

INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION

Communication No.1671

Decisions of the ISU Council

The ISU Council met on April 8-10, 2011 in Helsinki/Finland. The following were among the decisions taken by the Council during the meeting:

1. ISU Membership Singapore Ice Skating Association (SISA)

The Council decided to grant with immediate effect full ISU Membership to SISA for the Figure Skating Branch and to grant provisional ISU Membership for the Speed Skating Branch.

2. ISU Membership Federacio Andorrana d'Esports de Gel (Ice Sports Federation of Andorra) – Speed Skating Branch

Based on input from the Ice Sports Federation of Andorra confirming that there is currently no activity as well as no intention to start an activity in the near future in the Speed Skating Branch, the Council concluded that the Ice Sport Federation of Andorra does not fulfil the ISU membership requirements and decided to suspend the Speed Skating membership of the Ice Sports Federation of Andorra with immediate effect.

3. Olympic Winter Games (OWG) 2014 – Sochi – inclusion of Figure Skating Team event

The ISU Council was pleased to acknowledge the decision of the Executive Board of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) confirming the inclusion of the Figure Skating Team event into the program of the Olympic Winter Games (OWG) of Sochi 2014.

As previously announced, the 10 best national teams, composed of one Single Lady Skater, one Single Man Skater, 1 Pair Skating couple and 1 Ice Dance couple shall participate in the Short Program of the Team Event. The best 5 teams after the Short Program will then skate the Free Skating. Basically the same skaters who qualified for the individual Figure Skating disciplines (Ladies, Men, Pair Skating, Ice Dance) in the OWG, or the entered substitute/s, are permitted to participate in the Team event. Subject to IOC confirmation there may be some limited possibilities to change some Skaters between the Short Program and the Free Skating.

The ISU in cooperation with the International Olympic Committee is currently working out the detailed qualifying system to determine the 10 teams competing in the Figure Skating Team event at the Sochi 2014 OWG. The qualifying system will be based on the results of ISU Figure Skating Events preceding the 2014 OWG. The qualifying system under preparation will also indicate the applicable entry/substitution procedures, in particular for Members qualified among the 10 teams but not having qualified individual skaters/couples in all the disciplines of the individual Figure Skating events of the OWG. The qualifying system and entry rules and procedures will be announced as soon as submitted to and approved by the IOC.

4. ICE - International Cup of Skating Excellence (Invitational Series event in Figure Skating)

The ISU Council gave its agreement in principle to create a series of annual Open International Competitions which shall be skated over a period of three separate television competitions, to be held on three separate weeks in three different geographical locations, in principle one in Asia, one in Europe and one in North America. The participants in this series may be among eligible and ineligible skaters and should be a medallist of either a ISU World Championships or Olympic Winter Games in their respective discipline within the previous ten years.

The initiative was presented by a United States based organization called ICE - International Cup of Skating Excellence, LLC (hereafter called "ICE"), who includes as its Chief Creative Officer the 1984 Olympic Figure Skating Champion, Mr. Scott Hamilton.

Subject to receiving a satisfactory detailed proposal of ICE (location, dates, confirmed cooperation/understanding with the concerned ISU host Members, invited skaters, event format and technical package (free skating only), prize money etc), the ISU is available to sanction three competitions during the season 2011/12 that cannot be in conflict with any ISU Event and/or national championships of the concerned host Members.

Further details and the Announcement shall be released as soon as the specific ICE proposal has been received and approved.

5. Social media – video production

The Council in principle agreed to pursue an initiative to become active in the social media for a tentative launch during the summer 2011 and also to produce a series of new videos for use during ISU Events and other promotional activities.

6. Essent ISU World Cup Speed Skating

The Council approved the following schedule for the season 2011/12 which however remains provisional until all formal agreements with the organizing Members and/or TVs have been concluded:

November 18-20, 2011	All distances	Chelyabinsk (RUS)
November 25-27, 2011	All distances	Astana (KAZ)
December 2-4, 2011	All distances	Heerenveen (NED)
January 21-22, 2012	Sprint distances	Salt Lake City (USA)
February 11-12, 2012	Middle/long dist.	Hamar (NOR)
March 2-4, 2012	All distances	Heerenveen (NED)
March 9-11, 2012	All distances	Berlin (GER)

The ISU Council agreed to include Mass Start races as official part of the World Cup competitions. Details will follow in the dedicated Communication relating to the World Cup Speed Skating.

7. Junior World Cup Speed Skating

For the Junior World Cup Speed Skating season 2011/12 the Council accepted to continue to financially support this junior series through the Development Program. The Council also agreed to the dates and sites of the two first events of the season in Erfurt/GER on November 12-13, 2011 and in Bjugn/NOR on November 18-19, 2011 acknowledging that these events also are part of the Youth Olympic Games (YOG) qualifying system. The details of the remaining events of the season 2011/12 will follow shortly.

8. ISU World Cup Short Track

The Council approved the following schedule for the season 2011/12 which however remains provisional until all formal agreements with the organizing Members and/or TVs have been concluded:

October 21-23, 2011	Salt Lake City (USA)
October 28-30, 2011	Saguenay (CAN)
December 2-4, 2011	Nagoya (JPN) with Beijing (CHN) as back-up
December 9-11, 2011	Harbin (CHN)
February 3-5, 2012	Moscow (RUS)
February 10-12, 2012	Heerenveen (tbc) (NED)

9. ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating and ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating

For the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating (senior) the Council decided to give the possibility to seeded Skaters to skate 3 Grand Prix events per season under certain conditions that will be published in the Announcement for the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating.

For the ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final the Council decided upon a reduction of entries for the Junior Ladies and Men into the Final from 8 down to 6 entries. Since the Council took the same decision during its previous meeting (see ISU Communication 1655) for the Pair Skating and Ice Dance disciplines, it means that for all disciplines there will be 6 entries only into the ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final.

10. Council meetings

The Council agreed to hold its Autumn meeting in Florence/Italy on October 14 to October 16, 2011.

The Winter Council meeting will be held in Nice/France on the occasion of the World Figure Skating Championships 2012 on March 30 through April 2, 2012.

11. World Standing Bonus Single & Pair Skating/Ice Dance

The Council reminds the Figure Skating Members that based on the acceptance of the proposed Budget during the 2010 Congress in Barcelona, the World Standing Bonus (see ISU Communication no 1381, point 2) has been abolished as of the season 2010/11.

Milan,

April 19, 2011

Lausanne,

Ottavio Cinquanta, President

Fredi Schmid, Director General