002

Lausanne

Ottavio Cinquanta, President

Fredi Schmid, General Secretary