

Test Refresh Q&A - Tests / Competition
Professional Skaters Association (PSA) webinar - 11/13/17 (updated 4/27/18)

#	TOPIC	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Tests - Added 4/27/18	I have a skater preparing for the pre-preliminary test. I think they will be most successful performing the requirements as isolated elements, but I'm not sure they'll be comfortable telling the judges what elements they plan to perform. Is there another way to provide that information to the judges?	Yes. The coach should write the elements on paper and give the list to the skater to hand to the judge-in-charge when it's that skater's time to test. The coach can also give the list to the test chair in advance of the test so the test chair can deliver it to the judge-in-charge.
2	Tests	For the Pre-Preliminary Free Skate test, can skaters do elements as directed by the judge or in a program with or without music?	<p>For the Pre-Preliminary and Adult Pre-Bronze Free Skate tests, candidates may choose to complete the elements, "either as isolated elements or in a program (with or without music)."</p> <p>It is important to let the test chair know which option the skater plans to use in advance of the session so the schedule can be planned accordingly.</p> <p>Pre-Preliminary Free Skate test form: http://www.usfigureskating.org/content/Pre-preliminary-fs.pdf</p> <p>Adult Pre-Bronze Free Skate test form: http://www.usfigureskating.org/content/Adult-pre-bronze-fs.pdf</p> <p>Please note: "(with or without music)" is included on these two test forms and will be included in rules 4270 and 4600 in the next rulebook update.</p>
3	Tests	I print out the test sheets for my students.	<p>This is an excellent tool! Remember to also reference test element requirements in the Rulebook (note: Singles Free Skate Test requirements are now located in rules: 4200-4270, 4570-4600).</p> <p>Test forms are available on the U.S. Figure Skating website located under the 'About Us' tab, 'Forms', under the 'Tests' section, 'Go to Judges Panel Test Forms': http://www.usfigureskating.org/story?id=59378</p>
4	Tests	I ran a test session today and had two different sets of judges judging preliminary free skate tests. All of the judges entered different marks in the boxes under "Executed". What is preferred?	<p>The boxes for executed elements on the revised Free Skate test forms serve the same purpose as the short underlines for each element on the previous Free Skate test forms. These boxes provide judges more space for notating each element. Same as it has been, judges may choose to check off elements, write executed elements in long form or in code, and/or make qualitative notations in the manner that works best for them while clearly presenting their assessment/feedback to the skater/coach.</p>

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5	Tests	Does a fall on a required jump disqualify the test.	<p>No. A fall on a required jump does not necessitate that a test be marked as 'retry.'</p> <p>A fall is considered a serious error. If only one serious error is present after the test has been skated, judges have the option of using the second (presentation) mark to pass the test, if warranted, or of requesting a reskate. In order for a free skate test to pass, no serious errors may be present following reskated elements. (Rulebook TR 29.02, p. 273 - effective through September 1, 2018).</p>
6	Tests	I have been serving as a test chair for 40 years and have not received any info referred to on this webinar.	<p>Information was sent via e-blast to all test chairs and club presidents in October. Below is a link to the e-blast.</p> <p>IJS Protocol for Test Credit Information: http://app.e.usfigureskating.org/e/es?s=1778295644&e=1470&elqTrackId=78D8A052C380BCBFF284D754BEBE9730&elq=0fc02256951943358680a7c678b973e7&elqaid=368&elqat=1</p> <p>Information regarding the U.S. Figure Skating IJS Protocol for Test Credit is available at the following link: Information Overview (Athletes, Coaches, Test Chairs, Competition Chairs): http://www.usfsa.org/content/IJS%20Protocol%20-%20Checklist%20for%20athletes%20and%20clubs.pdf</p> <p>Information is also available on the U.S. Figure Skating website located under the 'Clubs' tab on the 'Tests' page: http://www.usfsa.org/clubs?id=84107</p>
7	Tests	Will judges count the turns in the step sequence for junior and senior free skate tests?	<p>For Free Skate tests, judges consider the quality, variety and difficulty of the steps and turns within step sequences, relating to the corresponding test level expectations. Judges do not award levels for step sequences on Free Skate tests; therefore, they do not count turns for that purpose.</p>

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8	Tests	I am running a test on Dec. 1. Will I be downloading the new forms?	<p>All of the free skate forms were changed on Nov. 1 to account for the new requirements, and those need to be used from Nov. 1, 2017, through Sept. 1, 2018. The free skate forms will be changed again on Sept. 2, 2018, along with all of the other test forms (pairs, pattern dance, free dance and moves in the field), to accommodate the new marking system. At that time, all of the forms on both the Members Only site and the U.S. Figure Skating Online will be replaced accordingly.</p> <p>In addition to the Members Only site, test forms are available on the U.S. Figure Skating website located under the 'About Us' tab, 'Forms', under the 'Tests' section, 'Go to Judges Panel Test Forms': http://www.usfigureskating.org/story?id=59378</p> <p>We always keep the correct version of the forms on both our websites, so please be sure to always pull them from one of those sites regardless of the date of any test session. Rules – and subsequently the forms – change often enough that it is not a good idea to keep your own supply. If you pre-register tests and print the forms from the Members Only site, the system will fill out the forms for you.</p>
9	Tests	With the new scoring for tests will there still be different standards for standard, adult, and masters?	<p>Yes. Any test that can be taken as a standard, adult or masters candidate will continue to have test level expectations specific to their candidate type when the revised marking of tests takes effect (September 2, 2018).</p>
10	Tests	I had a student do a pre-preliminary free skate test. A three judge panel was used for the test. Is this going to be the norm for the future?	<p>U.S. Figure Skating did not change any rules regarding how many judges are required to judge a pre-preliminary free skate test; it has always been permissible to use a three-judge panel. Selection of a single-judge or three-judge panel may vary depending on judge availability, ice time, and if judges are in need of activity towards promotion.</p> <p>Required judging panel information is provided in the 'authorized to judge tables' (JR 6.01-7.01 (pp. 50-55)) and also included on the bottom of each test form. http://www.usfigureskating.org/story?id=59378</p>

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11	Competition	Do both partners in a dance team have to take the test together?	No. For a couple to compete in any level of ice dance, both partners must have passed the listed test prerequisites, but those can be passed with the same partner or a different partner. (Note - test credit from an IJS Free Dance protocol or a passing free dance test may be used to meet the free dance test requirements.)
12	Competition	What is the situation if an adult skater wishes to take their Intermediate Free Skate test? They are not permitted to enter a competition at Intermediate because of age restrictions.	In order to be able to use an IJS protocol for test credit, the skater must enter the corresponding nonqualifying event (assuming they are qualified) at a competition. If they cannot because of age restrictions, they will have to take the test at a test session.
13	Competition	What is the no test free skate and field moves that is on the website now?	The no test free skate and moves in the field are not tests. They are competition levels that bridge the Learn to Skate USA program to the pre-preliminary competition level.
14	Competition	How does this effect Test Track in competitions? For example, skaters now have the option of doing a waltz jump OR an Axel on tests, but current Test Track requirements do not allow an Axel at that level. How will that be regulated?	The Test Track requirements have not been changed, as the restrictions are still important for Test Track competition events, which are intended to limit the difficulty of elements performed in each level in order to give skaters a level playing field to continue competing and testing according to their abilities. Although a single Axel is now permitted in the test structure at all levels, the previous requirement of a waltz jump is still also permitted at the pre-preliminary through pre-juvenile levels. Skaters who would like to perform an Axel in competition at pre-preliminary, preliminary or pre-juvenile, where it is not allowed in Test Track, should enter a well-balanced program event.
15	Competition	Now that skaters are allowed to do single Axels at the pre-preliminary level how will this affect test track competition events?	This will not affect Test Track competitions as they have specific competition requirements with deductions to be taken for higher elements completed. Single Axels are still prohibited in specific Test Track competition events. Although skaters were not allowed to do single Axels at these lower levels on tests before, this did not mean that they were not capable of doing them.
16	Competition	If testing is more aligned with the well-balanced free skate rules, is the name for Test Track Competition going to change?	Most likely. The test track program is under the auspices of the Program Development Committee. They are working on refreshing the entire program, including a name change and updates to the requirements and restrictions. Stay tuned!

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17	Competition	I had a parent inform me that the only judges who could judge at the nonqualifying competitions under this new system were judges who had competition appointments.	This is not true. The judges qualifications to be able to serve on a panel at a nonqualifying competition have not changed.
18	Competition	Will more competitions be doing IJS??	It will still be up to each competition. However, all nonqualifying competitions offering juvenile and above short program or well-balanced free skate events must use IJS, with the exception of open events, Test Track events, high school competitions, State Games competitions and Intercollegiate competitions.