

# INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION

## Communication No. 1327

**This Communication replaces ISU Communication No. 1275 with immediate effect. Changes and additions compared to ISU Communication No. 1275 are underlined.**

**Single and Pair Skating – Ice Dancing – Synchronized Skating  
ISU Judging System  
Evaluation of judging and technical content decisions, penalties**

### I. RULES

The Special Regulations for Single & Pair Skating (Rule 430), Ice Dancing, (Rule 593) and Synchronized Skating (Rule 825) contain certain Rules concerning the evaluation of the performance of Judges, Referees and Technical Officials at identified competitions. These Rules are copied herewith in this section **I. RULES** for convenient reference:

- a) After each segment (i.e. Short Program, Free Skating, Compulsory Dance, Original Dance, Free Dance) of an event (discipline), each Judge will receive a printout (Judges' Details for each Skater) that shows the "Grade of Execution" (GOE) of every element and the points for the Program Components from all Judges in a random sequence (For ISU Championships, the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating (Senior) the Qualifying Competition for the Olympic Winter Games and the Olympic Winter Games without any reference to specific Judges' names).
- b) An Officials' Assessment Commission (OAC) will be appointed by the ISU Council. The OAC shall consist of a pool of ISU Referees of different nationalities, who shall evaluate evident anomalies identified based on a predetermined mathematical criteria confirmed by the Council.
- c) For ISU Championships and ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating (senior) competitions this evaluation shall take place, if possible on site of the Events, immediately after the conclusion of each competition by 2 OAC members assigned by the President. For all other International Competitions the evaluation shall take place as soon as possible by 2 OAC members for each discipline (Single and Pair Skating, Ice Dance, Synchronized Skating).
- d) The OAC shall prepare a report for each competition including all identified cases of serious errors and or bias by the Judges, Event Referee and the Technical Officials of the respective competition. The report for each competition shall be made available without delay to the respective Technical Committee (related to judging) and to the ISU General Secretary/Council relating to Technical Content decisions made by the Technical Specialists and Technical Controller. The respective Technical Committee shall proceed with its evaluation of the OAC reports and immediate subsequent report to the Council as soon as possible in line with the applicable Rules for "Assessment". If the Technical Committee (relating to judging) or the ISU Council (relating to Technical

Content decisions made by the Technical Specialists and Technical Controller) disagree on any determination of serious errors and/or bias, the OAC must be consulted. If a disagreement prevails, the unresolved cases will be finally decided by the Council.

- e) In the case that an accumulation of “Assessments”, in accordance with existing rules, results in the demotion or suspension for the Judge concerned, the Judge shall be informed by the respective Technical Committee through the ISU Secretariat about the possible outcome. The Judge will have the right to give his/her explanation for the relevant “Assessments” and, if available, may use the respective video tapes to support his/her explanations in front of at least 3 members of the respective Technical Committee. Any expenses incurred by the Judge(s) concerned relating to the explanation meeting will be for the Judge’s account if all the “Assessments”, despite the explanations received, are confirmed by the respective Technical Committee after the meeting.

## II. Guidelines

To effectuate the above-mentioned Rules and within the power granted to it by the Congress, the ISU Council has decided upon the following Guidelines and clarifications in regard of the selection criteria and procedure of the Officials Assessment Commission (OAC). It is understood that the term “Assessment” so identified and used in this Communication, refers to “Assessments” according to the Special Regulations for Single and Pair Skating (Rules 421 & 427), Ice Dance (Rules 588 & 590) and Synchronized Skating (Rules 815 & 822).

### A) Identification of OAC Pool:

The ISU Council decided that ISU Referees and ISU Judges for Single and Pair Skating, Ice Dance and Synchronized Skating that fulfill the criteria outlined below, may be included in the OAC Pool and may be requested to serve in this position in accordance with sub-paragraph B) and C) below:

- a) The OAC Pool member shall be on the most current ISU officials listing as an ISU Referee or ISU Judge having been trained in the ISU Judging System and be available to attend educational seminars as directed by the Council, i.e. for the season 2005/06 the attendance of the Frankfurt Seminar, July 11-17, 2005 is mandatory.
- b) The OAC Pool member must not have more than an “Assessment 1” for activity from the ISU Technical Committee/Council in the three full years previous to the appointment.
- c) The ISU Council may periodically revise the above-mentioned criteria based on the experienced gained.
- d) The OAC Pool will be identified for service during each “season” from July 1 through the following June 30.
- e) The OAC Pool members who actually will be assigned to officiate in the OAC function as per sub-paragraphs B) and C) below, cannot act in any other capacity at the competitions they have been assigned to act as OAC member. No other restrictions apply to listed OAC Pool members, e.g. they may officiate in other capacities (including judging) at previous or subsequent competitions but, if possible, should avoid doing so during the same season.
- f) The activity of OAC pool members actually officiating in this capacity at ISU Events is counting, with retro-active effect for the season 2004/05 as well as the forthcoming seasons, towards the Officials activity requirements as stated in the Special Regulations.

### B) Appointment procedure for ISU Championships and senior Grand Prix of Figure Skating events/Final

- a) As stated in section I c) above of the new Rules, for ISU Championships and ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating (senior) competitions this evaluation shall take place, on site of the Events, immediately after the conclusion of each competition by 2 OAC members for each discipline assigned by the ISU President (hereafter called “assigned OAC members”). OAC Pool members must have the following skills relating to their OAC work:
  - a. ability to analyze competition data; ability to work quickly and in an organized fashion;
  - b. good written English;

- c. be familiar with report writing;
  - d. demonstrate an ability to remain objective in all officiating evaluation matters.
- b) To provide consistency among OAC evaluation in all competitions and a “transfer of knowledge”, the assignments will be made in a manner so that if possible at least one assigned OAC member per discipline will be in attendance having previous experience in an OAC assignment.
  - c) The ISU President has the right to assign skating knowledgeable individuals (former international skaters or officials who are still member of a Member) as observers of the work of the OAC on site. In addition, the ISU Secretariat and/or consultants will administratively assist the OAC as required.
  - d) Each Single and Pair Skating/Ice Dance ISU Championship or Grand Prix of Figure Skating (senior) competition shall be attended by at least three assigned OAC members, two of whom must be available for Ice Dancing. For the World Synchronized Skating Championships, 2 OAC Pool members from the Synchronized Skating discipline shall be assigned.
  - e) The assigned OAC members to an ISU Championships or Grand Prix of Figure Skating event/Final shall be in attendance during the full duration of all events of their respective discipline (Ladies, Men, Pairs or Ice Dance or Synchronized Skating) observing the level of the skaters performance.
  - f) Even though the printouts given to the assigned OAC members do not reveal the Judges names, the assigned OAC members must keep the data made available to them strictly confidential and may not make any comments at any time except when specifically and formally requested by the respective Technical Committee and/or the ISU Council and in any case the data shall not be disclosed to anybody else.
  - g) OAC members shall accept that any work, research, information and/or decision(s) in regard to their work as a member of the OAC shall at all times remain confidential.
  - h) OAC members shall not be in a position to be working directly or indirectly with any international skater(s) or coach who has the potential to participate in an ISU Event for which they will be appointed.
  - i) Arrival at the competition as so assigned, shall be on the day before the commencement of the first official competitive event.
  - j) OAC members are assigned to assess the work of the officials as they assessed the actual performance of the skaters in the appointed competition. With this in mind, the OAC member should attend only one practice session of each participating skater for the purpose of identifying the skater by name and appearance. It is not necessary and is not encouraged that OAC members attend exhaustively all the practice sessions. Such activity is not productive and could prejudice the member in their decisions in regard to actual performances. OAC members shall not attend the Judges meeting or the Round Table Discussions.
  - k) At no time must OAC members be available in the ice rink to sit with members of the officials panel of the event they are assessing. It is recommended that OAC members when attending any practice sessions shall use their discretion to remain aloof from participants, coaches and officials.
  - l) It is recommended that as may be physically possible in each event, that the OAC is seated as close as possible to the same site line as the judging panel.

**C) Assignment of OAC members for the ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating series and World Challenge Cup for Juniors in Synchronized Skating**

For the Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating series and the World Challenge Cup for Juniors in Synchronized Skating, the OAC evaluation shall take place as soon as possible by 2 assigned OAC members for each competition and discipline (Single and Pair Skating, Ice Dance, Synchronized Skating). The ISU President will assign the necessary number of OAC members to perform the evaluation based on the available printouts and based on video tapes (DVDs). The assigned OAC members will perform this task at their respective residence.

**D) Judges Evaluation at other International Competitions**

In such competitions there will be no guaranty for the availability and consistency of technology as available in ISU Events (i.e. video replay, DVD analysis, on-site OAC personnel) and consequently there will be no checks and balances evident to assess these Judges' work. Furthermore, the main responsibility for such a review would rest to a large part with the organizing Member. This could cause further problems especially in consistency and credibility.

The events reviewed by the ISU appointed OAC will be 16 Grand Prix events, 4 ISU Figure Championships, and 2 ISU Synchronized Events for a total of 22 events. With this coverage the Council safely assumes that the activity of most Judges in a season would "enter the ISU radar" and come up for review in at least one of these events.

Given this situation and to insure that all officials are reviewed under equal conditions, the Council decided that a full individual assessment of Judges marks not be undertaken at International Senior/Junior Competitions. However, the Referee of an individual event must continue to file a formal report reviewing the Judges activity in regard to ethics, behavior, attendance at Round Table Discussion, use of English and the other generalized reporting areas including but not limited to skating level, and over-all Judges marking. Any violations in one or more of the ethics areas must be considered towards an Assessment of the individual Judge by the relevant Technical Committee.

**E) Mathematical Criteria to Identify Potential Anomalies**

The following specific mathematical criteria to identify potential anomalies to be evaluated by the assigned OAC members has been approved by the Council.

**a) Element Sector Scores (Judges GOE)**

(i) For each element or section (section = parts of a Compulsory Dance) performed, the computer calculates an individual trimmed mean of the Grade Of Execution (GOE), in which **all** Judges of the panel participate. With a panel of 10 and more judges, the two highest and the two lowest GOEs are ignored.

With a panel of less than 10 Judges, only the highest and the lowest GOE will be ignored. The base value of the elements are not considered. **The trimmed mean score, calculated for the evaluation by the OAC is not identical with the trimmed**

**mean result which has been used for the competition result where only the (one) highest and the (one) lowest GOE will be ignored.**

ii) For each Judge the computer calculates the deviation in elements. The deviation of a Judge in one element is the absolute value (i.e. positive value) of the difference between entered GOE and the trimmed mean of the GOEs. The deviation points in elements is the sum of the deviation of the individual elements.

Example: *Short Program*

	Trimmed mean of GOE	GOE of Judge A	Deviation
Element 1	1.2	1	0.2
Element 2	-1.4	-2	0.6
Element 3	0	-1	1,0
Element 4	0.8	1,0	0.2
Element 5	-1,8	0	1.8
Element 6	0,2	2,0	1.8
Element 7	2.2	1.0	1.2
Element 8	1.4	0	1.4
	Deviation points in elements:		8.2

A general “corridor of an acceptable number of deviation points” is given to each individual Judge. This “corridor” is based on the number of elements performed, e.g. in a Short Program there are 8 required elements to perform. Each Judge may vary in his/her decision with one (1) step as an average per element, which are 8 steps in total for the Short Program (8.0 as the deviation points maximum). The above example would indicate that there might be an anomaly.

The same principle applies for Compulsory Dance(s) and for Original Dance. As many elements or sections as performed and accepted, as many steps (max. points of deviation) are primarily acceptable.

iii) The same principle applies for Free Skating/Free Dance. As many elements as performed and accepted, as many steps (max. points of deviation) are primarily acceptable.

**b) Program Components**

For the five (5) Program Components respectively the four (4) for the Compulsory Dance(s), the Judge’s “corridor” will be 15% of the maximum total points of 50 points (40 points for Compulsory Dances), means 7.5 deviation points (6.0 deviation points for Compulsory Dances). No factor will be taken into consideration.

The assigned OAC members must among them, agree upon applicable component scores for each skater/couple. If the Program Component scores of the assigned OAC members is located outside of the “corridor”, the “corridor” will be enlarged in the

corresponding direction up to the assigned OAC members score, which automatically enlarges the maximum point corridor of 7.5 deviation points (6.0 deviation points for Compulsory Dances) accordingly.

## **F) Evaluation Materials**

After each segment (i.e. Short Program, Free Skating, Compulsory Dance, Original Dance, Free Dance) of an event, the assigned OAC members on site will receive the necessary printouts that include the “Grade of Execution” (GOE) of every element and the points for the Program Components from all Judges in a random sequence without any reference to specific Judges’ names. Another printout given to the OAC only will highlight the potential anomalies. In addition, video tapes of the competition will be available for review during the meetings of the OAC.

## **G) Time-line**

- a) For ISU Championships and senior Grand Prix of Figure Skating events/Final, the assigned OAC members must review the event printout at the site of the competition in question within 24 hours of the last event being concluded. It is understood that the assigned OAC members will have the advantage of attending and observing the performances at the event using their appraisal as a comparison to the actual scores print out. From the review, including the possibility of reviewing the video tapes of the competition as may be necessary, any anomalies shall be identified and a full report shall be prepared. Such report shall include in particular the identification of anomalies that, in the opinion of the assigned OAC must be considered as an error and consequently an “Assessment.”
- b) For the Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating series and the World Challenge Cup for Juniors in Synchronized Skating, the evaluation shall take place as soon as possible by 2 OAC members assigned by the ISU President for each competition and discipline, i.e. Single and Pair Skating, Ice Dance, Synchronized Skating based on the available printouts and based on video tapes (DVDs). (See item C) above).
- c) The OAC report from the individual events including identified judging errors and corresponding proposed “Assessments” together with any supporting documentation (including DVD’s) as shall be deemed necessary shall be forwarded by the assigned OAC members immediately to the ISU Secretariat. A second copy may be given to a member of the relevant Technical Committee if the Technical Committee is represented at the Event. The Secretariat in turn shall forward the report as soon as possible to the Technical Committee concerned by adding, if applicable, cases of identified anomalies that also could constitute national bias.
- d) The Technical Committee shall review the OAC report within 7 days upon receipt with particular attention to the anomalies relating to judging (with emphasis on the errors, and/or national bias, respectively proposed “Assessments” as identified by the assigned OAC). In the time period between Technical Committee meetings, the Technical Committee shall communicate through e-mail and/or conference calls in order to reach conclusions. The Technical Committee shall take immediate action to propose an “Assessment” should such be deemed necessary. “Assessments” confirmed by the Technical Committees should be given without delay to the ISU Secretariat and

the confirmed “Assessment” will be communicated by the ISU Secretariat to the Officials and their Members concerned.

- e) A full report of the “Assessment” decisions shall be forwarded by the respective Technical Committee to the Vice President Figure Skating on a monthly basis. The Vice President shall report to the Council from time to time and in particular if an individual official has received a number of “Assessments” in the same season. If any “Assessment” report is considered to require demotion or suspension at any time of the official, the Vice President must inform the ISU President immediately to request ISU Council consideration and possible action.
- f) A composite report of the OAC activity in the full season shall be prepared by the respective Technical Committee for the ISU Council in June of every season by each of the relevant Technical Committees.
- g) The assigned OAC members shall prepare a report for each competition in case of identified cases of serious errors and or bias relating to Technical Content decisions made by the Technical Specialists and Technical Controller as well as related to decisions taken by the Event Referee. The report for each competition shall be made available without delay to the ISU General Secretary/Council. The Council shall proceed with its evaluation concerning the OAC reports as soon as possible in line with the applicable Rules for “Assessment”.
- h) If the Technical Committee (relating to judging) or the ISU Council (relating to Technical Content decisions made by the Technical Specialists and Technical Controller and Event Referee decisions) disagree on any determination of serious errors and/or bias made by the assigned OAC members, the assigned OAC members must be consulted. For unresolved cases, the Council will take the final decision.
- i) In the case that an accumulation of “Assessments”, in accordance with existing rules (presently when reaching “Assessment 4”), results in the demotion or suspension for the Officials concerned, the Officials shall be notified through the ISU Secretariat about the possible outcome. The Official will have the right to ask within 5 days upon receipt of the notification for a meeting, to be held as soon as possible, to give his/her explanation for the relevant “Assessments” and, if available, may use the respective video tapes to support his/her explanations relating to judging errors in front of at least 3 members of the respective Technical Committee. For Technical Content decisions made by the Technical Specialists and the Technical Controller or decisions made by the Event Referee, such explanations would be given to at least 3 Figure Skating members of the ISU Council.

Any travel, board and lodging or other expenses incurred by the Official(s) concerned relating to the explanation meeting will be for the Official’s account if all the “Assessments”, despite the explanations received, are confirmed by the respective Technical Committee or Council after the meeting. The ISU will only reimburse such expenses if at least one of the “Assessments” would be revoked.

## **H) Performance Evaluations of Officials are not Disciplinary Decisions**

- a) The 2004 Congress adopted a new Article 21 to the ISU Constitution creating the ISU Disciplinary Commission (the DC). This new Article identifies disciplinary-type matters as being within the jurisdiction of the new DC and distinguishes “performance evaluations” as not being disciplinary in nature.
- b) More specifically, Paragraphs 8 and 9 of new Article 21 include the contents of Paragraphs 3 and 4 of Article 22 of the 2002 ISU Constitution., and further



augment these provisions. Paragraphs 8 and 9 explicitly state that appointment of a person to an official position and the continued assignment of that person to such position is not a matter of right but a function entrusted to the designated body or Official of the ISU, and further, that performance evaluations of officials, including “Assessments”, warnings, criticism, letters of advice, as well as appointment or removal of ISU Officials from positions, are not disciplinary but technical decisions. Officials’, appointments, “Assessments” and removals accordingly are not subject to the jurisdiction of the ISU Disciplinary Commission or the Appeals Commission.

- c) For convenience, Proposals 298-300 on the 2004 Congress Agenda that were accepted by the Congress, and this Communication, use certain expressions from the 2002 Special Regulations which if not clarified by an interpretation of the Council, could be mistaken for a continuation of the former ISU disciplinary procedures as applied to ISU officials. This applies to such words as "sanctions", "suspensions", "demotions", "penalties", etc. used in connection with Officials appointments, “Assessments” or assignments.
- d) The ISU Council has decided that these expressions as used in the adopted Proposals 298-300 (which will be new Special Regulations) and in this Communication are to be distinguished from, and shall not refer to, any type of disciplinary sanction for misconduct or violation of the ISU Ethics Code, for example as such disciplinary-type references are used in Rule 104, paragraph 16, Rule 125 paragraph 4. and in new Articles 21, 22, 23 and 24 of the 2004 ISU Constitution.

Accordingly, decisions concerning the appointment, assessment/evaluation of performance or assignment of ISU Officials as foreseen by the new Paragraphs 8 and 9 of Article 21, of the ISU Constitution and this Communication may not be the subject of a Complaint made to the Disciplinary Commission or an appeal to the ISU Appeals Commission.

### **I ) Officials Remuneration for ISU Events**

Proposals Nos. 298 – 300 of the Congress Agenda and accepted by the 2004 ISU Congress include the following Rule (see Paragraphs A.o) of Proposals Nos. 298 – 300):

*“All the Officials who served at ISU Events (ISU Championships, ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating (senior and junior) shall receive compensation at the end of the season as decided by the Council from time to time. In the case of a demotion or suspension, no money shall be paid to the suspended Official/s for the whole season concerned.”*

The ISU Council decided that the above-mentioned compensation due at the end of the season shall be paid in addition to compensations paid immediately on site of the ISU Events. This procedure is applicable to all acting Technical Controllers, Technical Specialists, Referees, Judges, assigned OAC members, Replay Operators and Data Operators as follows:

#### 1. On-site:

Senior Grand Prix of Figure Skating events and Final:  
CHF 300 per event or Final

Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating events and Final:  
CHF 200 per event and Final

ISU Championships:  
CHF 40 per day

2. After the season:

For Officials having officiated without demotion or suspension during the season

at 3 ISU Events: Additional CHF 500  
at 4 ISU Events: Additional CHF 600  
at 5 ISU Events: Additional CHF 700  
etc. (CHF 100 increment for each additional Event)

As an example, an Official having officiated during a season at 4 ISU Events without any suspension or demotion, would receive the following compensation:

1 <sup>st</sup> Event on site Sr GP from organizer	CHF 300
2 <sup>nd</sup> Event on site Sr GP from organizer	CHF 300
3 <sup>rd</sup> Event on site Jr GP from organizer	CHF 200
4 <sup>th</sup> Event on site Championships (max 8 days) from organizer	CHF 320
at end of season from ISU	CHF 600
Total season	CHF 1'720

Officials that after the procedure outlined under Section II. F above have been suspended and/or demoted, will not receive the compensation after the season and must reimburse all compensation moneys received at ISU Events during the season concerned to the respective organizing Members. Failing to do so will result in the Official not being allowed to resume his/her officiating activity at ISU sanctioned competitions until the outstanding reimbursement has been made.

Milano,  
July 1, 2005  
Lausanne,

**Ottavio Cinquanta**, President

**Fredi Schmid**, General Secretary