

**Pertinent Synchronized Rule Changes
Governing Council
Columbus, Ohio
May 6-7, 2005**

All approved actions will go into effect Sept. 1, 2005 (Test Rules go into effect Sept. 2, 2005) unless otherwise stated in the action

301. APPROVED

ISU Judging System Implementation Task Force and Competitions Committee

The ISU Judging System Implementation Task Force and the Competitions Committee, jointly propose the adoption of the ISU Judging System for use in U.S. Figure Skating competitions as follows:

The ISU Judging System (IJS) shall be the official marking and result calculation system for U.S. Figure Skating qualifying competitions in singles, pairs, dance and synchronized skating (as provided herein), and shall be implemented as follows:

1. The ISJ will be phased in as follows:
 - a. 2005-2006 competitive season: novice, junior and senior events at the sectionals, synchronized sectionals, 2006 U.S. Championships (St. Louis) and the 2006 U.S. Synchronized Team Skating Championships.
 - b. 2006-2007 competitive season: juvenile and above at regionals, all events at U.S. Junior Figure Skating Championships, the remaining levels for synchronized sectionals and U.S. Synchronized Team Skating Championships, and events to be determined at the U.S. Adult Figure Skating Championships.
2. Complete transparency will be employed in the marking of all events using the IJS. The marks of all judges, together with their names, shall be published. There shall be no anonymous judging. All judges selected for a panel shall be used as scoring judges. No blind draws of the judging panel will be utilized.
3. Results for all events using the IJS will be calculated using calculation computer program selected by U.S. Figure Skating as the official calculation software.
4. The 6.0 system will be retained, as necessary, for qualifying competitions during the phase-in period.
5. At the discretion of the Local Organizing Committee for a nonqualifying competition, either the ISJ or the 6.0 system may be used in some or all events.

The ISJ rules on marking (including, but not limited to, the scale of values for skating elements) and calculation, as published by the ISU and modified from time to time, are by this reference incorporated into this proposed rule. The scale of values for skating elements (and any additions of base values for elements not yet included in the ISU scale of values) will be separately posted on the U.S. Figure Skating webs ite, as well as printed as an appendix to the U.S. Figure Skating rulebook.

328. APPROVED

Competitions Committee

3258 (B)(1) Entries-Synchronized Team Skating (page 80) amend by replacing the current language with the language shown here:

B 1. All levels except collegiate, must provide proof of age if so requested by the referee and/or local organizing committee of the competition for which the team is entered;

329. APPROVED

Competitions Committee

Add a new section on practice sessions for Synchronized Team Skating:

35xx: Official practice ice at the U.S. Synchronized Team Skating Championships and synchronized team skating sectional championships is to be conducted in 12 or 10 minute segments.

35xx: Teams entered in the following events are provided a 12 minute official practice ice segment: senior free skate, junior free skate, junior classic free skate, and collegiate free skate.

35xx: Teams entered in the following events are provided a 10 minute official practice ice segment: senior short program, junior short program, novice free skate, intermediate free skate, juvenile free skate, adult free skate, masters free skate, ~~junior classic free skate~~, teen introductory free skate, youth introductory free skate, preliminary free skate, adult introductory free skate, and collegiate introductory free skate.

35xx: For the practice ice segment for sectional and the U.S. Synchronized Team Championships, each team shall be allowed a short warm-up period prior to the start of the music. Each team shall be allowed to have their music played two (2) times. No stopping or restarting of the music will be allowed once the music has been started. At this official practice, the team is obliged to skate the whole competition program (short program or free skate), either in one or several pieces.

35xx: For the short program and free skate ten (10) minute segments, the music will be played for the first time no later than the three (3) minute mark in this session. The music will be played for the second time no later than the six and one-half (6 1/2) minute mark of the session. A thirty (30) second warning announcement shall be given prior to the start of the music for both times. Any time left in the session will be announced at the completion of the playing of the music for the second time.

35xx: For the Free skate twelve (12) minute sessions, the music will be played for the first time no later than the two (2) minute mark of the session. A thirty (30) second warning announcement shall be given prior to the start of the music for both times. Any time left in the session will be announced at the completion of the playing of the music for the second time.

35xx: Official practice ice for the U.S. Synchronized Team Championships shall be organized and skated by sections.

A. When the championships are held in the Eastern section, the official practice ice skating order for each division is as follows: Eastern, Pacific Coast, Midwest, Byes.

B. When the championships are held in the Midwestern section, the official practice ice skating order for each division is as follows: Midwest, Eastern, Pacific Coast, Byes.

C. When the Championships are held in the Pacific Coast section, the official practice ice skating order for each division is as follows: Pacific Coast, Midwest, Eastern, Byes.

379. APPROVED

Synchronized Team Skating Committee

Rule 4611 (G) Synchronized Team Skating (page 169) amend last sentence to read:

...Assisted vaults are considered as assisted jumps. Assisted vaults performed as forward or backward somersaults (flip-overs) are allowed in senior and junior free skate only.

380. APPROVED

Synchronized Team Skating Committee

Rule 2081 through 2092 Marking of Synchronized Team Skating Short Programs (pages 46 – 47) to substitute as requested in the following:

In rules 2081 through 2092, substitute the words “technical elements” for the words “required elements” or “technical merit” where found; and substitute the word “program components” for the word “presentation” where found.

381. APPROVED

Synchronized Team Skating Committee

Rule 2081 Marking of Synchronized Team Skating Short Programs (page 46) delete the language of the first paragraph and replace with the following two paragraphs:

In the synchronized skating short program, for those events that are judged under the 6.0 system, two marks shall be awarded on a scale from 0 to 6 (see 2011). The first mark shall be for technical elements (formerly “required elements” and the second mark shall be for program components (formerly “presentation”).

For those events that are judged under the ISU Judging System, the rules for marking as established by that body shall apply. The judge shall mark each technical element with a Grade of Execution in a range from +3 to -3, and shall mark each separate component on a scale of .25 to 10 at .25 point increments. See [insert cross reference to competitions rule section].

382. APPROVED

Synchronized Team Skating Committee

Rule 2081 Marking of Synchronized Team Skating Short Programs (page 46) substitute new language for existing rule 2081 (A) and 2081 (B) to read as follows:

- A. In marking the technical elements of the short program, the following must be considered:
1. Block: Quality of basic skating, steps, turns/edges including also quality of changes in direction (skating forwards and backwards), quality and variety of shapes/configurations, quality of spacing/distance between skaters (closeness) and lines, quality of holds, speed, flow, unison (including free foot placement, arms movement etc.), quality of changes of axis, pattern.
 2. Circle: Quality of basic skating, steps, turns/edges including also quality of changes in direction (skating forwards and backwards), quality and variety of shapes/configurations, quality of spacing/distance between skaters (closeness), quality of holds, speed, flow, unison (including free foot placement, arms movement etc.), quality of a control of rotation including quality of change of rotation - clockwise to counter clockwise, quality of steps used while changing direction, quality of traveling.
 3. Line: Quality of basic skating, steps, turns/edges including also quality of changes in direction (skating forwards and backwards), quality and variety of shapes/configurations, quality of spacing/distance between skaters (closeness) and lines, quality of holds, speed, flow, unison (including free foot placement, arms movement etc.), quality of pivoting.
 4. Wheel: Quality of basic skating, steps, turns/edges including also quality of changes in direction (skating forwards and backwards), quality and variety of shapes/configurations, quality of spacing/distance between skaters (closeness), quality of holds, speed, flow, unison (including free foot placement, arms movement etc.), quality of a control of rotation including quality of change of rotation - clockwise to counter clockwise, quality of steps used while changing direction, quality of traveling.
 5. Intersection: Quality of basic skating /edges including also quality of changes in direction (skating forwards and backwards), quality and variety of shapes/ formations pattern, quality of spacing/distance between skaters (closeness), quality of holds, speed, flow, unison (including free foot placement, arms movement etc.), quality of turns, moves, steps at the point of intersection, timing at the point of intersection.
 6. Moves in the Field: Quality of basic skating, steps, turns/edges including also quality of changes in direction (skating forwards and backwards), quality of free skate moves, quality and variety of shapes/configurations, quality of spacing/distance between skaters (closeness), quality of holds, speed, flow, unison (including free foot placement, arms movement etc.), quality of body position.
 7. No Hold Step Sequence: type, quality and difficulty of the step sequence, distance/spacing between the skaters, the shape of the block, cleanness of edges, speed, lineup of skaters, ice coverage, pattern, flow, individual skills, and unison.

8. Spin: Quality of spacing/distance between skaters (closeness), quality of entry /exit, quality of entry speed, speed of rotation, quality of centering, unison in spinning and body movements, quality of body position.
9. Transitions: Quality of Transitions within an Element (between formations): speed, quality and time to set up a new formation, the distance teams' move apart from each other during a transition, type and quality of connecting steps.

B. In marking the components of the short program, the following must be considered:

1. Skating Skills
 - a. Definition: Overall skating quality: 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.
 - b. Criteria:
 - i. Balance, rhythmic knee action and precision of foot placement
 - ii. Flow and effortless glide
 - iii. Cleanness and sureness of deep edges, steps and turns
 - iv. Power/energy and acceleration
 - v. Multidirectional skating
 - vi. Balance in skating ability of individual skaters
2. Transitions (Linking Steps, Formations and other connecting elements)
 - a. Definition: The varied and/or intricate footwork (steps), and formations linking all synchronized skating elements, including the entrances and exits of elements. The transitions can also be seamless and fast.
 - b. Criteria:
 - i. Variety
 - ii. Difficulty (including Unison)
 - iii. Quality
 - iv. Intricacy
 - v. Variation of speed of linking steps/formations
 - vi. Variation of changes of directions and holds
 - vii. Difficulty and variety of entrances/exits from elements/preparation phase
3. Performance/Execution
 - a. Definition:

Performance: The involvement of the team (skaters) physically, emotionally and intellectually as they translate the intent of the music and the choreography.

Execution: The quality of movement and precision in delivery. This also includes a harmony of movements.
 - b. Criteria:
 - i. Physical, emotional and intellectual involvement
 - ii. Carriage and body alignment
 - iii. Style and teams personality
 - iv. Clarity of movement
 - v. Variety and contrast
 - vi. Projection
 - vii. Unison, synchronization and spatial awareness
 - viii. Balance in performance within a team; relationship between skaters
4. Choreography/Composition
 - a. Definition: An intentional, developed and/or original arrangement of all types of movements according to the principles of proportion, unity, space, pattern, structure and phrasing.

- b. Criteria:
 - i. Purpose—idea, concept, vision
 - ii. Proportion—equal weight of parts
 - iii. Unity—purposeful threading
 - iv. Utilization of personal and public space
 - v. Pattern and ice coverage
 - vi. Phrasing and form—movements and parts structured to match the phrasing of the music
 - vii. Originality of purpose, movement and design
 - viii. Shared responsibility in achieving purpose
5. Interpretation of the Music
 Definition: The personal and creative translation of the music to movement on ice.
 Criteria:
 - i. Effortless movement in time to the music (timing)
 - ii. Expression of music’s style, character and rhythm
 - iii. Use of finesse to reflect the nuances of the music. Finesse is the teams’s refined, artful manipulation of nuances. Nuances are the personal, artistic ways of bringing subtle variations to the intensity, tempo, and dynamics of music made by the composer and/or the musicians.
 - iv. Relationship between the skaters reflecting the character of the music.

383. APPROVED

Synchronized Team Skating Committee

Rule 2091 Marking of Synchronized Team Skating Free skate (page 47) delete the language of 2091 and substitute the following:

In the synchronized team free skate program, for those events that are judged under the 6.0 system, two marks shall be awarded on a scale from 0 to 6 (see 2011). The first mark shall be for technical elements (formerly “technical merit”) and the second mark shall be for program components (formerly “presentation”).

For those events that are judged under the ISU Judging System, the rules for marking as established by that body shall apply. The judge shall mark each technical element with a Grade of Execution in a range from +3 to –3 and shall mark each separate component on a scale of .25 to 10 at .25 point increments. See [insert cross reference to competitions rule section].

384. APPROVED

Synchronized Team Skating Committee

Rule 2092 Marking of Synchronized Team Skating Free skate (page 47-48) delete the existing language of 2092 (A) and (B) and replace with the following:

A. In marking the technical elements of the free skate program, the following must be considered:

1. Block: Quality of basic skating, steps, turns/edges including also quality of changes in direction (skating forwards and backwards), quality and variety of shapes/configurations, quality of spacing/distance between skaters (closeness) and lines, quality of holds, speed, flow, unison (including free foot placement, arms movement etc.), quality of changes of axis, pattern.
2. Circle: Quality of basic skating, steps, turns/edges including also quality of changes in direction (skating forwards and backwards), quality and variety of shapes/configurations, quality of spacing/distance between skaters (closeness), quality of holds, speed, flow, unison (including free foot placement, arms movement etc.), quality of a control of rotation including quality of change of rotation (clockwise to counter clockwise), quality of steps used while changing direction (rotation), quality of traveling.
3. Line: Quality of basic skating, steps, turns/edges including also quality of changes in direction (skating forwards and backwards), quality and variety of shapes/configurations, quality of

spacing/distance between skaters (closeness) and lines, quality of holds, speed, flow, unison (including free foot placement, arms movement etc.), quality of pivoting.

4. Wheel: Quality of basic skating, steps, turns/edges including also quality of changes in direction (skating forwards and backwards), quality and variety of shapes / configurations, quality of spacing/distance between skaters (closeness), quality of holds, speed, flow, unison (including free foot placement, arms movement etc.), quality of a control of rotation including quality of change of rotation - clockwise to counter clockwise, quality of steps used while changing direction (rotation), quality of traveling.

5. Intersection: Quality of basic skating/edges including also quality of changes in direction (skating forwards and backwards), quality and variety of shapes/formations pattern, quality of spacing/distance between skaters (closeness), quality of holds, speed, flow, unison (including free foot placement, arms movement etc.), quality of turns, moves, steps at the point of intersection, timing at the point of intersection.

6. Spin: Quality of spacing / distance between skaters (closeness), quality of entry/exit, quality of entry speed, speed of rotation, quality of centering, unison in spinning and body movements, quality of body position.

7. Movements in Isolation: Quality of basic skating, steps, turns/edges including also quality of changes in direction (skating forwards and backwards), quality and variety of shapes/configurations, quality of spacing/distance between isolated movements and skaters, quality of holds and change of holds, speed, flow, unison (including free foot placement, arms movement etc.), quality of used free skate moves and free skate elements, carriage of the skaters in isolation (lifted skaters), quality of symmetry, quality of jumps and lifts.

8. Pair element: Quality of spacing/distance between pairs (closeness), quality of basic skating, steps, turns/edges, flow, unison (including free foot placement, arms movement etc.) quality of used free skate moves and free skate elements, quality of body position.

9. Transitions: Quality of Transitions within an Element (between formations): speed, quality and time to set up a new formation, the distance teams move apart from each other during a transition, type and quality of connecting steps.

B. In marking the components of the free skate program, the following must be considered:

1. Skating Skills
 - a. Definition: Overall skating quality: 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.
 - b. Criteria:
 - i. Balance and rhythmic knee action and precision of foot placement
 - ii. Flow and effortless glide
 - iii. Cleanness and sureness of deep edges, steps and turns
 - iv. Power/energy and acceleration
 - v. Multidirectional skating
 - vi. Balance in skating ability of individual skaters
2. Transitions(Linking Steps, Formations and other connecting elements)
 - a. Definition: The varied and/or intricate footwork (steps), and formations linking all synchronized skating elements, including the entrances and exits of elements. The transitions can also be seamless and fast.
 - b. Criteria:
 - i. Variety

- ii. Difficulty (including Unison)
- iii. Quality
- iv. Intricacy
- v. Variation of speed of linking steps/formations
- vi. Variation of changes of directions and holds
- vii. Difficulty and variety of entrances/exits from elements/preparation phase

3. Performance/Execution

a. Definition:

Performance: The involvement of the team (skaters) physically, emotionally and intellectually as they translate the intent of the music and the choreography.

Execution: The quality of movement and precision in delivery. This also includes a harmony of movements

b. Criteria:

- i. Physical, emotional and intellectual involvement
- ii. Carriage and body alignment
- iii. Style and teams personality
- iv. Clarity of movement
- v. Variety and contrast
- vi. Projection
- vii. Unison, synchronization and spatial awareness
- viii. Balance in performance within a team; relationship between skaters

4. Choreography/Composition

a. Definition: An intentional, developed and/or original arrangement of all types of movements according to the principles of proportion, unity, space, pattern, structure and phrasing.

b. Criteria:

- i. Purpose—idea, concept, vision
- ii. Proportion—equal weight of parts of the program
- iii. Unity—purposeful threading
- iv. Utilization of personal and public space
- v. Pattern and ice coverage
- vi. Phrasing and form—movements and parts structured to match the phrasing of the music
- vii. Originality of purpose, movement and design
- viii. Shared responsibility in achieving purpose

5. Interpretation

a. Definition: The personal and creative translation of the music to movement on ice.

b. Criteria:

- i. Effortless movement in time to the music (timing)
- ii. Expression of music's style, character and rhythm
- iii. Use of finesse to reflect the nuances of the music. Finesse is the team's refined, artful manipulation of nuances. Nuances are the personal, artistic ways of bringing subtle variations to the intensity, tempo, and dynamics of music made by the composer and/or the musicians.
- iv. Relationship between the partners reflecting the character of the music.

385. APPROVED

Synchronized Team Skating Committee

Rules 4681, 4691, 4701, 4711, 4721, 4731, 4741, 4751, 4761, 4771, 4781 and 4791 Well-Balanced Free skate (pages 185-188) to replace the existing wording of the current well-balanced programs with the proposed wording in items A through L of this request for action:

Item A Novice Well-Balanced Program

Delete the wording of Rule 4681 and replace with the following:

A well balanced novice free skate program must contain the following seven (7) elements:

- One (1) block element
- One (1) circle element
- Two (2) intersection elements
- One (1) line element
- One (1) wheel element
- One (1) movement in isolation

Item B Intermediate Well-Balanced Program

Delete the wording of Rule 4691 and replace with the following:

A well balanced intermediate free skate program must contain the following seven (7) elements:

- One (1) block element
- One (1) circle element
- Two (2) intersection elements
- One (1) line element
- One (1) wheel element
- One (1) movement in isolation

Item C Juvenile Well-Balanced Program

Delete the wording of Rule 4701 and replace with the following:

A well balanced juvenile free skate program must contain the following six (6) elements:

- One (1) block element
- One (1) circle element
- Two (2) intersection elements
- One (1) line element
- One (1) wheel element

Item D Preliminary Well-Balanced Program

Delete the wording of Rule 4711 and replace with the following:

A well balanced preliminary free skate program must contain the following five (5) elements:

- One (1) block element
- One (1) circle element
- One (1) intersection element (forwards only)
- One (1) line element
- One (1) wheel element

Item E Collegiate Well-Balanced Program

Delete the wording of Rule 4721 and replace with the following:

A well balanced collegiate free skate program must contain the following eleven (11) elements:

- One (1) block element
- One (1) circle element
- Two (2) intersection elements
- One (1) line element
- One (1) wheel element
- Two (2) movements in isolation
- One (1) no hold step sequence
- One (1) spin element
- One (1) pair element

Item F Adult Well-Balanced Program

Delete the wording of Rule 4731 and replace with the following:

A well balanced adult free skate program must contain the following seven (7) elements:

- One (1) block element
- One (1) circle element
- Two (2) intersection elements
- One (1) line element
- One (1) wheel element
- One (1) movement in isolation

Item G Masters Well-Balanced Program

Delete the wording of Rule 4741 and replace with the following:

A well balanced masters free skate program must contain the following six (6) elements:

- One (1) block element
- One (1) circle element
- Two (2) intersection elements
- One (1) line element
- One (1) wheel element

Item H Junior Classic Well-Balanced Program

Delete the wording of Rule 4751 and replace with the following:

A well balanced junior classic free skate program must contain the following nine (9) elements:

- One (1) block element
- One (1) circle element
- Two (2) intersection elements
- One (1) line element
- One (1) wheel element
- One (1) movements in isolation
- One (1) no hold step sequence
- One (1) spin element

Item I Youth Introductory Well-Balanced Program

Delete the wording of Rule 4761 and replace with the following:

A well balanced youth introductory free skate program must contain the following five (5) elements:

- One (1) block element
- One (1) circle element
- One (1) intersection element (forwards only)
- One (1) line element
- One (1) wheel element

Item J Teen Introductory Well-Balanced Program

Delete the wording of Rule 4771 and replace with the following:

A well balanced teen introductory free skate program must contain the following five (5) elements:

- One (1) block element
- One (1) circle element
- One (1) intersection element
- One (1) line element
- One (1) wheel element

Item K Adult Introductory Well-Balanced Program

Delete the wording of Rule 4781 and replace with the following:

A well balanced adult introductory free skate program must contain the following five (5) elements:

- One (1) block element
- One (1) circle element
- One (1) intersection element
- One (1) line element
- One (1) wheel element

Item L Collegiate Introductory Well-Balanced Program

Delete the wording of Rule 4791 and replace with the following:

A well balanced collegiate introductory free skate program must contain the following five (5) elements:

- One (1) block element
- One (1) circle element
- One (1) intersection element
- One (1) line element
- One (1) wheel element

386. APPROVED

Synchronized Team Skating Committee

Rules 4750, 4760, 4770, 4780 and 4790 (pages 187-188) amend to reflect the following names changes

For complete summary of all synchronized changes see Appendix D in the meeting book

- A: For rule 4750 and throughout the rulebook, replace the term Junior Classic with Open Junior.
- B.: For rule 4760, and throughout the rulebook, replace the term Youth Introductory with Pre-juvenile.
- C.: For rule 4770, and throughout the rulebook, replace the term Teen Introductory with Open Juvenile.
- D.: For rule 4780, and throughout the rulebook, replace the term Adult Introductory with Open Adult.
- E.: For rule 4790, and throughout the rulebook, replace the term Collegiate Introductory with Open Collegiate.

387. APPROVED

Synchronized Team Skating Committee

Rule 4790 (page 188) amend to change the program duration for collegiate introductory from 2:30 minutes to 3:00 minutes.

389. APPROVED [later modified by the Governing Council]

Synchronized Team Skating Committee

Rule 4720 (page 186) to amend by changing the test requirement for the collegiate level from None to the Preliminary Moves in the field test in the 2005-2006 season and Juvenile Moves in the Field test to begin in the 2006-2007 season.

391. APPROVED

Synchronized Team Skating Committee

Rule 4700 (page 185) amend to change the age requirement for juvenile from 11 years of age or younger to 12 years of age or younger.

392. APPROVED [later modified by the Governing Council]

Synchronized Team Skating Committee

Change the moves in the field test requirements as follows:

Item	Rule	Level	Current Requirement	Proposed Requirement
A	4660	Senior	Intermediate	Novice
B	4670	Junior	Juvenile	Intermediate
C	4680	Novice	Pre Juvenile	Juvenile
D	4690	Intermediate	Preliminary	Pre Juvenile
E	4700	Juvenile	Pre Preliminary	Preliminary
F	4730	Adult	None	Preliminary or Adult Bronze Moves, <u>or Preliminary Dance or Preliminary Figures</u>
G	4720	Collegiate	None	Preliminary to 2005-2006 and Juvenile to begin 2006-2007
H	4750	Junior Classic	None	Preliminary
I	4770	Teen Introductory	None	Pre Preliminary