

Ice Dance Coaches Conference Call
Updates from the ISU Congress
July 2, 2008

The following are alerts to rule changes or answers to questions that have been brought up by coaches, skaters and officials. These questions have been answered to the best of our ability with the resources we presently have. The purpose of this information is to assist U.S. Figure Skating members; however, this information does not serve as a substitute for the rules in the U.S. Figure Skating rulebook and/or the ISU Communications. Please continue to check U.S. Figure Skating Online for the most up-to-date information.

The ISU will publish a communication for ice dance after the Frankfurt Seminar that will encompass the changes from the ISU Congress as well as any further clarifications that are determined in Frankfurt. The Frankfurt seminar is being held July 14-19, 2008.

Below are some important updates and/or rule changes that the U.S. Figure Skating Dance Committee would like to bring to your attention:

Information on Compulsory Dance

1. The Finnstep was accepted as a compulsory dance,
 - a. It was not specifically designated for the 2008 ISU European and Four Continents championships.
 - b. It will be drawn as stated in ISU Communication 1496:
In accordance with Rule 639 paragraph 2 a), b), c) and d) the dance to be skated will be drawn as follows:
2009 European and Four Continents championships: one (1) compulsory dance from the senior dances listed above (Viennese Waltz, Finnstep and Paso Doble) shall be drawn at the Grand Prix Final (junior and senior) and announced to the members by the secretariat. The same dance shall be skated at both championships.
2009 World Championships: one (1) compulsory dance from the senior dances listed above (Viennese Waltz, Finnstep and Paso Doble) shall be drawn at the World Junior Championships from the dances not drawn for the European and Four Continents championships and announced to the members by the ISU secretariat.
 - c. The Finnstep will not be used in during the 2008 Grand Prix Series
 - d. Teams don't have to have an eight-bar start because the music doesn't have an eight-bar introduction. The ISU rule dictating the compulsory dance introductory music and steps will be suspended for the Finnstep
 - e. After the Finnstep event at the Lake Placid Ice Dance Competition, there will be a discussion and on-ice demonstration of the dance. There will also be some discussion prior to the event.
2. The Junior Grand Prix event in South Africa will use the Starlight Waltz as the compulsory dance. The compulsory dance was originally listed incorrectly in the announcement.
3. For ISU Championship events, the draw for the starting order for the compulsory dance will now be done according to the latest World Standings. For complete details on how the draw will be done, please see ISU Communication No. 1495, proposal 345, on page 88.
4. Starting in 2010-11 there was a resolution to have two parts in international ice dance competitions
 - a. What those two parts will be is still to be determined
 - b. The assumption is that the free dance will be one part
 - c. The ISU will set up a discussion board on its web site (www.isu.org) for people to submit ideas
 - d. Nothing will change in the format of junior or senior ice dance events over the next two years (i.e. they will remain as one compulsory dance, one original dance and one free dance)
 - e. There may be a test competition in the future to test out a new format

General Rule Changes for ISU Competitions (The following rules (items 5-9) pertain to ISU competitions only with the exception of item 5 which is also a U.S. Figure Skating rule.)

5. Every couple must begin each part of the competition within one (1) minute of their names being announced. (This rule also pertains to U.S. Figure Skating competitions.)
6. In case of a fresh start due to interruption caused by injury, medical problem, equipment, etc., the couple is allowed up to three (3) minutes before the continuation of the program.
7. If a couple with the first starting number in the group is injured during the warm-up period and time before the start of the performance is not sufficient for required medical attention, the referee may allow this couple up to three (3) additional minutes before they are called to the start.
8. All practices for each segment (compulsory dance, original dance and free dance) will be in accordance with the starting order of each group after the draw for starting order for the respective segment of each event if possible.
9. Each [judge's] assessment remains valid for the current season plus additional two (2) seasons and counts during such period of time towards an accumulation of assessment.

Information on the Original Dance

10. The second lift in the original dance is now **optional**.
 - a. There is no penalty if a team doesn't perform the second lift in the original dance.
 - b. If a team does perform the second lift in the original dance
 - i. It will not receive a level
 - ii. It must still follow all the rules for lifts
11. A lot of questions have been received regarding the rhythms for the original dance. The intention is to keep it open and not be very strict. The rhythm and style (but not the music and/or recording) must be of the 20s, 30s and 40s.

Information on Elements and Levels

12. The definition of what makes a lift illegal has been changed. A lift is **NOT** considered as an illegal lift if
 - a. the point of contact of the lifting hand/arm of the lifting partner with any part of the body of the lifted partner is not higher than the lifting partner's head;
 - b. the lifting hand/arm which is used for support or balancing only or which touches any part of the body of the lifted partner is not sustained by the lifting partner higher than his head for more than **two** seconds.
13. There will be a correction issued for ISU Communication No. 1496, page 13, spins, Level 3. The following option to achieve Level 3 was inadvertently left off and should be included: **2 different difficult variations in 2 different types of Basic Positions for one partner and 1 difficult variation for the other partner (each difficult variation for at least 2 rotations in a fully established position)**
14. For Synchronized Twizzles, Level 4, Option 1: the three features can all be done during the same twizzle.
15. For Synchronized Twizzles: one arm above the head and two arms above the head are considered to be the same feature. The technical panel will look at the position of the elbow(s), not the hand(s).

Proposals that were defeated

16. The proposal to change the age limits was defeated (ISU Communication No. 1495, proposal 56, page 22).
17. The proposal to reduce the number of couples that would compete in the final segment at ISU Championships was defeated.