

INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION

Communication No. 1932

ICE DANCE

Requirements for Technical Rules season 2015/16

Technical Rules specify that some of them need to be completed by requirements decided by the Ice Dance Technical Committee:

- Requirements defined in the Technical Rules as valid for one season only:
 - Pattern Dances for International Competitions,
 - music requirements for Pattern Dances for International Competitions,
 - rhythms or themes, Required Elements (including Key Points and Key Point Features for Pattern Dance Elements) and guidelines for Short Dance,
 - Required Elements for Free Dance.

The annual requirements for season 2015/16 are included in this Communication.

- Requirements defined in the Technical Rules with an ongoing validity:
 - for calling specifications and Levels of Difficulty,
 - marking guides,
 - Scales of Values.

They can be updated when necessary. Updates to the current ongoing requirements, valid as of July 1st, 2015, will be published in a subsequent Communication.

1. PATTERN DANCES FOR INTERNATIONAL NOVICE COMPETITIONS (AS ANNOUNCED IN COMMUNICATION 1886)

1.1 Basic Novice

Two (2) Pattern Dances are to be skated:

Group 1: # 1 Fourteenstep and # 4 European Waltz

1.2 Advanced Novice

One group of two (2) Pattern Dances shall be drawn before the first practice of the competition from the two groups announced for the season:

Group 2: # 3 Rocker Foxtrot and # 9 Starlight Waltz

Group 3: # 12 Kilian and # 23 Blues

2. MUSIC REQUIREMENTS FOR PATTERN DANCES FOR INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

Rule 707, paragraph 5 provides that, in International Competitions, the current series of ISU Ice Dance music shall be used for the Pattern Dances unless the Ice Dance Technical Committee has decided that the music for one or several Pattern Dances is to be provided by the Couple following certain requirements.

For the season 2015/16, Couples shall provide their own music for the following Pattern Dances:

- International Novice Competitions:
 - Basic Novice: # 4 European Waltz.
 - Advanced Novice: # 9 Starlight Waltz and # 23 Blues

- Other International Competitions and International Adult Competitions: as announced by the organizer in the announcement of the competition.

The music must be chosen in accordance with the Rhythm of the Pattern Dance and may be vocal. The Tempo throughout the required Sequences must be constant and in accordance with the required Tempo of the Pattern Dance (see ISU Handbook Ice Dance 2003) plus or minus 2 beats per minute.

Notes:

- The chosen music may be a tune from ISU Ice Dance music. In this case, only tunes 1 to 5 can be chosen and the Couple shall furnish competition music in accordance with Rule 343, paragraph 1.
- Violation of the above music requirements or tempo specifications shall be penalized as per Rule 353, paragraph 1.n).
- For the application of Rule 708 paragraph 1.d) with music provided by the Couple, it is specified that the start of the first Step of the dance must be on beat 1 of a measure (unless otherwise specified in the description of the dance).

3. REQUIREMENTS FOR SHORT DANCE SEASON 2015/16

3.1. Rhythms

Rule 709, paragraph 1.a) provides that rhythm(s) and/or theme(s) are selected by the Ice Dance Technical Committee annually for the season. For the season 2015/16, the following Rhythms were selected.

Junior and Senior: Waltz, plus any number of the following Rhythms: **Foxtrot, March, Polka.**

Senior:

The Pattern Dance Elements must be skated on the Waltz Rhythm, in any Waltz style. The Tempo of the music throughout the Pattern Dance Element must be constant and in accordance with the required Tempo of the Pattern Dance Ravensburger Waltz, i.e. 66 measures of three beats or 198 beats per minute, plus or minus 3 beats per minute.

The Partial Step Sequence must be skated on one of the other Rhythms selected for the season, in the style of that Rhythm. The tempo of the music throughout the Partial Step Sequence is not specified, but must be constant.

Junior:

The Pattern Dance Elements must be skated on the Waltz Rhythm, in any Waltz style. The Tempo of the music throughout the Pattern Dance Element must be constant and in accordance with the required Tempo of the Pattern Dance Starlight Waltz, i.e. 58 measures of three beats or 174 beats per minute, plus or minus 3 beats per minute.

Waltz, Foxtrot, March and Polka Rhythms are described in the ISU Ice Dance Music Rhythms Booklet 1995.

3.2. Alterations

Rule 709, paragraphs 1.d) and h) provide that they can be altered annually by the Ice Dance Technical Committee. For the season 2015/16, the Ice Dance Technical Committee adopted the following specific alteration:

Paragraph 1.d): “The pattern must proceed in a generally constant direction and must not cross the Long Axis of the ice surface except once at each end of the rink (within no more than 20 meters of

the barrier). Loops in either direction are permitted provided they do not cross the Long Axis. However:

- crossing the Long Axis while performing Steps #10 to 15 in Pattern Dance Element: Ravensburger Waltz (Senior Short Dance), or
 - performing the Not Touching Step Sequence (Junior Short Dance);
 - performing the Not Touching Circular Step Sequence in the clockwise direction (Junior Short Dance),
- do not constitute violations of these provisions.”

Paragraph 1.h): “After the clock is started with the first movement, the Couple must not remain in one place for more than ten (10) seconds. During the program:

- Senior: one full stop (duration must not exceed 10 seconds), but no more, must be included and this stop indicates the starting point of Partial Step Sequence (which begins immediately after the Stop).
- Junior: either up to two full stops (duration must not exceed 5 seconds each) or up to one full stop (duration must not exceed 10 seconds) are permitted.

3.3. Required Elements

Rule 709, paragraph 2 provides that the list of Required Elements to be included into composition of the Short Dance and specific requirements for these elements are announced annually from the list of options provided in this Rule. For the season 2015/16, the Ice Dance Technical Committee adopted the following specific Required Elements to be included into composition of the Short Dance.

- **Pattern Dance Elements**

Two (2) Sections of:

Senior	Junior
Ravensburger Waltz <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Section 1: Steps # 1-19 ▪ Section 2: Steps # 20 - 41 	Starlight Waltz <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Section 1: Steps # 1-17 ▪ Section 2: Steps # 18 -32

skated one after the other, Section 1 followed by Section 2, with Step # 1 skated on the Judges’ left side.

Specifications:

- The description, chart and diagrams of the Pattern Dances are included in the ISU Handbook Ice Dance 2003.
- Rule 708 paragraph 1 applies with the following alterations:
 - subparagraph b) – Placement: add “However, crossing the Long Axis in Steps #10 to 15 of Pattern Dance Element Ravensburger Waltz is permitted.”
 - subparagraph d) – Timing: first sentence reads “The Pattern Dance Elements must be skated in strict time to the music with the start of the first Step of Pattern Dance Element Section 1 or Partial Step Sequence on beat 1 of a four measure musical phrase.”

- **Dance Lift:** not more than **one (1) Short Lift**

- **Step Sequence**

Senior: One (1) Partial Step Sequence in Hold:

- pattern: one full circuit of the ice surface starting immediately after the mandatory stop (i.e. the Partial Step Sequence cannot start from the beginning of the program) and finishing at the same point;
- duration: any exact number of four measure musical phrases;
- Holds: by exception to Rule 703, paragraph 4, first bullet, Hand-in-Hand Hold with extended arms cannot be established and partners must remain in contact at all times, even during changes of Holds and during Twizzles;

Junior: one (1) Not Touching Midline, Diagonal or Circular Step Sequence,

- **One Set of Sequential Twizzles**

KEY POINTS AND KEY POINTS FEATURES FOR PATTERN DANCE ELEMENTS SEASON 2015/16

Starlight Waltz

Pattern Dance Element (1 SW)	Key Point 1 Lady Steps 9 to 10 (RBOI, LBO-SwR)	Key Point 2 Man Steps 9 to 10 (LFOI, RFO-SwR)	Key Point 3 Lady Steps 16 to 17 (LFO CIMo, RBO)
Key Point Features	1. Correct Edges 2. Correct Change of Edge (# 9)	1. Correct Edges 2. Correct Change of Edge (# 9)	1. Correct Edges 2. CIMo - correct Turn 3. CIMo - correct placement of the free foot
Pattern Dance Element (2 SW)	Key Point 1 Lady Steps 21 to 22 (LFI, OpMo, RBI)	Key Point 2 Man Steps 27 to 28 (CR-RFO, CR-LFO3)	Key Point 3 Lady&Man Step 31 (CR-RFO-SwR)
Key Point Features	1. Correct Edges 2. Correct Turn 3. Correct placement of the free foot	1. Correct Edges 2. Correct Turn	1. Correct Edge 2. Correct swing movement of free leg

Ravensburger Waltz

Pattern Dance Element (1 RW)	Key Point 1 Man Steps 1 and 3 (RFI3-Sw, RFI3-Sw)	Key Point 2 Lady Steps 14 to 15 (LFI OpMo, RBI)	Key Point 3 Man Steps 14 to 15 (LFI OpMo, RBI)
Key Point Features	1. Correct Edges 2. Correct Turns 3. Correct swing movement of free leg	1. Correct Edges 2. OpMo - correct Turn 3. Correct placement of free foot	1. Correct Edges 2. OpMo - correct Turn 3. Correct placement of free foot
Pattern Dance Element (2 RW)	Key Point 1 Lady Step 28 (LFI3) Man Step 30 (LFO3)	Key Point 2 Man Steps 36a-36b (LFO, RFO)	Key Point 3 Lady Step 36 (LFO-SwRk) Lady Step 37-38 (RFI CICho, LBO)
Key Point Features	1. Correct Edges 2. Correct Turns	1. Correct Edges	1. Correct Edges 2. Correct Turn 3. Correct swing movement of free leg (Step #36- SwRk) 4. Correct placement of free foot (Steps #37-38 - CICho)

Note: A change of edge within the last beat of the step is permitted to prepare the push/transition to the next step. (Examples in Key Points: 1SW-Key Point 1 Step #9; 2SW- Key Point 3 Step #31; 1RW Key Point 1 Steps #1 and 3; 2RW- Key Point 2 Steps #36a and 36b)

Note: Steps and additional descriptions of the Steps are defined/described in Rule 704 and ISU Handbook Ice Dance 2003, paragraphs I-9 for Starlight Waltz and I-10 for Ravensburger Waltz. An educational DVD on Pattern Dances (reference ID4) will be available from the ISU Secretariat.

4. REQUIREMENTS FOR FREE DANCE SEASON 2015/16

Rule 710, paragraph 2 provides that the list of Required Elements to be included in a Well Balanced Free Dance Program and the specific requirements for these elements are announced annually from the list of options provided in this Rule. For the season 2015/16, the Ice Dance Technical Committee adopted the following specific Required Elements to be included in a Well Balanced Free Dance Program.

4.1. Basic Novice

Dance Lifts: not more than **one (1) Short Lift**

One (1) Straight Line Step Sequence (Midline or Diagonal) in Hold or Curved Step Sequence (Circular or Serpentine) in Hold

One (1) Set of Synchronized Twizzles

The **Dance Spin** is not included in the list of Required Elements for the Basic Novice Free Dance. Nevertheless, a spinning movement skated by the couple together in any hold around common axis on one foot (or two feet) with any number of rotations is permitted. A couple may choose to use this movement as part of their choreography. The Technical Panel will ignore these movements and the Judges will not consider these movements as one of the permitted stops.

Levels explanations: for Basic Novice Free Dance, in all Required Elements, only features up to **Level 2** will be counted. Any additional features will not count for Level requirements and will be ignored by the Technical Panel.

4.2. Advanced Novice

Dance Lifts: not more than **two (2) different Types of Short Lifts**

One (1) Spin, but not more

Note: A Combination Spin is not permitted.

One (1) Straight Line Step Sequence (Midline or Diagonal) in Hold or Curved Step Sequence (Circular or Serpentine) in Hold

One (1) Set of Synchronized Twizzles

Levels explanations: for Advance Novice Free Dance, in all Required Elements, only features up to **Level 3** will be counted. Any additional features will not count for Level requirements and will be ignored by the Technical Panel.

4.3. Junior and Senior

Dance Lifts

Senior: not more than

- **one (1) Short Lift and one (1) Combination Lift (the Type of the Short Lift must be different from the Type(s) of Short Lifts forming the Combination Lift),**
or
- **three (3) different Types of Short Lifts**

Junior: not more than

- **one (1) Combination Lift,**

- **or**
- **two (2) different Types of Short Lifts**

One (1) Dance Spin (Spin or Combination Spin) but not more

Two (2) Step Sequences in Hold

- **One (1) Straight Line Step Sequence (Midline or Diagonal) in Hold**
- **One (1) Curved Step Sequence (Circular or Serpentine) in Hold**

One (1) Set of Synchronized Twizzles

One (1) Choreographic Element but not more. Rule 704, paragraph 19 provides that the Ice Dance Technical Committee specifies the characteristics of a Choreographic Element. For the season 2015/16, the Ice Dance Technical Committee has adopted the following specifications. The Choreographic Element must be either a:

- **Choreographic Dance Lift:** Dance Lift of up to ten (10) seconds, performed after all the other required Dance Lifts, or a
- **Choreographic Spinning Movement:** spinning movement performed after the required Dance Spin during which both partners perform at least 2 continuous rotations:
 - in any hold,
 - on one foot or two feet or one partner being elevated without being sustained, or a combination of the three,
 - on a common axis which may be moving.
- **Choreographic Twizzling Movement:** twizzling movement performed after the required Set of Twizzles composed of 2 parts.
The following requirements apply:
 - for both parts: on one foot or two feet or a combination of both,
 - for the first part: at least 2 continuous rotations performed simultaneously and both partners must travel (cannot be on the spot)
 - for the second part: at least one of the partners has to perform at least 2 continuous rotations and one or both partners can be on the spot or traveling or a combination of both.

4.4. SPECIFICATIONS TO REQUIRED ELEMENTS

Style of Step Sequences: the Level of Difficulty of the Step Sequences shall be determined as per the following Characteristics of Levels:

- Novice (Basic and Advanced) Free Dance (Straight Line or Curved Step Sequence In Hold): Style B
- Junior Short Dance (Not Touching Midline, Diagonal or Circular Step Sequence): Style A
- Senior Short Dance (Partial Step Sequence In Hold): Style B*
- Junior and Senior Free Dance (Straight Line and Curved Step Sequence):
 - first performed: Style A
 - later performed: Style B

Characteristics of Levels Style A, Style B and Style B* are technical requirements with ongoing validity published in the relevant Communication.

Note:

Style B* means that restrictions for this Step Sequence (the Partial Step Sequence in Hold) are different from Style B in that NO retrogression or loop is allowed.

Not Permitted Elements in Step Sequences and Partial Step Sequence: stops, pattern retrogressions and loops must not be included or are restricted in Step Sequences and Partial Step Sequence. They are identified as Not Permitted Elements as follows:

	Partial Step Sequence (Style B*)	Sole or first performed Step Sequence (Style A)	Later performed Step Sequence (Style B)
Stops**	Not permitted (the Partial Step Sequence starts immediately after the mandatory Stop)	Not permitted	Not permitted
Pattern retrogressions	Not permitted	Not permitted	More than one Pattern retrogression or more than two measures of music in duration
Loops	Not permitted	Not permitted	Not permitted
Separations	Not permitted	Not permitted	Permitted for Senior Free Dance – no more than 2 arm lengths and must not exceed 5 seconds

** As per definitions in Rule 704, Dance Spins and Pirouettes are stops.

Required Elements may be skated anywhere in the program except in the required Step Sequences.

Milan,
March 18, 2015
Lausanne,

Ottavio Cinquanta, President
Fredi Schmid, Director General