

October 21, 2019

Lausanne, Switzerland

ISU Centers of Excellence Nine entities selected to enter 2 year pilot phase

At its meeting on October 11-12, 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland, the ISU Council has approved the ISU Centers of Excellence (CoE) concept and next step strategies.

The ISU CoE combines activities in key development areas. It is a hub where the education of Coaches, Officials, training of talented Skaters, and various seminars, webinars and workshops take place; it is where Skaters, Coaches and Officials have access to high-quality experts, services and sufficient on-and off-ice facilities. Entities that fulfil and excel in those criteria and activities receive an ISU CoE label for the quality of services and facilities offered to Skaters, Coaches and Officials from ISU Members.

The ISU CoE enters a Pilot Phase for a two-year period (2020 and 2021). Based on the responses to the ISU CoE survey and further information collected, nine entities have been selected to participate in the Pilot Phase during which projects and workshops will be organized in order to test the concept and define the best way forward. It is also the objective to develop an ISU CoE Handbook and other related guidelines during this Pilot Phase.

By the end of the year 2021, an application and implementation process for a four-year phase of the ISU CoE will be put in place, with the aim to serve the development of skating sports around the world. This will be a process open to all interested ice skating entities all over the globe.

The selected entities for the ISU CoE Pilot Phase are:

Speed Skating Branch (by alphabetical order of the names of the entities)

- Olympic Oval in Calgary, Canada - Speed Skating and Short Track
- Thialf in Heerenveen, the Netherlands - Speed Skating and Short Track
- Utah Olympic Oval in Salt Lake City, USA - Speed Skating and Short Track

Figure Skating Branch ((by alphabetical order of the names of the entities)

- Detroit Skating Club in Detroit, USA - Single & Pair Skating, Ice Dance, Synchronized Skating
- Ice Lab in Bergamo, Italy - Single & Pair Skating
- Ice Rink in the Eissportzentrum Oberstdorf in Germany - Single & Pair Skating, Ice Dance
- IWIS International Training Center in Bangkok, Thailand - Single & Pairs Skating, Ice Dance
- Skating School of Switzerland in Champéry, Switzerland - Single & Pair Skating

ISU CoE that will be established in Beijing, China covers both Branches and has a unique status as part of the Beijing 2022 Legacy plans.