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

**FEEDBACK CRITIQUE**

**Feedback Critique:** An explanation of technical calls and/or judging feedback at the conclusion of an event segment at a non-qualifying competition or qualifying competition. Non-qualifying competitions may offer on-ice feedback critiques that require an additional fee.

- It is appropriate for a technical official and/or judge to provide feedback at non-qualifying competitions if the feedback critique is offered to all of the skaters/teams in the event.
- 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 teams advancing to the US Synchronized National Championships.

**PRIVATE CRITIQUE**

**Private Critique:** A special private request by a coach to an official (technical and/or judge) requesting that the official attend a session with skaters/teams for evaluations and suggestions. This does not apply to non-qualifying competitions when 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**

**Monitoring:** A session with skaters/teams for the purpose of evaluation for ISP consideration or international readiness.

- Officials may monitor skaters/teams prior to international competitions if requested by the High Performance Committee Chair, International Committee, 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.
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- 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 on 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 (page 17 of the SafeSport Handbook).

- Do not speculate on clarifications yet to be determined. If you are unsure of an answer, offer to take the coach’s email address and submit the question to the appropriate discipline vice chair on the Technical Panel Officials Subcommittee of the Domestic Officials Recruitment and Management Committee for an accurate answer.

- Do not engage in conversation or speculation of past competitions when a coach/skaters/teams states they have 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.

- The official’s role is to provide information regarding the elements skated according to criteria. It is not appropriate for officials to comment on the ability of the coach or choreographer.

- Additional information 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.