

# Judging Solo Ice Dance

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What's Most Important?

Identifying the difference between Ice Dance and Singles Free Skating

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What do we typically see in Singles Skating?

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Jumps – both multirotational, smaller jumps and hops as well as jump series

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Spins

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Spirals, Spread Eagles and Ina Bauers

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Fewer transitional movements as they prepare for jumping passes

This is why we  
limit the number of  
movements that  
are iconic to  
Singles Skating.

## JUMPS:

Jumps considered illegal:

- No jumps more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  rotation are allowed. (Including Back Flips)
- 2 or more consecutive  $\frac{1}{2}$  rotation jumps, traveling or in place. (jumps are not consecutive if there are two or more steps in-between)
- All Toe Assisted Split Jumps. (where the free leg picks into the ice and is used to catapult the skater into the air)
- Edge Split jumps more than 90 degrees at the thighs.

\*A Ballet Jump where the skater takes off and lands on the same toe with no rotation will be considered a hop and not a split jump. Split Jumps with an edge take off where the legs are spread equal to or more than 90 degrees. Such as but not limited to a Falling Leaf.

This is why we limit the number of movements that are iconic to Singles Skating.

## SPINS:

Spins are very iconic to Singles Skating, so we limit Solo Ice Dance to only one Dance Spin and one Choreographic Spin.

- The Choreographic Spin may not meet the definition of a Dance Spin so it should look very different than a regular spin.
- Flying entries for Dance Spins will be called illegal by the technical panel.
- Illusions of more than one rotation (one rotation equals one “down and up” motion)

\*Definition Illusion:

Illusion - An Illusion is a spin that has a basic position similar to the camel, but instead of remaining "flat" throughout the duration of the spin, the skater's body tilts up and then down, so the head is close to the ice with the boot of the free leg extended upwards, creating almost a full split, while the skater is spinning.

**Judging Tip: Spins must be performed to the phrasing of the music and be aesthetically pleasing and be in character to the theme of the program.**

This is why we limit the number of movements that are iconic to Singles Skating.

SPIRALS,  
SPREAD EAGLES AND  
INA BAUERS:

Spirals, Spread Eagles and Ina Bauers are all considered "Edge Elements" in Solo Ice Dance. These are limited to just the allowed number at each level since these are also iconic Singles Skating moves.

Any additional Edge Elements held at least 3 seconds will be identified as an Extra Element by the technical panel. No level will be awarded and there will be a penalty of -1 point.

#### **Judging Tip:**

**When assessing the GOE for the Edge Element the depth of edge is most important. The element must be done to the phrasing of the music and should be in character to the theme. Also look for pleasing lines/poses, as well as speed and ice coverage.**

Other things to look for  
to distinguish Singles  
from Solo Ice Dance

## Step Sequences and Transitions

Step Sequences in Singles do not have a distinguishable pattern. In Ice Dance, we have Midline, Diagonal, Circular and Serpentine. Lobes may be performed in each of those types however the pattern should still be identifiable.

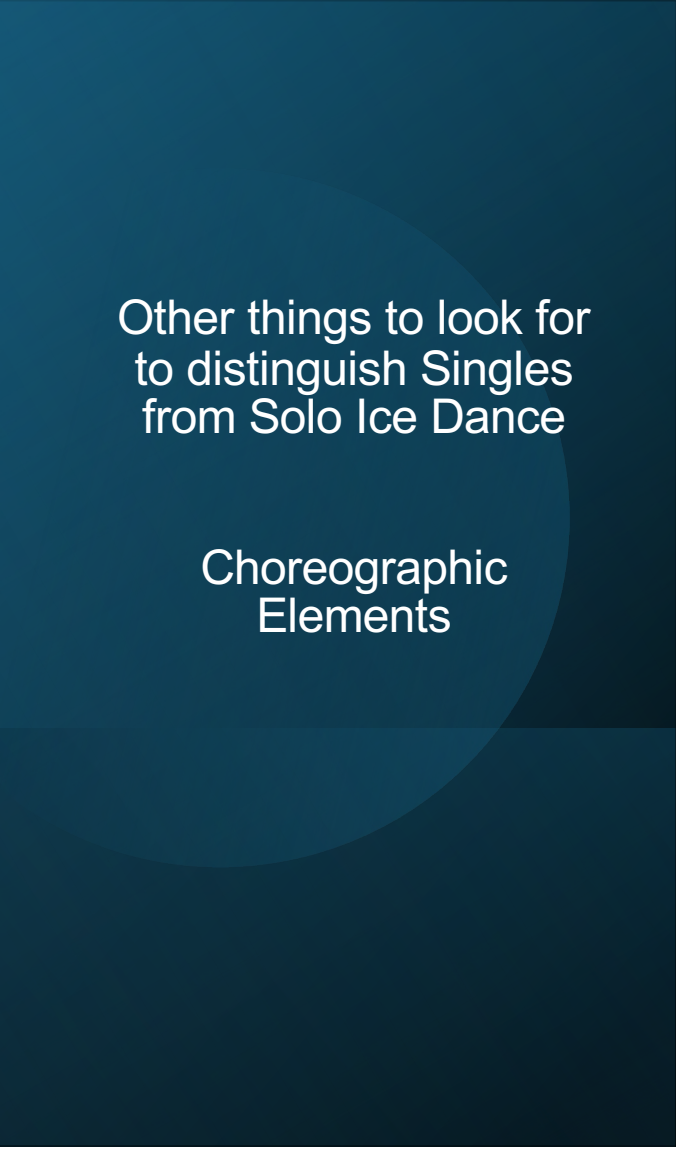
Ice Dance Step Sequences should contain deep edges with numerous difficult turns throughout. A singles Step Sequence often includes small jumps and hops, elements that would look like an “Edge Element” and at the lower levels there can be many toe steps. In general, these should not be seen in an Ice Dance Step Sequence.

### Judging Tip:

**When assessing the GOE for the Step Sequence, it must be done to the phrasing of the music and should be in character to the theme. Skating to mainly to the beat rather than the melody is also important in Step Sequences. Reward deep edges, speed and flow and penalize excessive hops and toe steps.**

Transitions in Solo Ice Dance should be more complex than in Singles Skating. The skaters do not need to prepare for jumping passes so between elements, the skating should continue to tell the story of the chosen music using deep edges and mainly one foot skating throughout. Look for speed and flow during these transitions as well. Speed however should not be gained by simply doing excessive crosscuts/crossovers.





Other things to look for  
to distinguish Singles  
from Solo Ice Dance

## Choreographic Elements

There are several Choreographic Elements in Solo Ice Dance the skater may choose from. The number of these depends on the level however there is at least one at every level.

Juvenile and Intermediate both have a required Choreographic Step Sequence. Juvenile must perform the element on the short axis (red line in the middle of the rink) while Intermediate must perform the element on the long axis (down the center of the ice). These elements are developmental to prepare the skaters for a leveled step sequence, so they are not able to touch the ice like higher levels are allowed. We should see some attempt at difficult turns in these elements.

### Judging Tip:

**When assessing the GOE for all Choreographic elements, the most important thing is that the element reflects the character/theme of the music. Ask yourself, does this make sense to the program and does it add to the program? Like all elements, it must be performed to the phrasing of the music. If the element doesn't do either of these the GOE should be in the negative range.**