



Challenger Series
in
Synchronized Skating

2023/24

A N N O U N C E M E N T

INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION

1. GENERAL

The Challenger Series Synchronized Skating is a series of International Synchronized Skating Competitions financially supported by the ISU.

The ISU Council agreed to financially support a restricted group of identified ISU Members traditionally staging International Synchronized Skating Competitions in Europe being part of the ISU Event Calendar and new International Synchronized Skating Competitions in Asia and in the North America.

The objective is to ensure the proper and consistent organization and conduct of up to five International Competitions linked together within the Challenger Series Synchronized Skating giving adequate opportunities for many Teams to compete at the international level and earn World Standing Points and to get prepared for competing at the ISU Championships as well to increase the opportunity for Officials to officiate at an international level.

The five events selected to be part of the Challenger Series in Synchronized Skating for the 2023/24 season are:

Date	Competition	Place
11-14 Jan. 2024	Lumiere Cup	Eindhoven, NED
19-21 Jan. 2024	Budapest Cup	Budapest HUN
26-27 Jan. 2024	Trophee d'Ecosse	Dumfries, GBR
02-04 Feb. 2024	Hevelius Cup	Gdansk, POL
10-11 Feb. 2024	Marie Lundmark Trophy	Helsinki, FIN

2. MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

To be considered for the Challenger Series Synchronized Skating, the competition must have at least a minimum of entries per categories. The minimum number of entries per categories is as follows:

- **Junior / Senior Teams: minimum of five entries each, from at least four ISU Members**

Each competition must strictly comply with the ISU Constitution, General and Special Regulations and Technical Rules 2022, in particular but not limited to the current Rules in the ISU Constitution and General Regulations 2022 and the Special Regulations and Technical Rules Synchronized Skating 2022.

3. ENTRIES

3.1 Participation

Participation is open to all Teams of ISU Members with a maximum of two entries per category (except for the Host Member), who are eligible for International "Junior" and "Senior" Competitions by age (Rule 108) and by citizenship (Rule 109), and entered through the respective ISU Member. The participation of Teams from the Host Member into the respective Challenger Series in Synchronized Skating event is not limited.

There is a limitation for the Teams to two participations in the events of the Challenger Series in Synchronized Skating. If a Team does not complete an event after initially drawn for starting order of the Short Program due to any circumstances, such an event will count as one participation in the Challenger Series.

The entry deadline for each event should be **not later than 21 days but at the earliest 30 days prior** to the first official practice day. The exact entry deadlines of the respective event within the Challenger Series in Synchronized Skating will be outlined in the individual event announcements. Late entries must have the approval of the ISU Vice President Figure Skating.

Teams, who enter an event of the Challenger Series in Synchronized Skating and withdraw from that event after the entry deadline but before the initial starting order draw without giving a significant reason (injury/illness or other circumstances), may enter another event of the Challenger Series in Synchronized Skating of the same season only after having sent an acceptable explanation of the reason for their withdrawal to the Vice President Figure Skating who will decide upon the entry on a case by case basis, and the ISU Secretariat.

3.2 Entry Fees

Entry fees for participation is at the discretion of the organizing ISU Member and must be communicated in the individual announcement.

4. TECHNICAL DATA

JUNIOR	Short Program	Duration: 2 minutes and 50 seconds, but may be less, The General Short Program Elements and requirements are listed in Rule 991, paragraphs 1 a), 2 and 3, Rule 992, paragraphs 1 a), 2 and 3 a). The Short Program Elements and Requirements to be skated for Season 2023/24 are listed in ISU Communication 2553.
	Free Skating	Duration: 3 minutes and 30 seconds +/- 10 seconds The Well Balanced Program Requirements are listed in Rule 991, paragraphs 1 b), 2 and 4, Rule 992, paragraph 1 b), 2 and 3c). The Free Skating Elements and Requirements to be skated for Season 2023/24 are listed in ISU Communication 2553.
SENIOR	Short Program	Duration: 2 minutes and 50 seconds, but may be less, The General Short Program Elements and requirements are listed in Rule 991, paragraphs 1 a), 2 and 3, Rule 992, paragraphs 1 a), 2 and 3 a). The Short Program Elements and Requirements to be skated for Season 2023/24 are listed in ISU Communication 2553.
	Free Skating	Duration: 4 minutes +/- 10 seconds The Well Balanced Program Requirements are listed in Rule 991, paragraphs 1 b), 2 and 4, Rule 992, paragraph 1 b), 2 and 3 c). The Free Skating Elements and Requirements to be skated for Season 2023/24 are listed in ISU Communication 2553.

5. RESULTS

The marking system (ISU Judging System) as described in ISU Special Regulations & Technical Rules Synchronized Skating 2022, Rule 842 and Rule 843 (Determination and publication of results) will be used.

6. DRAWS

The Draws for the starting order must follow the ISU Rule 962 and 963. The initial draw for the starting order of the Short Program may only commence on the day prior to the first competition day of the respective ISU Challenger Series in Synchronized Skating event. No electronic Draws can be done in advance.

The starting order for the Free Skating should be conducted as outlined in ISU Rule 963, Paragraph 2.

7. PRACTICES

Practice sessions must be offered to the participants of the Challenger Series in Synchronized Skating categories allowing enough time for the Teams to complete their programs at least once in the main arena using their competition music prior to the competition. Priority for practice sessions need to be given to the Challenger Series in Synchronized Skating categories (Junior and Senior) in case there are other categories (i.e. Novices) also taking part at the site of the Challenger Series in Synchronized Skating event.

8. EVENT OFFICIALS AND COMPOSITION OF THE PANEL OF JUDGES

8.1 Appointment of Event Officials as per ISU Regulations

The ISU Synchronized Skating Technical Committee is responsible to appoint, in cooperation with the Organizing Committee, at least one Referee, one Technical Controller and two Technical Specialists. Following the principles of Rule 910, paragraph 5 a) of the ISU Special Regulations and Technical Rules Synchronized Skating 2022, the members of each individual Technical Panel (Technical Controller and the Technical Specialists) must not be from the same ISU Member. The Technical Panel members must have the qualification of "ISU", however one of the three members may have the qualification "International".

The Referee must have at least the qualification "International" and can be of the same ISU Member as one member of the Technical Panel (Technical Controller and Technical Specialists).

The Data Operator and the Replay Operator must have the qualification of at least "International".

No exception can be granted with respect to the above-mentioned composition of the Technical Panels and the qualification of the Referees and Data & Replay Operators.

The Technical Panel members, the Referee and the Data and Replay Operators of International Competitions included in the Challenger Series in Synchronized Skating must be proposed by the respective ISU organizing Member to the ISU Secretariat **latest 45 days prior to the first day of the competition**. Based on the information received and further to internal ISU consultations, involving possible changes as necessary to comply with the above-mentioned minimum requirements, the ISU Vice President Figure Skating will decide upon the final appointments of the above-mentioned Event Officials. The respective organizing ISU Member will be informed through the ISU Secretariat and must inform the participating ISU Members accordingly.

Any subsequent changes due to the non-availability of previously appointed Technical Panel members, the Referees and the Data & Replay Operators must be announced by the organizing ISU Member to the ISU Vice President Figure Skating with copy to the ISU Secretariat. If such changes to be approved by the ISU Vice President Figure Skating would not be in line with the above-mentioned minimum requirements, the concerned organizing ISU Members will be notified through the ISU Secretariat for possible adjustments.

If ultimately the organizing Member is unable to apply the necessary adjustments and the final appointments of the above-mentioned Event Officials would not meet the above-mentioned minimum requirements and have an impact on the status of the concerned International Competition as an event of the Challenger Series in Synchronized Skating and consequently on the ISU World Standing Points and/or the validity of the Minimum Total Technical Scores, then the concerned organizing ISU Member will be informed accordingly through the ISU Secretariat. The organizing ISU Member must immediately inform the participating ISU Members accordingly.

8.2 Panel of Judges

The panel of Judges must include at least seven Judges, all from different ISU Members. In exceptional cases the minimum of six Judges per panel may be authorized by the ISU Vice President Figure Skating. The qualification of the Judges must be at least "International".

The panel of Judges must be submitted to the ISU Secretariat latest **seven days before the first day of the competition** for reviewal and approval.

8.3 Officials Remuneration

The Judges, the Referees, the Technical Controllers, the Technical Specialists and the Data & Replay Operators officiating in the Challenger Series in Synchronized Skating categories (Junior and Senior) of the event will, at the expense of the organizing ISU Member, receive pocket money of CHF 200.00 or the equivalent in the local currency.

8.4 Expenses

The Organizing Committee will provide and cover the expenses for rooms and meals for all Referees, the Technical Controllers, the Technical Specialist, the Data and Replay Operators and Judges participating from dinner the day prior to the first practice day and ending with lunch the day after the Exhibition (if applicable) or the last Round Table Discussion, whichever is later.

The Organizing Committee will cover the costs for travel expenses for all Referees, the Technical Controllers, the Technical Specialist, the Data and Replay Operators.

9. ISU WORLD STANDING POINTS FOR SYNCHRONIZED SKATING

For the Challenger Series in Synchronized Skating higher ISU World Standing Points than for “regular” International Competitions shall be awarded. Each competition of the Challenger Series in Synchronized Skating will be awarded with the following scale of points (in brackets for comparison is indicated the number of points for “regular” International Competitions)

	<u>Senior</u>	<u>Junior</u>
1 st place	420 points (250)	300 points (200)
2 nd place	378 points (225)	270 points (180)
3 rd place	340 points (203)	243 points (162)
4 th place	306 points (182)	219 points (146)
5 th place	276 points (164)	197 points (131)
6 th place	248 points (148)	177 points (118)
7 th place	223 points (133)	159 points (106)
8 th place	201 points (120)	143 points (96)
9 th place	181 points (0)	129 points (0)
10 th place	163 points (0)	116 points (0)

As per the valid conditions for the “ISU World Standings for Synchronized Skating” (ISU Communication 2261 or any update of this Communication) ISU World Standing points are awarded provided that at the time of the first draw, the Challenger Series in Synchronized Skating event includes the same minimum number of entries per discipline as stated under paragraph 2 above and the composition of the Technical Panel and the Panel of Judges as per paragraph 8 above are followed.

10. RECOGNITION OF BEST SCORES

Provided that all requirements of the composition of the Technical Panel and the Panel of Judges as per paragraph 8 above are fulfilled, the scores achieved at an event of the Challenger Series in Synchronized Skating will be recognized as Teams Personal Best Scores and Season Best Scores.

11. CHALLENGER SERIES IN SYNCHRONIZED SKATING RANKING

At the end of the Challenger Series Synchronized Skating, after the last event of the season has been concluded, the final score(s) in up to two different Challenger Series Synchronized Skating events of each Team will be added and taken into consideration to form a Challenger Series Synchronized Skating Ranking which will be published on the ISU website taking the following calculation principles and tie breaking criteria into consideration:

- The Total Competition Score will be added to the Team Total Challenger Series Synchronized Skating Score which determines the Challenger Series Synchronized Skating Ranking / Result;
- If the Total Challenger Series Synchronized Skating Score is tied for two or more Teams the following tie breaking criteria's will be in use:
 - the higher sum of the two Free Skating scores of the 2 competitions used for calculating the Challenger Series Synchronized Skating Score will break the tie(s);
 - if they remain tied, the higher Free Skating score of the 2 competitions used for calculating the Challenger Series Synchronized Skating will break the tie(s);
 - if the remain tied, the higher sum of the two Short Program scores of the 2 competitions used for calculating the Challenger Series Synchronized Skating Score will break the tie(s);
 - if they remain tied, the higher Short Program score of the 2 competitions used for calculating the Challenger Series Synchronized Skating Score will break the tie(s);

If these criteria fail to break the tie(s), the Teams in question will be considered as tied.

12. PRIZE MONEY

The top three placed Teams of the annual Challenger Series in Synchronized Skating Ranking will receive ISU Prize Money as follows which will be paid to the concerned Teams by the ISU through their respective ISU Members:

Senior:	
1 st place	CHF 5'000.00
2 nd place	CHF 4'000.00
3 rd place	CHF 3'000.00

Junior:	
1 st place	CHF 2'500.00
2 nd place	CHF 2'000.00
3 rd place	CHF 1'500.00

13. ANTI-DOPING TESTS

Anti-Doping Tests are not mandatory, but may be performed at the discretion of each organizing ISU Member in line with the current ISU Anti-Doping Rules and Procedures (ISU Communications No. 2344 and 2366 or any further updates of these Communications).

14. ISU CONTRIBUTION

Each ISU Member, organizing an event included in the Challenger Series in Synchronized Skating will receive an ISU contribution of CHF 20'000. This contribution will be paid when the event has been successfully completed in line with the requirements included in ISU Communication 2540, this general Announcement of the Challenger Series in Synchronized Skating and all relevant ISU Rules and Regulations. The contribution must be used to cover the costs for the Officials Remuneration (see paragraph 8.3) and the expenses for accommodation and travel (see paragraph 8.4). Any remaining funds may cover ice costs or other organizational expenses of the organizing ISU Member.

15. INFORMATION

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