



Judging System

Handbook for Referees and Judges

Ice Dance

09/2022

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Please refer to Communications for the 2022-23 season. Including: 2463, 2468, 2484

Subject: **Clothing**

Clothing	Source
<p>Changes for 2022/23 season (underlined)</p> <p>1. At ISU Championships and International Competitions, <u>including the Olympic Winter Games and the Winter Youth Olympic Games</u>, the clothing of the Competitors must be modest, dignified and appropriate for athletic competition – not garish or theatrical in design. Clothing may, however, reflect the character of the music chosen. The clothing must not give the effect of excessive nudity inappropriate for the discipline. Men must wear full length trousers. Accessories and props are not permitted.</p> <p>Clothing that does not adhere to these guidelines will be penalized by a deduction (see Rule 353, paragraph 1.n). For Ice Dance, exceptions to the restrictions may be announced by the IDTC.</p> <p>2. The decorations on costumes must be non-detachable. Part of the costume or decoration falling on the ice will be penalized by a deduction (see Rule 353, paragraph 1.n).</p>	<p>Rule 501</p>

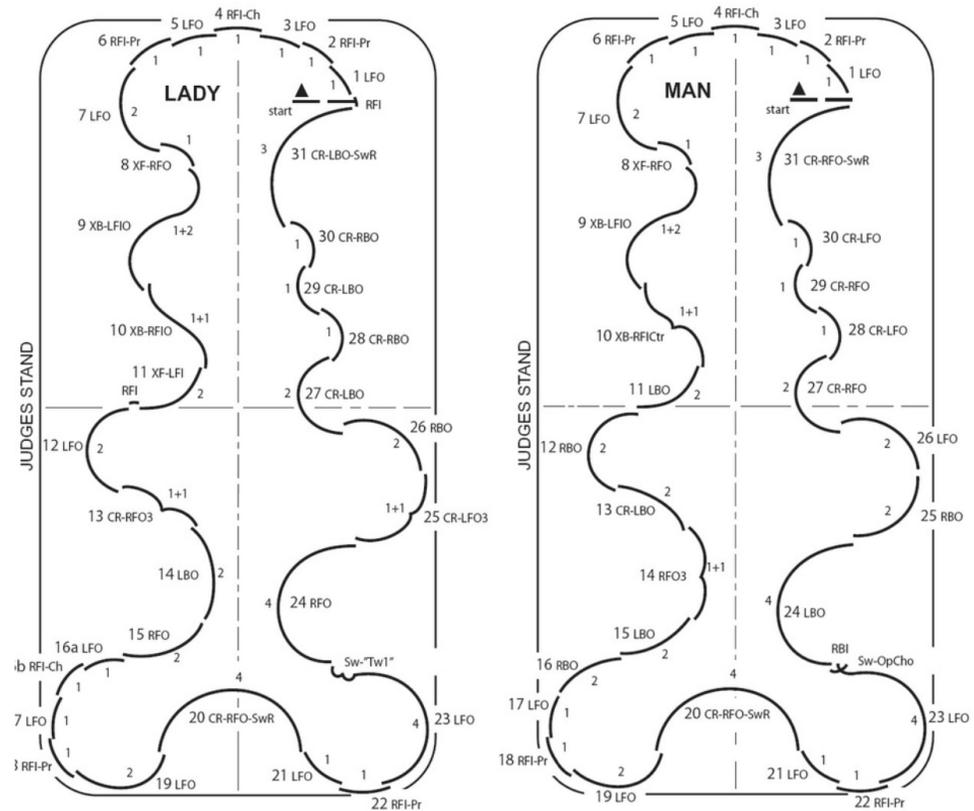
Questions (clarifications)	Answers	Comments
<p>In a Lift, what happens if the lifting partner uses part of the costume as a support?</p>	<p>Part of the costume being used as a prop, the Judges and Referee will apply the deduction for costume/prop violation.</p>	<p>The Technical Panel will assess the Level regardless of the costume being used as a support.</p>
<p>In the Free Dance, the woman is wearing pants and not a skirt. Do the judges press the costume deduction?</p>	<p>No. A women may wear pants/trousers on both the Rhythm Dance and Free Dance.</p>	<p>Communication 2468.</p> <p><u>There is no specific requirement for the length of the pants/trousers except for a man.</u></p>

Subject: **Pattern Dance Elements**

Description, chart and diagrams of Argentine Tango

Hold	Step No.	Man's Step	No. of Beats of Music			Woman's Step
Open	1	LFO		1		LFO
	2	RFI-Pr		1		RFI-Pr
	3	LFO		1		LFO
	4	RFI-Ch		1		RFI-Ch
	5	LFO		1		LFO
	6	RFI-Pr		1		RFI-Pr
	7	LFO		1		LFO
	8	XF-RFO		1		XF-RFO
	9	XB-LFIO		1+2		XB-LFIO
	10	XB-RFI Ctr	1+1		1+1	XB-RFIO
Closed	11	LBO	2		2	XF-LFI RFI (between counts 4&1)
	12	RBO		2		LFO
	13	CR-LBO	2		1+1	CR-RFO3
	14	RFO3	1+1			LBO
	15	LBO		2		RFO
	16a	RBO	2		1	LFO
	16b				1	RFI-Ch
Kilian	17	LFO		1		LFO
	18	RFI-Pr		1		RFI-Pr
	19	LFO		2		LFO
	20	CR-RFO-SwR		4		CR-RFO-SwR
	21	LFO		1		LFO
	22	RFI-Pr		1		RFI-Pr
Closed	23	LFO Sw-Op Cho RBI (between 4&1)	4		4	LFO Sw- "Tw1" (between counts 4&1)
	24	LBO		4		RFO
Outside	25	RBO	2		1+1	CR-LFO3
	26	LFO		2		RBO
Closed	27	CR-RFO		2		CR-LBO
	28	CR-LFO		1		CR-RBO
	29	CR-RFO		1		CR-LBO
	30	CR-LFO		1		CR-RBO
	31	CR-RFO-SwR	3		3	CR-LBO-SwR RFI (between counts 4 & 1)

ARGENTINE TANGO: PATTERN, KEY POINTS AND KEY POINTS FEATURES JUNIOR PDE 2022/23



Subject: Pattern Dance Elements

Description, chart and diagrams of Argentine Tango

22. ARGENTINE TANGO

Music - Tango 4/4
Tempo - 24 measures of 4 beats per minute
- 96 beats per minute
Pattern - Set
Duration - The time required to skate 2 sequences is 1:10 min.

The Argentine Tango should be skated with strong edges and considerable “élan”. Good flow and fast travel over the ice are essential and must be achieved without obvious effort or pushing.

The dance begins with partners in open hold for *steps 1 to 10*. The initial progressive, chassé and progressive sequences of *steps 1 to 6* bring the partners on *step 7* to a bold LFO edge facing down the ice surface. On *step 8* both partners skate a right forward outside cross in front on count 1 held for one beat. On *step 9*, the couple crosses behind on count 2, with a change of edge on count 3 as their free legs are drawn past the skating legs and held for count 4 to be in position to start the next step, crossed behind for count 1. On *step 10* the man turns a counter while the lady executes another cross behind then change of edge. This results in the partners being in closed hold as the lady directs her edge behind the man as he turns his counter.

Step 11 is strongly curved towards the side of the ice surface. At the end of this step the lady momentarily steps onto the RFI on the “and” between counts 4 and 1 before skating *step 12* that is first directed toward the side barrier. The lobe formed by *steps 13 to 15* starts with a cross roll towards the midline. The lady then turns a cross roll three (*step 13*) toward the man, then he skates a three turn for *step 14*. These steps are strong edges followed by *step 15* that is an outside edge that directs the lobe towards the side of the ice surface.

The man skates a 2 beat edge (*step 16*) while the lady skates a chassé (*steps 16a and b*), then he steps forward to place the couple in Kilian hold. *Steps 17 to 19* form a progressive sequence that

is followed by a swing cross roll (*step 20*) across the end of the ice surface. Another progressive sequence leads to *step 23*. This step is a left forward outside edge for both ending in a forward clockwise “twizzle-like motion” for the lady (“Tw1” - her body turns one full continuous rotation, the skating foot does not technically execute a full turn, followed by a step forward) and a swing open choctaw for the man turned between count 4 and count 1 of the next measure. During the twizzle the lady has her weight on the left foot but carries the right foot close beside it. While executing *steps 21 to 23* the lady must skate hip to hip with the man, her tracing following his. After this move is completed the couple moves into closed hold.

On the next lobe the lady skates a cross roll onto *step 25* but the man does not. After the lady turns her three turn aiming at the man (*her step 25*), he steps forward (his *step 26*) into outside hold with the lady on his right. *Steps 27 to 31* are a series of five cross rolls directed down the ice surface. The first cross roll is held for 2 beats, while the next three cross rolls are one beat each. The partners should skate the cross rolls lightly on well-curved edges. The final step is a cross roll outside swing roll held for 3 beats and at its conclusion the lady steps briefly onto a RFI between counts 4 and 1 which enables her to restart the dance.

Inventors - Reginald J. Wilkie and Daphne B. Wallis
First Performance - London, Westminster Ice Rink, 1934

Subject: **Questions and answers – General**

Questions (clarifications)	Answers	Comments
What is the difference between an element or movement which is Not permitted and an Illegal Element/Movement/Pose?	Illegal Elements/Movements/Poses are listed in Rules 704 paragraph <u>21</u> (e.g. lying on the ice). They are called by the Technical Panel who takes action by applying a deduction and, if performed in a Required Element, adjusting the Level to Basic Level if the requirements for Basic Level are met.	Other elements or movements which are Not permitted are not called by the Technical Panel (e.g. retrogression in a Step Sequence). They are identified by the Judges who take action in their marks (negative feature when determining the GOE for an Element).
In a Senior Free Dance, the duration of a program is 3 minutes 25 seconds. Should the Referee decide that no marks are awarded?	No, because the duration of the program is less than 30 seconds under the required time range, as per Rule 502.	The minimum duration of a Senior Free Dance is 3 minutes 50 seconds. 30 seconds under this required time range is 3 minutes 20 seconds.
A couple finishes a Required Element after the music has ended. How will Judges mark this element?	As long as the element is called by the Technical Panel, the Judges will give a GOE to the element for its entire execution.	If the element is started before the required duration of the program (plus the 10 seconds allowed), the Technical Panel will call it. If the element is started after the required duration of the program <u>and verified by the Referee</u> (including the 10 seconds allowed), the Technical Panel will ignore it.
In a Junior Free Dance, the duration of a program is 3 minutes 50 seconds and the music plays till the end of the program. A Required Element is performed between time codes 3:42 and 3:48. What will the Referee do?	The Referee will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ apply a deduction of 2.0 for time of the program exceeding the required time range by twice 5 seconds; ▪ instruct the Technical Panel that the Required Element was started after the required time range. 	The Technical Panel will not identify the Required Element and GOEs will not be count.

Subject: **Questions and answers – Music/Rhythms**

Questions (clarifications)	Answers	Comments
<p>What is meant by “audible rhythmic beat”?</p>	<p>Although all music has a beat, not all beats are audible, which means they can be heard. The beat in music can be heard in a number of ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The beat can be percussive – formed by drums or some percussion instrument. This is common in all dance music in clubs. ▪ The beat can be created by musical emphasis. This could be a series of strong and weak beats just formed by emphasizing the notes. This is common in classical music that has a “natural” beat. ▪ The beat can be created with a single instrument or the voice alone using musical emphasis. <p>If the music does not have an audible beat, then a percussive beat can be added. This is acceptable only if the added beat matches or complements the inherent musical beat that is present. Sometimes, the added beat does not follow the natural beat and it is a problem. It is generally better not to have to add the beat.</p>	

Subject: **Questions and answers – Music/Rhythms**

Questions (clarifications)	Answers	Comments
<p>In Rhythm Dance, the Rhythms/Styles are specified. What does it mean exactly?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Music Rhythms: as per Rule 706, paragraph 3, Rhythm is “the regularly repeated pattern of accented and unaccented beats which gives the music its character”. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the Rhythm, as per above definition, of the chosen music or of one part of the chosen music does not fulfil the description of one of the specified Rhythms, as per the ISU Ice Dance Music Booklet 1995 (or Additions to it), then the Judges will press the music deduction button. 2. Dancing (Skating) Rhythms/Styles: if a couple performs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ whole or part of their program in an obvious Rhythm/Style which is not specified, or ▪ whole or part of the Pattern Dance Element(s) on another Rhythm/Style than the specified one, the “expression of Rhythms” is incorrect and Judges will mark Presentation of the Music/Timing accordingly, as instructed in the marking guide for Program Components. 	<p>Example:</p> <p>The regularly repeated pattern of accented and unaccented beats of the music chosen during Pattern Dance Elements is not a 4 beat count (the couple skates to a waltz beat), then the Judges will press the music deduction button.</p> <p>However, if the music is one of the Rhythms/Styles listed but the skating does not give the feeling of the Style of the chosen Dance, then the Judges will deduct from the mark for Presentation of the Music/Timing according to the percentage of the program that was not skated according to the style.</p>
<p>How many different tunes of a chosen Rhythm/Styles can be included in Rhythm Dance?</p>	<p>The number of Rhythms/Styles is not limited in the season 2022 -23 .</p>	<p>However, they must use at least two different Rhythms/Styles. This applies for both Junior and Senior.</p>

Subject: **Questions and answers – Music/Rhythms**

Questions (application cases)	Answers	Comments
<p>How should the Referee organize the checking of Tempo during Pattern Dance Elements?</p>	<p>From the start of each Pattern Dance Element the Referee will time the duration of the number of beats necessary to perform the element(s). Referees should be careful to time the duration from the beginning of a measure until the last beat of the last measure is fully elapsed. In case of doubt, the Referee will check his findings with video replay, using the duration of the element(s). The Referee will also take into consideration whether the Tempo was constant throughout Pattern Dance Elements and, when necessary, will apply the deduction for incorrect Tempo.</p>	<p>Timing the duration of the required number of beats rather than the duration of the element(s) is necessary to check tempo effectively in case of interruption in the element(s). For season 2022/23, the required number of beats and duration of Pattern Dance Elements are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1 AT and 2AT: 94 to 98 beats per minute and duration for each section is 17.1 – 17.9 seconds

Subject: Questions and answers – Choreographic restrictions

Questions (clarifications)	Answers	Comments
<p>A couple crosses the Long Axis in a Pattern Dance Element. Should Judges take this situation into consideration under the GOE or apply the deduction for choreography restrictions?</p>	<p><u>GOE. Pattern incorrect including crossing the long axis when not permitted (1-2 Negative features)</u></p>	<p>Exception for season 2022-23: - crossing the Long Axis at the entry and to PDE does not constitute violations of these provisions. - Crossing the Long Axis while performing Steps # 13 - 15 in Argentine Tango is not considered as Pattern violation.</p>
<p>Rule 708, paragraph 1.b) states: “In a regulation-sized ice rink (Rule 342), the couples may not cross the Long Axis. In rinks, less than regulation-size, the Couple may cross the Long Axis proportionally to the width of the rink.” Does this provision applies to a 56x26 meters rink which is regulation-sized as per Rule 342?</p>	<p>The term “regulation-sized ice rink” in Rule 708, paragraph 1.b) must be understood as a 30 meters wide rink. If the rink is 26 meters wide, Couples may cross the Long Axis by 2 meters.</p>	<p>Exception for season 2022-23: - crossing the Long Axis at the entry to PDE does not constitute violations of these provisions. - Crossing the Long Axis while performing Steps # 13 - 15 in Argentine Tango is not considered as Pattern violation. - Crossing the Long Axis at the entry and/or exit of the Step Sequence.</p>
<p>In a Rhythm Dance, a Couple performs choreography at the beginning of the program, around the area of their starting pose prior to moving. They also perform some movements on the spot prior to the final pose, at the very end of the program. Are either of these considered by the Judges and Referee as a “full Stop”?</p>	<p>No, it is not considered as a “full Stop” if it is within the allowed rules and restrictions per the 2022-23 season. Rule 709 paragraph h) & g) allows couples to perform any choreography either in hold OR separated during the beginning of the program, (within the first 10 seconds) and/or at the end of the program (prior to the final pose). The choreography may be moving around the area of the Stop or stationary.</p>	<p>As examples, a Couple starts their RD with movements for around 8 seconds prior to fully moving across the ice. They also finish their RD with the choreography (either separated or in hold) in place for the last 6 seconds of the program, just prior to the ending pose. Both examples are NOT considered as “Stops”.</p>

Subject: **Questions and answers – Choreographic restrictions**

Questions (application cases)	Answers	Comments
<p>In Rhythm Dance a Couple performs a separation of one measure of music to prepare (or conclude) the Step Sequence or the Set of Sequential Twizzles. Is this allowed?</p>	<p>No. The preparation (or the conclusion) of those elements is not one of the four cases of separations allowed by Rule 709, § 1.g), which are: to change hold, to perform (not to prepare or conclude) those elements, to perform Turns as transitions, and during stops.</p>	<p>As stated in Rule 709, § 1.g), the one measure duration allowance applies to two cases of allowed separations: to change hold and to perform Turns as transitions. Separating longer than necessary before the Step Sequence or the Set of Sequential Twizzles (or taking longer than necessary after the element to resume skating in hold) constitutes a negative feature for “ long separation before or after Required Elements in RD” Based on the marking guide for GOE, this may result in lowering the GOE. This is also applicable for the FD and any element which is performed not in hold/contact/touch during all or part of the Element</p>
<p>For the Rhythm Dance, is a Stop which is performed during the first 10 seconds of the program counted as one of the permitted Stops?</p>	<p>NO. If the couple has not started skating. YES. Once the couple has started skating and there is a movement across the ice from their initial starting positions, they must continue the program. If there is a Stop after movement across the ice, even during the first 10 seconds, it will be counted as one of the permitted Stop(s).</p>	

Subject: **Questions and answers – Pattern Dance Elements**

Questions (clarifications)	Answers	Comments
<p>What does “correct Pattern” mean as a Characteristic of GOE for Pattern Dance Element?</p>	<p>It means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ tracking is correct; ▪ for a Set Pattern Dance: The Pattern generally agrees with the pattern provided in the ISU Handbook Ice Dance; ▪ for an Optional Pattern Dance: The Pattern may deviate from the pattern provided in the ISU Handbook Ice Dance but fully utilizes the ice surface; ▪ if more than one Sequence is required: restart and repetition are correct. 	<p>The Argentine Tango is a SET Pattern Dance.</p>
<p>When evaluating the percentage of steps not held for the required number of beats (or any other error), do we consider the Woman and Man separately?</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>The percentage for steps not held for the required number of beats (or any other error) should be counted as a unit, independently by which partner did the error. The percentage is calculated for the average of steps for Woman and for Man.</p>
<p>In a Pattern Dance Element, what happens if a couple introduces a creative free leg movement?</p>	<p>If the creative free leg movement does not affect any requirement included in the description, chart and diagram of the dance, Judges will not take any specific action under GOE.</p>	

Subject: **Questions and answers – Pattern Dance Elements**

Questions (clarifications)	Answers	Comments
<p>What happens if a Pattern Dance Element is started on the required beat but further on is performed partly out of phrase?</p>	<p>Judges will not apply to the GOE the negative feature “Pattern Dance Element not started on the required beat” but will reflect this situation under the Program Component: Presentation of the Music/Timing referring to the percentage of correct timing in the marking guide.</p> <p>The mistake having caused the couple to perform part of the Pattern Dance Element out of phrase may also be reflected under GOE in the percentage of Steps not held for the required number of beats.</p>	
<p>In a Pattern Dance Element, a couple does not hold the Steps/Edges of a Key Point for the required number of beats. How should Judges take this mistake into consideration?</p>	<p>Whether or not they are part of a Key Point, Steps/Edges which are not held for the required number of beats should be reflected under GOE in the percentage of Steps not held for the required number of beats.</p> <p><u>The Judges will also reflect this situation under the Program Component: Presentation of the Music/Timing referring to the percentage of correct timing in the marking guide</u></p>	<p>The Technical Panel will consider that the Key Point is not correctly executed.</p>
<p>For the 2022/23 season, when is a "variation of hold" on a Pattern Dance Element in the RD a negative feature?</p>	<p>When the variation of hold creates a problem/error with correct tracking and/or correct edges/turns.</p>	

Subject: **Questions and answers – Dance Spins and Lifts**

Questions (clarifications)	Answers	Comments
Spins		
If during a Spin or Combination Spin the couple separates to change hold, is there a restriction regarding the distance apart?	YES, A couple cannot be more than two arms length apart during a change of hold.	
Lifts		
If a program begins with partners in a Lift before the music starts, how will the duration of the Lift be counted?	The duration of the Lift will be counted when one of the partners begins to move.	
If a program concludes with partners in a Lift, how will the duration of the Lift be counted?	The duration of the Lift will be counted until the movement stops completely.	
How should the Referee check the duration of Lifts?	The lifts should be timed with the stopwatch during the performance as it has been done so far and then if there is a lift that is over the permitted time, the Referee must check it on his screen after conclusion of the program and that becomes the official time. If the times are recorded, then a note is made that the lift was electronically checked and the deduction is applied automatically by the computer	The sign ">" beside the Lift on the "Protocol" means that the Lift was over the time limit and it was electronically checked. The Referee should try the new timing device on the screen before the event starts.
An attempted Combination Lift is called by the Technical Panel as only a Type of Short Lift. What duration should this Lift not exceed?	The Referee should check what was the decision of the Technical Panel: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If it is identified as a Short Lift +Short Lift Combo - the maximum duration of a Combination Lift is 12 seconds - If it is identified as a Short Lift +Li Combo – the maximum duration of a Combination Lift is 12 seconds - If it is identified as a Short Lift – the maximum duration is 7 seconds 	

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Questions (clarifications)	Answers	Comments
Spins		
If during a Spin or Combination Spin the couple separates to change hold, is there a restriction regarding the distance apart?	YES, A couple cannot be more than two arms length apart during a change of hold.	
Lifts		
If a program begins with partners in a Lift before the music starts, how will the duration of the Lift be counted?	The duration of the Lift will be counted when one of the partners begins to move.	
If a program concludes with partners in a Lift, how will the duration of the Lift be counted?	The duration of the Lift will be counted until the movement stops completely.	
How should the Referee check the duration of Lifts?	The lifts should be timed with the stopwatch during the performance as it has been done so far and then if there is a lift that is over the permitted time, the Referee must check it on his screen after conclusion of the program and that becomes the official time. If the times are recorded, then a note is made that the lift was electronically checked and the deduction is applied automatically by the computer	The sign ">" beside the Lift on the "Protocol" means that the Lift was over the time limit and it was electronically checked. The Referee should try the new timing device on the screen before the event starts.
An attempted Combination Lift is called by the Technical Panel as only a Type of Short Lift. What duration should this Lift not exceed?	The Referee should check what was the decision of the Technical Panel: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If it is identified as a Short Lift +Short Lift Combo - the maximum duration of a Combination Lift is 12 seconds - If it is identified as a Short Lift +Li Combo – the maximum duration of a Combination Lift is 12 seconds - If it is identified as a Short Lift – the maximum duration is 7 seconds 	

Subject: **Questions and answers – Sets of Twizzles**

Questions (clarifications)	Answers	Comments
In a Set of Twizzles, a couple performs a third Twizzle as Additional Feature. If there is a mistake by one or both partners in performing these third Twizzles, how does it affect the GOE?	The Judges will consider this mistake as a poor exit and not as a mistake on one of the required Twizzles. While establishing their GOE, this is a negative feature for “entry/exit”.	Based on the marking guide for GOE, this may result in lowering the GOE.
In a Set of Twizzles, partners perform different connecting steps between Twizzles. Will Judges take any action?	No. There is no requirement for both partners to perform the same connecting steps.	
In a Set of Twizzles, a couple performs a third Twizzle as Additional Feature. If there is a Fall by one or both partners in performing these third Twizzles, how does it affect the GOE?	The Judges will consider that the Fall occurs on the exit, which forms part of the Required Element. Therefore, they will adjust the GOE according to the marking guide for Falls, i.e. not higher than -2 in case of Fall by one partner and not higher than -3 in case of Fall by both partners.	
In a Set of Twizzles, if a Jump is performed between Twizzles, should Judges take a specific action?	No. A jump is allowed within the Sets of Twizzles.	In case Jumps of more than one revolution are performed, action is taken by the Technical Panel because those moves are Illegal Element/Movement/Pose for the 2022/23 season.
During the Twizzles (Sequential and Synchronized), does an interruption (or fall) by one partner effect the GOE if the level of each partner is evaluated separately by the Technical Panel?	The Judges still evaluate this element as a unit and must base their one GOE on the quality of execution of BOTH partners even with the Technical Panel evaluating each partner separately.	

Subject: **Questions and answers – Sets of Twizzles**

Questions (clarifications)	Answers	Comments
During the Twizzles (Sequential and Synchronized), what is the action of the Judge if the Additional Feature(s) are not the same and/or not simultaneous for each partner?	The same Additional Features must be performed by both in the same Twizzle to be considered for Level. Judges are responsible for the execution and if the Set of Twizzles and /or Additional Features are not performed simultaneous, Judges will consider that as a negative feature: - Execution not simultaneous and/or Lack of unison.	

Subject: **Questions and answers – Step Sequences**

Questions (clarifications)	Answers	Comments
When a couple is performing a Step Sequence as Not Touching, partners' patterns cross. They skate more than two arm lengths apart. How should Judges consider this situation?	The marking guides for Step Sequences state that if these elements are performed at generally more than two arm lengths apart, Judges will assess this as a negative feature per the marking guide for GOE and will not apply the deduction for violation of choreography restrictions. However, partners slightly exceed two arm lengths to perform the crossing, Judges will not apply the reduction.	Per the marking guide for GOE for both RD and FD, too long separation to prepare any Not Touching Element is also a negative feature when determining the final GOE. It is not a violation of the Choreographic restrictions deduction
In a Step Sequence Style B for the Free Dance, one retrogression is permitted. However, stops and loops are Not Permitted Elements and the pattern of the Step Sequence must be in accordance with the chosen Type. What can be the shape of the permitted retrogression?	Examples of acceptable shapes of the retrogression might be: a straight line (for Straight Line Step Sequences) or curve line (for Curved Step Sequences) where there is a quick stop to merely invert the skating direction and the retrogression is on the same line as the forward movement; a narrow loop; a "z" or "s" shape where the retrogression is not exactly on the same line going back and forward.	Examples of not acceptable shapes, which are negative feature(s) per the new marking guide for GOE: - a full stop with the couple staying stationary on the ice to enter or exit the retrogression: this will be considered as a Not Permitted Element; - a round loop: this will be considered as a Not Permitted Element; - a retrogression grossly distorting the pattern of the Type of Step Sequence: this will be considered as an incorrect pattern
In a Step Sequence Style B in Free Dance for season 2022-23, one retrogression of no more than two measures of music is permitted. How should Judges measure the duration of the retrogression?	From the moment the Couple starts retrogressing until they resume skating in the main direction of the Step Sequence.	
Is it possible to skate the Pattern Dance Type Step Sequence in the clockwise direction while all other parts of the dance including the Pattern Dance is performed in anticlockwise direction?	Yes.	For the 2022/23 season, couples may perform one loop in any direction during the Pattern Dance Type Step Sequence which may cross the Long Axis

Subject: **Questions and answers – Step Sequences**

Questions (clarifications)	Answers	Comments
<p>What does it mean “correct pattern of Step Sequences”?</p>	<p>a) for a midline or diagonal step sequence - lobes should be equally balanced along the line of the pattern so as to not distort the basic shape and direction of the line from corner to corner (diagonal) or end of rink to end of the rink (midline).</p> <p>b) for a circle - the circular line of the pattern should be recognizable and not be allowed to extend to become a large oval running almost from end to end of the rink</p> <p>c) for a serpentine - the two or three bold curves should be balanced on either side of the midline of the rink so as not to distort the basic "S" shape of the pattern.</p>	<p>Judges must reflect this as a negative feature per the new marking guide for GOE if the pattern of the Step Sequence does not maintain the integrity or basic shape of the chosen pattern</p>
<p>Is Wrist to Wrist Hold the same as Hand in Hand Hold?</p>	<p>Yes, when judges are evaluating the Step Sequences in Hold, extended Hand in Hand (or Wrist to Wrist) which is sustained is not permitted during the Step Sequences.</p>	<p>Judges must reflect this as a negative feature per the new marking guide for GOE per each occurrence.</p>
<p>For Novice (all levels), is the Step Sequence for the Free Dance a Style B?</p>	<p>No. For the 2022-23 season, the Step Sequence for Basic and Intermediate Novice is one (1) Choreographic Step Sequence. The requirement for Advance Novice is one (1) Style B Step Sequence. All details are published in the Novice Communication.</p>	<p>Step Sequence requirement for Advanced Novice: One (1) Straight Line Step Sequence (Midline or Diagonal) in Hold or Curved Step Sequence (Circular or Serpentine) in Hold (Style B) Communication 2463</p>

Subject: Choreographic Elements

Questions (application cases)	Answers	Comments
Is the Choreographic Twizzling Movement a not-touching element?	The Choreographic Twizzling Movement consists of 2 parts: in the first part, each partner performs at least 2 continuous rotations, which must be skated separately and while traveling (cannot be on spot). For the second part, the partners may be touching, may be separate or a combination of both; one or both may travel while rotating, may rotate on the spot or may be a combination of both.	If the distance between the partners is more than two arms-length, Judges will assess this as a negative feature "Spacing": - more than two arms-length apart". Based on the marking guide for GOE, this may result in lowering the GOE.
For the Choreographic Step Sequence, what is the hold requirement?	The Choreographic Step Sequence may be in hold, no hold or a combination of both	However, the general requirement throughout the Free Dance is no more than 2 arms-length apart. (Includes during elements which affect the GOE). Exception is the Choreographic Step Sequence which may be up to 4 arms-length apart.
For the Choreographic Step Sequence, are stops allowed? Pattern retrogressions? Loops?	As long as the Choreographic Step Sequence can be identified (along the Short Axis and must be from barrier to barrier), any stops, pattern retrogressions, loops, etc. are allowed.	Any stops within the Free Dance, even in the Choreographic Step Sequence, must be 5 seconds or less or will be penalized by the judges.
May a Choreographic Element be performed right after another Choreographic Element?	Yes. Choreographic Elements may be back to back with another Choreographic Element.	However, a Required Element for the Level and a Choreographic Element must be separate elements
Must the Choreographic Sliding Movement be simultaneous throughout the element?	No. The start and finish of the Choreographic Sliding Movement does not have to be simultaneous. However, both partners must be sliding simultaneously at one point for at least two seconds during the Element for the Technical Panel to identify this element. Otherwise, the element will have no value.	The sliding movement position for both partners may be different.

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For Choreographic Twizzling Movement, during the first part of this element both partners must complete 2 continuous travelling rotations simultaneously. Do these rotations have to be started and finished at the same time?	No. The two complete continuous rotations have to be done simultaneously during any time of the first part of this element.	As an example, the woman starts to twizzle while the man is in a lunge. While the woman continues to twizzle for two more rotations, the man also performs two rotations. The woman continues to rotate while the man goes back into a lunge.