

INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION

Communication No. 1401

This Communication replaces ISU Communication No. 1327 with immediate effect

**Single and Pair Skating – Ice Dancing – Synchronized Skating
ISU Judging System
Evaluation of judging and technical content decisions, penalties**

I. RULES

Article 22 of the 2006 Constitution foresees the implementation of an Officials Assessment Commission (OAC) for the evaluation of judging and technical content decisions in Figure Skating. In accordance with this Article 22, the Rules of Procedure for the OAC will be determined by the Council, based on the Judging System and International Officials categories decided by the Congress. The Special Regulations for Single & Pair Skating/ Ice Dancing (Rule 430), and Synchronized Skating (Rule 825) contain certain Rules concerning the evaluation of the performance of Judges, Referees and Technical Officials at identified competitions. These Rules are the basis for the following Rules of Procedure:

II. Rules of Procedure

To effectuate the above-mentioned Rules and within the power granted to it by the Congress, the ISU Council has decided upon the following Rules of Procedure and clarifications in regard of the selection criteria and procedure of the Officials Assessment Commission (OAC). It is understood that the term “Assessment” so identified and used in this Communication, refers to “Assessments” according to the Special Regulations for Single and Pair Skating/Ice Dancing (Rule 430) and Synchronized Skating (Rule 825)

A) Identification of OAC Pool:

The ISU Council decided that ISU Referees and ISU Judges for Single and Pair Skating, Ice Dance and Synchronized Skating that fulfill the criteria outlined below, may be included in the OAC Pool and may be requested to serve in this position in accordance with sub-paragraph B) and C) below:

- a) The OAC Pool member shall be on the most current ISU Officials listing as an ISU Referee or ISU Judge having been trained in the ISU Judging System and be available to attend educational seminars as directed by the Council. The OAC Pool member must not have more than an “Assessment 1” for activity in the three full years previous to the appointment.
- b) OAC Pool members must have the following skills relating to their OAC work:
 - ability to analyze competition data; ability to work quickly and in an organized fashion;
 - good written English;

- be familiar with report writing;
demonstrate an ability to remain objective in all officiating evaluation matters.
- c) The ISU Council may periodically revise the above-mentioned criteria based on the experienced gained.
- d) The OAC Pool will be identified for service during each “season” from July 1 through the following June 30.
- e) The OAC Pool members who actually will be assigned to officiate in the OAC function as per sub-paragraphs B) and C) below, cannot act in any other capacity at the competitions they have been assigned to act as OAC member. No other restrictions apply to listed OAC Pool members, e.g. they may officiate in other capacities (including judging) at previous or subsequent competitions but should avoid doing so during the same season as much as possible. When assigning OAC pool members to the competitions as per paragraph B) below, the Sports Directorate will take into account the intentions of the pool members as to their other international officiating assignments during the season.
- f) The activity of OAC pool members actually officiating in this capacity at ISU Events is counting in every season towards the Officials activity requirements as stated in the Special Regulations.

B) Appointment procedure for ISU Championships and senior Grand Prix of Figure Skating events/Final and OAC members rules of conduct

- a) In accordance with the Rules referenced in Paragraph I. above, for ISU Championships and ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating (senior) competitions this evaluation shall take place, on site of the Events, immediately after the conclusion of each competition by 2 OAC members for each discipline assigned by the Sports Directorate (hereafter called “assigned OAC members”).
- b) To provide consistency among OAC evaluation in all competitions and a “transfer of knowledge”, the assignments will be made in a manner so that if possible at least one assigned OAC member per discipline will be in attendance having previous experience in an OAC assignment.
- c) The ISU President has the right to assign skating knowledgeable individuals (former international skaters or officials who are still member of a Member) as observers of the work of the OAC on site. In addition, the ISU Secretariat and/or consultants will administratively assist the OAC as required.
- d) Each Single and Pair Skating/Ice Dance ISU Championship or Grand Prix of Figure Skating (senior) competition shall be attended by at least three assigned OAC members, two of whom must be available for Ice Dancing. For the World Synchronized Skating Championships, 2 OAC Pool members from the Synchronized Skating discipline shall be assigned.
- e) The assigned OAC members to an ISU Championships or Grand Prix of Figure Skating event/Final shall be in attendance during the full duration of all events of their respective discipline (Ladies, Men, Pairs or Ice Dance or Synchronized Skating) observing the level of the skaters performance.
- f) Even though the printouts given to the assigned OAC members do not reveal the Judges names, the assigned OAC members must keep the data made available to them strictly confidential and may not make any comments at any time except when specifically and formally requested by the respective Technical Committee

and/or the Council and/or the Sports Directorate and/or the Director General and in any case the data shall not be disclosed to anybody else.

- g) OAC Members will also review and check the Judges behavior when marking/scoring during the running competition, i.e. whether Judges mark independently, without help of another Judge, without using previous results or similar documents on their table at rink-side. Any report in this regard must be submitted by the OAC Members to the Referee of the respective event immediately, at latest before the conclusion of the competition.
- h) OAC members shall accept that any work, research, information and/or decision(s) in regard to their work as a member of the OAC shall at all time remain confidential.
- i) OAC members shall not be in a position to be working directly or indirectly with any international skater(s) or coach who has the potential to participate in an ISU Event for which they will be appointed.
- j) Arrival at the competition as so assigned shall be on the day before the commencement of the first official competitive event.
- k) OAC members are assigned to evaluate the work of the Officials as they evaluated the actual performance of the skaters in the appointed competition. With this in mind, the OAC member should attend only one practice session of each participating skater for the purpose of identifying the skater by name and appearance. It is not necessary and is not encouraged that OAC members attend exhaustively all the practice sessions. Such activity is not productive and could prejudice the member in their decisions in regard to actual performances. OAC members shall not attend the Judges meeting or the Round Table Discussions and shall not attempt to influence the discussion content of the Round Table Discussion Meeting by presenting directly or indirectly information to the Event Referee.
- l) At no time must OAC members be available in the ice rink to sit with members of the officials' panel of the event they are assessing. It is recommended that OAC members when attending any practice sessions shall use their discretion to remain aloof from participants, coaches and officials.
- m) It is recommended that as may be physically possible in each event, that the OAC is seated as close as possible to the same site line as the judging panel.

C) Assignment of OAC members for the ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating series and World Challenge Cup for Juniors in Synchronized Skating

For the Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating series and the World Challenge Cup for Juniors in Synchronized Skating, the OAC evaluation shall take place as soon as possible by 2 assigned OAC members for each competition and discipline (Single and Pair Skating, Ice Dance, Synchronized Skating). The Sports Directorate will assign the necessary number of OAC members to perform the evaluation based on the available printouts and based on video tapes (DVDs). The assigned OAC members will perform this task at their respective residence.

D) Judges Evaluation at other International Competitions

In such competitions there will be no guaranty for the availability and consistency of technology as available in ISU Events (i.e. video replay, DVD analysis, on-site OAC personnel) and consequently there will be no checks and balances evident to assess these Officials' work. Furthermore, the main responsibility for such a review would rest to a large part with the organizing Member. This could cause further problems especially in consistency and credibility.

The events reviewed by the ISU appointed OAC will be 16 Grand Prix events, 4 ISU Figure Championships, and 2 ISU Synchronized Skating Events for a total of 22 events. With this coverage the Council safely assumes that the activity of most Judges in a season would "enter the ISU radar" and come up for review in at least one of these events.

Given this situation and to insure that all officials are reviewed under equal conditions, the Council decided that a full individual evaluation of Judges scores not be undertaken at International Senior/Junior Competitions. However, the Referee of an individual event must continue to file a formal report reviewing the Judges activity in regard to ethics, behavior, attendance at Round Table Discussion, use of English and the other generalized reporting areas including but not limited to skating level, and over-all Judges marking.

In addition, the Referee of an International Competition (other than ISU Championships, senior and junior Grand Prix and the World Challenge Cup for Juniors in Synchronized Skating) may use the attached Form only for the Officials who in the opinion of the Referee have striking errors or many cases of serious errors. The Form will be copied by the ISU Secretariat to the Official concerned as well as to his/her ISU Member. This will make the Official aware of the potential error and allow the Official and his/her Member to review the officiating capabilities of the Official and take, if necessary, corrective action.

E) Mathematical Criteria to Identify Potential Anomalies

The following specific mathematical criteria to identify potential anomalies to be evaluated by the assigned OAC members has been approved by the Council.

a) Element Sector Scores (Judges GOE)

(i) For each element or section (section = parts of a Compulsory Dance) performed, the computer calculates an individual trimmed mean of the Grade Of Execution (GOE), in which **all** Judges of the panel participate. With a panel of 10 and more Judges, the two highest and the two lowest GOEs are ignored.

With a panel of less than 10 Judges, only the highest and the lowest GOE will be ignored. The base value of the elements are not considered. **The average score, calculated for the evaluation by the OAC is not identical with the trimmed mean result which has been used for the competition result where only the (one) highest and the (one) lowest GOE will be ignored.**

ii) For each Judge the computer calculates the deviation in elements. The deviation of a Judge in one element is the absolute value (i.e. positive value) of the difference between entered GOE and the trimmed mean of the GOEs. The deviation points in elements will be separated towards the deviations in pluses and deviations in minuses in two individual sums of the deviation of the individual elements.

Example: *Short Program*

	Average of GOE	GOE of Judge A	Deviation
Element 1	1.2	1	- 0.2
Element 2	-1.4	-2	- 0.6
Element 3	0	-1	- 1,0
Element 4	0.8	1,0	+ 0.2
Element 5	-1,8	0	+ 1.8
Element 6	0,2	2,0	+ 1.8
Element 7	2.2	1.0	- 1.2
Element 8	1.4	0	- 1.4
	Deviation points in elements (in pluses):		+ 3,8
	Deviation points in elements (in minuses):		- 4,4
	Total Deviation		8,2

A general “corridor of an acceptable number of deviation points” is given to each individual Judge. This “corridor” is based on the number of elements performed, e.g. in a Short Program there are 8 required elements to perform. Each Judge may vary in his/her decision with one (1) step as an average per element, which are 8 steps in total for the Short Program (8.0 as the deviation points maximum). Plus and minus deviations are added.

The above example indicates that there is an anomaly to be evaluated since the total deviation of 8.2 exceeds the allowed corridor of 8.0.

With the above example, the Judge arrived

pluses: 3,8 points
 minuses : 4,4 points Total Deviation: 8,2

The same principle applies for Compulsory Dance(s) and for Original Dance. As many elements or sections as performed and accepted, as many steps (max. points of deviation) are primarily acceptable.

iii) The same principle applies for Free Skating/Free Dance. As many elements as performed and accepted, as many steps (max. points of deviation) are primarily acceptable. The split in deviations towards pluses and minuses, as explained above, will also be valid.

b) Program Components

For the five (5) Program Components respectively the four (4) for the Compulsory Dance(s), the Judge's corridor will be 1.50 points of deviation points in each individual Program Component (15,0%) of the maximum points per Component (10,0)), between the given score and the calculated Judges' average, in total 7,50 points. Plus and minus deviations are subtracted.

Example: *Short Program*

	Average	Component of Judge	Deviation
Component 1	5,75	4,00	-1,75
Component 2	5,85	4,00	-1,85
Component 3	5,45	6,25	+ 0,80
Component 4	6,00	7,75	+ 1,75
Component 5	5,55	7,00	+ 1,45
	Deviation points in components (in pluses):		-3,60
	Deviation points in components (in minuses):		+5,00
	Total Deviation		+1,40

With the above example, the Judge arrived

pluses: 5,00 points
 minuses : 3,60 points Total Deviation: 1,40

hence the deviation of 1.4 is well within the allowed corridor of 7.5 and this constitutes no anomaly and no evaluation is required.

F) Evaluation Materials

After each segment (i.e. Short Program, Free Skating, Compulsory Dance, Original Dance, Free Dance) of an event, the assigned OAC members on site will receive the necessary printouts that include the “Grade of Execution” (GOE) of every element and the points for the Program Components from all Judges in a random sequence without any reference to specific Judges’ names. Another printout given to the OAC only will highlight the potential anomalies based on the criteria outlined under E) above. In addition, DVD/video tapes of the competition will be available for review during the meetings of the OAC.

G) Time-line

- a) For ISU Championships and senior Grand Prix of Figure Skating events/Final, the assigned OAC members must review the event printout at the site of the competition in question within 24 hours of the last event being concluded. It is understood that the assigned OAC members will have the advantage of attending and observing the performances at the event using their appraisal as a comparison to the actual scores print out. From the review, including the possibility of reviewing the video tapes of the competition as may be necessary, any anomalies shall be identified and a full report shall be prepared. Such report shall include in particular the identification of anomalies that, in the opinion of the assigned OAC must be considered as an error and consequently an “Assessment.”
- b) For the Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating series and the World Challenge Cup for Juniors in Synchronized Skating, the evaluation shall take place as soon as possible by 2 OAC members assigned by the Sports Directorate for each competition and discipline, i.e. Single and Pair Skating, Ice Dance, Synchronized Skating based on the available printouts and based on video tapes (DVDs). (See item C) above).
- c) The OAC report from the individual events including identified judging errors and corresponding proposed “Assessments” together with any supporting documentation (including DVD’s) as shall be deemed necessary shall be forwarded by the assigned OAC members immediately to the ISU Secretariat. The Secretariat in turn shall forward the report as soon as possible to the Technical Committee concerned. The OAC panel in their report must focus on the identified anomalies in the actual printed results of the event being evaluated. When preparing the report, OAC panel members must refrain from any of the following:
 - i. Criticism or questioning of the final result of the event (or part thereof). The Panel shall review only the scores and identified anomalies as presented on the print-out, respectively the way of scoring of any individual Judge (see sector B. g)).
 - ii. Presenting written comments on subjects outside the sphere of the work of the OAC, such as but not limited to rule violations, opinions on the direction of the sport discipline, individual skater ability.
 - iii. Input based on inter-action of information within the OAC report with persons not directly involved in the process.
 - iv. Presenting continual dialogue and criticism regarding individual marking when no anomaly can be perceived or “Assessment” warranted.However, the OAC panel in their report should identify and support Judges outside the corridor but who appear to be correct in their evaluation by exempting them

- from an "Assessment" even if the scores concerned were outside the corridor and identified in the computer print-out as an anomaly.
- d) The Technical Committee shall review the OAC report within 7 days upon receipt with particular attention to the anomalies relating to judging (with emphasis on the errors, respectively proposed "Assessments" as identified by the assigned OAC). In the time period between Technical Committee meetings, the Technical Committee shall communicate through e-mail and/or conference calls in order to reach conclusions. The Technical Committee shall take immediate action to propose an "Assessment" should such be deemed necessary. "Assessments" confirmed by the Technical Committees should be given without delay to the ISU Secretariat and the confirmed "Assessment" will be communicated by the ISU Secretariat to the Officials and their Members concerned. The Official concerned may send his/her explanations to the respective Technical Committee through the ISU Secretariat. Such explanations will however be considered only in case of an accumulation of Assessments (see sub-paragraph i) below) and will be kept on file by the ISU Secretariat.
 - e) A full report of the "Assessment" decisions shall be forwarded by the respective Technical Committee to the Vice President Figure Skating and Sports Directorate on a regular basis.
 - f) A composite report of the OAC activity in the full season shall be prepared by the respective Technical Committee in cooperation with the Sports Directorate for the ISU Council in June/July of every season.
 - g) The assigned OAC members shall prepare a report for each competition in case of identified cases of serious errors relating to Technical Content decisions made by the Technical Specialists and Technical Controller as well as related to decisions taken by the Event Referee. The report for each competition shall be made available without delay to the ISU Director General/Sports Directorate. The Sports Directorate who may seek assistance from additional experts shall proceed with its evaluation concerning the OAC reports as soon as possible in line with the applicable Rules for "Assessment".
 - h) If the Technical Committee (relating to judging) or the Sports Directorate (relating to Technical Content decisions made by the Technical Specialists and Technical Controller and Event Referee decisions) disagree on any determination of serious errors made by the assigned OAC members, the assigned OAC members must be consulted. For unresolved cases, the Sports Directorate will take the final decision by also seeking assistance from additional experts.
 - i) In the case that an accumulation of "Assessments", in accordance with existing rules (presently when reaching "Assessment 4"), results in the demotion or suspension for the Officials concerned, the Officials shall be notified through the ISU Secretariat about the possible outcome. The Official will have the right to ask within 5 days upon receipt of the notification for a meeting, to be held as soon as possible, to give his/her explanation for the relevant "Assessments" and, if available, may use the respective video tapes to support his/her explanations relating to judging errors in front of at least 3 members of the respective Technical Committee. For Technical Content decisions made by the Technical Specialists and the Technical Controller or decisions made by the Event Referee, such explanations would be given to at least 3 Figure Skating members of the ISU Council. Any travel, board and lodging or other expenses incurred by the Official(s) concerned relating to the explanation meeting will be for the Official's account if all the "Assessments", despite the explanations received, are confirmed by the

respective Technical Committee or Council after the meeting. The ISU will only reimburse such expenses if at least one of the “Assessments” would be revoked.

H) Performance Evaluations of Officials are not Disciplinary Decisions

- a) Article 23 of the 2006 ISU Constitution identifies disciplinary-type matters as being within the jurisdiction of the Disciplinary Commission (DC) and distinguishes “performance evaluations” as not being disciplinary in nature.
- b) More specifically, Paragraphs 8.b), and 8.c) of Article 23 explicitly state that appointment of a person to an official position and the continued assignment of that person to such position is not a matter of right but a function entrusted to the designated body or Official of the ISU, and further, that performance evaluations of officials, including “Assessments”, warnings, criticism, letters of advice, as well as appointment or removal of ISU Officials from positions, are not disciplinary but technical decisions. Officials’, appointments, “Assessments” and removals accordingly are not subject to the jurisdiction of the ISU Disciplinary Commission or the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).
- c) For convenience the Special Regulations for Single and Pair Skating, Ice Dancing and Synchronized Skating and this Communication, use certain expressions from previous Special Regulations which if not clarified by an interpretation of the Council, could be mistaken for a continuation of the former ISU disciplinary procedures as applied to ISU officials. This applies to such words as "sanctions", "suspensions", "demotions", "penalties", etc. used in connection with Officials appointments, “Assessments” or assignments.
- d) The ISU Council has decided that these expressions as used in the Special Regulations and in this Communication are to be distinguished from, and shall not refer to, any type of disciplinary sanction for misconduct or violation of the ISU Ethics Code, for example as such disciplinary-type references are used in Rule 104, paragraph 16, Rule 125, paragraphs 4 & 5 and in new Article 23 of the 2006 ISU Constitution.

Accordingly, decisions concerning the appointment, evaluation of performance or assignment of ISU Officials as foreseen by the new Paragraphs 8.b) and 8.c) of Article 23, of the 2006 ISU Constitution and this Communication may not be the subject of a Complaint made to the Disciplinary Commission or an appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

I) Officials Remuneration for ISU Events

As indicated at time of adoption of the ISU Judging System during the 2004 Congress (see ISU Communication No. 1256, Paragraphs A.o) of Proposals Nos. 298 – 300) *“All the Officials who served at ISU Events (ISU Championships, ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating (senior and junior) shall receive compensation at the end of the season as decided by the Council from time to time. In the case of a demotion or suspension, no money shall be paid to the suspended Official/s for the whole season concerned.”*

The ISU Council decided that the above-mentioned compensation due at the end of the season shall be paid in addition to compensations paid immediately on site of the ISU

Events. This procedure is applicable to all acting Technical Controllers, Technical Specialists, Referees, Judges, assigned OAC members, Replay Operators and Data Operators as follows:

1. On-site:

Senior Grand Prix of Figure Skating events and Final:

CHF 300 per event or Final

Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating events and Final:

CHF 200 per event and Final

ISU Championships:

CHF 40 per day

2. After the season:

For Officials having officiated without demotion or suspension during the season

at 3 ISU Events: Additional CHF 500

at 4 ISU Events: Additional CHF 600

at 5 ISU Events: Additional CHF 700

etc. (CHF 100 increment for each additional Event)

As an example, an Official having officiated during a season at 4 ISU Events without any suspension or demotion, would receive the following compensation:

1 st Event on site Sr GP from organizer	CHF 300
2 nd Event on site Sr GP from organizer	CHF 300
3 rd Event on site Jr GP from organizer	CHF 200
4 th Event on site Championships (max 8 days) from organizer	CHF 320
at end of season from ISU	CHF 600
Total season	CHF 1'720

Officials that after the procedure outlined under Section II. F above have been suspended and/or demoted, will not receive the compensation after the season and must reimburse all compensation moneys received at ISU Events during the season concerned to the respective organizing Members. Failing to do so will result in the Official not being allowed to resume his/her officiating activity at ISU sanctioned competitions until the outstanding reimbursement has been made.

Milano,
July 19, 2006
Lausanne,

Ottavio Cinquanta, President

Fredi Schmid, Director General

**ATTACHMENT TO THE REFEREE'S REPORT
SINGLE & PAIR SKATING, ICE DANCING & SYNCHRONIZED SKATING
INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS**

EVALUATION FORM FOR OFFICIALS HAVING MADE (IN THE OPINION OF THE REFEREE) STRIKING/SERIOUS ERRORS

This Form is not applicable for ISU Championships, ISU Senior & Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating Events and Final, as well as for the Synchronized Skating World Challenge Cup for Junior since for these Events the provisions of ISU Communication No 1401 apply.

The Referee should use this Form only for the Officials who (in the opinion of the Referee) have striking errors or many cases of serious errors.

This Form will be copied for information to the Official concerned as well as to his/her ISU Member.

Competition:					
Place:			Date:		
Category (Ladies, Men, Pairs, Dance, SyS):		Junior/Senior			
Referee:			ISU Member:		
Official's name:			ISU Member:		
Segment	SP <input type="checkbox"/>	FS <input type="checkbox"/>	CD <input type="checkbox"/>	OD <input type="checkbox"/>	FD <input type="checkbox"/>

Scores (or "calls" for elements/levels identified by Technical Panel members) under review (please indicate wrong scores/calls):

Skater's/Team's name	ISU Member	Element/Component/Level with wrong scores (calls)	Official's score (call)	Panel's trimmed mean	Referees score (call)

Referee's opinion of the Official's work:
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Date:

Referee's Signature:

