

## Important and/or Urgent Changes from 2009 Governing Council May 1-2, 2009

### Competitions

- The Governing Council **did not approve** to retain language in the international judging system (IJS) mandating a -2.0 penalty for a stopped program that is the fault of the skater, so there will **not** be -2.0 penalty for stopped programs at any level for U.S. Figure Skating competitions.
- **Effective immediately:** The maximum number of skaters allowed before qualifying rounds are held was increased to 24 (previously it was 18).

### Adults

- The IJS was **not** approved to be used for any events at the adult sectional championships.

### Dance

- **Effective immediately:** A candidate who has completed the prerequisite compulsory dances per TR 50.01 may bypass the lower level free dance tests and begin their free dance testing at the novice free dance test or higher. In the case of the skater who has already begun free dance testing but wishes to test at a level that is both higher than intermediate and more than one level higher than the highest free dance test he/she has passed, the skater may bypass the lower free dance tests. Test requirements remain unchanged for competition eligibility.

### Pairs

- **Effective immediately:** for pairs teams, vocal music with lyrics is now permitted as follows:
  - Short and free skate programs up to and including the intermediate level
  - All events using the 6.0 system of judging
  - All free skate tests
  - All Basic Skills competitions
- Clarifications were provided to the novice, intermediate and juvenile remarks for spins, lifts, death spirals and pivot spirals. Details will be provided in the official Combined Report of Action once it is published.

### Singles

- **Effective immediately:** for singles skaters, vocal music with lyrics is now permitted as follows:
  - Short and free skate programs up to and including the intermediate level
  - All events using the 6.0 system of judging
  - All free skate tests
  - All Basic Skills competitions
- **Effective immediately:** The following changes were made to the **preliminary well-balanced free skate:**
  - Only two different double jumps may be attempted. (Requirements for single jumps, combinations, sequences and jump repetitions did not change.)
  - The double jumps that may be performed are now limited to double Salchow, double toe loop and double loop. Neither a double flip nor a double Lutz will be allowed.

- **Effective immediately:** The maximum number of jumps allowed in the **pre-juvenile well-balanced free skate** was reduced from six to five.
- Effective May 15, for the **junior free skate test**:
  - **Junior men** will only be required to complete one step sequence of advanced difficulty
  - **Junior ladies** will only be required to complete one step sequence of advanced difficulty (the spiral sequence will no longer be required).

### **Synchronized Skating**

- The age limit for novice synchronized skating teams was changed to: under age 16 with the exception that a maximum of four skaters may be 16 or 17.
- The age limit for adult synchronized skating teams was changed to: 21 years of age or older. (The additional requirement that a majority of skaters must be 25 years of age or older was removed.)
- Changes were made to the well-balanced free skate requirements for open collegiate, masters, adult, open juvenile, juvenile, intermediate and novice. Details will be provided in the official Combined Report of Action once it is published.
- For qualifying competitions, the maximum number of alternates was limited to four (previously there was no limit).

### **Moves in the Field**

- The proposed changes to the moves in the field tests for the standard and adult tracks were accepted. All changes will be implemented September 2, 2010. Until that date, the current moves in the field rules will remain in effect.