

Who is responsible for Deductions?

Variations from ISU Rules are in Blue Font

U.S. Figure Skating Junior and Senior Rhythm Dance and Free Dance Events 2025-26

Description	Penalty	Who is responsible
Program time violation – as per Rules 8040 and 8041	-1.0 for every 5 sec. lacking or in excess	Referee
Tempo specifications – Rhythm Dance: as per Rule 8090 (B)(1)	-1.0 per program	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 the skater resumes performing the program (Rule 1403)</p>	-1.0 per interruption -2.0 per interruption -3.0 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 applicable deduction as per this chart.
Interruption with allowance of up to 3 minutes to resume from point of interruption – once per program (Rule 1403)	-3.0 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 a deduction of 3.0 points as per this chart. This deduction also covers an interruption of up to 40 seconds immediately preceding the allowance of three additional minutes.
Late start – as per Rule 1323 – for start between 1 and 30 seconds late	-1.0	Referee
Part of the costume / decoration falls on the ice – as per Rule 8026	-1.0 per program	Referee
Lift exceeding permitted duration – per lift exceeding 8 sec (short lift), 10 sec (choreo. lift) or 13 sec (combo. lift)	-1.0 per lift	Referee
Music requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rhythm Dance: as per Rule 8090 (B) • Free Dance: as per Rule 8095 (E) 	-2.0 per program	Majority deduction Referee + Judges
Costume / prop violations – as per Rules 8020-8026 Note: prop violation includes using part of the costume as a support in a dance lift. In this case, deduction by referee + judges applies, and technical panel gives the level of the dance lift according to the calling specifications.	-1.0 per program	Majority deduction Referee + Judges
Violation of choreographic restrictions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rhythm Dance: as per Rule 8090 (C) pattern, (F) separations, (G) stops and (I) touching the ice with hands • 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 	-1.0 per program	Majority deduction Referee + Judges
Fall <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- per fall by one partner -- per fall by both partners • Kneeling or sliding on two knees or sitting on the ice is not allowed and it will be considered by the technical panel as a fall (Rule 1400) unless otherwise specified in the U.S. Figure Skating Rulebook. • 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). 	-1.0 -2.0	Technical Panel Technical specialist identifies. Technical controller authorizes or corrects and deducts.

Who is responsible for Deductions?

Variations from ISU Rules are in Blue Font

U.S. Figure Skating Junior and Senior Rhythm Dance and Free Dance Events 2025-26

Description	Penalty	Who is responsible
<p>Illegal Elements / Movements – as per Rule 8108</p> <p>The following movements and/or poses are illegal in rhythm dance and free dance (unless otherwise stated in the U.S. Figure Skating Rulebook):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Sitting on the partner's head; Standing on partner's shoulder; Lifted partner in an upside down split pose (with sustained angle between thighs more than 45 degrees) Lifting partner swinging the lifted partner around by holding the skate(s)/boot(s) or leg(s) only with fully extended arm(s); 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; 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); Jumps of more than one (1) revolution except jump entry and/or jump exit Lying on the ice. <p>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.</p>	-2.0 per violation	<p>Technical Panel</p> <p>Technical specialist identifies. Technical controller authorizes or corrects and deducts. If there is an illegal element/movement/pose 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.</p>
<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:</p> <p>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>	-1.0 deduction	<p>Technical Panel</p> <p>Technical panel identifies the element in accordance with calling specifications.</p> <p>The technical controller advises the data operator to add to the respective element ExEl and input the respective deduction.</p>
<p>Element not according to the well-balanced program requirements receives (*) symbol</p> <p>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.</p>	Element gets NO value but will NOT receive a deduction	<p>The computer verification identifies elements not according to requirements and applies the asterisk (*).</p> <p>The technical controller verifies and authorizes the call.</p>

Who is responsible for Deductions?

Variations from ISU Rules are in Blue Font

U.S. Figure Skating Junior and Senior Rhythm Dance and Free Dance Events 2025-26

Symbol	Action	Explanation
<	= reduce by 1 level, interruption of 1 measure or less in PDE.	If the pattern dance element is interrupted 1 measure or less (4 or 6 beats based on the PDE) – 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 PDE.	If the pattern dance element is interrupted more than 1 measure (4 or 6 beats based on the PDE), 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.
>	= -1.0 deduction for extended dance lift	If the duration of the dance lift is longer than permitted time, the referee applies the deduction of -1.0. The duration of the lift is confirmed by the referee electronically.
ExEl	= -1.0 deduction for "extra element"	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> <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	Element not according to the well-balanced program requirements (*) 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.
F	= Fall in element, -1.0 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 or NOT in hold/contact/touch	If partners are in hold/contact/touch when not permitted or do not stay in hold/contact/touch when required, the level shall be reduced by 1 level (and 1 level per each partner) when applicable.
!	= 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. - If the pattern of both the step sequence and the ChSt are exactly the same (e.g., diagonal step sequence and diagonal ChSt) – junior/senior