

# INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION

## Communication No. 1811

### **Skaters' Participation in ISU Figure Skating Events Application of ISU Regulations –Rules 125/5 and 136/6**

The ISU General Regulations 2012 include the following Rules in relation with the above-mentioned subject matter:

“125/5:

#### *Disciplinary Sanctions*

*Sanctions may be imposed by the Disciplinary Commission in accordance with Article 24 of the Constitution against any Skaters, Official, Office Holder or other participant in ISU activities who can be proved to have acted against the spirit of the ISU Statutes or otherwise improperly. Improper conduct by a Skater includes refusal, for other than medical or justifiable reason to participate in ISU Events in accordance with the commitments established by the ISU and the Members concerned. (For confirmation of illness and injury, see Rule 140, paragraph 5).”*

“136/6

*Members with Skaters who place within the first ten places at any ISU Championships and who continue in the following season to participate in Skating competitions and/or exhibitions as eligible Skaters, shall have the obligation, when entering or authorizing the participation of such Skaters in Skating competitions and/or exhibitions, to give first priority to participation of such Skaters in those ISU Events which are the subject of ISU television and commercial contracts as notified to Members. Members who fail to comply with the above obligation, and Skaters who refuse to participate in such ISU Events, without medical or other justified reasons, shall be subject to sanctions under the relevant Rules”.*

The Council considered the appropriate and consistent application of the above-mentioned Rules.

When doing so, based on the content of these Rules, especially the bold highlighted parts, the Council concluded that the Members adopted these Rules with the following understanding:

i) Mindful that the ISU Events are the most valuable ISU assets which, thanks to the emanating revenues, allow the ISU to financially support a wide range of ISU Events in

all ISU disciplines, including the payment of ISU contributions to organizing and participating Members, the payment of prize money; a generous Development Program, an aggressive Anti-Doping Program and an extensive educational program for Officials and Coaches, the Members agreed to protect the ISU Events against potential other skating events held during the same period of time. Accordingly, Members agreed to impose upon certain (top) eligible skaters to **give priority** to ISU Events in order to ensure that the best Skaters compete at such ISU Events and not at other skating events including shows and exhibitions organized by third parties.

ii) Members wanted to ensure that the concerned group of Skaters and concerned ISU Events are clearly identified, formalized and notified to Members.

iii) Mindful that Members respect and appreciate the value of ISU Events and respect the right of privacy and self-determination of each Skater to take off a sabbatical period of time away from competitive skating for different reasons (medical, education etc), Members count on their privilege to determine the composition of their teams competing at ISU Championships.

In line with Art. 17, paragraph 1.r) the Council made the following interpretations and issued the following directives:

a) The “concerned Skaters/Couples” are those in line with Rule 136, paragraph 6, namely the Skaters/Couples “*who place within the first ten places at any ISU Championships and who continue in the following season to participate in Skating competitions and/or exhibitions as eligible Skaters*”.

b) “To give priority to ISU Events” means that a “concerned Skater” may not skate in any other skating event (competition or exhibition/show) during the defined time period before, during and after an ISU Event (the “Priority Period”).

c) This Communication serves as formal notification to Members of the concerned Skaters that the following ISU Events, namely the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating, the ISU World Team Trophy in Figure Skating and the ISU Figure Skating Championships are those covered by TV and/or commercial agreements.

d) In Figure Skating, the following Priority Periods for the indicated ISU Events have been set by the Council. Please note that the provisions for the Grand Prix of Figure Skating and the World Team Trophy have already been in place during the past seasons (see respective Announcements).

## **1. ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating**

All “concerned” Skaters/Couples and/or all Skaters/Couples categorized in the annual General Grand Prix Announcement as "Seeded" or “Come-Back” Skaters/Couples who elect in advance of the Grand Prix Period (Grand Prix Period being the day before the first individual Grand Prix event until the day after the last day of the last individual

Grand Prix event of the season) not to participate in their assigned Grand Prix events (for whatever reason), will not be permitted to participate in any other competitions, shows, and exhibitions during the Grand Prix Period.

“Concerned” and/or “Seeded/Come-Back” Skaters/Couples who agreed to participate in the Grand Prix Series and Skaters/Couples who qualify for the Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final must skate in their assigned events and in the Final. Withdrawals are permitted only for illness or injury duly confirmed by a timely Medical Certificate as outlined in the annual General Grand Prix Announcement and subject to review by an ISU appointed Medical Doctor and/or for other justified serious reasons, such as e.g. bereavement in the close family.”

“Concerned” and/or “Seeded/Come-Back” Skaters/Couples who fulfill their Grand Prix obligations may also skate in other competitions, shows and exhibitions as authorized by their Member during the Grand Prix Period.

## **2. World Team Trophy (WTT)**

Any “concerned” Skater/Couple from a WTT Qualified Member who elects in advance of the ISU World Team Trophy not to participate in the ISU World Team Trophy (for whatever reason), will not be permitted to participate in any other competitions, shows, and exhibitions during the period of time as specified in the Announcement for the ISU World Team Trophy.

## **3. ISU Championships**

Any “concerned” Skater/Couple who elects not to participate in the ISU European Figure Skating Championships, the ISU Four Continents Figure Skating Championships and the ISU World Figure Skating Championships, (for whatever reason), will not be permitted to participate in any other competitions, shows, and exhibitions during the period of time lasting from 3 days before the beginning until 3 days after the end of the respective Championships.

## **Sanctions**

In case of non-compliance with the above-mentioned provisions, the concerned Members and/or Skaters may be subject to sanctions imposed in accordance with Rule 125, paragraph 5 and Rule 136, paragraph 6 of the General Regulations.

Similar provisions are under consideration for Speed Skating and will be published in due course.

Milano,

July 31, 2013

Lausanne,

**Ottavio Cinquanta**, President

**Fredi Schmid**, Director General