

**U.S. FIGURE SKATING
REPORT OF ACTION
taken by the
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
July 20, 2020**

The Board of Directors took the following actions:

1. **APPROVED** amending the qualifying competition rules, as needed, for the 2020-21 U.S. Figure Skating Qualifying Season (singles, pairs, ice dance, synchronized, adult and collegiate) to allow the Competitions Committee, with the support of the Board of Directors and in cooperation with appropriate committees, to implement the reimagined qualifying process within the restrictions of COVID-19. The Competitions Committee will continue to follow the rules as closely as possible, and the 2021 requirements will be published in handbooks on the Members Only site prior to registration launching.
2. **APPROVED – Synchronized Development & Technical Committee**
Amend the “**Technical Requirements – Synchronized Skating**” section of the rulebook (pages 287-314, **Rulebook**) as follows:

Summary of Changes:

- Remove rules already updated and maintained within documents posted on the Members Only site. These can live in a consolidated handbook, updated annually by the Synchronized Skating Development and Technical Committee and include:
 - Short program and well-balanced free skate element lists (age and program lengths to remain in Rulebook)
 - Costume guidelines
 - Deduction charts
- Where possible, combine existing rules to reduce redundancy or improve comprehension, while maintaining the spirit of the rule(s).

Technical Requirements – Synchronized Skating

9000 Synchronized Rules

U.S. Figure Skating reserves the right to incorporate revisions made by the ISU for junior and senior events. U.S. Figure Skating also reserves the right to incorporate revisions made to the junior free skate event into the collegiate event and to incorporate revisions made to the advanced novice free skate event into the novice free skate event. The revisions or clarifications made to the international judging system by the ISU may be adopted by U.S. Figure Skating at its discretion at any time after the revision or clarification is issued. Revisions or clarifications will be posted as Technical Notifications on usfigureskating.org and, when applicable, published in the next U.S. Figure Skating rulebook.

A. The Handbook for Synchronized Skating Technical Rules will document the short program and well-balanced free skate requirements, costume guidelines and deductions. This document will be reviewed by the Synchronized Skating Development and Technical Committee and published on the U.S. Figure Skating Members Only website no later than July 1 each season.

~~AB. Using the list in rule 9062 (E), the chair of the Synchronized Development and Technical Committee, in consultation with the vice chair of development, the vice chair of technical, and the technical panel representative on the Synchronized Development and Technical Committee will prepare the list of determine the well-balanced program free skate elements for levels other than collegiate, novice, junior and senior to correspond with the elements available each year. The list will be published in the Handbook for Synchronized Skating Technical Rules. The list will be published as a Technical Notification on the U.S. Figure Skating website within 45 days of publication of the corresponding ISU Communication.~~

Rules 9001-9011 remain unchanged.

~~**9012** A team is prohibited from chanting and/or cheering while on the ice.~~

Rules 9020-9023 remain unchanged.

9024 The use of hair pins and bobby pins is prohibited while skating in any synchronized skating competition.

9025 *Skate blades:* Figure skating blades used during competitions and tests (or hockey skate blades used during moves in the field tests or moves in the field events at competitions) must be sharpened to produce a flat to concave cross section without change to the width of the blade as measured between the two edges. However, a slight tapering or narrowing of the cross section of the blade is permitted.

Rule 9030 remains unchanged.

9040 Duration of Skating – Synchronized Skating

9041 Timing starts from the moment a skater begins to move (arms, head, etc.) or skate. Timing stops when the skaters come to a complete stop at the end of the program.

9042 Permissible Time Allowance – Short Programs

The duration of the short program must not exceed the maximum time allowed, but may be less, provided that all technical elements are included. ~~A.~~ Any element started after the permissible time will be considered in the marking as omitted. ~~B.~~ No extra marks are obtained by extending the program to the maximum time permitted if it is unnecessary to do so. For IJS deductions, see the Handbook for Synchronized Skating Technical Rules.

~~See rules 9912 and 9923 for deductions for programs that exceed the time limit using the 6.0 system and the IJS respectively.~~

A. Senior short program: 2:50 +/- 10 seconds

B. Junior short program: 2:50 +/- 10 seconds

9043 Permissible Time Allowance – Free Skate

Teams are allowed to finish a free skate within 10 seconds plus or minus the required time. ~~A.~~ Any element started after the permissible time must not be marked and will have no value. ~~B.~~ Should the program be 30 or more seconds short of the prescribed range, no marks will be awarded. For IJS and 6.0 deductions, see the Handbook for Synchronized Skating Technical Rules.

~~See rules 9912 and 9923 for deductions for programs that do not finish within the range of time allowed using the 6.0 system and the IJS respectively.~~

A. Senior free skate: 4:00 +/- 10 seconds

B. Junior free skate: 3:30 +/- 10 seconds

C. Novice free skate: 3:00 +/- 10 seconds

D. Intermediate free skate: 3:00 +/- 10 seconds

E. Juvenile free skate: 2:30 +/- 10 seconds

F. Open juvenile free skate: 2:30 +/- 10 seconds

G. Pre-juvenile free skate: 2:30 +/- 10 seconds

H. Preliminary free skate: 2:00 +/- 10 seconds

I. Collegiate free skate: 3:30 +/- 10 seconds

J. Open collegiate free skate: 2:30 +/- 10 seconds

K. Adult free skate: 2:30 +/- 10 seconds

L. Masters free skate: 2:30 +/- 10 seconds

M. Open adult free skate: 2:00 +/- 10 seconds

N. Open masters free skate: 2:00 +/- 10 seconds

9050 Composition of Synchronized Events

9051 Synchronized skating qualifying competitions consist of:

A. Senior and junior: a short program and a free skate

B. All other event levels: free skate only

9052 Number of Elements

Must contain the following in any order, unless otherwise specified. Levels of difficulty, calling specifications, scale of values, and judging criteria can be found at usfigureskating.org.

A. Senior Short Program consists of a maximum of five required elements.

B. Senior Free Skating consists of a maximum of nine elements.

C. Junior Short Program consists of a maximum of five required elements.

- D. Junior Free Skating consists of a maximum of eight elements.
- E. Novice Free Skating consists of a maximum of seven elements.
- F. Intermediate Free Skating consists of a maximum of seven elements.
- G. Juvenile Free Skating consists of a maximum of six elements.
- H. Open Juvenile Free Skating consists of a maximum of six elements.
- I. Pre-Juvenile Free Skating consists of a maximum of six elements.
- J. Preliminary Free Skating consists of a maximum of five elements.
- K. Collegiate Free Skating consists of a maximum of eight elements.
- L. Open Collegiate Free Skating consists of a maximum of six elements.
- M. Adult Free Skating consists of a maximum of six elements.
- N. Masters Free Skating consists of a maximum of six elements.
- O. Open Adult Free Skating consists of a maximum of five elements.
- P. Open Masters Free Skating consists of a maximum of five elements.

9060 Segment Descriptions General Requirements for the Short Program and Free Skate

- A. Any music including vocal music using lyrics is permitted. However, the teams must skate the program in time to the music. Additions of the sounds of applause or cheers are not permitted.
- B. Element(s) will not be considered as attempted if the element does not meet the minimum requirements for Level Base.
- C. Creative innovations and variations are not features and are permitted in the transitions and required elements. Creative innovations will be reflected in the program components.
- D. The team must predominately act as one unit. Division of the team into several units is allowed during the creative element and transitions. Additionally, several units can be used as short transitions if the element following the transition so requires (i.e. preparation for an intersection or beginning of a creative element).
- E. For creativity in linear elements (block and line) and in rotating elements (circle and wheel), skaters (a maximum of half of the team) may leave and rejoin an element as long as the minimum number of required skaters in the element is maintained.
- F. Features and additional features will be counted only once per element.
- G. All skaters must be joined/aligned to a spoke, line, circle, etc., during features for these to be counted.
- H. Some features may be executed at the same time as other features. Please see each element for the cases where this is not permitted.
- I. Mirror image pattern is permitted in the elements and transitions. (See Rule 9110 (N).)
- J. Step sequences of a complex variety may be used both in the elements and during transitions.
- K. Turns/steps and linking steps may be used during element(s).
- L. Syncopated choreography may be used (other than in the step sequence, additional feature or features where correctly executed turns/edges are required to determine the difficulty level).
- M. The choreography and elements should be executed facing toward all sides of the ice rink.
- N. The programs not fulfilling the requirements will be penalized.

9061 Short Program Description Requirements

The senior and junior short program consist of a maximum of five required elements. The sequence of elements is optional, unless otherwise specified. The choreography and elements should be executed facing toward all sides of the ice rink and not excessively facing one side.

- A. Un-prescribed or additional elements or repetitions of elements which have failed, are not allowed and will not be marked, and a deduction must be made if any of those elements are included (See Guidelines for Judges, Referees, and Technical Panel Deductions). Basic element shapes (Level Base) will not be considered as an un-prescribed or additional element(s).
- B. Transitions necessary to link the required elements are permitted.
- C. Some features and additional features will be prescribed for each element in a short program. Features and additional features other than those required for each element in a short program may not be taken into consideration when determining the level of an element. Features and/or additional features that are not permitted will receive a deduction for not according to requirements (NAR) if included (See Guidelines for Judges, Referees, and Technical Panel Deductions). This deduction will be taken from the element score.
- D. Feature(s) or additional feature(s) will be considered as omitted if not attempted.

E. Elements executed using the wrong shape will receive a penalty (See Guidelines for Judges, Referees, and Technical Panel Deductions). A wrong shape would include examples such as team executing a four-spoke instead of a required three-spoke, or an angled intersection instead of a box intersection.

F. Lifts may be used in senior short program (only when required as an element) (see rule 9170 (4)).

G. Elements for Short Programs

The required elements for the junior and senior short programs will be selected each season from the following list of synchronized skating elements and will be published annually in the Handbook for Synchronized Skating Technical Rules. See rule 9000(A).

1. Artistic Element

2. Creative Element

3. Intersection Element

4. Group Lift Element (Senior only when required)

5. Linear Element (Block or Line)

6. Mixed Element

7. Move Element

8. No Hold Element

9. Pair Element

10. Pivoting Element (Block or Line)

11. Rotating Element (Circle or Wheel)

12. Synchronized Spin Element

13. Traveling Element (Circle or Wheel)

14. Twizzle Element

9062 Free Skate Description Requirements

The free skate consists of a well-balanced program composed of elements and other linking movements reflecting the character of the music and/or expressing a concept, story, theme or idea of the team's own choice. A good program contains elements such as blocks, circles, creative elements, intersections, lines, move element, pair element, synchronized spin element and wheels, etc., linked together harmoniously by a variety of transitions and executed with a minimum of two-footed skating. Synchronized skating refers to the quality of skating, importance of unison, the accuracy of formations and preciseness of the team, all incorporated into a program of a specified time limit. The choreography and elements should be executed facing toward all sides of the ice rink and not excessively facing one side.

A. Free skating consists of a well-balanced program composed of elements and other linking movements reflecting the character of the music and/or expressing a concept, story, theme or idea of the team's own choice. A good program contains elements such as blocks, circles, creative element, intersections, lines, move element, pair element, synchronized spin element and wheels, etc., linked together harmoniously by a variety of transitions and executed with a minimum of two footed skating. Synchronized skating refers to the quality of skating, importance of unison, the accuracy of formations and preciseness of the team, all incorporated into a program of a specified time limit.

B. Other elements may be incorporated into the free skate and will be judged as transitions and/or choreography components.

C. Features and additional features are optional in a well-balanced free skate. In order to increase the difficulty of the required elements in the free skate, Features and additional features may be incorporated into the free skating elements and will be called by the technical panel and evaluated by the judges.

D. Lifts may be used in senior free skate (see rule 9170). Un-sustained lifts may be used in senior, junior and collegiate free skate only, Vaults may be used in senior, junior and collegiate free skate only (see rule 9170).

E. Elements for the Free Skate

All levels of free skates may consist of a maximum number of elements. The elements will be selected each season from the following list of synchronized skating elements and will be published annually in the Handbook for Synchronized Skating Technical Rules. See rule 9000 (A).

1. Artistic Element

2. Creative Element

3. Intersection Element

4. Group Lift Element (Senior only when required)

5. Linear Element (Block or Line)
6. Mixed Element
7. Move Element
8. No Hold Element
9. Pair Element
10. Pivoting Element (Block or Line)
11. Rotating Element (Circle or Wheel)
12. Synchronized Spin Element
13. Traveling Element (Circle or Wheel)
14. Twizzle Element

Rules 9100-9170 remain unchanged

9400 Synchronized Skating Competition Test Qualifications and Age Requirements

Test qualifications are as of the closing date for entries. Age requirements are as of the preceding July 1.

Level	Minimum Test Qualifications	Age Requirements
Senior	Junior moves in the field	16 skaters who are 15 years of age or older
Junior	Novice moves in the field	12-16 skaters who are 13 years of age or older, but under age 19 (Note for ISU competitions, the team must have 16 skaters)
Novice	Intermediate moves in the field	12-20 skaters who are under age 16 with the exception that up to four team members may be 16 or 17 years of age
Intermediate	Juvenile moves in the field	12-20 skaters who are under age 18
Juvenile	Pre-juvenile moves in the field	12-20 skaters who are under age 13
Open Juvenile	Pre-preliminary moves in the field	8-16 skaters under age 20
Pre-Juvenile	None	8-16 skaters with the majority of the team under 13 years of age
Preliminary	None	8-16 skaters who are under age 12
Collegiate	Juvenile moves in the field	12-20 skaters, all of whom must have a high school diploma or equivalent and be enrolled in a degree program at a college or university and must be full-time students as recognized by the college or university they attend
Open Collegiate	None	8-16 skaters, all of whom must have a high school diploma or equivalent and be enrolled in a degree program at a college or university and must be full-time students as recognized by the college or university they attend
Adult	Preliminary or adult bronze moves in the field or Preliminary dance or Preliminary figure	12-20 skaters who are 21 years of age or older with the exception that up to four team members may be 18,19, or 20 years of age
Masters	None	12-20 skaters who are 25 years of age or older with the majority of skaters 30 years of age or older
Open Adult	None	8-16 skaters who are 18 years of age or older
Open Masters	None	8-16 skaters who are 25 years of age or older with the majority of skaters 30 years of age or older

Move rules 9410-9531 (the specific short program and well-balanced program requirements) to the new Handbook for Synchronized Skating Technical Rules.

Rules 9900-9911 remain unchanged.

9912 Marking of the Synchronized Skating Free Skate – 6.0 System

D. The chair of the Synchronized Development and Technical Committee, in consultation with the judging representative on the Synchronized Development and Technical Committee, will determine the deductions in the Handbook for Synchronized Skating Technical Rules by July 1 each season.

Remaining subparagraphs will be re-lettered accordingly.

9920 Marking of Synchronized Skating – IJS

9921 Technical Score – Synchronized Skating – IJS

The guidelines for the marking of the technical score are updated and published on usfigureskating.org under the “Technical Info” link.

- A. *Scale of Values*: The Scale of Values of the synchronized skating elements will be updated and published on usfigureskating.org under the “Technical Info” link. The Scale of Values contains base values of all the elements and the numerical values of the grades of execution.
- B. *Base Values*: The technical panel will determine the name and, when required, the level of difficulty of every element. Base values of elements are measured in points and are indicated in the scale of values table. They increase with the increasing difficulty of the elements. The difficulty of the elements depends on their levels of difficulty.
- C. *Levels of Difficulty of Elements*: The descriptions of characteristics (features) that give an element a certain level of difficulty is updated and published on usfigureskating.org under the “Technical Info” link. Required and optional elements are divided into four or five levels of difficulty depending on their difficulty, except elements designated with a fixed base value in the list of elements.
- D. *Grade of Execution (GOE)*:
 - 1. Each judge must mark the quality of execution of every element depending on the positive or negative features of the execution and any errors present.
 - 2. The GOE is marked from +5, +4, +3, +2, +1, 0 (base value), -1, -2, -3, -4, -5.
 - 3. The guidelines for determining the grade of execution for each element will be updated and published on usfigureskating.org under the “Technical Info” link.
- E. *Features/Additional Features*: The additional features (step sequences, free skating moves/elements, point of intersection) are divided into the groups according to their difficulty.
- F. *Illegal Elements/Features/Additional Features/Movements*: Every illegal element/feature/additional feature/movement (see rule 9160) performed in the program will be penalized by a deduction. See current Synchronized Skating Deduction Table for Events Judged Using the IJS. (see rule 9923). ~~If an illegal element/feature/additional feature/movement is performed during the execution of any element, the element will be called as Level Base if the requirements for Level Base are fulfilled; otherwise, the element will be called No Level.~~
- G. *Non-permitted Elements/Features/Additional Features/Movements*: Every non-permitted element/feature/additional feature/movement (see rule 9170) performed in the program will be penalized by a deduction. See current Synchronized Skating Deduction Table for Events Judged Using the IJS. (see rule 9923). ~~If a non-permitted element/feature/additional feature/movement is performed during the execution of any element, the element will be called as follows:
 - 1. Level Base if the requirements for Level Base are fulfilled; otherwise, the element will be called No Level; if the non-permitted element is the element;
 - 2. Element is called and feature is not counted if the non-permitted movement is included in the feature;
 - 3. Element is called and additional feature is not counted if the non-permitted movement is included in the additional feature.~~

Rule 9922 remains unchanged.

9923 Deductions and Reductions – Synchronized Skating – IJS

A. Reductions for synchronized skating are updated yearly and published on the U.S. Figure Skating Members Only website usfigureskating.org under the “Technical Info” link. Reductions for breaks, stumbles, falls and collisions in the required elements will be made by judges in the grade of execution.

AB. Deductions from the total score are applied for each violation. See current Synchronized Skating Deduction Table for Events Judged Using the IJS. will be as follows:

1. ~~Program time violation:~~
 - a. ~~For senior, junior and collegiate: -1.0 for every five seconds lacking or in excess~~
 - b. ~~For novice, intermediate, juvenile, adult and masters: -0.5 for every five seconds lacking or in excess~~
 2. ~~Music violation: -1.0 per program~~
 3. ~~Costume (including use of feathers as part of the costume and headpieces) and prop violation: -1.0 per program~~
 4. ~~Part of the costume/decoration falls on the ice: -1.0 per program~~
 5. ~~Falls (see rule 1400 for the definition of a fall):~~
 - a. ~~For senior, junior and collegiate: -1.0 for every fall of one skater and -2.0 for every fall of more than one skater; -3.0 maximum fall deduction per element.~~
 - b. ~~For novice, intermediate, juvenile, adult and masters: -0.5 for every fall of one skater and -1.0 for every fall of more than one skater; -1.5 maximum fall deduction per element.~~
 6. ~~For every interruption in performing the program:~~
 - a. ~~For interruptions of more than 10 seconds, up to 20 seconds: -1.0 for senior, junior and collegiate, -0.5 for novice, intermediate, juvenile, adult and masters;~~
 - b. ~~For interruptions of more than 20 seconds, up to 30 seconds: -2.0 for senior, junior and collegiate, -1.0 for novice, intermediate, juvenile, adult and masters;~~
 - c. ~~For interruptions of more than 30 seconds for one or several skaters: -3.0 for senior, junior and collegiate, -1.5 for novice, intermediate, juvenile, adult and masters;~~
 - d. ~~More than 40 seconds interruption by the team as a whole: Team is withdrawn.~~
 - e. ~~For interruption of the program with allowance of up to three minutes to resume from the point of interruption: -3.0 for senior, junior and collegiate, -1.5 for novice, intermediate, juvenile, adult and masters.~~
 7. ~~Not according to requirements: -0.5 per violation~~
 8. ~~Omitted requirement: -0.5 per violation~~
 9. ~~Illegal elements/features/additional features/movements: -2.0 per violation~~
 10. ~~Non-permitted elements/features/additional features/movements: -1.5 per violation~~
 11. ~~Un-prescribed, additional or repeated element: -1.5 per violation~~
 12. ~~Wrong element shape in short program: No value~~
 13. ~~Holds (intermediate, juvenile, adult and masters):~~
 - a. ~~-0.5 missing one hold per program~~
 - b. ~~-1.0 missing two holds per program~~
 14. ~~Late start: -1.0 between 1 and 30 seconds late.~~
- BC. Every failure in the required elements must be reflected only in the technical score according to the importance of the element failed or omitted and the gravity of the mistake itself, since there is no direct relationship between the technical score and the program component score. However, deductions for failures must be made in the program component score if other program components are involved. An element and feature and additional feature/extra feature is omitted when it is not tried.

Note: The only substantive change made to the deductions from the list above is that some deductions for preliminary teams are now one-quarter the value of the corresponding deduction for junior and senior. So, if the deduction for junior and senior is -1.0, the corresponding deduction for preliminary will be -0.25. The specific deduction can be seen in the IJS deduction chart.

Implementation date: July 27, 2020 (changes will be implemented into the 2021-22 Rulebook)

3. **APPROVED** the 2022 Olympic Winter Games Staff Selection Procedures for Team Leader.
4. **APPROVED** the 2022 Olympic Winter Games Staff Selection Procedures for Coaches.
5. **APPROVED** the president's appointment of Jon Jepson, Bobby Martin and Leticia Moreno Enos as U.S. Figure Skating representatives to the Board of Directors of the U.S. Ice Rink Association.