

Communication No. 2418

Decisions of the Council ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating season 2021/22

Despite the lingering world-wide coronavirus pandemic, the ISU is looking forward to the Olympic season and will do its utmost to assist the ISU Members in maintaining and safely conducting the planned ISU Events and allowing a maximum number of participants.

Starting with the first planned ISU Series of the season, the ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating series, the ISU and the organizing and participating ISU Members are confronted with numerous challenges, including but not limited to the following:

- **Entry restrictions into host countries and/or return to the home countries**, in the form of required proof of full, timely and internationally recognized vaccination and/or timely Covid-19 tests and/or quarantine requirements

The first two ISU Junior Grand Prix events in France are already subject to increased entry restrictions. Depending on the country of departure and on the status (timing and type) of vaccination, participants from certain countries may enter France only subject to undergoing a quarantine. For some “red-flagged” countries, such quarantine of up to 10 days applies even for fully vaccinated participants. Such quarantine requirements obviously make the participation of the concerned teams impossible. It must be anticipated that other countries will impose similar measures applicable to arriving or returning travelers.

Please note that the organizing ISU Members will inform and/or update the participating ISU Members about the applicable entry restrictions into their country as soon as those are available (already provided for the two ISU Junior Grand Prix events in France with those for the other events to follow).

For the general ISU imposed Guidelines for ISU Events during the Covid-19 pandemic, please refer to ISU Communication 2411.

- **Limited air travel options** for certain destinations and origins. The input from the ISU travel manager indicates that depending on the origin and destination it will be difficult to find the necessary flights in a timely and economically sustainable manner.

Based on the above, the ISU Council concluded that while striving to organize and safely conduct all ISU Junior Grand Prix events of the season, the participation of all currently planned entries will not be possible.

The Council consequently evaluated whether ISU Junior Grand Prix entry spots that cannot be used due to travel and entry restrictions could be re-allocated to other ISU Junior Grand Prix events. However, due to the ongoing and constantly changing pandemic-related uncertainties, and the unpredictable dynamic of how many re-allocations would apply for whom and where, the Council noted that it will be extremely difficult to manage such a complex puzzle which could easily result in a logistical nightmare. Nevertheless, the Council agreed to monitor the situation and, subject to the re-allocation requests remaining at a reasonable low level, to consider requests for such re-allocations on a case-by-case basis.

Re-allocation requests will be granted based on the following criteria of preference:

- a. **Vaccinated Competitors coming from red-flagged countries but who, despite being vaccinated, cannot enter the host country without quarantine**
- b. **Not vaccinated Competitors coming from red-flagged countries who were unable to get vaccinated due to their young age and/or medical reasons and who, in any case, cannot enter the host country without quarantine**

- c. **Vaccinated Competitors coming from countries whose residents may enter the host country without quarantine, but whose vaccine in the country of residence is not recognized by the host country**
- d. **Not vaccinated Competitors coming from countries whose residents may enter the host country without quarantine, but who were unable to get vaccinated due to their young age and/or medical reasons,**

Applications for such re-allocations must be sent to the ISU Secretariat, Ms. Patricia Mayor (mayor@isu.ch) and the ISU Figure Skating Event Manager, Mr. Wieland Lüders (lueders@isu.org) indicating the names of the concerned competitor/s and team member/s, the reasons for the re-allocation request, the vaccination status (type and timing or reason for not being vaccinated), the country of residence and the preferred alternative ISU Junior Grand Prix event. The requests will be evaluated in consultation with the concerned participating and host ISU Members. The final decision will be taken by the ISU Vice President Figure Skating.

Reallocations will be subject to sufficient availability of open spots in the other ISU Junior Grand Prix events. If the dynamic of the re-allocation process results in an unmanageable logistical situation due to too many and/or too complex re-allocation requests, then the ISU reserves the right to abandon the re-allocation process at any time.

Mindful of the above-mentioned situation and challenges, the Council finally concluded that it is impossible to implement a fair and consistent ISU Junior Grand Prix ranking for the 2021/22 season. The Council therefore agreed to focus on the safe organization of the individual ISU Junior Grand Prix events with the best possible participation. However, no ISU Junior Grand Prix ranking will be applied. Depending on the developments during the ISU Junior Grand Prix series, the ISU Council will evaluate if and how the ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final (scheduled to be held on December 9-12, 2021 in Japan), could be held by applying alternative qualification criteria. Such decision will be taken as soon as possible in consultation with all stakeholders also taking into account the sanitary situation in Japan and around the world, which is particularly sensitive for junior-aged Skaters.

The ISU Council takes this opportunity to reiterate its general advice included in ISU Communication 2411 in relation to the increasing trend of countries requiring proof of vaccination in order to avoid quarantine when entering a country. ISU Members are alerted to this development and asked, in consultation with the competent state health and sports authorities, to encourage and find solutions for all members of their international event delegations to be fully and timely vaccinated with an internationally recognized vaccine in order to ensure that quarantine requirements are kept to a minimum.

Tubbergen,
August 5, 2021
Lausanne,

Jan Dijkema, President

Fredi Schmid, Director General