

INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION

Communication No. 1305

ISU Judging System – Clarifications/Reminders

The implementation of the ISU Judging System on the occasion of the ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating 2004/2005 and the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating (senior) 2004/05 events and Finals was successfully completed without any major inconveniences.

Nevertheless, based on the experience gained, the Council, in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 1, n) of the ISU Constitution and with Special Regulations, part A. General, paragraph j), (ii), has decided to issue the following clarifications and interpretations of the Rules, in particular in regard to the functions of the Officials in charge:

1. Referee

The Referee's duties are stated in Rule 409, 411, 412 and 420 (Rule 580, 583 and 587 for Ice Dancing, Rule 806, 809 and 814 for Synchronized Skating). The ISU Council herewith clarifies certain duties mentioned in the above-mentioned Rules as well confirms certain additional duties as follows:

The Referee's duties are, in particular but not limited to, and besides those specified in the above-mentioned Rules, as follows:

- a) instruct the Timekeeper (volunteer) to take the time of the program as skated and to time possible interruptions according to Rule 353, paragraph 1. q) (Rule 543, paragraph 1 m) for Ice Dancing and 706, paragraph 8 c) and Rule 712, paragraph 9 for Synchronized Skating).
- b) instruct the second Timekeeper (volunteer) for Ice Dancing to take the time of all lifts in the Original Dance and Free Dance, to verify possible extended lifts. In case it is required, the Referee will instruct the two Timekeepers in Ice Dancing to inform the Judges about extended lifts whenever necessary.
- c) decide upon all the deductions according to Regulations, i.e. Rule 353, paragraph 1. q) (Rule 543, paragraph 1. m) for Ice Dancing and Rule 706, paragraph 8. c) for Synchronized Skating), which come under the responsibility of the Referee, such as costume and prop violations, make-up violations (Synchronized Skating), time violations, music violations (Single & Pairs Skating), interruptions of the program and falls.

If the Referee has doubts in the case of a fall that could call for a deduction, the Referee should consult the Technical Controller (who at ISU Events has access to slow-motion replay) for verification. Even after such consultation, the final decision whether there was such a fall or not remains, however, with the Referee.

- d) manage the panel of Judges, including the control for what is specified in the following item 2.b) and act as the responsible spokesperson of the panel of Judges should the need arise.
- e) judge the complete event.

2. Judges

The Judge's duties are stated in Rule 409 and 429 (Rule 580 and 592 for Ice Dancing, Rule 806, 821 and 824 for Synchronized Skating) The ISU Council herewith clarifies certain duties mentioned in the above-mentioned Rules as well confirms certain additional duties as follows:

The Judge's duties are, in particular but not limited to, and besides those specified in the above-mentioned Rules, as follows:

- a) make the necessary deductions in Ice Dancing in case of extended lifts, according to the current ISU Communication (presently Communication 1295) and the time information as stated in the Referees notes.
- b) - must not use previously prepared marks which means that Judges are not allowed to bring any papers, statistics or notes from previously awarded scores to the Judges' stands.
 - must not bring any form of electronic communication system to the judges stand
 - must mark independently and whilst judging shall not converse with one another or indicate errors by action or sound.
 - must not look at marks being inputted by Judges sitting alongside in the judges stand.

The ISU Council decided that compliance by Judges with this sub-paragraph 2.b) will be supervised at ISU Championships and the Olympic Winter Games by the ISU Technical Delegate(s), and at other ISU Events by a person designated by the ISU Vice President Figure Skating. The Technical Delegate(s) or other designated person(s) performing such supervision must report any inappropriate behaviour of a Judge immediately to the Referee.

3. Technical Controller

The Technical Controller's duties are stated in Rule 409 and 420 (Rule 580 and 587 for Ice Dancing, Rule 806 and 814 for Synchronized Skating) The ISU Council herewith clarifies certain duties mentioned in the above-mentioned Rules as well confirms certain additional duties as follows:

- a) The ISU Council herewith reiterates the following provision included in Rule 409, paragraph 3, (Rule 580, paragraph 3 for Ice Dancing and Rule 806, paragraph 3 for Synchronized Skating) that is of particular importance, i.e.

“The Technical Controller supervises the Technical Specialists and Data Operator and proposes corrections, if necessary, respecting any performed element and level of difficulty identified by the acting Technical Specialist and Assistant Technical Specialist. However, if both Technical Specialists disagree with a correction asked for by the Technical Controller, the initial decision of the Technical Specialist and Assistant Technical Specialist stands.”

In the case a disagreement about an element and/or level of difficulty exists between the Technical Specialist and Assistant Technical Specialist, the decision of the Technical Controller prevails.

*The Technical Controller is responsible to verify that the performed elements and levels of difficulty identified in accordance with the above-mentioned procedure are correctly introduced into the system by the Data Operator and **the performed elements and levels of difficulty may be validated only upon formal confirmation by the Technical Controller that such verification has been completed.** “*

Furthermore, the Technical Controller duties include, in particular but not limited to, and besides those specified in the above-mentioned Rules, to

- b) make deductions for
 - illegal elements or illegal Ice Dancing movements as per Rules 353, paragraph 1.q) for Single & Pair Skating, Rule 509, paragraph 3.a) iv), Rule 510, paragraph 4.a) iv), Rule 543, paragraph 1 m) for Ice Dancing and Rule 706, paragraph 9 and Rule 712, paragraph 10 for Synchronized Skating.
 - illegal holds (Pair Skating as per Rule 322, paragraph 1 d)
 - extra or additional element(s) as per Rule 543, paragraph 1. m) for Ice Dancing and Rule 706, paragraph 8 and Rule 712, paragraph 9 & 10 for Synchronized Skating).
- c) act as the responsible chair person of the Technical Panel ensuring an orderly, clear, dignified and efficient communication among the Technical Panel members.

4. Technical Specialist

The Technical Specialist's duties are stated in Rule 409 (Rule 580 for Ice Dancing, Rule 806 for Synchronized Skating) The ISU Council herewith clarifies certain duties mentioned in the above-mentioned Rules as well confirms certain additional duties as follows:

The Technical Specialist duties include, in particular but not limited to, and besides those specified in the above-mentioned Rules, to

- a) identify
 - illegal elements or illegal Ice Dancing movements as per Rules 353, paragraph 1.q) for Single & Pair Skating, Rule 509, paragraph 3.a) iv), Rule 510, paragraph 4.a) iv), Rule 543, paragraph 1 m) for Ice Dancing and Rule 706, paragraph 9 and Rule 712, paragraph 10 for Synchronized Skating.
 - illegal holds (Pair Skating as per Rule 322, paragraph 1 d)
 - extra or additional element(s) as per Rule 543, paragraph 1. m) for Ice Dancing and Rule 706, paragraph 8 and Rule 712, paragraph 9 & 10 for Synchronized Skating).
- b) respect the role of the Technical Controller as responsible chair person of the Technical Panel ensuring an orderly, clear, dignified and efficient communication among the Technical Panel members.

5. Round Table Discussion

As per Rule 411 for Single & Pair Skating, Rule 583 for Ice Dancing and Rule 809, paragraph 5 and Rule 824 for Synchronized Skating and for clarification purposes the Round Table Discussion should be moderated by the Referee and the Technical Controller to increase experience and knowledge of the participating Judges with a special attention to **the Program Components**.

The attendance by the Referee, the Technical Controller and the Judges of the Round Table Discussion meeting is mandatory. The same applies to the meeting before the competition.

Members of the Officials Assessment Commission (OAC) shall not attend these meetings.

6. Protests - Rule 123, paragraph 5:

Members are reminded that the 2004 ISU Congress has clarified this Rule through the acceptance of the following wording:

"In Figure Skating, no protests against evaluation by judges of skaters' performances are permitted. For Figure Skating and Speed Skating, protests against results are permitted only in the case of incorrect mathematical calculation."

The ISU Council herewith clarifies that the above-mentioned provision also applies to the evaluation by the Technical Panel (Technical Controller, Technical Specialists, Data Operator) of skaters' performances. A wrong identification of an element or of a level of difficulty, although it results in a lower or higher score, is a human error and not an incorrect mathematical calculation.

The above-mentioned Rule is in line with recent decisions of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in regard to the so-called "field of play" rules.

7. Communication with third parties during a competition - Rule 409, paragraph 2 (Rule 580, paragraph 2 for Ice Dance and Rule 821, paragraphs 6 & 7 for Synchronized Skating)

The above-mentioned Rules state that Judges

"must not discuss their own or others marks and scores, during the event, with any person other than the Referee of the part of the event of which they are judging" and

"may not serve as television commentator nor engage in communications with the media, television, or others except through the Referee of the part of the event in which they are judging."

The ISU Council herewith clarifies that the same provisions also apply to other acting Officials such as the members of the Technical Panel (Technical Controller, Technical Specialists, Data Input Operator and Video Operator) as far as the called elements and levels of execution are concerned. The members of the Technical Panel are not allowed **at any time** to comment on discussions within the Technical Panel where different opinions on a certain call of an element or level of difficulty existed.

It is also clarified that the term "event" means the whole period of an event, i.e. including all segments (Short Program/Free Skating respectively Compulsory Dance(s), Original Dance and Free Dance that ends with the award ceremony). Finally, the Council clarifies that the above-mentioned restrictions referring to "others" also include skaters, coaches and other skaters' support personnel.

8. Rule 125, paragraph 5 – Code of Ethics/ISU Communication no 1221

The ISU Council herewith reminds all participants in the ISU activity of Rule 125, paragraph 5 that states:

“ISU Office Holders, Officials, Members, remunerated persons and voluntary persons, and eligible skaters and remunerated coaches, participating in any ISU activity shall comply with any applicable statutes, position descriptions, ethical declarations and codes of conduct prescribed by the Council. Failure to comply may result in sanctions, suspension from participation and/or expulsion from the ISU.”

In this respect, the ISU Code of Ethics as per ISU Communication No. 1221 has been ratified by the 2004 ISU Congress for continued validity. The Code of Ethics is therefore applicable and binding on all persons named in the above cited rule.

Milan
January 21, 2005
Lausanne

Ottavio Cinquanta, President

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