

SYS 2019 - 2020 Guidelines for Technical Panel and Judging Feedback/Critique/Monitoring

FEEDBACK CRITIQUE

An explanation of technical calls and/or judging feedback at the conclusion of an event segment at non-qualifying competitions or qualifying competitions. (*Below, see General Reminders for specific caveats.*)

Non-qualifying competitions or independent/stand-alone feedback critique sessions may require additional fees. These additional fees do not preclude officials from participating.

- It is appropriate for an official (technical and/or judge) to provide feedback at non-qualifying competitions and independent/stand-alone feedback critiques **if the feedback critique is open and offered to all skaters/teams** (irrespective if the feedback critique requires additional fees).
- At the sectional championships, after **ALL segments** of an event **have concluded** and results have been posted, the technical controller may provide feedback regarding the technical calls to all skaters/teams advancing to the US Synchronized Skating Championships.

This designation applies to U.S. Figure Skating sponsored Synchro Regional/Sectional Monitoring Sessions.

Additionally, this designation applies to feedback critiques hosted as independent/stand-alone events which are not associated nor held in conjunction with a competition.

The event must be offered to all skaters/teams.

PRIVATE CRITIQUE

A special **private request** to an official (technical and/or judge) requesting that the official attend a **private** session (i.e., **NOT** available to all skaters/teams) for evaluations and suggestions.

This designation does not apply to non-qualifying competitions nor independent/stand-alone feedback critique events when the feedback critiques are offered to all skaters/teams.

- Technical Panel Officials may not attend a private critique for skaters/teams who will be competing in a qualifying event to which the official has been assigned for a period of time as follows:
 - a. **Sectionals:** 30 days prior to the start of the event
 - b. **Nationals:** 60 days prior to the start of the event
- Judges may not attend a private critique for skaters/teams who will be testing or competing in a test session/event to which the official has been assigned for a period of time as follows:
 - a. **Tests:** 15 days prior to the start of the test session
 - b. **Non-qualifying:** 15 days prior to the start of the event
 - c. **Sectionals:** 30 days prior to the start of the event
 - d. **Nationals:** 30 days prior to the start of the event

MONITORING

A session for the purpose of evaluation for ISP consideration or international readiness.

- Officials (technical and/or judge) may monitor skaters/teams in spite of the aforementioned private critique embargo periods, if the monitoring is requested by the High-Performance Committee Chair, International Committee and/or International Committee – Synchronized Skating Subcommittee.

GENERAL REMINDERS

- Officials may not be paid for providing feedback critique, private critique, or monitoring, but may be reimbursed according to the U.S. Figure Skating Travel and Expense Policy.
- After any non-qualifying or qualifying event is concluded, any questions regarding technical panel calls must be directed to the technical controller of the event.
It is inappropriate for any other member on the panel to provide this information.
- A feedback critique can be conducted after any event segment **ONLY** at non-qualifying competitions, **if the feedback critique is offered to all skaters/teams in that event** (irrespective if the feedback critique requires additional fees.)
- **If the feedback critique is not offered to all skaters/teams** at a non-qualifying competition, it is **not** appropriate for a coach to contact the technical controller/judge, until **ALL** event segments are concluded.
- Officials should have the most recent documents and reference them if needed during the feedback and/or private critique (i.e. **ISU Communication(s), ISU Technical Panel Handbook, calling clarifications, marking guides and program requirements**).
- When possible, officials conducting feedback critiques should include a judge and the technical controller or assistant technical specialist from the event.
- **It is mandatory that all feedback critiques/private critiques/monitoring abide by the U.S. Figure Skating SafeSport Guidelines regarding two-deep leadership.**
- Do not speculate on clarifications yet to be determined. If you are unsure of an answer, offer to submit the question to the appropriate discipline vice chair on the Technical Panel Officials Subcommittee of the Domestic Officials Recruitment and Management Committee (DORM).
- Do not engage in speculation of past competitions when a coach/skaters/teams states they received higher levels on particular elements.
- When interacting with individual skaters and/or teams, the official's role is to be constructive. Officials should state what was done well along with pointing out elements that did not meet criteria. It is not appropriate to 'teach' the skaters/teams how to achieve feature criteria.
- It is not appropriate for officials to comment on the ability of the coach or choreographer.
- Technical Notifications and clarifications will continue to be posted on the U.S. Figure Skating website.
- **Feedback critiques that follow these guidelines do not create any conflicts of interest and do not limit an official from serving in a future event regardless of the time period between the end of the feedback critique and the start of the next competition to which the official is assigned.**