

INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION

Communication No. 2148 (Revised on April 10, 2018)

ICE DANCE Requirements for Technical Rules season 2018/19

It is a requirement for certain Technical Rules to be announced annually by the Ice Dance Technical Committee **and all other rules are published in Special Regulations & Technical Rules:**

- 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~~ Rhythm Dance,
 - Required Elements for Free Dance – Junior/Senior (Novice categories to be published in a separate communication.)

The annual requirements for season 2018/19 are included in this Communication.

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

Updates to the current ongoing requirements, valid as of July 1st, 2018, will be published in a subsequent Communication.

Tubbergen,
March 22, 2018
Lausanne,

Jan Dijkema, President

Fredi Schmid, Director General

The information on this page (Sections 1 and 2) is not applicable to U.S. Figure Skating competitions.

**1. PATTERN DANCES FOR INTERNATIONAL NOVICE COMPETITIONS
(ADDITIONAL DETAILS WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN A SEPARATE COMMUNICATION AFTER CONGRESS 2018)**

1.1 Basic Novice (has not reached the age of thirteen (13) – pending Congress 2018 decision)

Two (2) Pattern Dances are to be skated from the following:

Group 1: **Swing Dance, Willow Waltz and Fiesta Tango**

1.2 Intermediate Novice (has not reached the age of fifteen (15) – (pending Congress 2018 decision)

One of the two groups announced for the season shall be drawn before the first practice of the competition. Each group contains **two (2) Pattern Dances**.

Group 1: **Rocker Foxtrot and American Waltz**

Group 2: **Fourteenstep and Tango**

1.3 Advanced Novice (has reached the age of ten (10) and has not reached the age of fifteen (15) for girls and seventeen (17) for boys – pending Congress 2018 decision)

The following Two (2) Pattern Dances are to be skated:

Group 1: **Argentine Tango and Blues**

2. MUSIC REQUIREMENTS FOR PATTERN DANCES FOR INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

(ADDITIONAL DETAILS WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN A SEPARATE COMMUNICATION AFTER CONGRESS 2018). 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.

From season 2018/19, Couples shall provide their own music for all Pattern Dances. According to Rule 707 new paragraph 6 (pending Congress 2018 decision): After the completion of the last step of the Pattern Dance, the couple must reach its final pose within 20 seconds. If this time limit is exceeded, a “Program time” deduction according to Rule 353, paragraph 1. n) shall apply.

- 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 provide 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).
- All music chosen by the couple must be in accordance to the style/character of the Pattern Dance.
- 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~~ RHYTHM (pending Congress decision) DANCE SEASON 2018/19

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 2018/19, the following Rhythms were selected.

Junior and Senior: Tango or Tango plus one additional rhythm.

Senior:

The **Pattern Dance Element (Tango Romantica)** shall be skated to Tango rhythm and must be in the style of the chosen rhythm, with the range of tempo: 28 measures of four beats per minute (112 beats per minute) plus or minus 2 beats per minute.

The Tempo of the music throughout the Pattern Dance Elements must be constant.

Junior:

The **Pattern Dance Element (Argentine Tango)** shall be skated to Tango rhythm and must be in the style of the chosen rhythm, with the range of tempo: 24 measures of 4 beats per minute (96 beats per minute) plus or minus 2 beats per minute.

The Tempo of the music throughout the Pattern Dance Elements must be constant

3.2 ~~SHORT~~ RHYTHM DANCE – Required Elements 2018/2019

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 2018/19, the following Rhythms were selected.

ELEMENTS	Junior Short Rhythm Dance	Senior Short Rhythm Dance
Pattern Dance	<p>Two (2) Sections of Argentine Tango (96 beats per minute +/- 2 beats per minute) to be skated one after the other Section 1 steps #1-18 Section 2 steps #19-31</p> <p>Option 1 Section 1 followed by Section 2 with step #1 skated on judge’s left side</p> <p>Option 2 Section 2 followed by Section 1 with step #19 skated on judge’s right side</p>	<p>Two (2) Sections of Tango Romantica (112 beats per minute +/- 2 beats per minute) to be skated one after the other Section 1 steps #1-27 Section 2 steps #28-49</p> <p>Section 1 followed by Section 2 with step #1 skated on judge’s left side</p>
Dance Lift	<p>Maximum One (1) Short Lift Up to 7 seconds.</p>	
Step Sequence	<p>One (1) Step Sequence in Hold or Not Touching or Combination of both (Style B) chosen from the following Types of Pattern:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Midline – skated along the full length of the ice surface on the Long Axis. - Diagonal – skated as fully corner to corner as possible - Circular – utilizing the full width of the ice surface on the Short Axis <p>The pattern of the Step Sequence (Style B) must maintain the integrity or basic shape of the chosen pattern. 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</p> <p>Specifications to Style B, Rhythm Dance 2018/2019:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One (1) Stop permitted, up to 5 seconds - One (1) Retrogression up to two measures is permitted and may start from the permitted Stop. - Loops NOT permitted - The Hold requirement is not considered for Level 	
Sequential Twizzles	<p>One (1) Combination Set of Sequential Twizzles At least two Twizzles for each partner Up to 1 step maximum between Twizzles</p> <p><u>Combination Set of Twizzles is evaluated as one unit by adding the Base Values of the Lady Set of Twizzles and Man Set of Twizzles and then applying the GOE. The GOE of the Combination Set of Twizzles is equal to the sum of the numerical values of the corresponding GOE of the Lady Set of TWs and Man Set TWs.</u></p>	

3.3 SHORT RHYTHM DANCE – Specifications/Restrictions

	Specifications/Restrictions	Violations
Duration	Senior/Junior: 2 minutes 50 seconds +/- 10 seconds	Program time: Referee deduction -1.0 up to every 5 seconds lacking or in excess
Music	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Music for Rhythm Dance may be vocal and must be suitable for Ice Dance as a sport discipline. - The music must be selected in accordance with the designated rhythm(s) and/or theme(s), and with the specified tempo when applicable. - The music may be vocal and must be suitable for Ice Dance as a sport discipline. - Music with audible rhythmic beat only, may be without audible beat up to 10 seconds at beginning only 	Music Requirements: Referee + Judges deduction 2.0 per program
Pattern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For season 2018/19 the pattern must proceed in a generally constant direction and must cross the Long Axis of the ice surface once at each end of the rink within no more than <u>30 meters (Short Axis)</u> of the barrier. - In addition, the couple may also cross the Long Axis once at the entry <u>and/or</u> exit to the Not Touching Step Sequence and/or once at the entry to Pattern Dance Element - While performing required Step Sequence, the couple may cross the long axis - Loops are permitted provided they do not cross the long axis 	Choreography restrictions: (Pattern/ Stops/ Separations/Touching ice with hands) Referee + Judges deduction 1.0 per program
Stops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - After clock started, couple must not remain in one place for more than 10 seconds at the beginning and/or end of the program. - During program: 2 full stops of up to 5 seconds or 1 full stop of up to 10 seconds permitted - A Dance Spin or Choreographic spinning movement that does not travel will be considered as a Stop 	
Separations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Partners must not separate except to change Hold or to perform Required Elements requiring a separation. - Distance allowed is maximum 2 arms lengths during such separations - Change of hold and Turns as transitional elements must not exceed the duration of one measure of music. - Separations at the beginning and/or end of the program may be up to 10 seconds in duration without restrictions on the distance of the separation 	
Touching ice with hands	Touching the ice with the hand(s) is not permitted.	
Costume and prop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Must be modest, dignified, not give the effect of excessive nudity and appropriate for athletic competition – not garish or theatrical in design. Clothing however may reflect the character of the chosen music - Man must wear full length trousers and must not wear tights (pending congress decision) - Lady must wear a skirt - Accessories and props are not permitted 	Costume and prop: Referee + Judges deduction -1.0 per program

KEY POINTS AND KEY POINTS FEATURES FOR PATTERN DANCE ELEMENTS SEASON 2018/19

Argentine Tango

Pattern Dance Element (1AT) Steps # 1-18	Key Point 1 Lady Steps 7-10 (LFO, XF-RFO, XB-LFIO, XB-RFIO)	Key Point 2 Man Steps 7-10 (LFO, XF-RFO, XB-LFIO, XB-RFI-Ctr)	Key Point 3 Lady Steps 13-15 (CR-RFO3, LBO, RFO)	Key Point 4 Man Steps 13-15 (CR-LBO, RFO3, LBO)
Key Point Features	1. Correct Edges 2. Correct Change of edges	1. Correct Edges 2. Correct Change of edge 3. Correct Turn (#10)	1. Correct Edges 2. Correct Turn	1. Correct Edges 2. Correct Turn
Pattern Dance Element (2AT) Steps # 19-31	Key Point 1 Lady Steps 23-24 (LFO Sw-Tw1 (between counts 4&1), RFO)	Key Point 2 Man Steps 23-24 (LFO Sw-OpCho, RBI (between counts 4&1), LBO)	Key Point 3 Lady Steps 27-31 (CR-LBO, CR-RBO, CR-LBO, CR-RBO, CR-LBO-SwR/RFI (between 4&1))	Key Point 4 Man Steps 27-31 (CR-RFO, CR-LFO, CR-RFO, CR-LFO CR-RFO-SwR)
Key Point Features	1. Correct Edges 2. Correct Turn (#23)*	1. Correct Edges 2. Correct Turn (#23)	1. Correct Edges	1. Correct Edges

The first step of the dance begins on beat one of a musical phrase

*Step #23 is a left outside edge ending in a forward clockwise “twizzle-like motion” Tw1. Lady’s body turns one full continuous rotation, the skating foot does NOT technically execute a full turn, followed by a step forward

A change of edge within the last 1/2 beat of the step is permitted to prepare the push/transition to the next step. (Example: Lady Steps 14-15 (LBO, RFO).

Tango Romantica

Pattern Dance Element (1TR) Steps # 1-27	Key Point 1 Lady Steps 8-10 (RBO, CR-LBO/LBI-Tw1 (between counts 2 & 3), RBI)	Key Point 2 Man Steps 8-10 (LFO, CR-RFOI, LFI)	Key Point 3 Lady Steps 16-24 (LFO, XF-RFI, XB-LFO, XF-RFO, XF-LFI, XB-RFO, XF-LFO-Rk, XF-RBI, XF-LBI3)	Key Point 4 Man Steps 16-25b (LFO, XF-RFI, XB-LFO, XF-RFO, XF-LFI, XB-RFO, XF-LFO-Rk, XF-RBI, XF-LBI3, RFI-OpMo, LBI)
Key Point Features	1. Correct Edges 2. Correct Turn (Tw1) 3. Correct hold (#9 except Tw)	1. Correct Edges 2. Correct change of edge 3. Correct hold (#9 except Tw)*	1. Correct Edges (except Rk) 2. Correct Turn (except Rk)	1. Correct Edges (except Rk) 2. Correct Turns (except Rk)
Pattern Dance Element (2TR) Steps # 28-49	Key Point 1 Lady Steps 29-31 (Wd-XF-RFO-LFO/RFO3, LBO, RFO) Man Steps 29-31 (Wd-LBO-RBI/LBO, RFO3, LBO)	Key Point 2 Lady Steps 35a-37b (LFO-Rk, RBI-Sw, LFO3, RBO3, LFI-CICho, RBO)	Key Point 3 Man Steps 35a-37b (LFO, RFO-Sw-CICho, LBI, RBIO)	Key Point 4 Lady Steps 44-45 (LFI-CICho, RBO/RBO-Tw1) Man Steps 44-45a (LFI, RFI)
Key Point Features	1. Correct Edges 2. Correct Turns	1. Correct Edges 2. Correct Turns (#35a, 36, 37a) 3. Correct hold (#35a, #35b)**	1. Correct Edges 2. Correct Turn (#35c) 3. Correct hold (#35b)**	1. Correct Edges 2. Correct Turns

The first step of the dance begins on the fourth beat of the measure and the Helicopter starts on beat one of a musical phrase.

*During Step 8, the lady places her right hand on the man’s right shoulder and places her left hand behind her back to clasp the man’s right hand. The lady maintains this hold until the twizzle.

** While performing the rocker, the lady places her left hand on the man’s right shoulder and her right hand and his left hand join on her right hip. His right hand is extended.

A change of edge within the last 1/2 beat of the step is permitted to prepare the push/transition to the next step. (Example: Lady Steps 30 – 31 (LBO, RFO).

Note: Step #2 for man is Wd-XF-RFO-LFO/LFI (feet together)

Note: Steps and additional descriptions of the Steps are defined/described in Rule 704 and ISU Handbook Ice Dance 2003.

For season 2018/19 crossing the Long Axis while performing Steps #3,4,5 and Steps #10,11,12 in Tango Romantica is not considered as Pattern violation

4.0 FREE DANCE – Required Elements 2018/2019

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 2017/18 the Ice Dance Technical Committee have adopted the following specific Required Elements to be included in a Well Balanced Free Dance Program

ELEMENTS	JUNIOR	SENIOR
Dance Lift - Not more than	Two (2) Different Type Short Lift Or One (1) Combination Lift	Three (3) Different Type Short Lift Or One (1) Short Lift and One (1) Combination Lift
Dance spin - Not more than	One (1) Dance Spin (Spin or Combination Spin)	
Step Sequence – Types: Straight line or Curve	<p style="text-align: center;">Two (2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One (1) Step Sequence in Hold (Style B) <p style="text-align: center;">Specifications to Style B, Free Dance 2018/2019:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Retrogression - one (1) permitted –must not exceed two measures of music - Separations permitted, no more than 2 arms length and must not exceed 5 seconds - Loops NOT permitted, a narrow loop is an acceptable shape in the retrogression - Hand in hand hold – NOT permitted with fully extended arms - Stops – NOT permitted <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One (1) Combination One Foot Step Sequences <p style="text-align: center;">Turns performed simultaneously on one foot by each partner Not touching</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Combination One Foot Step Sequence is evaluated as one unit by adding the Base Values of the Lady One Foot Step Sequence and Man One Foot Step Sequence and then applying the GOE. The GOE of the Combination One Foot Step Sequences is equal to the sum of the numerical values of the corresponding GOE of these One Foot Step Sequences</i></p> <p>The pattern of the Step Sequence (Style B) must maintain the integrity or basic shape of the chosen pattern. 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</p>	
Synchronized Twizzles	<p style="text-align: center;">One (1) Combination Set of Synchronized Twizzles</p> <p style="text-align: center;">At least two Twizzles for each partner, with up to 3 steps maximum between Twizzles. <u>Partners may be in hold during connecting steps.</u> <i>Combination Set of Twizzles is evaluated as one unit by adding the Base Values of the Lady Set of Twizzles and Man Set of Twizzles and then applying the GOE. The GOE of the Combination Set of Twizzles is equal to the sum of the numerical values of the corresponding GOE of the Lady Set of TWss and Man Set of TWs.</i></p>	
Choreographic element	<p style="text-align: center;">Two (2) Different Choreographic Elements chosen from:</p> <p>Choreographic Lift Choreographic Spinning Movement Choreographic Twizzling Movement Choreographic Sliding Movement Choreographic Character Step Sequence</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Three (3) Different Choreographic Elements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One (1) of which must be a Choreographic Character Step Sequence • Two (2) additional chosen from: <p>Choreographic Lift. Choreographic Spinning Movement. Choreographic Twizzling Movement. Choreographic Sliding Movement</p>

Definition of Choreographic Elements:

- **Choreographic Lift:** Dance Lift of minimum 3 seconds and up to ten (10) seconds, performed after all the other required Dance Lifts
- **Choreographic Spinning Movement:** spinning movement performed anywhere in the program, during which both partners perform at least 2 continuous rotations in any hold,
The following requirements apply
 - on one foot or two feet or one partner being elevated for less than 2 rotations, 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.
- **Choreographic Sliding Movement:** performed anywhere in the program, during which both partners perform controlled sliding movements on the ice.
The following requirements apply:
 - Continuous controlled sliding movement by both partners at the same time on any part of the body
 - May be in hold or not touching, may also rotate.
 - Controlled sliding on 2 knees or any part of the body will not be considered as a Fall/Illegal Element by the Technical Panel during this element.
 - Sliding Movement cannot finish as a stop on 2 knees or sitting/lying on the ice, otherwise it will be identified as a Fall/Illegal Element and shall be called accordingly.
- **Choreographic Character Step Sequence**
The following requirements apply:
 - Performed anywhere in the program
 - Must be placed around the Short Axis and proceed from barrier to barrier.
 - May be in hold or not touching

The specifications/restrictions for Advanced Novice, Intermediate Novice and Basic Novice are not applicable to U.S. Figure Skating competitions.

4.1 FREE DANCE – Specifications/Restrictions

	Specifications/Restrictions	Violations
Duration	Senior: 4 minutes +/- 10 seconds Junior: 3 ½ minutes +/- 10 seconds Advanced Novice: 3 minutes +/- 10 seconds Intermediate Novice: 2 ½ minutes +/- 10 seconds (pending Congress 2018 decision) Basic Novice: 2 minutes +/- 10 seconds	<u>Program time:</u> Referee deduction -1.0 up to every 5 seconds lacking or in excess
Music	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Music for Free Dance may be vocal and must be suitable for Ice Dance as a sport discipline. - Music must have an audible rhythmic beat and melody, or audible rhythmic beat alone, but not melody alone, and may be vocal. - Music may be without audible rhythmic beat up to 10 seconds at beginning or end of program - Music may be without audible rhythmic beat up to 10 seconds during the program - Music must have at least one obvious change of tempo/rhythm and expression. This change may be gradual or immediate, but in either case it must be obvious. - Music including classical music must be cut/edited, orchestrated or arranged in a way that it creates an interesting, colorful, entertaining dance program with different dance moods or a building effect. - Music must be suitable for the Couple's skating skills and technical ability. 	<u>Music Requirements:</u> Referee + Judges deduction -2.0 per program
Stops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - After clock started, couple must not remain on one place for more than 10 seconds - During program: unlimited full stops of 5 seconds max. are allowed 	<u>Choreography restrictions:</u> (Stops/ Separations/Touching ice with hands) Referee + Judges deduction 1.0 per program
Separations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of separations to execute transitional footwork or moves is not restricted; - Distance allowed is maximum 2 arms length during separations; - Durations of each separations (outside Req. Elements) is 5 seconds max; - Separations at beginning and/or end of program are permitted up to 10 seconds, no restrictions on distance of separation. 	
Touching ice with hands	Touching the ice with the hand(s) is not allowed (except Choreographic Sliding Movement)	
Costume and prop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Must be modest, dignified, not give the effect of excessive nudity and appropriate for athletic competition – not garish or theatrical in design. Clothing however may reflect the character of the chosen music - Man must wear full length trousers and must not wear tights (pending congress decision) - Lady must wear a skirt - Accessories and props are not permitted 	<u>Costume and prop:</u> Referee + Judges deduction -1.0 per program