

Communication No. 2487

SYNCHRONIZED SKATING (Replaces ISU Communication No. 2412)

This Communication provides **GUIDELINES** for season 2022/23 for the following:

- Referees, Judges and Technical Panel Deductions
- Marking the GOE's of Synchronized Skating Elements
- Judges – Criteria Adjustments to Grade of Execution (GOE)
- Judges – Program Components Criteria

Seoul,
June 22, 2022
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2022/23 Marking the GOE of Synchronized Skating Elements

GRADE OF EXECUTION										
-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4	+5
Extremely Poor	Very Poor	Poor	Weak	Fair	Average	Above Average	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Outstanding
6+ bullets	5 bullets	3-4 bullets	2 bullets	1 bullet	- / +	1 bullet	2 bullets	3-4 bullets	5 bullets	6+ bullets

The final GOE is calculated considering first the **Key Aspects** and the **additional criteria** of the Element that result in a starting GOE. The GOE is then increased and/or reduced according to the **positive and negative criteria for the Element**.

KEY ASPECTS

Elements are evaluated considering three Key Aspects of equal importance:

- Shape** Roundness; straightness; alignment or spacing symmetry maintained throughout the Element.
- Unison** Performing as one; precise body lines; in step or time; concurrent or syncopated.
- Speed & Flow** Pace and velocity maintained or accelerated throughout the Element & Movement within, between or across the Element with effortless progression.

ADDITIONAL CRITERIA

Elements are also evaluated considering the following:

- Quality and variety of:
 - Steps, turns, fes, fms, skating movements and body movements
 - Holds: minimum of two different types of connected Holds
 - Entry and/or exit
 - Features
- Reflects the timing, tempo, character or nuance of the music
- Reflects creativity or originality

ERRORS

- Minor errors do not fully impact the integrity/continuity and fluidity of the Element and should not be over penalized when awarding a Grade of Execution.
- Serious errors impact the integrity/continuity and fluidity of the Element and/or its relation to the music and must be reflected accordingly in the GOE and Program Components.
- Each error occurring within the same Element must be reflected in the final marks for GOE and Program Components.
- For an Element to achieve +5: the three Key Aspects must be present, and the additional criteria must be performed with very good quality. The Element must **contain no errors and/or no Serious error**.
- For an Element to achieve +4: two of the three Key Aspects must be present, and the additional criteria must be performed with good quality. The Element must **contain no Serious error**.

Using the Not Higher Than (NHT) reduction:

- When a **Not Higher Than** reduction is listed, the **NHT must be your starting GOE**. Additional reductions can be applied as warranted, but your final GOE can be Not Higher Than the mark defined.

2022/23 Criteria Adjustments to the Grade of Execution

Serious Errors – Fall(s)	Reduce	Key Aspects			
Fall of one Skater, depending on disruption	-2 to -3	Shape – Unison – Speed & Flow			
Fall of two Skaters	-4	Additional Criteria			
Fall of three or more Skaters	NHT -5	Quality and variety of:			
Minor Errors	Reduce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steps, turns, fes, fms, skating movements, body movements • Holds; minimum of two different types of connected Holds • Entries and/or Exits • Features 			
Stumbles, bumps or touchdown of free foot or hand(s)	-1 each	Reflects the timing, tempo, character, or nuance of the music			
Breaks in Holds	-1 each	Reflects creativity or originality			
Visible errors	-1 each				
Long preparation into Element	-1				
Choreography error identified by the Technical Panel * (Identified by !)	-2 per Element				
Specific Criteria	Incr.	Reduce	Specific Criteria	Incr.	Reduce
Artistic Element (Block, Circle, Line, Wheel)			No Hold Element		
Creative variation of basic shape	+1		Block size maintained within two arm lengths	+2	
Does not reflect the timing, tempo, character, or nuance of the music		NHT 0	Pair Element		
Intersection Element			Outstanding synchronization of the pairs	+2	
Outstanding speed and intersecting at the same time	+2		Outstanding flexibility / strong body position	+2	
Acceleration maintained into pi	+1		Exit with running edge maintained	+1	
Not intersecting at the same time – Judges should confirm error with video review		-1 to -2	Pivoting Elements (Block, Line)		
Approach or exit shape not achieved		-1 each	Strong, controlled pivoting	+1	
Collision during intersecting – Serious error		NHT -3	Speed not maintained through pivoting		-1
Lift Element (Group Lift, Pair Lift, Creative Lift)			Curved lines during pivoting		-2
Outstanding flexibility and position of lifted Skater(s)	+2		Rotating/Traveling Elements (Circle, Wheel)		
Good ice coverage throughout	+1		Traveling: Good Ice coverage (> than ½ of the ice)	+1	
Creative: Innovative position or pattern	+1		Wheel: Spokes too far away from center point		-1
Loss of speed at exit of Lift		-1	No centrifugal force at all		NHT -2
Non-lifting skaters not executing steps, fes, fm etc during the GL		-1	Synchronized Spin Element		
Lift position not Attempted or Achieved by 1 Lift – Serious error		-3	Outstanding synchronization in all 3 phases	+2	
Lift position not Attempted or Achieved by 2 or more Lifts – Serious error		-4	Outstanding spin technique with minor unison errors	+2	
Collapse in 1 Lift – Serious error		-2	Good synchronization of entry and exit	+1	
Collapse in 2 or more Lifts – Serious error		-3	Loss of spin centers (traveling by 4 or more Skaters)		-1
Moves Element			Twizzle Element		
Outstanding flexibility and body lines in fm's	+2		Outstanding synchronization	+2	
Interesting pattern across the ice	+1		Interesting pattern across the ice	+1	
			One-foot entry and/or exit	+1	

* **Features:** change of configuration, change of position, pivoting, traveling, weaving, etc.

* **Additional Features:** Point of Intersection, Step Sequence, fe, fm, etc.

2022/23 Program Components for Synchronized Skating

COMPOSITION	PRESENTATION	SKATING SKILLS
The intentional, developed and/or original arrangement of the repertoire and all types of movements into a meaningful whole according to the principles of proportion, unity, space, pattern, and musical structure.	The demonstration of engagement, commitment and involvement based on an understanding of the music and composition.	The ability of the skater to execute the skating repertoire of steps, turns and skating movements with blade and body control.
Unity	Expressiveness and projection	Variety of edges, steps, turns, movements and directions
Connections between and within elements	Variety and contrast of energy and of movements	Clarity of edges, steps, turns, movements and body control
Pattern and ice coverage	Musical sensitivity and timing	Balance and glide
Multidimensional movements and use of space	Unison, oneness and awareness of space (Pair Skating, Ice Dance, Synchronized Skating)	Flow
Choreography reflecting musical phrase and form		Power and speed

Serious Error(s)

Serious errors are falls and/or mistakes which result in a break in the delivery of the program. This break can be minimal or more pronounced and noticeable. These errors must be reflected in the mark awarded for each program component. The consequence depends on the severity and impact they have on the fluidity and continuity of the program. The following guideline should be used.

Category	Mark Range	Definition	Mistake	Maximum score per Program Component
Platinum	10	Outstanding	1 Serious error	9.50 *
Diamond	9.00 – 9.75	Excellent	2 or more Serious errors	8.75 **
Gold	8.00 – 8.75	Very Good	For all Components: *When there is <u>only one error and this error minimally impacts the program</u> , the maximum score of 9.50 is possible as noted above. Note: For the above to apply, the program as a whole is still deemed to be “Excellent”. **When there are 2 or more errors and these errors <u>only minimally impact the program</u> , the maximum score of 8.75 is possible.	
	7.00 – 7.75	Good		
Green	6.00 – 6.75	Above Average		
	5.00 – 5.75	Average		
Orange	4.00 – 4.75	Fair		
	3.00 – 3.75	Weak		
Red	2.00 – 2.75	Poor		
	1.00 – 1.75	Very Poor		
	0.25 – 0.75	Extremely Poor		