

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: <u>Skating Skills, Transitions, Performance, Composition, Interpretation of the Music/Timing (for Ice Dance).</u> <u>For Pair Skating and Ice Dance there must be equal demonstration of the criteria by both Skaters.</u>	Rule 504, § 3.a)
<b>Skating Skills</b>	<p><b>Definition:</b>  <u>Defined by overall cleanness and sureness, 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></p> <p>In evaluating the Skating Skills, the following must be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Use of deep edges, steps and turns;</u></li> <li>• <u>Balance, rhythmic knee action and precision of foot placement;</u></li> <li>• <u>Flow and glide;</u></li> <li>• <u>Varied use of power, speed and acceleration;</u></li> <li>• <u>Use of multi directional skating;</u></li> <li>• <u>Use of one foot skating.</u></li> </ul>	Rule 504, § 3.a)
<b>Transitions</b>	<p><b>Definition:</b>  <u>The varied and purposeful use of intricate footwork, positions, movements and holds that link all elements.</u></p> <p>In evaluating the <u>Transitions</u>, the following must be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Continuity of movements from one element to another (all disciplines);</u></li> <li>• <u>Variety (including variety of holds in Ice Dance);</u></li> <li>• <u>Difficulty;</u></li> <li>• <u>Quality.</u></li> </ul>	Rule 504, § 3.a)

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<b>Performance</b>	<p><b>Definition:</b>            Performance: involvement of the Skater/Pair/Couple physically, emotionally and intellectually as they <u>deliver the intent of the music and composition</u>.</p> <p>In evaluating the <u>Performance</u>, the following must be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Physical, emotional, intellectual involvement and projection</u></li> <li>• <u>Carriage &amp; Clarity of movement</u></li> <li>• <u>Variety and contrast of movements and energy;</u></li> <li>• <u>Individuality / personality;</u></li> <li>• <u>Unison and “oneness” (Pair Skating, Ice Dance)</u></li> <li>• <u>Spatial awareness between partners - management of the distance between skaters and management of changes of hold (Pair Skating, Ice Dance).</u></li> </ul>	Rule 504, § 3.a)
<b>Composition</b>	<p><b>Definition:</b>            An Intentionally developed and/or original arrangement of all types of movements according to the principles of musical phrase, space, pattern, and structure.</p> <p>In evaluating the <u>Composition</u>, the following must be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Purpose (idea, concept, vision, mood);</u></li> <li>• <u>Pattern / ice coverage;</u></li> <li>• <u>Multidimensional use of space and design of movements;</u></li> <li>• <u>Phrase and form (movements and parts structured to match the musical phrase);</u></li> <li>• <u>Originality of the composition;</u></li> </ul>	Rule 504, § 3.a)

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<b>Interpretation of the Music/Timing (for Ice Dance)</b>	<p><b>Definition:</b>            The personal, and creative and <u>genuine</u> translation of the rhythm, character and content of music to movement on ice.</p> <p>In evaluating the Interpretation of the Music (/Timing), the following must be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Movement and steps in time to the music (Timing);</u></li> <li>• <u>Expression of the music's character / feeling and rhythm, when clearly identifiable;</u></li> <li>• <u>Use of finesse (*) to reflect the details and nuances of the music;</u></li> <li>• <u>Relationship between the Skaters reflecting the character and rhythm of the music (Pair Skating, Ice Dance);</u></li> <li>• <u>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 (Ice Dance).</u></li> </ul> <p>*Finesse is the Skater's refined, artful manipulation of music details and nuances through movement. It is unique to the Skater/Skaters, and demonstrates an inner feeling for the music and the composition. Nuances are the personal ways of bringing subtle 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 1937

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10.0 – 9.00 <b>OUTSTANDING</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>deep, quiet, sure, seemingly effortless edges</li> <li>deep/fluid knee action</li> <li>excellent precision of foot placement in 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 with a great predominance of face to face positions</li> <li>movements flow seamlessly into the next without any pause or gaps</li> <li>there is no pause to prepare for or following the exit of elements</li> <li>creative linking of Pattern Dance Element(s) and rest of the dance (SD)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>move as one, superb matching</li> <li>skate very close to each other most of the time with superb ease when changing</li> <li>elegant /sophisticated style</li> <li>refined line of body and limbs</li> <li>precise execution of body movements along different planes</li> <li>both spellbinding/captivating</li> <li>projection exceptional (to audience or inwards if music requires)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>wide range of steps, moves, positions, and design of required elements superbly motivated by music</li> <li>ingenious use of music, space, symmetry</li> <li>memorable highlights distributed evenly throughout the program</li> <li>all movements purposefully created and following the musical phrase</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 embody the music as one</li> <li>genuine motivation from “heart” by both</li> <li>wide range of inspired movements linked with personal gestures</li> <li>skaters convincingly stay “in character” for the entire program.</li> <li>exceptional ability to relate as one and to reflect character and rhythm of the music</li> <li>superb embodiment of the music’s style and character</li> <li>timing: 100% correct</li> <li>expression of Rhythms (SD): 100% correct</li> <li>dance mood (FD): 100%</li> </ul>
8.75 – 8.00 <b>VERY GOOD</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>strong, sure, fluid edges</li> <li>supple knee action</li> <li>precision of foot placement , 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 with a great predominance of face to face positions</li> <li>movements flows easily into the next</li> <li>most elements are executed without visible preparation or conclusion</li> <li>creative linking of Pattern Dance Elements and rest of the dance (SD)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>coordinated movements, very good matching</li> <li>skate close to each other most the time with extreme ease when changing positions / holds</li> <li>very good carriage and placement of the body</li> <li>very good control of the body along different planes</li> <li>project strongly and together convincing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>variety of innovative and purposeful moves that develop a theme</li> <li>very good choreography, clearly understandable and motivated by the music</li> <li>change of pace/tempo incorporated with ease</li> <li>very good use of musical phrasing/space/symmetry</li> <li>choreography gives the feeling of a completely unified dance (SD): 80%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>skaters and music meld together</li> <li>internal motivation clearly seen by both</li> <li>use of interesting and personal gestures to express the music</li> <li>very good ability to relate as one to reflect the character and rhythm of the music</li> <li>very good embodiment of the music’s style and character</li> <li>timing at least: 80% correct</li> <li>expression of Rhythms (SD): at least 80% correct</li> <li>dance mood (FD): at least 80%</li> </ul>
7.75 – 7.00 <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 foot placement in steps/turns</li> <li>good use of multi directional skating</li> <li>ability to accelerate easily</li> <li>good skill range 70% of time for both</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>varied and connected edges/steps/turns/positions for both</li> <li>varied use of holds with a predominance of face to face positions</li> <li>minimal use of cross cuts or running</li> <li>fluid and intentional movements throughout</li> <li>creative linking of Pattern Dance Elements and rest of the dance (SD)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>move as couple, matched with ease</li> <li>skate close to each other at least 70% of time</li> <li>easy use of change of all holds and positions</li> <li>good carriage/lines</li> <li>good demonstration of control of the body along different planes.</li> <li>both project most of time</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>use of known and innovative / creative moves that are motivated by the music</li> <li>obvious relationship between moves and musical selection.</li> <li>good use of musical phrasing/space/symmetry</li> <li>both skaters demonstrate commitment to the composition purpose</li> <li>directed to all sides of the rink</li> <li>choreography gives the feeling of a completely unified dance (SD): 70%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>skating/music integrated</li> <li>good internal motivation and feeling for the music by both</li> <li>skaters stay “in character” at least 70% of program</li> <li>good partner relationship with both communicating the details of the music through movement</li> <li>good expression of the music’s style and character</li> <li>timing: at least 70% correct</li> <li>expression of Rhythms (SD): at least 70% correct</li> <li>dance mood (FD): at least 70%</li> </ul>

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At least 6.75 – 6.00  ABOVE AVERAGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>reasonable, sure edges</li> <li>above average knee action</li> <li>above average cleanness in foot placement in steps/turns demonstrated in all directions with ease at least 60% of the time</li> <li>steps/turns, all directions with ease 60% 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>difficult and varied of edges/steps/turns/positions for both for 60 % of time</li> <li>varied use of holds with a frequent use of face to face positions</li> <li>seldom use of cross cuts or running</li> <li>some breaks in continuity</li> <li>creative linking of Pattern Dance Element(s) and rest of the dance (SD)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>above average unison, move as couple 60% of time</li> <li>skate close to each other 60% of time</li> <li>above average control of body and limbs along different planes</li> <li>above average carriage / lines</li> <li>both are able to project 60% of time</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>interesting moves derived from the concept</li> <li>most moves/pattern/utilization of space are related to the purpose.</li> <li>above average distribution of highlights and placement to match musical phrase and form</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):60%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>skating fits music well</li> <li>solid internal motivation and feeling for the music by both</li> <li>skaters stay “in character “ at least 60% of time</li> <li>skaters are both able to play with the music and communicate the details of the music through movement</li> <li>partner relationship to reflect the character and rhythm of the music at least 60% of time</li> <li>above average expression of the music’s style and character</li> <li>timing: at least 60% correct</li> <li>expression of Rhythms (SD):at least 60% correct</li> <li>dance mood (FD): at least60%</li> </ul>
5.75 – 5.00  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/positions for both</li> <li>average use of holds with many face to face positions</li> <li>limited use of cross cuts or running</li> <li>creative linking of Pattern Dance Element(s) and rest of the dance (SD)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>unison broken occasionally</li> <li>skate close to each other at least 50% of time</li> <li>average control of body and limbs along different planes</li> <li>pleasing carriage/lines with some breaks</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 purpose and music</li> <li>moves and highlights match the musical phrasing most of the time.</li> <li>highlights generally well distributed but focused occasionally to one side</li> <li>average use of change of pace</li> <li>average design of movements and pattern / ice coverage</li> <li>choreography gives the feeling of a completely unified dance (SD): 50%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>slight difference in skater motivation/feeling for the music</li> <li>skaters stay “in character” at least 50% of the time</li> <li>average use of movement linked to musical accents/details</li> <li>average expression of music’s style and character.</li> <li>reasonable partner relationship to reflect the character and rhythm of the music</li> <li>timing: at least 50% correct</li> <li>expression of Rhythms (SD): at least 50% correct</li> <li>dance mood (FD):at least 50%)</li> </ul>
4.75 – 4.00  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 at least 40% of time</li> <li>variable skills for both, variable abilities</li> <li>consistent speed and flow at least 40% of time</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>an equal amount of simple and difficult edges/steps/turns/ positions</li> <li>one partner has some sections with simple workload</li> <li>varied use of holds with some face to face positions</li> <li>creative linking of Pattern Dance Element(s) and rest of the dance (SD)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>unison sometimes broken</li> <li>skate close to each other at least 40% of time</li> <li>variable control of body and limbs</li> <li>carriage /lines variable, mostly pleasing posture</li> <li>only one projects or both only 40% of time</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>movement design corresponds sometimes with music</li> <li>moves and highlights sometimes match the musical phrasing</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): at least 40%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>skating fits music with minor exceptions</li> <li>some motivated moves but balanced feeling for music missing</li> <li>moderate use of movement linked to musical accents and nuances</li> <li>correct but not personal expression of the music’s style and character</li> <li>partner relationship to reflect the character and rhythm of the music at least 40% of time</li> <li>timing: at least 40% correct</li> <li>expression of Rhythms (SD): at least40% correct</li> <li>dance mood (FD): at least 40%</li> </ul>

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3.75 – 3.00 <b>WEAK</b>	<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/positions/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>poor linking of Pattern Dance Element(s) and rest of the dance (SD)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>variable unison</li> <li>skate close to each other at least 30% of time</li> <li>weak control of body and limbs</li> <li>little demonstration of use of the body in different planes</li> <li>variable extensions</li> <li>holds relatively stable</li> <li>only one projects 30% of time or both only occasionally project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>some isolated groups of moves that are motivated by the music and fit the purpose.</li> <li>movements generally do not follow the musical phrasing.</li> <li>often moves and highlights directed to the judges side</li> <li>reasonable placement of elements on ice surface</li> <li>choreography gives the feeling of a completely unified dance (SD): 30%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>some motivated moves, but often seem meaningless to skaters</li> <li>music is background for Required elements</li> <li>appropriate use of music but personal feeling is inconsistent with the skaters weaving in and out of character</li> <li>some partner relationship to reflect the character and rhythm of the music</li> <li>timing: at least 30% correct</li> <li>expression of Rhythms (SD): at least 30% correct</li> <li>dance mood (FD): at least 30%</li> </ul>
2.75 – 2.00 <b>POOR</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>short and poor steps/ flat edges</li> <li>little power, toe pushing or wide stepping</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/positions/holds</li> <li>many sections in hand-in-hand or side by side hold, minimal use of partner facing holds</li> <li>one partner performs difficult moves and other on two feet most of time</li> <li>simple linking of Pattern Dance Element(s) 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>do not skate close to each other most of the time</li> <li>poor control of the body and limbs</li> <li>poor carriage/extensions</li> <li>limited projection skills, both cautious</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>many moves do not appear to be motivated by the musical selection</li> <li>the purpose of the composition is poorly developed or communicated through movement.</li> <li>movements do not follow the musical phrase.</li> <li>moves and highlights 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>no relationship or feeling for music demonstrated by skaters</li> <li>poor use of movement linked to musical accents and details</li> <li>occasional partner relationship to reflect the character and rhythm of the music</li> <li>unmotivated/non-authentic movement</li> <li>timing: less than 30% correct</li> <li>expression of Rhythms (SD): Less than 30% correct</li> <li>dance mood (FD) : Less than 30%</li> </ul>
1.75 – 1.00 <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 Element(s) 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>skate close to each other most of the time</li> <li>very poor matching of body position/extensions</li> <li>very poor carriage/extensions</li> <li>very limited projection skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>most moves do not appear to be motivated by the musical selection</li> <li>the composition lacks a clearly defined / developed purpose.</li> <li>movements are mainly directed to judges side</li> <li>placement of moves lacks balance with little relationship to musical phrase.</li> <li>composition is repetitive or monotonous</li> <li>choreography gives little feeling of a completely unified dance (SD)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>lacking or inappropriate skater dynamics in relation to the music</li> <li>moves seem unrelated to the music's character and / or rhythm</li> <li>little or no partner relationship to reflect the character and rhythm of the music</li> <li>timing: less than 30% correct</li> <li>expression of Rhythms (SD): less than 30% correct</li> <li>dance mood (FD): less than 30%</li> </ul>

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0.75 – 0.25 <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 Element(s) and rest of the dance (SD)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ unstable holds, uncontrolled matching and unison</li> <li>▪ do not skate close to each other most of the time</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>▪ moves do not appear to be motivated by the musical selection.</li> <li>▪ entire program directed to judges side</li> <li>▪ placement of moves appears random, not linked to musical phrase</li> <li>▪ movement and element placement lacks balance.</li> <li>▪ some areas of ice untouched and often use of straight lines or barrier skating</li> <li>▪ choreography does not give any feeling of a unified dance (SD)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ lacks any skater(s) dynamics to the music</li> <li>▪ isolated and apparently random non personal gestures independent of the music's character</li> <li>▪ Little use of movement linked to musical accents / details.</li> <li>▪ no partner relationship to reflect the character and rhythm of the music, two "solos"</li> <li>▪ timing: less than 30% correct</li> <li>▪ expression of Rhythms (SD): less than 30% correct</li> <li>▪ dance mood (FD): less than 30%</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 1937
<b>Under Interpretation of the Music/Timing</b>	The music does not have an uplifting effect (Free Dance): - 1.0 to - 2.0	Communication 1937