

INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION

Communication No. 1998

ICE DANCE Requirements for Technical Rules season 2016/17

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 2016/17 are included in this Communication.

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

They can be updated when necessary. Valid as of July 1st, 2016, updates to the current ongoing requirements 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 2: **#2 Foxtrot** and **#5 American 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 1: **#4 European Waltz** and **#20 Tango**

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 2016/17, Couples shall provide their own music for the following Pattern Dances:

- International Novice Competitions:

- Basic Novice: # **2 Foxtrot**
- Advanced Novice: # **4 European Waltz** and # **12 Kilian**.
- 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 and character 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 musical phrase (unless otherwise specified in the description of the dance).

3. REQUIREMENTS FOR SHORT DANCE SEASON 2016/17

3.1. Duration

Two (2) minutes and forty (40) seconds, plus or minus 10 seconds (pending decision of the 2016 ISU Congress)

3.2. 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 2016/17, the following Rhythms were selected.

Junior and Senior: Blues, plus one or more of the following Rhythms: **Swing, Hip Hop**.

Senior:

- **The Pattern Dance Element must be skated on the Blues Rhythm.**
- The Tempo of the music throughout the Pattern Dance Element must be constant and in accordance with the required Tempo and character of the Pattern Dance: Midnight Blues, i.e. 22 measures of 4 beats or 88 beats per minute, plus or minus 2 beats per minute.
- The Not Touching Step Sequence must be skated on one of the other rhythms: either Swing or Hip Hop.

Junior:

- **The Pattern Dance Elements must be skated on the Blues Rhythm.**
- The Tempo of the music throughout the Pattern Dance Element must be constant and in accordance with the required Tempo and character of the Pattern Dance: Blues, i.e. 22 measures of 4 beats or 88 beats per minute, plus or minus 2 beats per minute.
- The Not Touching Step Sequence must be skated on one of the other rhythms: either Swing or Hip Hop.
- **Blues and Swing** are described in the ISU Ice Dance Music Rhythms Booklet 1995 (Note: the description of Swing covers several different Rhythms, which are acceptable).
- **Hip Hop** is described in the Additions to the ISU Ice Dance Music Rhythms Booklet 1995 (see ISU Website).

Note: To comply with the ethical values of sports, Hip-Hop music chosen for Ice Dance competitions must not include aggressive and/or offending lyrics.

3.3. Alterations

Rule 709, paragraphs 1.d) and h), provides that certain requirements can be altered annually by the Ice Dance Technical Committee. For the season 2016/17, 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, the following do NOT constitute violations of these provisions:

- crossing the Long Axis while performing the Not Touching Midline, Diagonal or Circular Step Sequence,
- performing the Not Touching Circular Step Sequence in the clockwise direction,
- performing one loop crossing the Long Axis to connect the two Pattern Dance Elements Blues in Junior Short Dance,
- performing one lobe crossing the Long Axis during the Partial Step Sequence.

Paragraph 1.h): After the clock is started with the first movement, the Couple must not remain in one place for more than 10 seconds. During the program, 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. Any choreography appropriate to the music selection (including a separation of no more than two arms length apart) is permitted.

Rule 709 paragraph 1.j) applies with the following sentence at the end of the paragraph: „Unless otherwise allowed by the IDTC and announced in a Communication” (pending decision of the 2016 ISU Congress).”

- For season 2016/17, if the Hip Hop is chosen by a couple as one of the rhythms for the Junior Short Dance the following exception to Rule 709 paragraph 1.j) will apply:
 - Touching the ice with the hand(s) is permitted while skating to this rhythm; (pending decision of the 2016 ISU Congress)

Note: Touching the ice with the hand(s) is allowed if choreographed to enhance the character of the Hip-Hop and does not meet the definition of the fall.

3.4. 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 2016/17, the Ice Dance Technical Committee adopted the following specific Required Elements to be included into composition of the Short Dance.

- **Pattern Dance Elements**

- **Senior**

- **One (1) Section of Midnight Blues comprised of Steps #5-14**

- (The original prescribed Step #5 is the first Step of the Pattern Dance Element, and the original prescribed Step #14 is the last Step of the Pattern Dance Element),

- These Steps must be placed in the rink with Step #5 on the opposite side from the Judges and with the Steps following the specified pattern for the Midnight Blues.

Junior

Two (2) Sequences of Blues, either skated one after the other or separately. Step #1 of each Sequence must be skated on a different side of the ice surface.

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 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 each Pattern Dance Element on beat 1 of a musical phrase.
- Step #1 of each Pattern Dance Blues must be skated on a different side of the ice surface.

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

- **Step Sequence(s)**

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

- Pattern: approximately one half circuit of the ice surface starting immediately after original prescribed Step #14 of the Midnight Blues and finishing at approximately the same point as the original prescribed Step #5 of the Midnight Blues;
- duration: any exact number of musical measures;
- 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;
- The Partial Step Sequence must be skated to the same Tune and Tempo as the PDE Midnight Blues.

Senior and Junior: one (1) Not Touching Midline, Diagonal or Circular Step Sequence skated **to a different rhythm than the Blues**,

- **One Set of Sequential Twizzles**

Note: The Dance Spin is not a Required Element in a Junior and Senior Short Dance. Nevertheless, a Dance Spin or spinning movement **skated outside the Step Sequence** 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

The Dance Spin performed in the Partial Step Sequence for Senior and in the Not Touching Step Sequence for Junior and Senior shall be considered by the Judges as a Stop, which will be considered as a Not Permitted Element.

KEY POINTS AND KEY POINTS FEATURES FOR PATTERN DANCE ELEMENTS SEASON 2016/17

Blues

Sequence with Step # 1 on the Judges' side (1BL)	Key Point 1 Lady & Man Steps #5-7 (RBO,LFO, CR-RFO-SwR)	Key Point 2 Lady Steps #12 & 13 (LFI ClCho, RBO)	Key Point 3 Man Steps #12 & 13 (LFI ClCho, RBO)
Key Point Features	1. Correct Edges	1. Correct Edges 2. Correct Turn 3. ClCho: correct placement of the free foot	1. Correct Edges 2. Correct Turn 3. ClCho: correct placement of the free foot
Sequence with Step # 1 on the Judges' opposite side (2BL)	Key Point 1 Lady & Man Steps #5-7 (RBO, LFO, CR-RFO-SwR)	Key Point 2 Lady Steps #12 & 13 (LFI ClCho, RBO)	Key Point 3 Man Steps #12 & 13 (LFI ClCho, RBO)
Key Point Features	1. Correct Edges	1. Correct Edges 2. Correct Turn 3. ClCho: correct placement of the free foot	1. Correct Edges 2. Correct Turn 3. ClCho: correct placement of the free foot

Midnight Blues

Pattern Dance Element (1 MB) Section1: Original Steps #5-14, start with the original step #5 on the Judges' opposite side	Key Point 1 Lady & Man original prescribed Step #7 (Lady - RBOI3; Man - LFOI3)	Key Point 2 Man original prescribed Step #11 (RBO3/RFI-Br/RBOI/RBI-Rk)	Key Point 3 Lady original prescribed Step #12 & 13 (XF-LBI-Tw1, RBO, LFO)
Key Point Features	1. Correct Edges 2. Correct change of Edge 3. Correct Turn	1. Correct Edges (except RBI-Rk) 2. Correct Turns RBO3/RFI-Br 3. Correct change of Edge	1. Correct Edges (except RBO) 2. Correct Turn

Note: A change of edge within the last ½ a beat of the step is permitted to prepare the push/transition to the next step. (Examples in Key Points: 1BL & 2BL- Key Point 1 Step #7)

4. REQUIREMENTS FOR FREE DANCE SEASON 2016/17

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 2016/17, 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**
- **One (1) Choreographic Element: Choreographic Spinning Movement or Choreographic Twizzling Movement (as described below)**

Note: 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**
- **One (1) Choreographic Element: Choreographic Spinning Movement or Choreographic Twizzling Movement (as described below)**

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 in Hold**

a. Midline– skated along the full length of the ice surface on the Long Axis.

b. Diagonal– skated as fully corner to corner as possible.

AND

- **One (1) Curved Step Sequence in Hold:**

a. Circular– utilizing the full width of the ice surface on the Short Axis.

b. Serpentine– commences in either direction at the Long Axis at one end of the rink and progresses in three bold curves or in two bold curves (S-Shaped) and ends at the Long Axis of the opposite end of the rink, the pattern utilizing the full width of the ice surface.

Note: Some deviations in the chosen pattern are expected in order to complete the required turns. However, if the chosen pattern is not clearly recognizable, there will be a required reduction for incorrect Pattern by the Judges.

- **One (1) Set of Synchronized Twizzles**

- **Choreographic Elements**

Senior

Two (2) different - (pending decision of the 2016 ISU Congress).

Junior

One (1)

Rule 704, paragraph 19 provides that the Ice Dance Technical Committee specifies the characteristics of a Choreographic Element. For the season 2016/17, the Ice Dance Technical Committee has adopted the following specifications.

The **Choreographic Elements** must be chosen from:

- **Choreographic Dance Lift:** Dance Lift of up to ten (10) seconds, performed after all the other required Dance Lifts.
- **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
- Senior and Junior Short Dance (Not Touching Midline, Diagonal or Circular Step Sequence): Style B*
- 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.

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:

	Step Sequence Style A	Step Sequence Style B	Step Sequence Style B*
Stops**	Not permitted	Not permitted	Not permitted
Pattern retrogressions	Not permitted	More than one Pattern retrogression or more than two measures of music in duration	Not permitted
Loops	Not permitted	A narrow loop is an acceptable shape in the retrogression	Not permitted
Separations	Not permitted (Except Not Touching Midline, Diagonal or Circular Step Sequence)	Permitted for no more than 2 arm lengths and must not exceed 5 seconds	Not permitted (Except Not Touching Midline, Diagonal or Circular Step Sequence)

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

5. Clothing

The Rule 501 paragraph 1 applies with the following sentence at the end (pending decision of the 2016 ISU Congress):

“For Ice Dance, exceptions to the restrictions may be announced by the IDTC if appropriate to the Rhythms selected for the Short Dance.”

- If it is appropriate for the rhythm chosen by the couple for the Short Dance, the following exception to the clothing restrictions applies:
 - Lady may wear trousers or shorts.

Milan,
April 6, 2016
Lausanne,

Ottavio Cinquanta, President

Fredi Schmid, Director General