

Communication No. 2632

SYNCHRONIZED SKATING (Replaces ISU Communication No. 2566)

This Communication provides **GUIDELINES** for season 2024/25 for the following:

- Referees, Judges and Technical Panel Deductions
- Marking the GOE's of Synchronized Skating Elements

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2024/25 Referees, Judges and Technical Panel Deductions

Referee and Judges *)

Costume/prop violation, Rule 951 para 1 -1.0
(theatrical in design, including makeup; feathers; rhinestones or sequins on the face)

Referee

Costume failure, Rule 951 para 2 -1.0
Late start, more than 30 seconds late, Rule 838 para 4 -1.0
Late start, more than 60 seconds late, Rule 838 para 4 Team is withdrawn
Music requirement violation, Rule 991 para 2 a) -1.0
Program time violation, SP every five seconds in excess of 2 minutes 50 sec, Rule 952 -1.0
Program time violation, FS every five seconds lacking or in excess, Rule 952 para 2 -1.0
Interruption in excess, more than ten seconds (fault of Skaters(s)), Rule 953 para 2:
 more than 10-20 seconds -1.0
 more than 20-30 seconds -2.0
 more than 30-40 seconds -3.0
 second interruption of more than 40 seconds or program not completed Team is withdrawn
Interruption of the program with three minutes, Rule 965 para 4 b) -5.0
Adverse condition prior to the program with three minutes, Rule 965 para 6 -5.0

Technical Panel **)

Fall: One Skater (each Skater per occurrence) -1.0
Illegal Elements, Features, Additional Features, Movements -2.0
Wrong Element shape No value

SP Elements: Un-prescribed, Additional or Repeated Element -1.5

(See Technical Handbook for specific errors and deductions)

*) **Referee + Judges:** Deduction is applied according to the opinion of a majority of the Panel which includes all of the Judges and the Referee. No deduction in case of a 50:50 split vote.

) **Technical Panel: Technical Specialist identifies. Technical Controller authorizes or corrects and deducts. If both Technical Specialists disagree with a correction asked for by the Technical Controller, the initial decision of the Technical Specialists stands.

ERRORS

- **Serious Errors** – Fall(s) impact the integrity/continuity and fluidity of the Element and its relation to the music and must be reflected accordingly in the GOE and Program Components.
- **Minor Errors** do not fully impact the integrity/continuity and fluidity of the Element and should not be over penalized when awarding the GOE.
- **Each error** occurring within the same Element must be reflected in the final marks for GOE and Program Components.

Not Higher Than (NHT) reductions:

- When a **Not Higher Than** reduction is listed, the GOE is created assessing the General Criteria and Element Criteria first and then applying the **NHT**. Additional reductions are applied as observed, but the final GOE can be Not Higher Than the mark defined.
- NOTE: If the Element quality does not deserve a mark equal to the NHT, it must be lower.

2024/25 Marking the GOE of Synchronized Skating Elements

Grades Of Execution										
More Negative criteria					Negative = Positive	More Positive criteria			No Fall	No Error
-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4	+5
-9 or more	7-8	5-6	3-4	1-2	- / +	+1-2	+3-4	+5-6	+7-8	+9 or more

The GOE is calculated considering quality aspects of the **General Criteria** which results in the starting GOE. The GOE is then increased or decreased according to the **positive and negative Element Criteria**.

To establish the starting GOE, Judges must take into consideration the following General Criteria which applies to the Elements as appropriate:

General Criteria for Starting GOE		
NEGATIVE (Reduce) Poor -1 to Very Poor -2	POSITIVE (Increase) Good +1 to Very Good +2	
Not achieved or maintained	Shape	Achieved and maintained throughout the Element
Varies between Skaters and within Lines, Pairs, etc.	Spacing	Correct and consistent between Skaters and within Lines, Pairs, etc.
Poor synchronization of body, movements, steps, features, holds, etc.	Unison (concurrent or syncopated)	Good synchronization of body, movements, steps, features, holds, etc.
No or reduced speed of rotations (pi, Pa, SySp, TrE, TwE, fe, etc)	Speed (All Elements)	Maintained or accelerated through rotations (pi, Pa, SySp, TrE, TwE, fe, etc.)
No or reduced speed across the ice		Maintained or accelerated across the ice
Labored or lacking	Flow	Maintained, smooth and effortless
Poorly executed	Entries / Exits	Seamless or unexpected
Flat, skidded, jumped, two footed, loss of balance, checked turns or on the spot (tw)	Turns / Steps	Correctly executed, strong, controlled edges with good ice coverage and running edge
Awkward positions or not aesthetically pleasing	Features fe / fm	Beautiful body lines or body position
Labored or poorly executed	Other Features	Effortless and correctly executed
Lacking variety or unstable, inconsistent holds and spacing	Holds	Good variety with clear, secure and controlled holds, demonstrating a change of spacing
Does not utilize the timing, tempo, character or nuances	Musicality	Enhances music timing, tempo, character or nuances
Element is conventional, basic, with no interesting Features, patterns, shapes, etc.	Creativity	Element, Feature, pattern, shape, etc. is unexpected or interesting

Definition of required Features and Additional Features: Refer to ISU Special Regulations & Technical Rules – Synchronized Skating (Rule 990), and ISU Communication Synchronized Skating Difficulty Groups of Elements, Features and Additional Features and ISU Communication Well-Balanced Program Requirements.

To establish the final GOE, Judges must take into consideration the following Element Criteria, which either increases or reduces the starting GOE:

Element Criteria				
NEGATIVE - Reduce			POSITIVE - Increase	
NHT 0	No artistry, creativity or does not reflect the music	Artistic, Creative, Mixed	The design of movement and structure utilizes the music and is interesting or unique	+1
-2	Collision	Intersection	Increasing speed into pi	+2
-1 to -2	Not intersecting at same time (confirm with video review)		pi base Intersection: unique or interesting movement at pi	+2
-3 / -4	Position not attempted or achieved by one / by two or more	Lift (Creative, Group, Pair)	Flexible or beautiful positions	+2
-2 / -3	Collapse by one / by two or more		Non-lifting Skaters create an interesting or unique design	+1
-1 to -2	Not gliding out of Lift			
-1	Non-lifting Skaters do not execute a fe			
NHT -2	Basic fm position not achieved by more than ½ of the Team	Move	Flexible or beautiful positions demonstrated by all of the Team	+2
		Pair	Unison of rotations in all phases	+2
-2	Curved lines during pivoting	Pivoting (B, L)	Controlled and fast pivoting	+2
NHT -2	No centrifugal force	Rotating / Traveling (C, W)	Rapid ice coverage, continuous and controlled travel	+1
NHT -2	No recognizable traveling or less than ½ of the ice			
NHT -2	Basic spin position not achieved by more than ½ of the Team	Synchronized Spin	Unison in Entry, Rotation or Exit phase	+1 each
-1	Traveling by more than ¼ of the Team		Unison during Features	+1
NHT -2	Incorrectly executed by more than ½ of the Team	Twizzle	Unison of all Twizzles	+2

Serious Errors		Other Errors	
-2 to -3	Fall by One	Choreographic error displayed by "!"	-2
-4	Fall by Two	Excessive use of ice greater than 1/2 of the surface (confirm with video review)	-2
NHT -5	Fall by Three or more	Visible error(s)	-1 each
		Stopping during Elements (except NHE or any Element in which the program ends)	-1