



## Answers to Questions from Conference Call November 8, 2005

Answers provided by Charlie Cyr, Gale Tanger, David Kirby & Scott Davis

The following are clarifications on issues that have been brought up by coaches, skaters, officials, etc. They have been answered to the best of our ability with the resources we presently have. Diligence has been given to the answers provided though, at times, interpretations have varied even between members of the Technical Committees, which can bring some degree of frustration.

U.S. Figure Skating has been proactive in bringing the most recent clarifications/ interpretations to all interested parties. As we all know, this system is dynamic and not static in structure or in stature. With that said, changes will be inevitable after World Championships and more so after the ISU Congress in June. Please keep checking U.S. Figure Skating Online for the most up-to-date information.

Thank you for your time, effort, and interest in moving this wonderful sport forward.

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**To all sectional coaches:** if you have questions about element calls during your sectional championships, please approach the technical controller. Do not ask questions of the technical specialist or the referee. The lead people on the new ISU judging system for sectionals will be Mary Cook (Easterns), David Kirby (Midwesterns), and Charlie Cyr (Pacific Coasts).

### All Disciplines

1. For sectionals, are we to provide the program elements for the skater so the caller can call them according to what time they occur in the program?

**A: All sectional competitors do need to complete a program content form, but they do not need to submit element times.**

2. To get credit for a Biellmann position does the skater's foot need to be directly over her/his head?

**A: To get credit for a Biellmann position, the skaters foot must be higher than the head, so in the example of a spin or spiral position, if someone were to measure from the ice to the top of the head and again to the bottom of the foot, there would be a greater distance between the foot and the ice than there would be from the top of the head to the ice. The foot does not need to be directly over the skater's head to be considered a Biellmann position.**

3. Can a Biellmann be done holding the foot with one hand or two hands?

**A: Yes.**

4. If there is a rule protest at a sectional championship, will U.S. Figure Skating follow the rules of the ISU as outlined in ISU Communication 1350?

**A: Yes. There will also be ongoing result audits during sectionals and the U.S. Championships to ensure the accuracy of the calls, data entry, and calculations.**

5. Will there be video replay at sectionals?

**A: The technical panel will have video replay; the judges will not.**

## **Singles and/or Pairs**

6. When does the half-way bonus commence for a singles or pairs free skate? Is it based on the actual length of the skater's program or the prescribed time?

**A: The bonus commences based on the prescribed program time for the discipline and level. For example, for a novice ladies free skate, with a prescribed time of 3 minutes, plus or minus 10 seconds, the bonus would commence at 1 minute and 30 seconds for each skater.**

## **Step Sequence**

7. Is a school figure loop in a short program straight line footwork sequence considered retrogression?

**A: It would not be considered retrogression as long as it is small – a true school figure loop.**

8. What is the reduction for retrogression?

**A: the reduction for retrogression would be -2.**

9. Is the footwork going to be judged in thirds, (to get credit for level two or three, a good deal of the more difficult turns, etc. must be shown in the first third)?

**A: No, ice will not be divided into thirds. The information provided on the last call in regards to thirds was simply a suggestion, not a rule. Different callers use different techniques to determine equal distribution. David Kirby uses halves, so if the skater does three steps in the first half of the sequence, then he/she must do three steps in the second half of the sequence to achieve credit for variety of steps and turns. Steps must be within the defined pattern to count in the step sequence. The steps do not have to be the same. As a suggestion, don't wait too long to show the variety of steps and turns if you want the sequence to be called at a higher level.**

**There have been or will be conference calls with the technical specialists for all three sectional competitions and they are being instructed to view the step sequences in halves.**

10. What constitute steps?

**A: Examples of steps are progressives, toe steps, chasses, cross roles, and running steps used in multiple directions. Crossovers don't count as steps. A cross cut could be considered a progressive if it has a running action/rhythm.**

11. When a technical panel reviews a footwork sequence, how do they review it?

**A: The step sequence will be reviewed in slow motion. Two people will review it. One will look at the steps and turns. One will look at the direction, upper body movement, and changes of speed.**

## Spins

12. If a novice pair team does a flying camel, back sit (both on back outside edge) and rises to a forward inside scratch spin (on the same foot), will that be considered a change of edge, or must the team show a back outside edge also on the scratch spin?

**A: To get the bullet for a change of edge a skater or team (at any level) must do the position on one edge for at least two revolutions, and then hold the same position on the other edge for at least two revolutions. (The edge can change from inside to outside or outside to inside to receive credit). So in this specific situation, the team would have to do the scratch spin for two revolutions on the inside edge and at least two revolutions on the outside edge to get credit for the change of edge.**

13. Is a pancake spin considered an upright or a variation of a sit position? Also, is it considered a difficult variation?

**A: A pancake spin is considered a difficult variation. If the angle of the bend in the skating leg is 90 degrees or less, it would be considered a difficult variation of a sit spin. If the angle of the skating leg is greater than 90 degrees, it would be considered a difficult variation of an upright spin.**

**This is an important distinction if one is trying to do a difficult variation of a sit spin for their spin in one position. If the skater does the sit spin, and then changes to a difficult variation, and the angle of the bend in the skating leg becomes greater than 90 degrees, this is no longer considered to be a difficult variation of a sit position, but instead is considered a new position and the spin would be called a combination spin.**

14. Is a tuck spin (reverse pancake) considered an upright or a variation of a sit position, and is it considered a difficult variation?

**A: A tuck spin is considered a difficult variation. For clarification on whether it is considered a difficult variation of an upright or a difficult variation of a sit position, please see the answer to question 13 above.**

15. Is a haircutter spin in a layback considered a difficult variation?

**A: A haircutter spin is defined as a variation of a layback position where the skater brings the foot to the head, but does not pull it above her/his head into a Biellmann position. This is considered a difficult variation as long as the skater pulls the skate all the way to her/his head.**

16. Is the death drop still getting a feature for obtaining a difficult variation of air or landing position?

**A: Yes.**

17. In a sit position, a skater grabs the outside of his/her leg and twists the core in the opposite direction from which he/she is spinning and then rises up to more of an upright spin. Is this considered a difficult variation?

**A: Yes, but the body core must really be twisted.**

18. To obtain the feature in a combination spin of both directions immediately following each other, do the positions that are back to back have to be the same? For example, would a camel, sit, layback, back sit, upright into a camel the opposite way count or do the camels have to be back to back?

**A: The back to back positions can be different. So the example above (layback, back sit, upright in one direction and then a camel in the other direction) would receive the bullet for both directions immediately following each other as long as there are a minimum of three revolutions in each direction.**

19. If a skater changes from a front sit to a back sit with a jump, or does a jump during a back sit, would that be considered a difficult variation or change of foot?

**A: No. A jump in a spin is not a feature except for a jump from a back camel to a forward sit spin.**

20. How does a caller determine if something qualifies as a feature in a spin?

**A: The caller will look at three things:**  
1) **does it take extra flexibility,**  
2) **does it take additional strength,**  
3) **or does it change the body core.**

21. Can a skater get credit for a change of edge and a difficult variation of position on the same two revolutions?

**A: Yes, if all the other requirements for both features are fulfilled.**

### **Jumps**

22. There is obviously no point in doing more than two listed jumps in a sequence since only the two highest vales receive credit. Is this correct?

**A: This is correct. It is a waste of energy to do more than two jumps in a jump sequence.**

### **Singles**

#### **Jumps**

23. Can a novice, junior or senior skater do three or more double Axels as long as they are in combination or sequence?

**A: For junior and senior free skates, there is no limit to the number of double jump repetitions, so the answer would be 'yes', a junior or senior skater could do three or more double Axels in a program. Keep in mind, though, that skaters are still limited by the number of jump elements (seven for junior and senior ladies, eight for junior and senior men).**

**For novice, no double jump may be repeated more than once, and no more than three different double jumps may be repeated in the program. So the answer would be 'no', a novice skater cannot do three or more double Axels in a program. The skater can do two double Axels as long as one of the two is in a jump combination or sequence.**

24. Is there a limit on double jumps that are used as part of a sequence in novice?

**A: No, there is no limit; but as addressed in question 22 above, only the two highest-valued jumps will receive any credit.**

25. In novice, can a skater do a double loop-double loop combination and then repeat the double loop in another combination? If they have a double axel-double toe combination, could they do a double flip-double toe-double toe combination later in the program?

A: The answer to both situations for novice (and below) is 'no'. No double jump may be repeated more than once. In both these situations, the skater is repeating a double jump twice.

26. How will extra jumps be penalized at sectionals?

**A: Under the IJS, the system will not accept jumps beyond what is allowed. There is no deduction, but the extra jump(s) will receive no credit. So, for example, if a novice lady did a double loop-double loop combination and then later did a solo double loop, the solo double loop would receive no points.**

### Spiral Step Sequences

27. October 4, 2005 clarifications page 4 states that a back inside spiral is a feature NOT a requirement. Is this correct because we have been told it is a requirement.

**A: A back inside spiral is not a requirement for a spiral step sequence. It is, however, a requirement for the feature of *three spiral positions on both feet, forward & backward, inside and outside, including back inside.***

28. A girl holds her free leg in a spiral and does a change of edge for the required three seconds. Does this fulfill the unsupported change of edge spiral? Unsupported in the clarification refers to the free leg not dropping below hip not the hand holding up the leg.

**A: Unsupported does not refer to the free leg being held or not held, it refers to the edge being changed without assistance from another part of the body, so the answer to question 20 is 'yes', if a skater holds an edge in a spiral position for three seconds, and then changes edge and holds the position after the change for an additional three seconds, and the free leg stays above the hip (regardless of whether the leg is being held), the skater would get credit for the unsupported change of edge.**

29. An observation: I do not think the callers are starting to count the spirals (three seconds) until the leg is in the final position. Clarification states that the time starts when the free leg goes above the hip. Does this apply in a Biellmann? In other words, as the leg goes above the head does the count begin or does the caller wait until the skater grabs the blade?

**A: The video panel used by the technical specialists has a counter on it, and this is what they use to determine the counts of timed elements (spiral positions and dance lifts). To get credit for a spiral position (to fulfill the requirement of a spiral step sequence) the count begins when the leg passes above the hip level. To receive credit for a difficult variation of a position, the difficult variation must be held in position for at least three seconds.**

## Spins

30. Bullet in October 4, 2005 clarifications page 3 states that the flying sit spin in the junior short program must land in a sit position. Do they mean that it can be a broken leg landing position as this constitutes a difficult variation?

**A: Yes.**

31. Is it a deduction to have more than one change of foot in the combination spin for a novice ladies short program?

**A: The rule clearly states that there can only be one change of foot. So in the IJS, there would be a reduction of -2 by the judges.**

32. In novice men, can a spin in one position be commenced with a flying entry? Can the one position spin end with an upright, or must there be an immediate exit?

**A: All spins in the free skate (any level) can be commenced with a flying entry, including the spin with one position. In the novice men's short program, the spin with one position may commence with a jump, by rule.**

**The concluding upright position at the end of the spin is not considered to be another position if does not exceed 3 revolutions, and the revolutions executed in it are not to be counted in the required number of revolutions. Variations of the position of the head, arms or free leg, as well as fluctuations of speed are permitted (ISU Communication 1319, pg. 1).**

33. Can the combination spin in a short program commence with a jump?

**A: No. Except flying spins, spins cannot be commenced with a jump. This is per ISU Communication 1319, pg. 1. This applies to all ladies and men's short programs (novice through senior) in U.S. Figure Skating events.**

## **Pairs**

### Death Spiral

34. Can the girl put her free hand on the boot of her partner in a death spiral?

**A: No. The hand would be considered a support by the lady, and this is not allowed according to ISU rule 1313, and U.S. Figure Skating rules 4041, section 6 and 4042, sect. 8.**

### Side by Side Jumps

35. If both members of a pair team fall on side by side jumps is the reduction 1 or 2?

**A: The reduction in the element would be -1.**

### Spiral Step Sequence

36. For pair spiral step sequences, you do not have to have a partner in a spiral position at all times. See ISU Communication 1319, pg. 4, for more details about pair spiral step sequence requirements.