

Guidelines for International Byes for Singles, Pairs and Ice Dance – 2019-20 Season

(August 5, 2019)

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to define the situations for which an international competitor may receive a bye to the U.S. Figure Skating Championships not specifically addressed in the rulebook. These guidelines are meant to work in conjunction with the Bye Rules defined in the current U.S. Figure Skating Rulebook and will be updated annually by the International Committee Management Subcommittee (ICMS). The guidelines will then be reviewed and approved by the Athletes Advisory Committee and, subsequently, the U.S. Figure Skating Board of Directors prior to the start of each international season (i.e., before the first Junior Grand Prix).

Development of the guidelines recognizes that it is difficult to anticipate every potential situation our international competitors may face, particularly since the number of competitions has increased, and schedules between U.S. qualifying and international series (Junior Grand Prix, Senior Grand Prix, Challengers, etc.) overlap. The goal of these guidelines is to give international competitors clarity around requesting and receiving byes while providing the best opportunity to compete successfully at international and domestic competitions. Unless otherwise noted, the guidelines apply to competitors in international senior and junior events. Competitors in international advanced novice events may not receive a bye from a Sectional Singles Final or U.S. Pairs or Dance Final to the U.S. Figure Skating Championships.

The current rulebook Bye Rules are covered in Rule Section 2500 for singles, pairs and ice dance. As in the rulebook, these guidelines do not allow for medical byes. If there is a conflict between the rulebook and these guidelines, the rulebook version will prevail.

I. Covered International Competitions

International competitions including all Challenger Series, Senior Grand Prix and Junior Grand Prix, and other international competitions on the ISU Calendar with a start date after August 15 (or start of the first Junior Grand Prix) will be considered. To count toward a bye, the skater must travel to the competition and compete in at least the initial segment (i.e., short program or rhythm dance).

II. Bye Requirements

Specific situations when skaters will receive a bye to the U.S. Figure Skating Championships:

- A skater or team is selected to compete in three or more different international competitions, at the junior level, or the senior level, or at a combination of both junior and senior levels.
- A skater or team competes in two Senior Grand Prix events in the same season.
- A skater or team is selected to compete at an international competition and their travel date is 14 days or less before the start date of their event at Sectional Singles Final or U.S. Pairs or Dance Final or less than 14 days before their event travel date at an international competition. Start date is defined as the date of the skater's first segment of the competition.

Advancement if Byed Athlete Competes at a Sectional Singles or U.S. Pairs or Dance Final:

- If a skater or team is granted a bye prior to their Sectional Singles Final or U.S. Pairs or Dance Final, they may still compete at their Sectional/U.S. Final without losing their bye; however, their placement will not impact the number of skaters advancing, i.e., if a skater finishes in the top four at a Sectional/U.S. Final, then the fifth place skater will advance if they meet all other requirements to do so (per Rules 2501 – 2503). Skater or team must confirm intent to compete or decline to compete no later than 14 days prior to the start of the competition.

III. Required Minimum Score

All senior skaters/team receiving a bye must have achieved the Required Minimum Total Element Score in the current season to compete at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships. Please refer to Rule 2505.

If a skater or team qualifies to compete at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships due to placement at the immediately prior U.S. Figure Skating Championships, the most recent World Figure Skating Championships or the most recent Olympic Winter Games, but has not been able to compete to earn a Required Minimum Technical Score in the current season, scores earned at the most recent U.S. Figure Skating Championships in which the skater or team competed may be considered. The skater or team will need to receive approval to use the score from a majority of the Competitions, International and Athletes Advisory Committee chairs.

IV. Other Circumstances

If a skater receives a bye based on competing in Pairs or Dance internationally, they will also receive a bye for any other discipline they are competing in. However, they must have entered that discipline for the current qualifying season. For example, a skater that is competing internationally in a Pair team and has received a bye, he/she will also receive a bye as a Singles skater as long as that skater has entered and qualified for the event they received a bye for as a Pair.

In situations not covered by the Bye Rules, or by these guidelines, a majority vote of the Competitions, International and Athletes Advisory Committee chairs may grant a bye.

The skater/team must submit an appeal to the High Performance Department liaison and copy the Athletes Advisory, Competitions and International Committee chairs (all listed below). The liaison will coordinate a review of and vote on the matter within 48 hours of receiving the appeal, and communicate the results to the skater/team.

Contact information:

High Performance Department liaison: Mitch Moyer

Chair of Competitions: Kathleen Krieger

Chair of International: Sam Auxier

Chair of Athletes Advisory: Mark Ladwig