

Category: **Ice Dance**

Subject: **Marking guide for Grade of Execution of Sequences/Sections**

<b>Definitions</b>		<b>Source</b>
<b>General</b>	Every Judge will mark the quality of execution of every Section of the Pattern Dance depending on the positive features of the execution and errors on the seven grades of execution scale: +3, +2, +1, Base Value, -1, -2, -3. Each + or - grade has its own + or - numerical value indicated in the SOV Table. This value is added to the Base Value of the Section or deducted from it. The guidelines for marking of Sections are published and updated in ISU Communications.	Rule 708, § 3.a) (iii)
<b>Marking</b>	The Grade of Execution of a Sequence/Section is determined by selecting the grade which applies for the average value of the Characteristics of Grade of Execution. This grade is further adjusted, if necessary, according to the Adjustments to Grade of Execution.	Communications 2003

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**Characteristics of Grade of Execution (source: Communication 1860)**

ASPECTS	Very poor	Poor	Mediocre	Acceptable	Good	Very Good	Outstanding/ excellent
SEQUENCES/ SECTIONS OF PATTERN DANCE	-3	-2	-1	Base	+1	+2	+3
Quality/correctness of Edges/Steps/ Turns for the whole of Pattern Dance Element	40% or less clean Edges/Steps/ Turns with many errors	50% clean Edges/Steps/ Turns with 2 major errors	60% clean Edges/Steps/ Turns with 1 major error	75% clean Edges/Steps/ Turns with no major error	80% clean Edges/Steps/ Turns with no major error	90% clean Edges/Step/ Turns with no major error	100% clean Edges/Step/ Turns
Depth of Edges	very flat	generally flat	some flats	shallow	good curves	deep	very deep
Correct Holds	40%	50%	60%	75%	80%	90%	100%
Correct Pattern (correct tracking and restart and its repetition if more than one Sequence is required)	40%	50%	60%	75%	80%	90%	100%

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**Adjustments to Grade of Execution (source: Communications 1860)**

SECTIONS/SEQUENCES OF PATTERN DANCE	No higher than:	Reduce by:
Not started on the prescribed beat:		
- for Pattern Dances skated when ISU Dance Music is required: Introductory Steps are not finished with (too short) or exceed (too long) the introductory phrasing of the particular tune		1 grade for the first performed Sequence/Section
- for Pattern Dances skated when music must be provided by the Couple: first Step of the dance not on the required beat of the measure		1 grade for the first performed Sequence/Section
Not holding Edges/Steps for required number of beats for one or both partners		
▪ from one Edge/Step up to 10% of Steps of the Pattern Dance Element	+1	
▪ for more than 10% and up to 25% of Steps of the Pattern Dance Element	0	
▪ for more than 25% of Steps of the Pattern Dance Element	-1	
Pattern Dance Element missed through interruption of up to ¼ element	-1	
Skating of Steps due to Stumble or Fall	-1	
LOSSES OF BALANCE, STUMBLES AND FALLS	No higher than:	Reduce by:
Loss of Balance by one partner		1 grade
Loss of Balance by both partners	0	
Stumble by one partner	0	
Stumble by both partners	-1	
Fall by one partner	-2	
Fall by both partners	-3	

Category: **Ice Dance**

Subject: **Marking guide for Components**

<b>Definitions</b>		<b>Source</b>
<b>General</b>	In addition to the Technical Score each of the Judges will evaluate the skaters' whole performance which is divided into four (4) Components in the Pattern Dances (Skating Skills, Performance/Execution, Interpretation, Timing).	<i>Rule 708, § 3.b) (i)</i>
<b>Skating Skills</b>	<b>Definition:</b> The method used by the Couple to perform dance steps and movements over the ice surface and the efficiency of their movement in relation to speed, flow and ice coverage; <b>Criteria:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Overall skating quality</li><li>• Flow and glide</li><li>• Speed and power</li><li>• Balance of technique and skating ability of partners</li><li>• Ice coverage</li></ul>	Rule 708, § 3.b) (i)
<b>Performance</b>	<b>Definition:</b> The ability of the partners to demonstrate unison, body alignment, carriage, style and balance of performance while executing Pattern Dances in order to exhibit a pleasing appearance through coordinated movement, body awareness and projection. <b>Criteria:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Unison and body alignment</li><li>• Distance between partners</li><li>• Carriage and style</li><li>• Balance in performance between partners</li></ul>	Rule 708, § 3.b) (i)

Category: **Ice Dance**

Subject: **Marking guide for Components**

<b>Definitions</b>		<b>Source</b>
<b>Interpretation</b>	<p><b>Definition:</b> The ability of the Couple to express the mood, emotions, and character of the Pattern Dance rhythm by using the body moves, steps and holds of the dance to reflect the structure and character of the music.</p> <p><b>Criteria:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Expression of the character of the rhythm</li><li>• Relationship between partners reflecting the nature of the dance</li></ul>	Rule 708, § 3.b) (i)
<b>Timing</b>	<p><b>Definition:</b> The ability of the Couple to skate strictly in time with the music and to reflect the rhythm patterns and prescribed beat values of a Pattern Dance correctly.</p> <p><b>Criteria:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Skating in time with the music</li><li>• Skating on the strong beat</li><li>• Start of the first Step</li></ul>	Rule 708, § 3.b) (i)
<b>Marking</b>	<p>Components are evaluated by Judges after the completion of the dance 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 Components: &lt;1- extremely poor, 1 very poor, 2 - poor, 3 -weak, 4 - fair, 5 - average, 6 - above average, 7 - good, 8 - very good, 9 to 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 judging are published and updated in ISU Communications.</p>	Rule 708, § 3.b) (ii)
	<p>The mark for each Component is established at a certain degree according to the majority of Characteristics of Component which are met.</p>	Communication 1937

Drafting consequences of amendments to designation of marks as per Communication 1738 are highlighted.

<b>Characteristics of Components</b> (source: Communications 1522, chapter 7 and 1738)				
<b>RANGE OF MARKS</b>	<b>CHARACTERISTICS OF SKATING SKILLS</b>	<b>CHARACTERISTICS OF PERFORMANCE/EXECUTION</b>	<b>CHARACTERISTICS OF INTERPRETATION</b>	<b>CHARACTERISTICS OF TIMING</b>
<b>10.0 – 9.00</b> <b>OUTSTANDING</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ precise transfer on lobe transitions</li> <li>▪ deep/fluid knee action</li> <li>▪ elegant, precise steps/turns</li> <li>▪ seamless ability to turn in both directions</li> <li>▪ considerable speed and power</li> <li>▪ extensive skill range for both</li> <li>▪ both are superb</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ move as one with flawless, matching unison and change of hold</li> <li>▪ elegant/sophisticated style</li> <li>▪ refined line of body and limbs</li> <li>▪ both spellbinding</li> <li>▪ projection exceptional by both</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ wide range of inspired movements/gestures from the “heart”</li> <li>▪ skaters stay “in themselves” or “in character” for the whole dance</li> <li>▪ use of nuances as one</li> <li>▪ exceptional ability to relate as one to reflect character of rhythm</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ timing: 100% correct</li> <li>▪ timing of footwork superb</li> <li>▪ on strong beat: 100%</li> <li>▪ all body movements synchronized with rhythm</li> </ul>
<b>8.75 – 8.00</b> <b>VERY GOOD</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ deep supple knee action and robust stroking</li> <li>▪ stylish, precise, neat on steps/turns</li> <li>▪ easy action on turns in both directions</li> <li>▪ broad skill range for both</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ coordinated movements and excellent matching</li> <li>▪ effortless change of hold</li> <li>▪ very good carriage &amp; lines</li> <li>▪ both project strongly</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ skaters and music meld – internal motivation</li> <li>▪ very good range of interesting movements/gestures</li> <li>▪ very good ability to relate as one to reflect rhythm of music</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ timing: 100% correct</li> <li>▪ timing of footwork nearly superb</li> <li>▪ on strong beat: 80%</li> <li>▪ most body movements reflect rhythm</li> </ul>
<b>7.75 – 7.00</b> <b>GOOD</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ strong, flexible knee action</li> <li>▪ polished and clean steps/turns</li> <li>▪ reasonable speed and strong stroking</li> <li>▪ wide skill range for both</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ move as couple</li> <li>▪ matched and change holds with ease</li> <li>▪ good carriage/lines</li> <li>▪ both project most of time</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ skating/music integrated – variable motivation</li> <li>▪ skaters stay in character with rhythm for most of the dance</li> <li>▪ reflect nuances</li> <li>▪ good partner relationship</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ timing: 70% correct</li> <li>▪ timing of footwork very good on strong beat: 70%</li> <li>▪ general relation of body movements to rhythm</li> </ul>
<b>6.75 – 6.00</b> <b>ABOVE AVERAGE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ above average knee action</li> <li>▪ generally good on steps/turns 60% of the time</li> <li>▪ maintain speed and flow well</li> <li>▪ above average skill range for both</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ above average unison-move as couple 60 % of the time</li> <li>▪ above average line of body and limbs and above average carriage</li> <li>▪ both are able to project 60% of time</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ movements in character 60% of time</li> <li>▪ some reflection of nuances</li> <li>▪ partner relationship 60% of the time</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ timing: 60% correct</li> <li>▪ timing of footwork accurate</li> <li>▪ on strong beat: 60%</li> <li>▪ some body movements reflect rhythm</li> </ul>
<b>5.75 – 5.00</b> <b>AVERAGE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ some knee action</li> <li>▪ some ability on steps/turns and rotating in both directions</li> <li>▪ even speed and flow throughout</li> <li>▪ average skill range for both</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ unison broken occasionally</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>▪ one partner has motivated moves</li> <li>▪ moderate use of accents/nuances</li> <li>▪ average expression of rhythms and use of accents/nuances</li> <li>▪ average emotional connection to music</li> <li>▪ reasonable partner relationship</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ timing: 50% correct</li> <li>▪ occasional timing errors but generally on time</li> <li>▪ on strong beat: 50%</li> <li>▪ some body movements do not reflect rhythms</li> </ul>

<b>Characteristics of Components</b> (source: Communications 1522, chapter 7 and 1738)				
<b>RANGE OF MARKS</b>	<b>CHARACTERISTICS OF SKATING SKILLS</b>	<b>CHARACTERISTICS OF PERFORMANCE/EXECUTION</b>	<b>CHARACTERISTICS OF INTERPRETATION</b>	<b>CHARACTERISTICS OF TIMING</b>
<b>4.75 – 4.00</b>  <b>FAIR</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ variable knee action</li> <li>▪ fair skill on steps and turns</li> <li>▪ skills level similar</li> <li>▪ consistent speed and flow only 40% of the time</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ unison sometimes broken</li> <li>▪ carriage /lines variable, mostly pleasing posture</li> <li>▪ reasonable line of body and limbs</li> <li>▪ only one projects or both project only 40% of the time</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ correct expression of rhythm</li> <li>▪ some motivated moves</li> <li>▪ partner relationship 40% of the time</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ timing at least 40 % correct</li> <li>▪ some minor timing errors but often mostly on time</li> <li>▪ but on strong beat: 40%</li> <li>▪ many body movements do not reflect rhythms</li> </ul>
<b>3.75 – 3.00</b>  <b>WEAK</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ variable sureness, flow</li> <li>▪ limited knee action – stiff at times</li> <li>▪ variable ability in turning</li> <li>▪ variable speed and power</li> <li>▪ variable skills for both and occasional differing ability</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ inconsistent holds &amp; often move separately – variable unison</li> <li>▪ variable line of body and limbs/carriage though occasionally acceptable</li> <li>▪ only one projects 30% of the time</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ some appropriate use of rhythm but expression is fair and they weave in and out of character</li> <li>▪ some motivated moves</li> <li>▪ some partner relationship</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ timing only 30% correct</li> <li>▪ some parts off time</li> <li>▪ or on strong beat: only 30 %</li> <li>▪ some of body movements off time</li> </ul>
<b>2.75 – 2.00</b>  <b>POOR</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ little power – toe pushing more than 80% of the time or wide stepping at ease only on simple turns</li> <li>▪ variable skills with one weaker in sections</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ inconsistent stability in holds and some unison breaks</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 steps use music, but not connected to rhythm</li> <li>▪ poor use of accents and nuances</li> <li>▪ occasional partner relationship</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ timing less than 20% correct</li> <li>▪ on strong beat: only 20%</li> <li>▪ most body movements off time</li> </ul>
<b>1.75 – 1.00</b>  <b>VERY POOR</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ slow, little flow</li> <li>▪ frequent toe-pushing or wide-stepping</li> <li>▪ stroking on one side weak</li> <li>▪ very poor basic skills with one being “carried” in sections</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ struggle in holds &amp; unison–</li> <li>▪ out of unison and 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>▪ moves seem unrelated to rhythm/character</li> <li>▪ minimal attention to nuances</li> <li>▪ little or no partner relationship</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ timing less than 20% correct</li> <li>▪ on strong beat: less than 20%</li> <li>▪ major portion of dance off time</li> <li>▪ timing of body movements lacks control</li> </ul>
<b>0.75 – 0.25</b>  <b>EXTREMELY POOR</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ off balance</li> <li>▪ struggle with steps/turns</li> <li>▪ lack of speed and flow</li> <li>▪ extremely poor basic skills for both</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ unstable holds, uncontrolled unison and matching</li> <li>▪ extremely poor line of body and limbs/carriage/extensions</li> <li>▪ projection skills lacking – both laboured</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ isolated and apparently random gestures not related to character/nuances/accents</li> <li>▪ no partner relationship – two “solos”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ entirely off time</li> <li>▪ not on strong beat at all</li> </ul>

**Note:**

- If a Fall affects the rest of the dance or part of the dance, certain characteristics of one or several Components may be impacted.