

Category: **Ice Dance**  
 Subject: **Marking guide for Program Components**

Definitions		Source
<b>General</b>	The Skater's/Pair's/Couple's whole performance is evaluated by five (5) Program Components: Skating Skills, Transitions/Linking Footwork and Movements, Performance/Execution, Choreography/Composition, <u>Interpretation of the Music/Timing</u> .	Rule 504, § 3.a)
<b>Skating Skills</b>	<p><b>Definition:</b>            Overall skating quality, edge control and flow over the ice surface demonstrated by a command of the skating vocabulary (edges, steps, turns etc.), the clarity of technique and the use of effortless power to accelerate and vary speed. <u>Varied use of power/energy, speed and acceleration.</u></p> <p><b>Criteria:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Balance, rhythmic knee action and precision of foot placement</li> <li>• Flow and effortless glide</li> <li>• Cleanness and sureness of deep edges, steps and turns</li> <li>• Power/energy and acceleration</li> <li>• Mastery of multi-directional skating</li> <li>• Mastery of one foot skating</li> <li>• Equal mastery of technique by both partners shown in unison</li> </ul>	Rule 504, § 3.a)
<b>Transitions/Linking Footwork /Movements</b>	<p><b>Definition:</b>            The varied and/or intricate footwork, positions, movements and holds that link all elements, <u>including the entrances and exits of those elements.</u></p> <p><b>Criteria:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Variety</li> <li>• Difficulty</li> <li>• Intricacy</li> <li>• Quality</li> <li>• Balance of workload between partners</li> <li>• Variety of holds (not excessive side by side and hand in hand)</li> </ul>	Rule 504, § 3.a)

Category: **Ice Dance**  
 Subject: **Marking guide for Program Components**

Definitions		Source
<b>Performance/ Execution</b>	<p><b>Definition:</b>            Performance: involvement of the Skater/Pair/Couple physically, emotionally and intellectually as they translate the intent of the music and choreography.            Execution: quality of movement and precision in delivery. This includes harmony of movement.</p> <p><b>Criteria:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical, emotional and intellectual involvement;</li> <li>• Carriage</li> <li>• Style and individuality/personality</li> <li>• Clarity of movement</li> <li>• Variety and contrast</li> <li>• Projection</li> <li>• Unison and “oneness”</li> <li>• Balance in performance between partners</li> <li>• Spatial awareness between partners – management of the distance and management of the changes of hold</li> </ul>	Rule 504, § 3.a)
<b>Composition/ Choreography</b>	<p><b>Definition:</b>            An intentional, developed and/or original arrangement of all types of movements according to the principles of proportion, unity, space, pattern, structure and phrasing.</p> <p><b>Criteria:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purpose (idea, concept, vision)</li> <li>• Proportion (equal weight of the parts)</li> <li>• Unity (purposeful threading)</li> <li>• Utilization of personal and public space</li> <li>• Pattern and ice coverage</li> <li>• Phrasing and form (movements and parts structured to match the phrasing of the music)</li> <li>• Originality of purpose, movement and design</li> <li>• Shared responsibility in achieving purpose by both</li> </ul>	Rule 504, § 3.a)

Category: **Ice Dance**  
 Subject: **Marking guide for Program Components**

Definitions		Source
<b>Interpretation of the Music/Timing</b>	<p><b>Definition:</b>            The personal and creative translation <u>of the rhythm, character and content</u> of music to movement on ice.</p> <p><b>Criteria:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effortless movement in time to the music (timing)</li> <li>• Expression of the music’s style, character and rhythm</li> <li>• Use of finesse<sup>1</sup> to reflect the nuances of the music</li> <li>• Relationship between the partners reflecting the character of the music</li> <li>• Appropriateness of the music</li> <li>• Skating primarily to the rhythmic beat for Short Dance and keeping a good balance between skating to the beat and melody in the Free Dance</li> </ul> <p><sup>1</sup>Finesse is the Skaters’ refined, artful manipulation of nuances. Nuances are the personal artistic ways of bringing variations to the intensity, tempo, and dynamics of the music made by the composer and/or musicians.</p>	Rule 504, § 3.a)
<b>Marking</b>	<p>After completion of a program, as per Rule 353, paragraph j), each Judge marks the Program Components on a scale from 0.25 to 10 with increments of 0.25. Points given by the Judges correspond to the following degrees of the Program Components: less than 1 – extremely poor, 1 - very poor, 2 - poor, 3 - weak, 4 - fair, 5 - average, 6 - above average, 7 - good, 8 - very good, 9 - 10 - outstanding. Increments are used for evaluation of performances containing some features of one degree and some of the next degree.</p> <p>Guidelines for marking Program Components are published and updated in ISU Communications.</p>	Rule 504, § 3.b)
	<p>The mark for each Program Component is established at a certain degree according to the majority of Characteristics of Program Component which are met. This mark is further adjusted, if necessary, according to the Adjustments to Program Components.</p>	Communication 1860

Category: **Ice Dance**  
 Subject: **Marking guide for Program Components**

RANGE OF MARKS (COMMUNICATIONS 1860 AND 1875)	CHARACTERISTICS OF SKATING SKILLS	CHARACTERISTICS OF TRANSITIONS/LINKING FOOTWORK/MOVEMENTS	CHARACTERISTICS OF PERFORMANCE/EXECUTION	CHARACTERISTICS OF COMPOSITION/CHOREOGRAPHY	CHARACTERISTICS OF INTERPRETATION OF THE MUSIC/TIMING
<b>10.0 – 9.00</b>  <b>OUTSTANDING</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>deep, quiet, sure, seemingly effortless edges</li> <li>deep/fluid knee action</li> <li>elegant and precise steps/turns</li> <li>seamless use of all directions</li> <li>effortless acceleration</li> <li>extensive skill range for both</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>difficult, intriguing, varied network of edges, steps, turns, holds for both</li> <li>one move flows seamlessly into the next</li> <li>creative pattern and lobes</li> <li>creative linking of Pattern Dance Elements and rest of the dance (SD): 100%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>move as one, superb matching</li> <li><u>skate very close to each other most of the time</u></li> <li>elegant /sophisticated style</li> <li>refined line of body and limbs</li> <li>precise execution of body movements</li> <li>both spellbinding</li> <li>projection exceptional (to audience or in themselves if music requires)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>wide range of steps, moves, and required elements superbly motivated by music</li> <li>ingenious use of music, space, symmetry</li> <li>memorable highlights distributed evenly</li> <li>change of pace/tempo incorporated seamlessly</li> <li>total utilization of personal and public space</li> <li>choreography gives the feeling of a completely unified dance (SD): 100%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>skaters/music/nuances as one</li> <li>motivation from "heart"</li> <li>wide range of inspired movements, gestures</li> <li>skaters stay "in character" for the whole program</li> <li>exceptional ability to relate as one and to reflect music, theme</li> <li>superb expression of the music's style and character</li> <li>timing: 100% correct</li> <li>expression of Rhythms (SD): 100% correct</li> <li><u>dance mood (FD): 100%</u></li> </ul>
<b>8.75 – 8.00</b>  <b>VERY GOOD</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>strong, sure, fluid edges</li> <li>supple knee action</li> <li>stylish, precise, interesting and neat steps/turns</li> <li>ease in accelerating even during difficult steps</li> <li>always multidirectional broad skill range for both</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>difficult, varied, sequences of edges/steps/turns/holds for both throughout</li> <li>one move flows easily into the next</li> <li>superior ice coverage</li> <li>creative linking of Pattern Dance Elements and rest of the dance (SD): 100%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>coordinated movements, excellent matching</li> <li><u>skate close to each other most the time</u></li> <li>very good carriage and lines</li> <li>effortless change of difficult holds</li> <li>project strongly</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>superior choreography, clearly understandable</li> <li>variety of innovative moves that develop theme</li> <li>change of pace/tempo incorporated with ease</li> <li>excellent use of music/space/symmetry</li> <li>choreography gives the feeling of a completely unified dance (SD): 90%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>skaters and music meld</li> <li>internal motivation</li> <li>very good range of interesting movements/gestures</li> <li>excellent ability to relate as one to reflect music/theme</li> <li>excellent expression of the music's style and character</li> <li>timing: 100% correct</li> <li>expression of Rhythms (SD): 100% correct</li> <li><u>dance mood (FD): 100%</u></li> </ul>
<b>7.75 – 7.00</b>  <b>GOOD</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>strong, sure, confident edges</li> <li>strong, flexible knee action</li> <li>polished &amp; clean steps/turns</li> <li>good use of multi directions</li> <li>ability to accelerate easily</li> <li>wide skill range 75% of time for both</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>variety and complexity of pattern/steps/turns/holds for both</li> <li>fluid and intentional movements from one move to another</li> <li>varied use of holds with face to face positions</li> <li>creative linking of Pattern Dance Elements and rest of the dance (SD): 100%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>move as couple, matched with ease</li> <li><u>skate close to each other 75% of time</u></li> <li>easy use of change of all holds</li> <li>good carriage/lines</li> <li>both project most of time</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>interesting moves derived from theme</li> <li>good use of music/space/symmetry</li> <li>unity of skaters in use of music content</li> <li>directed to all sides of the rink</li> <li>choreography gives the feeling of a completely unified dance (SD): 80%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>skating/music integrated</li> <li>good internal motivation</li> <li>skaters stay "in character" for over 75% of program</li> <li>good partner relationship</li> <li>good expression of the music's style and character</li> <li>timing: 100% correct</li> <li>expression of Rhythms (SD): 100% correct</li> <li><u>dance mood (FD): 100%</u></li> </ul>
<b>6.75 – 6.00</b>  <b>ABOVE AVERAGE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>reasonable, sure edges</li> <li>above average knee action</li> <li>above average variety of steps/turns, all directions with ease 75% of the time</li> <li>gain and maintain speed and flow easily</li> <li>above average skill range for both</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>difficulty and variety of edges/steps/turns for both for 75 % of time</li> <li>minimal use of cross cuts or running</li> <li>some breaks in continuity</li> <li>varied use of holds with a predominance of face to face positions</li> <li>creative linking of Pattern Dance Elements and rest of the dance (SD): 100%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>above average unison, move as couple 75% of time</li> <li><u>skate close to each other 75% of time</u></li> <li>above average line of body and limbs and good carriage</li> <li>both are able to project 75% of time</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>known and some interesting creative moves that use rhythm(s) effectively</li> <li>above average variation of speed according to music</li> <li>above average distribution of highlights</li> <li>use of creative set-ups for required elements</li> <li>above average use of ice pattern</li> <li>choreography gives the feeling of a completely unified dance (SD): 70%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>skating fits music well</li> <li>movements in character 75% of time</li> <li>skaters able to play with music</li> <li>partner relationship 75% of time</li> <li>above average expression of the music's style and character</li> <li>timing: 90% correct</li> <li>expression of Rhythms (SD): <u>90%</u> correct</li> <li><u>dance mood (FD): 100%</u></li> </ul>

Category: **Ice Dance**  
 Subject: **Marking guide for Program Components**

RANGE OF MARKS (COMMUNICATIONS 1860 AND 1875)	CHARACTERISTICS OF SKATING SKILLS	CHARACTERISTICS OF TRANSITIONS/LINKING FOOTWORK/MOVEMENTS	CHARACTERISTICS OF PERFORMANCE/EXECUTION	CHARACTERISTICS OF COMPOSITION/CHOREOGRAPHY	CHARACTERISTICS OF INTERPRETATION OF THE MUSIC/TIMING
<b>5.75 – 5.00</b>  AVERAGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>moderately sure edges</li> <li>some variety of knee action/steps/turns</li> <li>even speed and flow throughout</li> <li>average skill range for both</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>series of variable edges/steps/turns and poses/holds for both</li> <li>limited use of cross cuts or running</li> <li>average use of holds with many face to face positions</li> <li>creative linking of Pattern Dance Elements and rest of the dance (SD): 100%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>unison broken occasionally</li> <li><u>skate close to each other 50% of time</u></li> <li>average carriage/lines with some breaks</li> <li>consistent, pleasing line of body and limbs</li> <li>projection skills variable but both are able to project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>variable moves often related to theme and music</li> <li>program highlights generally well distributed but focused occasionally to one side</li> <li>interesting composition</li> <li>average use of change of pace</li> <li>average use of ice pattern</li> <li>variation of speed according to music</li> <li>choreography gives the feeling of a completely unified dance (SD): 60%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>slight difference in motivation of moves</li> <li>average use of accents/nuances</li> <li>average expression of rhythms or theme</li> <li>average emotional connection to music</li> <li>reasonable partner relationship</li> <li>timing: 80% correct</li> <li>expression of Rhythms (SD): <u>80%</u> correct</li> <li><u>dance mood (FD): 100%</u></li> </ul>
<b>4.75 – 4.00</b>  FAIR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>shallow edges with variable edge quality and knee action</li> <li>fair range of steps/turns, multidirectional 50% of time</li> <li>skill level similar abilities</li> <li>consistent speed and flow 50% of time</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>an equal proportion of simplicity and difficulty</li> <li>one partner has some sections with simple workload</li> <li>varied use of holds with several face to face positions</li> <li>creative linking of Pattern Dance Elements and rest of the dance (SD): 50%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>unison sometimes broken</li> <li><u>skate close to each other 50% of time</u></li> <li>carriage /lines variable, mostly pleasing posture</li> <li>reasonable line of body and limbs</li> <li>only one projects or both only 50% of time</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>program corresponds well with music</li> <li>elements generally well distributed but sometimes too much emphasis to one side of the rink</li> <li>choreography gives the feeling of a completely unified dance (SD): 50%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>skating fits music with minor exceptions</li> <li>some motivated moves</li> <li>moderate use of accents and nuances</li> <li>correct expression of the music's style and character</li> <li>partner relationship 50% of time</li> <li>timing: 70% correct</li> <li>expression of Rhythms (SD): <u>70%</u> correct</li> <li><u>dance mood (FD): 90%</u></li> </ul>
<b>3.75 – 3.00</b>  WEAK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>some flat edges</li> <li>limited knee action, stiff at times</li> <li>few steps/turns, able to skate in all directions on simple turns and for some difficult turns;</li> <li>variable skills for both and occasionally differing ability</li> <li>lack of flow, some change in speed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>some basic edges/steps</li> <li>some simple turns/poses/holds</li> <li>one partner performs difficulty and other on 2 feet in some sections</li> <li>little use of partner facing hold</li> <li>simple linking of Pattern Dance Elements and rest of the dance (SD)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>variable unison</li> <li><u>skate close to each other 30% of time</u></li> <li>variable line of body and limbs/carriage /extensions</li> <li>holds relatively stable</li> <li>only one projects 50% of time or both only occasionally project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>some isolated groups of moves that fit music/theme</li> <li>music is background for difficult elements</li> <li>often program directed to judges side</li> <li>reasonable placement of elements on surface</li> <li>choreography gives the feeling of a completely unified dance (SD): 40%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>some motivated moves, but often seem meaningless</li> <li>appropriate use of music but expression is fair and they weave in and out of character</li> <li>some partner relationship</li> <li>timing: 70% correct</li> <li>expression of Rhythms (SD): <u>70%</u> correct</li> <li><u>dance mood (FD): 75%</u></li> </ul>
<b>2.75 – 2.00</b>  POOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>short and poor steps/ flat edges</li> <li>little power, toe pushing or wide stepping more than 75% of time</li> <li>few steps/turns, able to skate in both directions on simple turns only</li> <li>variable skills with one weaker in sections</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>many parts have basic edges/steps</li> <li>simple turns/poses/holds</li> <li>one partner performs difficult moves and other on two feet 75 % of time</li> <li>many sections in hand-in-hand or side by side hold, minimal use of partner facing holds</li> <li>simple linking of Pattern Dance Elements and rest of the dance (SD)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>inconsistent stability of holds and some unison breaks</li> <li><u>skate close to each other 30% of time</u></li> <li>poor line of body and limbs/carriage/extensions</li> <li>limited projection skills, both cautious</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>some moves do not appear to fit music/theme, minimal relation program to music</li> <li>lack of change of pace</li> <li>program directed to judges side</li> <li>choreography gives the feeling of a completely unified dance (SD): 30%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>poor use of accents and nuances</li> <li>occasional partner relationship</li> <li>unmotivated movement</li> <li>timing: 50% correct</li> <li>expression of Rhythms (SD): 50% correct</li> <li><u>dance mood (FD) : 50%</u></li> </ul>

Category: **Ice Dance**  
 Subject: **Marking guide for Program Components**

RANGE OF MARKS (COMMUNICATIONS 1860 AND 1875)	CHARACTERISTICS OF SKATING SKILLS	CHARACTERISTICS OF TRANSITIONS/LINKING FOOTWORK/MOVEMENTS	CHARACTERISTICS OF PERFORMANCE/EXECUTION	CHARACTERISTICS OF COMPOSITION/CHOREOGRAPHY	CHARACTERISTICS OF INTERPRETATION OF THE MUSIC/TIMING
<b>1.75 – 1.00</b> <b>VERY POOR</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>short and very poor steps/edges</li> <li>slow, little flow, toe pushing</li> <li>few steps/turns, mainly in one direction</li> <li>minimal variation in speed</li> <li>very poor basic skills with one being “carried” in sections</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>predominance of stroking/simple turns/poses</li> <li>many large sections in hand-in-hand or side by side hold only</li> <li>very poor linking of Pattern Dance Elements and rest of the dance (SD)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>struggle in holds and unison</li> <li>out of unison</li> <li><u>skate close to each other 20% of time</u></li> <li>very poor matching</li> <li>very poor line of body and limbs/carriage/extensions</li> <li>very limited projection skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>many moves do not appear to fit music</li> <li>little relation program to music</li> <li>mainly program directed to judges side</li> <li>placement of moves lacks coherence</li> <li>monotonous</li> <li>choreography gives the feeling of a completely unified dance (SD): 20%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>inappropriate dynamics</li> <li>moves seem unrelated to rhythm/character</li> <li>little or no partner relationship</li> <li>timing: 25% correct</li> <li>expression of Rhythms (SD): less than <u>25%</u> correct</li> <li><u>dance mood (FD): less than 50%</u></li> </ul>
<b>0.75 – 0.25</b> <b>EXTREMELY POOR</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>extremely poor steps and shaky edges</li> <li>mostly on two feet for both</li> <li>uncontrolled movements</li> <li>struggle with steps/turns: always in one direction</li> <li>extremely poor basic skills for both</li> <li>cannot gain speed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>basic stroking and extremely poor posing throughout</li> <li>few sustained edges, and pattern consists of straight lines</li> <li>mostly use of hand in hand or side by side hold</li> <li>very poor linking of Pattern Dance Elements and rest of the dance (SD)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>unstable holds, uncontrolled matching and unison</li> <li><u>skate close to each other less than 20% of time</u></li> <li>extremely poor line of body and limbs/carriage/extensions</li> <li>projection skills lacking, both labored</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>most moves do not appear to fit music</li> <li>total program directed to judges side</li> <li>placement of moves appears random</li> <li>some areas of ice untouched and often use of straight lines or barrier skating</li> <li>choreography gives the feeling of a completely unified dance (SD): 10%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>lacks dynamics</li> <li>isolated and apparently random gestures not related to music character/nuances/accents</li> <li>no partner relationship, two “solos”</li> <li>timing: less than 25% correct</li> <li>expression of Rhythms (SD): less than <u>25%</u> correct</li> <li><u>dance mood (FD): less than 50%</u></li> </ul>

**Notes:**

- Under Interpretation of the Music/Timing, the characteristic “timing” means:
  - skating primarily to rhythmic beat,
  - program well synchronized with musical phrasing,
- If a Fall or Interruption affects the rest of the program or part of the program, certain characteristics of one or several Program Components may be impacted.

Adjustments to Program Components		Source
<b>Under Skating Skills</b>	Loss of Balance or Stumble outside of Required Elements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>by one partner - 0.5 per each</li> <li>by both partners - 1.0 per each</li> </ul>	Communication 1860
<b>Under Interpretation of the Music/Timing</b>	The music does not have an uplifting effect (Free Dance): - 1.0 to - 2.0	Communication 1860