

Who is responsible for Deductions?

Variations from ISU Rules are in Blue Font

U.S. Figure Skating Juvenile, Intermediate, Novice and All Adult Pattern Dance and Free Dance Events 2025-26

Description	Penalty	Who is responsible
Program time violation – free dance – as per Rules 8040 and 8041	-0.5 for up to every 5 sec. lacking or in excess	Referee
Program time violation – pattern dance – as per Rule 8032 and the Timing Chart for Skater's Choice Pattern Dance Music	-0.5 for up to every 5 sec. in excess of permitted time after the last prescribed step in the pattern dance to the ending movement/pose	Referee
Part of the costume / decoration falls on the ice – as per Rule 8026	-0.5 per program	Referee
Late start – as per Rule 1323 – for start between 1 and 30 seconds late	-0.5	Referee
Interruption in performing the program – for every interruption <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - more than 10 sec. and up to 20 sec. interruption - more than 20 sec. and up to 30 sec. interruption - more than 30 sec. and up to 40 sec. interruption <p>An interruption is defined as the time elapsed between the moment a skater stops performing the program until the moment he resumes performing the program (Rule 1403)</p>	-0.5 per interruption -1.0 per interruption -1.5 per interruption	Referee If the adverse condition can be remedied without delay, the couple does not need to report to the referee, and the music continues to play. If the couple resumes skating within 40 seconds, the referee will apply the appropriate deduction.
Interruption with allowance of up to 3 minutes to resume from point of interruption – once per program (Rule 1403)	-1.5 per program	Referee If the couple does not resume skating within 40 seconds, the referee shall instruct the music to be stopped and allow the couple three additional minutes. If the couple resumes skating within this additional period, the referee shall apply this deduction, which also covers an interruption of up to 40 seconds immediately preceding the allowance of 3 additional minutes.
Lift exceeding permitted duration – per lift exceeding 8 sec (short lift), 10 sec (choreo. lift) or 13 sec (combo. Lift)	-0.5 per lift	Referee
Tempo specifications – according to Rule 8031 Tempo: the tempo throughout the required sequences must be constant and in accordance with the required tempo of the pattern dance, plus or minus 2 beats per minute.	-0.5 per program	Referee
Costume / prop violations – as per Rule 8020-8026	-0.5 per program	Majority deduction Referee + Judges
Music requirements Free Dance – as per Rule 8095 (E) (For season 2025-26, "Audible Beat" is not required)	-1.0 per program	Majority deduction Referee + Judges
Music requirements Pattern Dance – according to Rules 8031 and 8032 : (Rhythms): the music must be chosen in accordance with the rhythm of the pattern dance.	-1.0 per program	Majority deduction Referee + Judges
Violation of choreographic restrictions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Pattern Dance: Touching the ice is not permitted (except during Quickstep + Choreographic Element" when touching the ice is permitted).</u> • Free Dance: as per Rule 8095 (H) separations, (J) stops and (L) touching the ice with hands, unless otherwise specified in the U.S. Figure Skating Rulebook. In addition, Rule 8095 (C): The program must utilize the full ice surface. <u>Touching the barrier is not permitted.</u> 	-0.5 per program	Majority deduction Referee + Judges

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Illegal Elements / Movements – as per Rule 8108 The following movements and/or poses are illegal in the free dance and in the pattern dances including the introductory and concluding steps (unless otherwise stated in the U.S. Figure Skating Rulebook): a. Sitting on the partner's head; b. Standing on partner's shoulder; c. Lifted partner in an upside down split pose (with sustained angle between thighs more than 45 degrees) d. Lifting partner swinging the lifted partner around by holding the skate(s)/boot(s) or leg(s) only with fully extended arm(s); e. Lifting partner swinging the lifted partner around without the assistance of hand(s)/arm(s) and the lifted partner holding only with the feet around the lifting partner's neck; f. Point of contact of the lifting hand(s)/arm(s) of the lifting partner with any part of the body of the lifted partner is sustained with fully extended arm(s) higher than the lifting partner's head (the supporting arm may be sustained and fully extended above the head); g. Jumps of more than one (1) revolution except jump entry and/or jump exit h. Lying on the ice. A brief movement through poses a to f will be permitted if it is not established and sustained or if it is used only to change pose.	-1.0 per violation	Technical Panel Technical specialist identifies. Technical controller authorizes or corrects and deducts. If there is an illegal movement during the execution of any element, the deduction for an illegal movement will apply, and the element will receive a level per the requirements performed or ignored if the minimum requirements for Basic Level are not fulfilled.
Fall -- per fall by one partner -- per fall by both partners A fall is defined as loss of control by a skater with the result that the majority of his/her own body weight is on the ice supported by any other part of the body other than the blades e.g. hand(s), knee(s), buttock(s), or any part of the arm (Rule 1400).	-0.5 -1.0	Technical Panel
Extra Element <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>If an extra element is performed inside any element in the rhythm dance and/or free dance when not permitted, +ExEl will be added to that element, and it will receive a deduction.</u> <u>If a lift is performed in addition to the allowed number of lifts, such lift(s) will be identified as extra element(s) ExEl and receive a deduction, e.g. Li+ExEl.</u> For example: If a spin(s) occurs within a step sequence (including ChSt) when not permitted, such spin(s) will be identified as extra element(s) ExEl and receive a deduction, e.g. ChSt1+ExEl. If a lift(s) occurs within a step sequence (including ChSt) when not permitted, such lift(s) will be identified as extra element(s) ExEl and receive a deduction, e.g. ChSt1+ExEl. <u>If during the ChAJ one of the assisted lifting movements is 3 seconds or longer, such lift will be identified as extra element(s) ExEl and receive a deduction, e.g. ChAJ1+ExEl.</u>	-0.5 per element	Technical Panel identifies the element in accordance with calling specifications. The technical controller advises the data operator to add to the respective element ExEl and input the respective deduction.
Element not according to the well-balanced program requirements receives (*) symbol In case there is an incorrect element performed as not according to the requirements (e.g., CiSt instead of a required MiSt/DiSt) or the repetition rule for lifts is violated, the element will receive NO value but will NOT receive a deduction.	Element gets NO value but will NOT receive a deduction	The computer verification identifies elements not according to requirements and applies the asterisk (*). The technical controller verifies and authorizes the call.

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Symbol	Action	Explanation
<	= reduce by 1 level, interruption of 1 measure or less in PD.	If the pattern dance element is interrupted 1 measure or less (4 or 6 beats based on the PD), the key points are called as identified, and the level will be reduced by 1. It is reported on the Judges Details per Skater chart as: "<" to indicate an interruption of 1 measure or less.
<<	= reduce by 2 levels, interruption of more than 1 measure in PD.	If the pattern dance element is interrupted more than 1 measure (4 or 6 beats based on the PD), the key points are called as identified, and the level will be reduced by 2. It is reported on the Judges Details per Skater chart as: "<<" to indicate an interruption of more than 1 measure.
>	= -0.5 deduction for extended dance lift	If the duration of the dance lift is longer than the permitted time, the referee applies the deduction of -0.5. The duration of the lift is confirmed by the referee electronically.
ExEl	= -0.5 deduction	<p>Extra Element</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>If an extra element is performed inside any element in the rhythm dance and/or free dance when not permitted, +ExEl will be added to that element, and it will receive a deduction.</u> <u>If a lift is performed in addition to the allowed number of lifts, such lift(s) will be identified as extra element(s) ExEl and receive a deduction, e.g. Li+ExEl.</u> <p>For example: If a spin(s) occurs within a step sequence (including ChSt) when not permitted, such spin(s) will be identified as extra element(s) ExEl and receive a deduction, e.g. ChSt1+ExEl.</p> <p>If a lift(s) occurs within a step sequence (including ChSt) when not permitted, such lift(s) will be identified as extra element(s) ExEl and receive a deduction, e.g. ChSt1+ExEl.</p> <p><u>If during the ChAJ one of the assisted lifting movements is 3 seconds or longer, such lift will be identified as extra element(s) ExEl and receive a deduction, e.g. ChAJ1+ExEl.</u></p>
*	Element gets NO value but will NOT receive a deduction	<p>Element not according to the well-balanced program requirements (*)</p> <p>If an incorrect element is performed not according to the requirements (e.g., CiSt instead of a required MiSt/DiSt) or the repetition rule for lifts is violated, the element will receive NO value but will NOT receive a deduction.</p>
F	= Fall in element, -0.5 per fall per partner	If there is a fall(s) within an element, this is identified by the technical specialist as a fall in element, and the data operator pushes the respective button "Fall in Element."
Fx	<u>= multiple falls in element, 0.5 per fall per partner</u>	<u>If there are multiple Falls (Fx) within an element, this is identified by the technical specialist as a Fall in Element, and the data operator pushes the respective button "Fall in Element".</u>
S	= reduced by 1 level, if in hold/contact/touch in SqTw	If partners are in hold/contact/touch during the sequential twizzles (FD) the level shall be reduced by 1 level (per each partner) for sequential twizzles.
!	= Choreo element is identified and does not fulfill all requirements	- If a choreographic element is identified and does not fulfill all the requirements, it receives the "!" symbol on the judges screen, and the judges will apply the appropriate GOE per the GOE chart.