



Judging System

Handbook For Referees and Judges

Single and Pair Skating

2025/26

Step Sequences

What is considered as a “small pattern” for reduction of GOE?	If the StSq utilizes only part of the ice surface, the GOE reduction is -1 to -3.
If the StSq is <u>only partly</u> performed to the music, how will this affect the GOE?	GOE reduction of <u>“partly or fully does not correspond to the music” -1 to -4 applies</u> . This element cannot start higher than +2 in the GOE evaluation.
A skater performs a wonderful step sequence with deep and clean steps and turns, to the music with good energy, flow and with an interesting pattern on the ice. At one point of the sequence there is a small loss of control and stumble. How will this affect the GOE?	The final GOE reflects the whole element overall so both positive aspects and negative aspects should be considered. The positive bullet for “effortless throughout with good energy, flow and execution” cannot be awarded, so the maximum starting GOE is +3 for this element before the reduction is taken for the small stumble. If there is any kind of mistake that requires a reduction, the starting GOE cannot be higher than +3.
In the FS during the StSq the skater performs a jump element with more than one revolution and falls. What will the call be and how will the GOE be evaluated?	The Technical Panel will call StSq “F” and jump element “F”. Both elements will have a GOE reduction of -5 for the Fall. The deduction is 1.0 point in total for one fall (Junior and Senior categories, see Novice Communication for deductions for Novice).

Choreographic Sequence

If the Choreographic Sequence is performed to the music with several movements covering the ice in an interesting pattern, but the movements are executed with poor quality, how will this affect the GOE?	The final GOE reflects the whole element overall so both positive aspects for “varied directions and pattern” and “element matches the music and reflects the concept/character of the program”, as well as the negative aspects for “poor quality of movements/positions” should be considered.
In a Choreographic Sequence a skater performs two different spirals with many cross overs in between. They are two good quality movements, but	The final GOE reflects the whole element overall so both positive and negative aspects should be considered. GOE reduction of “lack of connection between the choreographic movements” -2 to -3 is appropriate to use in this case with many cross overs

it lacks connection between the spirals. How will this affect the GOE?	in between the spirals, making the element two separate movements instead of one connected unit.
A skater (or pair) performs a creative Choreographic Sequence, matching the music in every aspect, with an interesting pattern and good energy, flow and execution, also the commitment/control of the whole body is evident. At the very end of the sequence the skater falls on the ice and then the program is completed by an ending pose. How will this affect the GOE?	<p>The final GOE reflects the whole element overall so both positive aspects and negative aspects should be considered. If the Technical Panel decides that the fall is in the Choreographic Sequence, a sign “F” will be marked on the screen next to the element. In this case a mandatory reduction of -5 must be applied. The starting GOE cannot be higher than +2, so the only possible marks are either -3 or -4 or -5.</p> <p>If the Technical Panel decides that the fall is outside the Choreographic Sequence, no sign “F” will be on the screen.</p>
What does “varied directions and pattern” mean for Choreographic Sequences in the plus bullets for GOE?	“Varied directions and pattern” would mean that the skater(s) is/are skating in different directions (backward, forward, clockwise, counterclockwise), creating a complex pattern on the ice that can be for example straight, diagonal, circular or serpentine with unexpected changes of direction and pattern.
What is considered as a “small pattern” for reduction of GOE?	If the Choreographic Sequence utilizes only part of the ice surface, the GOE reduction is -1 to -3.
<u>What does the new reduction “Does not highlight choreography” mean?</u>	<u>The chosen movements in the Choreographic Sequence should reflect and support the composition of the program. If the movements are not reflecting or highlighting the choreography, the GOE reduction is -1 to -3.</u>
<u>If only part of the Choreographic Sequence is performed to the music, how will this affect the GOE?</u>	<u>GOE reduction of “partly or fully does not correspond to the music” -1 to -4 applies. This element cannot start higher than +2 in the GOE evaluation.</u>

Jump Elements, Throw jumps

If the 1Eu is executed as a step over, how will this affect the GOE?	GOE reduction of “Euler executed as step over” -1 to -3 applies.
If there is a full revolution on the ice in between a jump combo or jump sequence, how will this affect the GOE?	GOE reduction of “2 three turns in between jump combo/seq” -2 to -3 applies.
If a skater executes a weak landing of a jump with a hop and the Technical Panel determines it is not a jump, how will this affect the GOE?	GOE reduction of “weak landing” -1 to -3 applies.
If a landing of a jump is on the other foot, how will this affect the GOE?	In combinations/sequences all jumps with more than one revolution, except the last jump may be landed on either foot. If the skater lands the last jump on the wrong foot, the GOE shall be reduced by “weak landing” -1 to -3.
If a landing is on the incorrect edge, how will this affect the GOE?	GOE reduction of “weak landing” -1 to -3 applies.
If the jump combo in the SP has three jumps, what will the GOE be?	The jump element is not according to requirements so the final GOE must be -5.
If a jump gets +REP, will this affect the GOE of the element?	No reduction of the GOE if no other mistake is made. The jump element will automatically get 70% value.
If there is a touch down with the free foot without weight transfer in a jump combo/sequence, how will that affect the GOE?	This is a mistake and a GOE reduction of “touch down with one hand or free foot (including in between jumps)” -1 to -2 applies.

If there is an extra jump executed and/or an element has a * in the FS, how will this be evaluated?	The GOE applies to the entire element performed, including any jumps with an “*”.
If there is a “q” sign, is it possible to start the GOE evaluation at +3?	Yes. The highest possible starting GOE is +3 as you cannot award “good take-off and landing”. With the reduction of -2, the highest final GOE is +1.
If there are several “q” signs in a jump combination or sequence, how will this affect the GOE?	GOE reduction of multiple “q” signs in jump combo/seq” -3 to -4 applies. In this element it is not possible to start higher than +2 in the GOE evaluation because there are multiple errors (several q signs).
If a jump element/jump combo/ jump sequence has/have multiple signs like “!” and “<”, is it possible to start the GOE at +3?	No. With multiple errors in any element, the starting GOE for the evaluation cannot be higher than +2.
A jump take-off is unclear, or the skater is using the whole blade instead of the toe pick, or the Salchow is assisted with the free foot on the ice. How will this affect the GOE?	GOE reduction of “poor take off” -2 to -4 applies.
In the FS, one of the jumps in in a jump combo or jump sequence is called with no value (e.g. 3S+A+seq); how will this affect the GOE?	In the FS if there is a jump with no revolution called by the Technical Panel in a jump combo or sequence, the GOE reduction is “FS: Jump with no value in combo/seq (not with *)” -3 to -4 applies. <u>In this element it is not possible to start higher than +2 GOE. Applies for both Singles and Pairs.</u>

<p>In pair free skating, the couple performs different revolutions in the jumps in their jump combo or sequence. For example: -man does 3T+1A+2A+seq -woman does 3T+2A+1A+seq Thus, the call will be 3T+1A+1A+seq. How will this affect the GOE?</p>	<p>GOE reduction of “unequal number of revolutions by partners in 2 or more jumps” -3 to -4 applies. <u>In this element it is not possible to start higher than +2 GOE.</u></p>
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Spins, Pair Spins

<p>If a spin is lacking required minimum revolutions, how will this affect the GOE?</p>	<p>The lack of required minimum revolutions in spins must be reflected in the GOE by “missing 1 or 2 revolutions” -1 to -2, or “missing 3 or more revolutions” -3 to -4. In the SP, this spin cannot start higher than +2 in the GOE evaluation.</p>
<p>In a Flying Spin, <u>or in a spin with a flying entrance</u>, if the jump is more like a step over, how will this affect the GOE?</p>	<p>A GOE reduction of “<u>poor fly and/or incorrect take-off or landing</u>” -2 to -3. This spin cannot start higher than +2 in the GOE evaluation. There should be a clear jump with a good air position.</p>
<p>If there is previous rotation on the ice before take-off in a Flying Spin <u>or in a spin with a flying entrance</u>, how will this affect the GOE?</p>	<p>The previous rotation on the ice is considered as a “<u>poor fly and/or incorrect take-off or landing</u>” with a reduction of GOE -2 to -3. This spin cannot start higher than +2 in the GOE evaluation.</p>
<p>Does the maximum starting point of the GOE +2 for “<u>poor fly and/or incorrect take-off or landing</u>” in spins also apply for FCCoSp?</p>	<p><u>Yes, this applies for all spins with a flying entrance in both Singles and Pairs.</u></p>
<p><u>If there are several problems in a spin, for example traveling and slowing down, how will this affect the GOE?</u></p>	<p><u>If there are several mistakes in an element, this will be considered as “multiple errors” and the starting GOE for the evaluation cannot be higher than +2.</u></p>

Do the final wind-up revolutions count in the required revolutions?	In the Short Program – no. In the Free Skating – yes, but not in the Spin in one position and Flying Spin.
<u>In the SP, do all revolutions count in a CCoSp or only revolutions done in basic positions?</u>	<u>In the SP for the CCoSp, all revolutions will be counted.</u>
<u>In the SP, do all revolutions count in a LSp, even the revolutions in the Biellmann position?</u>	<u>In the SP for the LSp, only the revolutions done in layback or sideways leaning position count. Biellmann position is considered a variation of upright, so the number of required revolutions must be done before the Biellmann position is performed. Otherwise, the reduction of missing revolutions is applied.</u>
If there is a mistake or loss of balance in the difficult exit of a spin, how will this affect the GOE?	GOE reduction of “poor exit” -1 to -3 applies.
In a Flying Spin where the skater is performing a death-drop and there is a touch down with the free foot in the landing, how will this affect the GOE?	GOE reduction of “touch down with free foot or hand(s)” -1 to -3 applies.
<u>In a sit spin, the skater performs a sit side variation with the boot of the free foot close to the ice. It then becomes evident that the boot is clearly touching the ice and making tracing marks on the ice. How will this affect the GOE?</u>	<u>The final GOE reflects the whole element overall so both positive aspects and negative aspects should be considered. Depending whether if there is a weight transfer or not, and if reduction is warranted, it is “touch down with free foot or hand(s)” -1 to -3.</u>
If the free leg drops down for a long time while preparing for a difficult camel variation, how will this affect the GOE?	GOE reduction of “poor, weak or awkward position(s)” -1 to -3 applies.

In a CCSp when the skater is changing the foot, they perform an upright position to gain balance and then continues the camel spin on the second foot. How will this affect the GOE?	GOE reduction of “change of foot poorly done” -2 to -3 applies. This spin cannot start higher than +2 in the GOE evaluation.
If it takes too long to reach a basic position in a spin, how will this affect the GOE?	GOE reduction of <u>“poor, weak or awkward position(s)”</u> -1 to -3 applies.
If there is a curve of exit or a curve of entry during the change of foot in a change foot spin, how will this affect the GOE?	A GOE reduction of “change of foot poorly done” -2 to -3 applies. This spin cannot start higher than +2 in the GOE evaluation.
If in a CCoSp the skater only performs two positions by choice, how does this affect the GOE?	This is not regarded as an error in the GOE.
If a spin is not performed to the music, how will this affect the GOE?	If a spin is not performed to the music, a GOE reduction of “does not correspond to the music” -1 to -3 applies.
A skater/pair executes a spin as their final element in a program and performs part of this element after the conclusion of the music, how will this affect the GOE?	When an element is fully or partly performed when the music is not playing, a GOE reduction of -1 to -4 applies to that element. This element cannot start higher than +3 in the GOE evaluation.
If the solo spin in pair skating is performed with a significant distance between the partners, how will this affect the GOE?	GOE reduction of “big distance between partners” -1 to -3 applies.

If a spin is performed with one or two positive aspect qualities then the skater falls on the ice during the difficult exit position, how will this affect the GOE?	The final GOE reflects the whole element overall so both positive aspects and negative aspects should be considered. If the Technical Panel decides that the fall is in the spin element, a sign “F” will be marked on the screen next to the element. In this case a mandatory reduction of -5 must be applied. The starting GOE cannot be higher than +2, so the only possible marks are either -3 or -4 or -5.
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Lifts, Twist Lifts

In a lift the pair has problems with balance when the woman changes position resulting in the woman coming down early. How will this affect the GOE?	GOE reduction of “serious problems on the descent of the lift” -3 to -4 applies. This lift cannot start higher than +2 in the GOE evaluation.
Should there be a GOE reduction of -2 on the take-off of a lift if the woman starts on two feet?	The reduction should be given if this is a mistake. If the two foot take-off is done as part of a difficult entry no reduction is needed. <u>However, the quality of the difficult entry is also evaluated in the GOE.</u>
<u>What does “serious problems in the lifting process” mean?</u>	<u>This reduction is related to the whole lifting process, not only related to the ascending process. It also includes the phases during the lift, before the descent of the woman. It can be for example, problems with the balance during the lift, or problems with change of holds. In these cases, the starting GOE cannot be higher than +2.</u>
<u>In a lift the position of the woman/girl is ungraceful or not pleasing. How will this affect the GOE?</u>	<u>GOE reduction of “awkward position(s)” -1 to -3 applies.</u>
What is a “poor take-off” in a twist lift?	A poor take-off in a twist lift can be poor speed into the element, serious scratching, no toe-pick in the take-off (using full blade). GOE reduction is -1 to -3.

In the landing of the twist lift, the woman touches the man with her arm. How will this affect the GOE?	GOE reduction of “slight problems on the catch” -1 to -2 applies.
In the landing of the twist lift, the woman lands on an inside edge curve. How will this affect the GOE?	There is no GOE reduction for this. The landing must be on one foot and could be on either edge.
During the catch in the twist lift, the woman wraps her arm around the man’s back/neck. How will this affect the GOE?	GOE reduction of “serious problems on the catch” -3 to -4. This twist lift cannot start higher than +2 in the GOE evaluation.

Death Spirals

If the woman does not execute one full revolution in a low position, how will this affect the GOE?	GOE reduction is “poor, weak <u>or awkward</u> position of the woman (too high/less than 1 rev in low position) or man” -1 to -3 applies.
Is the man allowed to do a forward pivot position?	Yes, but only in the FS.
If the man’s edge quality is weak, scratchy, “pumping” or not on a continuous edge the whole time, how will this affect the GOE?	GOE reduction of “woman’s or man’s weak edge quality” -1 to -3 applies.

Program Components

In pair skating, if both skaters fall in an element, for example in the solo jump, is this considered as two serious errors?	Yes, this is two serious errors and consequently the maximum score for all Program Components is 8.75.
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<p>If there is an interruption in the program due to an adverse condition not related to the skater, e.g., music problems, lights, fire alarm etc, how will this affect the Program Components?</p>	<p>If there is an interruption in the skater's performance due to a reason not related to the skater, this should not affect the Program Components score.</p>
<p>One pair team displays a difference in their Skating Skills as the man is not as strong as the woman. How will this affect the mark of Skating Skills?</p>	<p>In pair skating, there must be equal demonstration of the criteria by the skaters. If there are notable differences between the skaters, the mark should reflect the unit as a whole, e.g., find the middle mark between the skaters.</p>
<p>Why is <i>Originality</i> no longer one of the evaluation criteria for Program Components?</p>	<p>The definition of the word "originality" includes being new, special or interesting, different from anything that has been created before, novel and unusual. It is not possible to always be "new" in all programs, in all competitions, in every season.</p> <p>Originality can be referred to any criteria of the three components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In the way of skating, - In the way of moving, - In the personal and particular use of the arms, head, hands etc, - In the patterns, - In the way of connecting the elements, - In the design of the movements. <p>Original can be the way of combining or associating different pieces of music or styles. Original can be the way of translating music into movement, the creativity of the details to respond to the nuances of the music. Originality is the style itself, the unique way of "presenting" themselves at competition.</p> <p>If the skaters believe in what they do, if they are involved in the music and the program, they will be unique; they will be able to give life to the composition in a personal way – in their own way.</p> <p>Originality can appear anywhere, however is not limited or restricted to a criteria in one component.</p>

<p>Why is the criteria “Unison” now under Skating Skills?</p>	<p>When judging Skating Skills in pairs, the skating repertoire of steps, turns and skating movements with blade and body control should be executed with similar technique. When similar technique exists, space between the partners is better managed and holds (including changes of holds) are more easily achieved. The output of having similar technique is unison and therefore one of the criteria in Skating Skills.</p>
<p>Steps and turns in the program are evaluated both in Composition and in Skating Skills. What is the difference?</p>	<p>In Composition, it is the joining of two technical elements by appropriately selected footwork, skating movements, body movements and non-listed jumps (original pattern on the ice and original design of movements created using different skating and body movements).</p> <p>In Skating Skills it is the diversity in the use of edges, steps, turns, body movements and direction of skating (the ability to use the whole skating repertoire).</p>
<p>If the skater is performing the same movement several times during the program, for example spread eagles, slides or the same arm movement, how will this affect the Program Components mark?</p>	<p>In all components, the variety and directions of body movements, steps and turns are important. The same repetitive movement in a program shows lack of variety and should affect the program component marks in a negative way.</p>
<p><u>When there are several mistakes in a program that affects the fluidity and continuity of the program, how much should the Program Components marks be reduced with?</u></p>	<p><u>If a program contains 2 or more Serious errors, the maximum score for each program component is 8.75; this is if the program as a whole is still deemed to be “Excellent or Outstanding”.</u></p> <p><u>When evaluating a skating program the judge should be “building the mark” during the performance where the mark will be increased and/or decreased during the time of skating. It is dependent on “how often” and “how well” the criteria of each program component are executed. The final mark is therefore reflecting the whole performance including the mistakes.</u></p>

Guidelines for Referees how to analyze/check results

These guidelines can also be used for judge's own self-evaluation and education.

COMPONENTS

It is more important to look at a judge's marks vertically throughout the competition rather than comparing the marks of all judges from the same skater.

DIFFERENCES OF COMPONENTS BETWEEN DIFFERENT SKATERS

→ has the judge showed the differences in the same component between different skaters?

If the composition of one skater has been good and for the other skater fair, has the judge given 7 for the first skater and 4 for the other?

→ is there enough big difference between those marks to reflect the difference in the component?

→ how big of a scale has the judge had between the lowest and the highest same component?

→ If in the competition there has been a wide variety of skating skills between the skaters, has the judge shown this in their marks or is the difference too small?

DIFFERENCES IN THE 3 COMPONENT MARKS OF THE SAME SKATER OF ONE JUDGE

→ does the same component always tend to be the highest component (e.g. SS)

→ are the different components of one skater always in the same relation to each other?

For example:

Skater 1 CO=5.50, PR=5.25, SS 5.00

Skater 2 CO=6.0, PR= 5.75, SS 5.50

Skater 3 CO=4.50, PR=4.25, SS 4.00

In this example the judge has always given the highest mark for composition, second highest presentation and lowest skating skills. In addition, the relation between the marks is always the same within 0.25.

→ is there ever a bigger difference between the different components, e.g. more than 1 point?

→ has the judge tried to show differences in between the different components of the same skater?

DO THE COMPONENT MARKS REFLECT THE LEVEL OF EACH COMPONENT?

→ has the best composition of the competition received the highest CO marks from the judge?

→ has the skater with the weakest skating skills received the lowest SS marks from the judge?

→ do the marks reflect the skills shown that day? If composition was weak, has the judge given a mark around 3 etc.

Competition with SP and FS

→ has the judge evaluated the skills of the skater so that the starting order or the result of the previous segment has not affected the components? For example, the skater in the first Free Skating warm-up group has one of the best compositions in the competition – has the judge given one of the best composition marks for this skater or is the mark too low?

Checklist for Referee Singles & Pairs

	Comments	To Do
Before the event, at home		
Prepare IJM	ISU presentation on E-rink	
Review recent ISU Communications	ISU.org	
Bring ISU Regulations and Technical Rules, ISU Communications, Q&A, Handbook etc.		
Bring whistle and stopwatch		
Review time and place for IJM		
On site, before the event		
Verify entry list, passport and clearance certificates for "Confirmation of the OC"	*International events only	
Verify Calculation Setup Verification for Referee	*International events only - www.isureports.com/setupverification.pdf	
Confirm practice and competition schedule		
Conduct the draw	Announce if the schedule is updated	
Confirm judges' panel in accordance with the current ISU Code of Ethics		
Conduct the IJM	Take attendance of judges	
Conduct the judges' draw		
Meet Medical Staff for communication purposes		
Contact the Music Technician and Announcer		
Instruct the Timekeeper		
Confirm communication between Referee and TC		
Conduct Pre-event meetings		
Decide on the condition of the ice		
On site, after the event		
Complete "Withdrawal Notification form" if required	For the Referee Report	
Sign Final Results		
Prepare and facilitate the RTD	According to guidelines; take attendance of judges	
After the event, at home		
Complete Referee Report	Submit latest 14 days after event	