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Las Vegas, USA

## ISU Congress 2024: A historic milestone for ice skating

**(Las Vegas - June 14, 2024)** – The 59<sup>th</sup> ISU Congress concluded in Las Vegas (USA) after five inspiring and productive days of meetings and presentations. Over 250 delegates from 65 countries participated in this landmark event to shape the future of ice skating. Numerous ground-breaking decisions were made to enhance the sports and modernize the organization, marking the ISU's entry into a transformative new era.

During an [online press conference](#) with media representatives from around the world, the ISU President Jae Youl Kim said: *"We are building upon the proud traditions of ice skating to grow our sport. Our Vision 2030 is athlete-first, member-focused and fan-centric. We are taking the necessary measures to make our sport even more exciting and to bring more fans moving forward."*

On the final day of the Congress the delegates ratified the diligent work of the ISU Council over the past two years in developing the [ISU Vision 2030](#), a high-level strategic roadmap designed to steer the federation towards enhanced growth, opportunity, innovation, sustainability and unity. The ISU Congress overwhelmingly supported this vital move by approving the financial budget for 2024-2026 and the Constitution reform – two crucial tools necessary to provide investment and agility in the implementation of these initiatives.

### Modernization of ISU Constitution

A historic milestone was reached with the passing of the resolution to reform the ISU Constitution and General Regulations to ensure greater clarity, consistency and flexibility. A drafting committee and Member consultation group will be appointed to run and oversee the collaborative revision process, ensuring that the Members' perspectives are reflected. The results will be presented at an Extraordinary Congress in 2025.

### New branding and commercial opportunities

The ISU Congress also agreed to take significant steps to innovate the organization to meet the new realities and expectations of the rapidly evolving sports landscape. *"We are opening the doors to more commercial opportunities to bring new revenue into the sport for ISU, its Members and the Skaters,"* said Director General Colin Smith.

Notably, the ISU Congress made a striking decision to allow the presence of clothing manufacturing marks on Figure Skating costumes. *"There has long been a strong link between the fashion industry and Figure Skaters. With this game-changing move, ISU further embraces the opportunities provided by the fashion industry and allows Skaters and fashion designers to now directly engage and mutually benefit. This is a very positive step forward,"* Smith explained.

Next season, the new Short Track World Tour will launch with new modern helmet designs and racing suits for each Short Track team to differentiate the Short Track World Tour season from the Championships. *"We all know the fast, dynamic, exciting nature of Short Track racing,"* said Smith. *"We will capture this in a new sports property which encapsulates the*

*World Cup Short Track Series that we have in Europe, North America and Asia, and packages them in a new, dynamic, bold way.”*

Other measures to enrich the fan experience include upgrading the events’ concepts, TV broadcasting presentations and digital engagement channels. As part of the federation’s rebranding, a new suite of modernized TV graphics across all its sports will be launched in phases as from season 2024/25 to complement the in-venue and TV viewing experience to create more appealing fan and sponsorship packages.

### **Digital transformation**

With the goal to revamp its digital identity, a new unified and holistic digital ecosystem is under development, to offer a tailored user experience for both fan and corporate purposes. The new website, mobile application and asset management platform will generate more collaborative and interactive opportunities, while allowing to expand the fan base worldwide.

The exploration of other cutting-edge technological advancements, including AI, are also considered to improve the judging system in Figure Skating. Computer-assistance is expected to make a significant difference for Officials and Judges in evaluating performance in a quicker, fairer and more transparent way.

### **Safeguarding and athlete well-being**

With the skaters being the greatest assets driving ice-skating sports, the ISU reaffirmed its strong commitment to safe and clean sport, shining a light on the importance of athletes’ mental and physical well-being. Invited as a guest-speaker, Kirsty Burrows, Head of the IOC Safe Sport Unit, delivered a compelling speech about safeguarding, including the prevention of abuse and harassment in sport. In a special [fireside chat](#), American Olympian Gracie Gold shared with the Congress her very personal story of overcoming mental health challenges as an elite Figure Skater.

The ISU continues to undertake concrete actions to thoroughly implement its [ISU Safeguarding policy](#), by having among others appointed a full-time Safeguarding Officer, multiplied collaborations with related organizations as well as developed educational and promotional campaigns on the topic. In addition, the ISU Congress voted on a 20% increase in annual Member contribution to assist Members Federations in developing and implementing athlete safeguarding initiatives in their own countries.

### **Concluding Outlook**

Closing the ISU Congress, ISU President Jae-Youl Kim addressed Delegates: *“Thank you very much for your great energy and constructive engagement over the last five days. What a great success. Your enthusiasm for our Vision 2030 and the related priorities are greatly appreciated and will enable us to reach our goals, including attracting more fans worldwide, making our sport more relevant to the new generations, and bringing in new expertise and innovative approaches to commercial growth and event delivery. Together we can go further.”*

**-ENDS-**

### **Congress Information**

The full Congress agenda and detailed proposals are available in the [ISU Communication 2629](#) and [ISU Communication 2637](#).

## WHERE TO REWATCH

All the sessions of the 59<sup>th</sup> Ordinary ISU Congress can be watched on the [Skating ISU YouTube Channel](#).

The ISU Congress press conference is available [here](#).

To know more about the ISU Congresses, visit the dedicated webpage [here](#).

## About the International Skating Union

The International Skating Union (ISU), founded in 1892, is the oldest governing international winter sport federation and the exclusive international sport federation recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) administering the sports of Figure Skating (Single & Pair Skating and Ice Dance), Synchronized Skating, Speed Skating and Short Track Speed Skating worldwide. The objectives of the ISU are to regulate, govern, promote and develop its sports on the basis of friendship and mutual understanding between athletes. Currently three ISU disciplines are included in the Olympic Winter Games program (Figure Skating, Speed Skating and Short Track Speed Skating). For further information please visit [isu.org](http://isu.org).

## Appendix Overview of adopted key proposals

### Speed Skating:

- **New Event:** The Mixed Relay will be introduced at the ISU Speed Skating Championships, similar to Junior World Cups and World Cup events. World Records for this event will be officially recognized.
- **Extended Championships:** The World Championships program will now include competitions for all defined titles (Single Distances, Allround and Sprint combinations, and Team Events) annually.
- **Yellow Card Sanction:** A "Yellow Card" will be introduced as a sanction for repeated Racing Rule violations, unsporting behavior, or unsafe, harmful offenses, similar to the system in Short Track Speed Skating and other sports.
- **Junior D Category Age Limit:** For international competitions, the Junior D category will be limited to ages 11-12 as part of the ISU's Safeguarding policy.

### Short Track:

- **Rulebook Restructuring:** The Short Track Rule book (Special Regulations + Technical Rules) will be restructured by merging related rules for better streamlining and simplification.
- **Flexible Scheduling:** ISU Short Track Speed Skating Championships will feature more flexible race program scheduling to achieve a balanced event for skaters, audiences, and media.
- **Permanent Junior World Cup:** The ISU Junior World Cup Short Track series, introduced in the 2023/24 season, will become a permanent fixture in the competition calendar.
- **Clarified Infringements:** Definitions of racing rule infringements and the criteria for sanctioning these infringements will be clarified.
- **Junior D Category Age Limit:** The age classification for the Junior D category in international Short Track Speed Skating competitions will be limited to 11-12 years old as part of the ISU's Safeguarding policy.

### Single & Pair Skating and Ice Dance:

- **Somersault Jumps:** Somersault type jumps will be removed from the list of illegal elements, and skaters will not be penalized for performing them starting from the 2024/25 season.
- **Ice Dance Lift Duration:** The duration of a lift in Ice Dance will be redefined with a minimum requirement of 3 seconds, allowing the following changes:
  - Short lifts: Maximum of 8 seconds
  - Combination lifts: Maximum of 13 seconds
- **Ice Dance Lift Duration Adjustment:** The duration of short and combination lifts in Ice Dance will be adjusted seasonally for greater flexibility and safety evaluation to prevent injuries.
- **Free Skating / Free Dance Starting Order:** The starting order of Free Skating will be the reverse order of the results after the Short Program for all international and ISU competitions.

**The following Proposals will be implemented only after the Olympic season 2026/27:**

- **Reduced Jump Elements:** the number of jump elements in Free Skating will be reduced from 7 to 6.
- **Euler Jump Regulation:** the Euler jump will become a non-listed jump, allowed only once within one jump combination in Free Skating, adding the possibility of another jump in a combination.
- **Jump Repetitions:** repetition of the same type of jumps in Free Skating programs will be limited to a maximum of three times.
- **Choreographic Spin:** One spin with levels will be replaced with a choreographic spin to enhance creativity and musical connection.
- **Choreographic Lift:** One required lift will be replaced by a choreographic lift to allow for greater variety and freedom.
- **Pair Spin Combination:** The Pair Spin combination will be switched to a choreographic spin to encourage more entertaining and creative programs.
- **Choreographic Sequence Removal:** The choreographic sequence will be removed to provide more time for program interpretation.

**Synchronized Skating:**

- **Senior Combined Category:** A Senior combined category will be introduced, regrouping Senior Elite 12 and Senior due to similar age requirements, in all international competitions.
- **Qualification Scores:** A Minimum Total Elements Scores and Combined Total Element Scores will be required for qualification at ISU Championships.
- **Free Skating Starting Order:** The starting order of Free Skating will be the reverse order of the results after the Short Program for all international and ISU competitions.
- **Simplified Technical Rules:** The Technical Rules will be simplified and reorganized to provide more freedom for choreography.
- **Un-sustained Lifts:** Un-sustained lifts will be removed from the list of illegal elements for all categories.