

INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION

Communication No. 2076 (updated on April 4, 2017)

ICE DANCE Requirements for Technical Rules season 2017/18 (Revised)

It is a requirement for certain Technical Rules to be announced annually by the Ice Dance Technical Committee:

- Requirements defined in the Technical Rules as valid for one season only:
 - Pattern Dances for International Competitions,
 - Music requirements for Pattern Dances for International Competitions,
 - Rhythms or themes, Required Elements (including Key Points and Key Point Features for Pattern Dance Elements) and guidelines for Short Dance,
 - Required Elements for Free Dance.

The annual requirements for season 2017/18 are included in this Communication.

- Requirements defined in the Technical Rules with an ongoing validity:
 - Calling specifications and Levels of Difficulty,
 - Marking Guides,
 - Scale of Values.

Updates to the current ongoing requirements, valid as of July 1st, 2017, will be published in a subsequent Communication.

1. PATTERN DANCES FOR INTERNATIONAL NOVICE COMPETITIONS (AS ANNOUNCED IN COMMUNICATION 2024)

**Not applicable to U.S. Figure Skating competitions*

1.1 Basic Novice **Not applicable to U.S. Figure Skating competitions*

Two (2) Pattern Dances are to be skated:

Group 1: # 1 Fourteenstep and # 4 European Waltz

1.2 Advanced Novice **Not applicable to U.S. Figure Skating competitions*

One of the two groups announced for the season shall be drawn before the first practice of the competition. Each group contains two (2) Pattern Dances.

Group 1: # 4 European Waltz and # 20 Tango

Group 2: # 3 Rocker Foxtrot and # 9 Starlight Waltz

2. MUSIC REQUIREMENTS FOR PATTERN DANCES FOR INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

**Not applicable to U.S. Figure Skating competitions*

Rule 707, paragraph 5 provides that, in International Competitions, the current series of ISU Ice Dance music shall be used for the Pattern Dances unless the Ice Dance Technical Committee has decided that the music for one or several Pattern Dances is to be provided by the Couple following certain requirements.

For the season 2017/18, Couples shall provide their own music for the following Pattern Dances:

- International Novice Competitions:
 - Basic Novice: # 1 Fourteenstep
 - Advanced Novice: # 20 Tango and # 3 Rocker Foxtrot

- Other International Competitions and International Adult Competitions:
 - As announced by the organizer in the announcement of the competition.

The music must be chosen in accordance with the Rhythm of the Pattern Dance and may be vocal. The Tempo throughout the required Sequences must be constant and in accordance with the required Tempo of the Pattern Dance (see ISU Handbook Ice Dance 2003) plus or minus 2 beats per minute.

Notes:

- The chosen music may be a tune from ISU Ice Dance music. In this case, only tunes 1 to 5 can be chosen and the Couple shall provide competition music in accordance with Rule 343, paragraph 1.
- Violation of the above music requirements or tempo specifications shall be penalized as per Rule 353, paragraph 1.n).
- For the application of Rule 708 paragraph 1.d) with music provided by the Couple, it is specified that the start of the first Step of the dance must be on beat 1 of a measure (unless otherwise specified in the description of the dance).

3. REQUIREMENTS FOR SHORT DANCE SEASON 2017/18

3.1. Rhythms

Rule 709, paragraph 1.a) provides that rhythm(s) and/or theme(s) are selected by the Ice Dance Technical Committee annually for the season. For the season 2017/18, the following Rhythms were selected.

Junior and Senior: Any number of the following Latin American Rhythms:

Cha Cha, Rhumba, Samba, Mambo, Meringue, Salsa, Bachata and any closely related Latin American Rhythms

Senior:

The Pattern Dance Element shall be skated to any of the Latin American Rhythms and must be in the style of the chosen rhythm, with the range of temp: 172 – 180 beats per minute. The Tempo of the music throughout the Pattern Dance Element must be constant.

Pattern Dance Type Step Sequence (PSt - as described in the Rule 703, para 4b,iii) must be skated to a different rhythm from the one chosen for the Non Touching Step Sequence. The Tempo of the music throughout the Pattern Dance Type Step Sequence must be constant

Junior:

The **Pattern Dance Elements** must be skated on the Cha Cha Rhythm, in the style of the Cha Cha, with the following range of tempo: 28 to 30 measures of four beats per minute (112-120 beats per minute.) The Tempo of the music throughout the Pattern Dance Element must be constant.

The **Non Touching Step Sequence** must be skated to a different rhythm from the Cha Cha.

Cha Cha Congelado and Rhumba Rhythms are described in the ISU Ice Dance Music Rhythms Booklet 1995.

3.2. Alterations

Rule 709, paragraphs 1.d) and h) permits the Ice Dance Technical Committee to make annual amendments. For the season 2017/18, the Ice Dance Technical Committee have adopted the following specific alteration:

Paragraph 1.d): “The pattern must proceed in a generally constant direction and must not cross the Long Axis of the ice surface except once at each end of the rink (within no more than 20 meters of the barrier). Loops in either direction are permitted provided they do not cross the Long Axis. However, the following do NOT constitute violations of these provisions:

- crossing the long axis
 - while performing the Not Touching Midline, Diagonal or Circular Step Sequence;
 - at the entry or exit to the Not Touching Step Sequence
 - at the entry to Pattern Dance Element
- performing the Not Touching Circular Step Sequence in the clockwise direction;

Paragraph 1.h): “After the clock is started with the first movement, the Couple must not remain in one place for more than ten (10) seconds during the program:

Permitted Stops:

Senior and Junior:

up to two full stops (duration must not exceed 5 seconds each) or up to one full stop (duration must not exceed 10 seconds) are permitted. During a Stop the couple may or may not touch each other and choreography may be stationary or slightly moving in any direction.

Stop options include:

- A permitted stop (up to 5 sec only) may be used within the Not Touching Step Sequence (Senior and Junior)
- A permitted Stop may be used to indicate the starting point of the Pattern Dance Type Step Sequence (Senior)
- A permitted Stop may be used to indicate the completion of the Pattern Dance Type Step Sequence (Senior)
- A permitted stop may be used anywhere in the program excluding:
 - a) within the Pattern Dance Element (Senior and Junior) or
 - b) within the Pattern Dance Type Step Sequence (a Stop is only allowed at the beginning or end of the PSt) (Senior)
- A Choreographic Spinning Movement which travels will not be considered as a stop.

Note:

Rule 709 paragraph 1.g) & h) allows couples to perform any choreography either in hold OR separated during the beginning of the program, (within the first 10 seconds) or at the end of the program (prior to the final pose). The choreography may be moving or stationary and is in addition to any permitted stop(s) and/or separation(s) as described above.

3.3. Required Elements

Rule 709, paragraph 2 provides that the list of Required Elements to be included into composition of the Short Dance and specific requirements for these elements are announced annually from the list of options provided in this Rule. For the season 2017/18, the Ice Dance Technical Committee adopted the following specific Required Elements to be included into composition of the Short Dance.

- **Pattern Dance Element(s)**

Senior	Junior – 2 Sections
Rhumba <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Section 1: Steps # 1-16 + Steps # 1-4 	Cha Cha Congelado <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Section 1: Steps # 1-17 ▪ Section 2: Steps # 18 -38

For the Cha Cha Congelado, each section skated one after the other, Section 1 followed by Section 2, with Step # 1 skated on the Judges’ opposite side.

For the Rhumba, the start of the first step of the Pattern Dance, Step #1, to be skated on the Judges' left side.

Specifications:

- The description, chart and diagrams of the Pattern Dances are included in the ISU Handbook Ice Dance 2003.
- Rule 708 paragraph 1 applies with the following alterations:
 - subparagraph d) – Timing: “The Pattern Dance Elements must be skated in strict time to the music with the start of the first step of the Pattern Dance Element Section 1 on beat one of a musical phrase.”

- **Dance Lift:** not more than **one (1) Short Lift**

- **Step Sequence(s)**

- **Senior: One (1) Pattern Dance Type Step Sequence in Hold (Style B*):**

- Pattern: up to one full circuit of the ice surface and must start on beat one of a musical measure.

The following two options will indicate the beginning of the PSt

- using one of the permitted stops, after which the couple takes the first step in a Foxtrot Hold indicating the first step of the Pattern Dance Type Step Sequence (PSt).
- performing a skidding movement within one measure of music after the last step of the required PDE (Step #4). The first step after a skidding movement will indicate the starting point of the Pattern Dance Type Step Sequence (PSt) and must be performed in Foxtrot Hold.

The following three options will indicate the completion of the PSt:

- performing one of the permitted stops
- a skidding movement not exceeding one measure of music
- Choreographic Spinning movement
 - which travels will not be considered as a stop.
 - which becomes stationary and is performed on the spot will be considered as a stop.
- PSt may not start from the beginning of the program;
- Duration: any exact number of musical phrases
- Holds: by exception to Rule 703, paragraph 4, first bullet, Hand-in-Hand Hold with extended arms cannot be established and partners must remain in contact at all times, even during changes of Holds and during Twizzles;

- **Senior & Junior: One (1) Not Touching Step Sequence (Style B*)**

- **One (1) Straight Line Step Sequence**

- a) Midline – skated along the full length of the ice surface on the Long Axis.
- b) Diagonal – skated as fully corner to corner as possible

OR

- **One (1) Curved Step Sequence**

- a) Circular – utilizing the full width of the ice surface on the Short
- b) Serpentine – commences in either direction at the Long Axis at one end of the rink and progresses in three bold curves or two bold curves (S – shaped) and ends at the Long Axis of the opposite end of the rink, the pattern utilizing the full width of the ice surface.

- **One Set of Sequential Twizzles**

Note:

The Dance Spin is not a Required Element in a Junior and Senior Short Dance. Nevertheless, a Dance Spin or spinning movement skated by the couple together in any hold around a common axis on one foot (or two feet) with any number of rotations is permitted. A couple may choose to use this movement as part of their choreography. The Technical Panel will ignore these movements and the Judges will consider these movements as ONE of the permitted stops

A Dance Spin performed within the Pattern Dance Type Step Sequence for Senior (excluding the start or finish of the PSt) shall be considered by the Judges as a Stop which is a Not Permitted Element.

A Dance Spin performed within the Not Touching Step Sequence for Junior and Senior (up to 5 sec) shall be considered by the Judges as one of the permitted Stops.

A Choreographic Spinning movement:

- which travels will not be considered as a stop.
- which becomes stationary and is performed on the spot will be considered as a stop.

KEY POINTS AND KEY POINTS FEATURES FOR PATTERN DANCE ELEMENTS SEASON 2017/18

Cha Cha Congelado

Pattern Dance Element (1 CC) Steps # 1-17	Key Point 1 Lady & Man Steps 3 - 5 (Slip Steps, Lady XB-LBO)	Key Point 2 Lady Steps 13 - 17 (RFO, XB-LFI OpMo, RBI, LBO, RBO)	Key Point 3 Man Steps 13 – 14, 17 (LFI, XB-RFO, LFO3)
Key Point Features	1. Correct slip steps	1. Correct Edges 2. Correct Turn (#14) 3. Correct placement of the free foot (#14)	1. Correct Edges 2. Correct Turn (#17)
Pattern Dance Element (2 CC) Steps # 18 -38	Key Point 1 Lady Steps 23 - 25 (LFI Sw-CIMo, RBI, XF-LBO)	Key Point 2 Man Steps 23 - 25 (RFO Sw-CIMo, LBO, XF-RBI)	Key Point 3 Lady Steps 36 - 38 (LFI SwR, RFI OpMO, LBI, RBO) Man Steps 36 – 38 (LFI SwR, RFI, LFO)
Key Point Features	1. Correct Edges 2. Correct Turn (#23) 3. Correct placement of the free foot (#23)	1. Correct Edges 2. Correct Turn (#23) 3. Correct placement of the free foot (#23)	1. Correct Edges 2. Correct Turn (#37) 3. Correct placement of the free foot (#37)

Rhumba

Pattern Dance Element (1 RH) Steps # 1-16 +Steps # 1-4	Key Point 1 Lady Steps 10 11 - 13 (XB-RFI, Wd-LFI Wd-XF Op Cho, RBO Wd-XB Cl Cho, LFI)	Key Point 2 Man Steps 10 11 - 13 (XB-RFI, Wd-LFI Wd-XF Op Cho, RBO Wd-XB Cl Cho, LFI)	Key Point 3 Lady & Man Steps 16 (XF-RBI) & Steps 1 – 4 (restart of next sequence - LFO, RFI-Ch, LFOIO, XF-RFI)
Key Point Features	1. Correct Edges 2. Correct Turns 3. Correct placement of free foot*	1. Correct Edges 2. Correct Turns 3. Correct placement of free foot*	1. Correct Edges 2. Correct Change of Edge 3. Correct placement of free foot

Note: Steps and additional descriptions of the Steps are defined/described in Rule 704 and ISU Handbook Ice Dance 2003.

*Correct placement of free foot is approximately 2 blade lengths apart.

A change of edge within the last ½ beat of the step is permitted to prepare the push/transition to the next step. (Example: Lady Step #25 – Cha Cha)

4. REQUIREMENTS FOR FREE DANCE SEASON 2017/18

Rule 710, paragraph 2 provides that the list of Required Elements to be included in a Well Balanced Free Dance Program and the specific requirements for these elements are announced annually from the list of options provided in this Rule. For the season 2017/18 the Ice Dance Technical Committee have adopted the following specific Required Elements to be included in a Well Balanced Free Dance Program.

4.1. Basic Novice – Free Dance requirements per Communication 2024

**Not applicable to U.S. Figure Skating competitions*

Levels explanations: for Basic Novice Free Dance, **Level 2** is the maximum level the couple may receive for all required elements. Only features up to **Level 2** will be counted. Any additional features the couple chooses to perform will not count for Level requirements and will be ignored by the Technical Panel.

In a Free Dance where the Dance Spin is not a Required Element, the first performed Dance Spin or Spinning Movement shall be identified as the Choreographic Spinning Movement, if no other Choreographic Element has been identified and confirmed.

4.2. Advanced Novice – Free Dance requirements per Communication 2024

**Not applicable to U.S. Figure Skating competitions*

Levels explanations: for Advanced Novice Free Dance, **Level 3** is the maximum level the couple may receive for all required elements. Only features up to **Level 3** will be counted. Any additional features the couple chooses to perform will not count for Level requirements and will be ignored by the Technical Panel.

4.3. Junior and Senior

Dance Lifts

Senior: not more than

- **one (1) Short Lift and one (1) Combination Lift (the Type of the Short Lift must be different from the Type(s) of Short Lifts forming the Combination Lift),**
or
- **three (3) different Types of Short Lifts**

Junior: not more than

- **one (1) Combination Lift,**
or
- **two (2) different Types of Short Lifts**

One (1) Dance Spin (Spin or Combination Spin) but not more

Step Sequence:

Senior - Two (2) Step Sequences in Hold

- **One (1) Straight Line Step Sequence**
 - a) Midline – skated along the full length of the ice surface on the Long Axis.
 - b) Diagonal – skated as fully corner to corner as possible

And

- **One (1) Curved Step Sequence**
 - a) Circular – utilizing the full width of the ice surface on the Short
 - b) Serpentine – commences in either direction at the Long Axis at one end of the rink and progresses in three bold curves or two bold curves (S – shaped) and ends at the Long Axis of the opposite end of the rink, the pattern utilizing the full width of the ice surface.

Junior - One (1) Step Sequences in Hold (Style A)

- **One (1) Straight Line Step Sequence (Midline or Diagonal) OR Curved Step Sequence (Circular or Serpentine) in Hold** (pattern requirements as described above).

NOTE: Some deviations in the chosen pattern are expected in order to complete the required turns. However, if the chosen pattern is not clearly recognizable, there will be a required reduction for incorrect Pattern by the Judges.

One (1) Set of Synchronized Twizzles

Two (2) Different Choreographic Elements

The Choreographic Element must be chosen from:

- **Choreographic Dance Lift:** Dance Lift of up to ten (10) seconds, performed after all the other required Dance Lifts, or a
- **Choreographic Spinning Movement:** spinning movement performed ~~after the required Dance Spin~~ anywhere in the program, during which both partners perform at least 2 continuous rotations:
 - in any hold,
 - on one foot or two feet or one partner being elevated without being sustained, or a combination of the three,
 - on a common axis which may be moving.
- **Choreographic Twizzling Movement:** twizzling movement performed after the required Set of Twizzles, composed of 2 parts.

The following requirements apply:

- for both parts: on one foot or two feet or a combination of both,
- for the first part: at least 2 continuous rotations performed simultaneously and both partners must travel (cannot be on the spot)
- for the second part: at least one of the partners has to perform at least 2 continuous rotations and one or both partners can be on the spot or traveling or a combination of both.

4.4. SPECIFICATIONS TO REQUIRED ELEMENTS

Style of Step Sequences: the Level of Difficulty of the Step Sequences shall be determined as per the following Characteristics of Levels:

- Novice (Basic and Advanced) Free Dance (Straight Line or Curved Step Sequence In Hold): Style B **Not applicable to U.S. Figure Skating competitions*
- Junior and Senior Short Dance (Not Touching Midline, Diagonal or Circular Step Sequence): Style B*
- Senior Short Dance (**Pattern Dance Type Step Sequence**): Style B*
- Junior Free Dance (Straight Line or Curved Step Sequence): Style A
- Senior Free Dance (Straight Line and Curved Step Sequence):
 - first performed: Style A
 - later performed: Style B

Characteristics of Levels Style A, Style B and Style B* are technical requirements with ongoing validity published in the relevant Communication.

Notes:

Judges must reduce the GOE accordingly, if the pattern of the Step Sequence does not maintain the integrity or basic shape of the chosen pattern.

For example:

- a) **for a midline or diagonal step sequence** - lobes should be equally balanced along the line of the pattern so as to not distort the basic shape and direction of the line from corner to corner (diagonal) or end of rink to end of the rink (midline).
- b) **for a circle** - the circular shape of the pattern should be recognizable and not be allowed to become a large oval running almost from end to end of the rink

- c) **for a serpentine** - the two or three bold curves should be balanced on either side of the midline axis of the rink so as to not distort the basic "S" shape of the pattern.

Not Permitted Elements in Step Sequences and Partial Step Sequence: stops, pattern retrogressions and loops must not be included or are restricted in Step Sequences and Partial Step Sequence as follows:

	Step Sequence Style A	Step Sequence Style B	Step Sequence (Style B*)
Stops**	Not permitted	Not permitted	<u>PSt – Not permitted</u> <u>NtSt – One permitted up to 5 sec</u>
Pattern retrogressions	Not permitted	One permitted –must not exceed two measures of music	<u>PSt – Not permitted</u> <u>NtSt - Permitted during the Stop</u>
Loops	Not permitted	A narrow loop is an acceptable shape in the retrogression	Not permitted
Separations	Not permitted except to change hold - no more than 2 arm lengths and must not exceed one measure of music. (Exception: Not Touching Step Sequence)	Permitted for Senior Free Dance – no more than 2 arm lengths and must not exceed 5 seconds	Not permitted (Exception: Not Touching Step Sequence)

** As per definitions in Rule 704, Dance Spins and Pirouettes are stops.

Required Elements may be skated anywhere in the program except in the required Step Sequences.

5. Clothing

The Rule 501 paragraph 1 applies with the following clarification for “excessive nudity” for the Short Dance season 2017-2018:

- The costume for the Short Dance must be dignified and cover at least 40% of the Ladies upper body.

Tubbergen,
March 10, 2017
Lausanne,

Jan Dijkema, President
Fredi Schmid, Director General