

Communication No. 2316

Decisions of the Council

The ISU Council met on April 16, 2020 via an online meeting to replace the cancelled meeting that was scheduled for the ISU World Figure Skating Championships in Montreal, Canada. The following were among the decisions taken by the Council during the meeting. Further meetings will be held during April 2020 and the decisions also published in due course.

1. Status of postponed ISU Championships season 2019/20

Mindful of the escalating negative COVID-19 developments, the resulting world-wide human tragedy and the measures taken by the public authorities as well as logistical challenges, the ISU Council concluded that a postponement of the pending 2020 ISU Championships is not possible. Consequently, the ISU Council has decided that the following ISU Championships must be definitely cancelled:

ISU World Short Track Speed Skating Championships, Seoul, March 13-15, 2020

ISU World Figure Skating Championships, Montreal, March 16-22, 2020

ISU World Synchronized Skating Championships, Lake Placid, April 3-5, 2020.

In regard to the planning of the 2020/21 skating season and considering the uncertain development of the COVID-19 crisis and its impact on the staging of international sports events, the ISU Council will hold another on-line meeting on April 28 when different scenarios of the COVID-19 developments and impact on the ISU Event calendar will be discussed. The objective is to work out, and communicate to all stakeholders, options suitable for different scenarios in order to limit the uncertainty to the strict minimum. This evaluation will also consider the ISU Skating Awards in Figure Skating.

2. Novice/Junior Ice Dance & Synchronized Skating upper age limit for season 2020/21

The ISU Council considered that especially in Ice Dance and Synchronized Skating the ISU Rules for programs of the different age categories (Novice/Junior/Senior) vary greatly and the preparation of new programs for the transition to the next age category requires substantial ice training. Since currently such ice training is on hold and training opportunities will be substantially reduced due to the COVID-19 restrictions, the Council decided in line with Article 17.1.q), that exceptionally, for the 2020/21 season only and for Ice Dance and Synchronized Skating only, the Novice and Junior upper age limits will be extended by one year. However, this extended age limit applies only for Novice and Junior Ice Dance Couples and Novice and Junior Synchronized Skating Teams that were already competing together during the 2019/20 season and in cases where the same programs as for season 2019/20 are maintained. In Synchronized Skating, if a Junior or Novice Team changes Skater(s), the new Skater(s) must be of the Junior/Novice age according to Rule 108, paragraph 4 of the 2018 ISU General Regulations.

ISU Members with Novice and/or Junior Ice Dance Couples and/or Synchronized Teams opting for such extension of the Novice or Junior upper age limit must send a corresponding request to the Chair of the respective ISU Technical Committee in order to obtain a certificate confirming the exception for the Couple or Team concerned.

This Council decision does not relate to Single and Pair Skating.

Further to the above-mentioned decision as well as the decisions announced in ISU Communication No. 2312, point 5 (Figure Skating Officials Status) and point 6 (Figure Skating Requirements season 2020/21), the Council, in consultation with the Technical Committees, is further evaluating other potential consequences of the COVID-19 crisis, such as the lack of ice training, and will publish any extraordinary measures the Council deems necessary in due time.

3. ISU Four Continents Short Track Speed Skating Championships 2021

Based on information received from U.S. Speedskating the Council decided to change the dates of the ISU Four Continents Short Track Speed Skating Championships 2021. Accordingly, the ISU Four Continents Short Track Speed Skating Championships 2021 will be held in Salt Lake City, USA on January 22-24, 2021.

4. Provisional Allotment of 2022 ISU Championships

ISU Four Continents Short Track Speed Skating Championships to be held tentatively (other dates may be considered) on January 28-30, 2022:

Due to a lack of applications, the Council was not able to make an allotment for this Championships. ISU Members are therefore invited to submit applications by September 15, 2020 in line with ISU Communication No. 2231.

ISU Four Continents Figure Skating Championships to be held on January 17-22, 2022:

The Council decided to postpone the allotment of this Championships. ISU Members are therefore invited to submit applications by September 15, 2020 in line with ISU Communication No. 2231.

In accordance with Rule 127 of the ISU Regulations, the Council has provisionally allotted the following 2022 Championships:

ISU World Junior Figure Skating Championships to be held in Sofia, Bulgaria on March 7-13, 2022

ISU World Junior Synchronized Skating Championships to be held in Innsbruck, Austria on March 17-19, 2022.

5. Designation of Figure Skating Challenger Series events season 2020/21

The Council approved the Challenger Series in Figure Skating Calendar for the season 2020/21 as follows:

Beijing / CHN	September 9 - 13, 2020
Oakville, ON / CAN*	September 17 - 19, 2020
Bratislava / SVK	September 16 - 19, 2020
Oberstdorf / GER*	September 23 - 26, 2020
Espoo / FIN*	October 8 - 11, 2020
Budapest / HUN	October 15 - 17, 2020
Almaty / KAZ*	October 29 - November 1, 2020
Warsaw / POL	November 12 – 15, 2020
Innsbruck / AUT	November 23 – 30, 2020
Zagreb / CRO*	December 2 – 5, 2020

* denotes Events with Pair Skating.

The above calendar, same as the calendar of other ISU series, is subject to a timely normalization of the coronavirus situation allowing the safe organization of ice skating events this Autumn. While the Challenger Series events remain the property of the organizing ISU Members who remain the key decision makers for those events, the ISU is closely monitoring the respective developments with the expectation and hope that the situation will be restored to normal as quickly as possible. The ISU will inform ISU Members in case of any development or related ISU recommendations and/or decision.

6. Prize Money for ISU Synchronized Skating Championships

The Council decided to amend the Prize Money awarded at the ISU World Synchronized Skating Championships, effective as of the season 2020/21, as follows:

Per Team Place

First Place: USD 14'000
Second Place: USD 10'000
Third Place: USD 6'000

The Council decided that Prize Money will be awarded at the ISU World Junior Synchronized Skating Championships as follows:

Per Team Place

First Place: US\$ 10'000
Second Place: US\$ 6'000
Third Place: US\$ 2'000

Tubbergen,
April 22, 2020
Lausanne,

Jan Dijkema, President

Fredi Schmid, Director General