

2025 – 26 Judging Reminders – Pairs

These reminders should not replace your general review of our current rules, ISU Communications, and Technical Notifications. In preparation for your events, please review and refer to:

- **ISU Communications #2701**
- **2025 – 2026 Pairs Short Program and Free Skate Requirements**
- **Program Components Overview (from ISU 2701)**
- **2025 – 2026 Singles & Pairs Changes & Clarifications for GOE and PCS**

Pairs skating is **the skating of two persons in unison who perform movements in such harmony with each other as to give the impression of genuine pair skating.**

Short Program Requirements:

- Novice Pairs SP: Any group 3 – 5 lift take-offs
- Junior Pairs SP: Any group 5 lift take-off; Double or Triple T/F/Lz throw jump; 2Lo or 2A solo jump; BiDs
- Senior Pairs SP: Any group 5 lift take-off; BiDs

GOE Reminders

GOE criteria are evaluated cumulatively – meaning that you add together **both positive factors and reductions** (or negative factors) to determine a single GOE.

There is **one mandatory -5 GOE** when the **jump element is not according to SP requirements with an ***

In Pair Skating **the reduction applied for a mistake of one partner or the same mistake by both partners remains the same.**

GOEs are at your discretion but **significant GOE errors with a grey background** on GOE reductions for errors **must not have higher than +2 starting GOE.**

Significant GOE errors and no higher than +2 starting GOE:

Lifts		Twist Lifts	
Error	Reduction	Error	Reduction
Fall	-5	Fall	-5
Serious problems in the lifting process	-3	Serious problems on the catch	-3 to -4
Serious problems on the descent of the lift	-3 to -4	Woman lands on two feet	-2 to -3
		Downgraded (sign <=)	-2 to -4

Jump Elements, Throw Jumps: Significant GOE errors and no higher than +2 starting GOE:

Error	Reduction	Error	Reduction
Fall	-5	Multiple 'q' signs in jump combo/seq	-3 to -4
Landing on two feet in a jump	-3 to -4	Wrong edge take off F/Lz (sign "e")	-2 to -4
Stepping out of landing in a jump	-3 to -4	FS: Jump with no value in combo/seq (Not with *)	-3 to -4
Downgraded (sign <=)	-3 to -4	Unequal number of revolutions by partners in one jump	-1 to -2
		Unequal number of revolutions by partners in two or more jumps	-3 to -4

- For **pair jump elements**, also be mindful of pair specific issues:
 - man's position at take-off for throw jumps (**man's poor position -1 to -2**)
 - **big distance** between partners for jump elements (**-1 to -3**)

Death Spirals: Significant GOE errors and no higher than +2 starting GOE:

Error	Reduction
Fall	-5

- For death spiral, if the woman has less than 1 revolution in a low position (-1 to -3).

Solo and Pair Spins, Steps, and Choreographic Sequence: Significant GOE errors and no higher than +2 starting GOE are the same in Singles/Pairs (see 2025 – 26 Judges Reminders for Singles)

- For **pair spins**, the lady is allowed to be lifted from the ice during the spin, but the man must stay on one foot. The revolutions executed while the lady is being lifted count to the total number of revolutions.
- For **spins**, watch for a **big distance** between partners and **lack of unison (-1 to -3)**.
- For **steps**, watch for a **lack of unison and spatial awareness (-1 to -3)**.
- For **choreographic sequences**, watch for a **lack of connection between choreographic movements (-2 to -3)**.

For **ALL** Elements: **Element executed fully or partly when music is not playing GOE Reduction -1 to -4**

Review guidelines for marking positive GOEs.

- To award a **+4** or **+5** GOE, the first three bullets in bold **MUST** be present for each element.

Lifts	Jump Elements
1. Very good take-off and landing	1. Very good unison
2. Good speed, flow, and ice coverage	2. Very good height and length
3. Effortless throughout, including rotation and change of position	3. Effortless throughout, including rhythm in jump combo or sequence
Twist Lifts	Throw Jumps
1. Good height of woman in air position	1. Very good height and distance
2. Clean catch	2. Good speed, flow, and control on release and landing
3. Effortless throughout	3. Effortless throughout
Pair Spin	Death Spiral
1. Good control throughout by both partners	1. Very good positions by both partners
2. Good speed and/or acceleration during spin	2. Good flow and speed, including entry and exit
3. Effortless throughout	3. Effortless throughout

- **Skaters at all levels can receive positive GOEs**, including +4 and +5, when elements are executed well (even simple elements like single jumps) **and meet the associated criteria**.

Component Reminders

Composition, Presentation, and Skating Skills for all levels.

- Components are evaluated on an **absolute scale from 0.25 – 10, in increments of 0.25**; there are **no “ranges” for different levels** of skaters.
- **ALL the criteria** for each component should be considered when determining how to arrive at the appropriate component mark (for definitions and all criteria see ISU #2701 or 2025 – 26 Singles Judging Reminders).

Component	Pairs Specific Criteria
Composition	-
Presentation	Oneness and awareness of space
Skating Skills	Unison

- There must be an **equal demonstration of the criteria by both skaters**. If the skaters in a team are of unequal quality, your marks should reflect the overall quality of the team which **may or may not be an average of their individual quality**.
- **Each component should be evaluated independently**.
- Component marks should reflect how the pairs team performs each component that day.

Definition	If there is/are:	Final Component Mark
Serious errors are “falls and/or mistakes which result in a break in the delivery of the program. This break can be minimal or more pronounced and noticeable. These errors must be reflected in the mark awarded for each program component. The consequence depends on the severity and impact they have on the fluidity and continuity of the program.”	One Serious Error	9.50 Max Score
	Multiple Serious Errors	8.75 Max Score

- Note: an **error by both partners**, happening **at the same time or not** (e.g., fall by 2) is **TWO errors**.