

Guidelines for Critiques at Nonqualifying Events

(Events not included in the National Qualifying Series)

- A critique can be conducted after any event segment **if the critique is offered to all skaters in that event.**
- **If the critique is not offered to all skaters**, it is not appropriate for a coach to contact the technical controller or judge for information regarding components or GOEs or element levels, until **ALL** event segments are concluded for the skater.
- A brief **group critique** can be held pointing out common issues noted during the event. The group critique can be followed by an opportunity for skaters and coaches to ask individual questions regarding specific elements.
- Officials should have the most recent documents with them and reference them if needed during the critique (i.e. **ISU Communication(s), ISU Technical Panel Handbook, calling clarifications, marking guides** and **program requirements**).
- When possible, officials conducting critiques should include a judge and the technical controller or assistant technical specialist on the event. It is highly recommended to assign officials who are certified at the regional level or above to conduct critiques.
- **It is mandatory that all critiques abide by the U.S. Figure Skating SafeSport guidelines regarding two-deep leadership ([SafeSport Handbook](#)).**
- Do not speculate on clarifications yet to be determined. If you are unsure of an answer you can 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/skater says they have received higher levels on particular elements at other recent competitions.
- When interacting with individual skaters 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 skater how to meet feature criteria.
- The official's role is to give 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 as they become available.
- 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 critique and the start of the next competition to which the official is assigned.

Critiques for National Qualifying Series Events

For all **National Qualifying Series** events, technical panel officials and judges must not communicate any information regarding element levels, features awarded, jump rotation decisions, GOE's or components with anyone **until all event segments are concluded for the skater.**