

2011/2012



2011/2012 Records of Clarifications from ISU Sports Directorate and SyS TC

SYNCHRONIZED SKATING

NHSS/PA/SP/SE

Question:

To clarify the element requirements for each of the following elements: NHSS, Pa, Sp, SE. For level 2 and up, it says:

“The “element” must meet the requirements for Level 1”

In some elements there are the basic plus some additional requirements to receive level one (1). For example in the NHSS 1:

No Hold Step Sequence that does not meet the level 2 or 3 requirements but meets the Basic Requirements and Calling Specifications for a No Hold Step Sequence

AND a choice of:

One (1) Body Movement executed on one (1) foot

OR

Two (2) different extra features

- Choice of: Spread Eagle, Drag, Shoot the Duck, Ina Bauer, Toe Steps, Dance Jumps of up to 1/2 rotation or other permitted fm's

Does this mean that for the subsequent levels that the teams must include both the basic requirements as well as those additional requirements listed for level 1?

Answer:

“The “element” must meet the requirements for Level 1”

The above statement refers to the *basic* requirements listed for that element. Therefore for subsequent levels, teams must fulfill the Basic Requirements and meet the Calling Specifications for those basic requirements AND must also include the variations required for the specific level they are trying to achieve

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SYNCHRONIZED SKATING

Competing with less than 16 skaters

Question:

How are those elements that have specific configuration requirements called when the teams compete with less than 16 skaters due to injury or illness?

For example in the NHSS element the team must have a correct configuration with 4 lines of 4 skaters or there will be a no value given.

Answer:

A team should not be punished because they have no choice but to compete with less than 16 skaters. In this case the team must attempt to have lines as equal as possible for those elements where certain configurations or numbers are required.

For example:

- **NHSS: must have 4 lines as equal as possible**
3 + 4 + 4 + 4 (15 skaters) or 3 + 3 + 4 + 4 (14 skaters)
- **Triangle intersection: must have three (3) lines as equal as possible**
5 + 5 + 5 (15 skaters) or 4 + 5 + 5 (14 skaters)
- **Two (2) lines or Intersections with two (2) lines:**
7 + 8 (15 skaters) or 7 + 7 (14 skaters)

Elements will be given a “no Value” if the following configurations are included:

- **NHSS:**
Three (3) lines of 5 skaters: 5 + 5 + 5 (15 skaters)
- **Triangle Intersection:**
not as equal as possible: 4 + 5 + 6 (15 skaters)
- **Two (2) lines or Intersections with two (2) lines:**
not as equal as possible: 6 + 8 skaters (14 skaters)

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SYNCHRONIZED SKATING

Competing with less than 16 skaters

Question:

Is a team of 15 (or less) skaters allowed to try for an MI3 i.e. executing four (4) pairs or eight (8) individual fe/fm's?

Answer:

Yes. A team of 15 (or less) skaters is permitted to attempt and get credit for a MI3.

Rule 911 para 4 - Movements in Isolation states;

- **The same free skating element(s)/move(s) must be completed by:**
- **At least three (3) individual Skaters to maximum of no more than half of a team eight (8) individual Skaters is a maximum on a team with sixteen (16) Skaters.**

The maximum of 8 skaters requirement will also apply to a team with less than 16 skaters. Teams with less than 16 skaters may still include 8 skaters in an MI3

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SYNCHRONIZED SKATING

Change of configuration (B, C, L, W)

Question:

One (1) change of configuration must be executed with at least one 360° rotation (linking steps that do not rotate are NOT permitted)

Is slow rotation ok? Continuous?

Answer:

Yes. This variation has the same requirements as last season in that the rotation(s) must be continuous. The new requirement for this variation is that only rotations (quick or slow, turns or rotating linking steps, one or two feet etc.) are permitted between the two different configurations. A hold is not required to show that the change is complete but skaters must be clearly lined up in new configuration to get it counted

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SYNCHRONIZED SKATING

Change of rotational direction (C, W)

Questions:

1. *Linking steps may start a change of configuration but a rotation must complete the change of configuration OR a rotation may start a change of configuration and linking steps may complete the change of configuration*

Does this apply also to change of rotational direction?

2. *Change of Rotational Direction must be executed with a backward 360° (minimum) rotation / turn(s)*

Is this step/turn requirement still the same as last season?

For example: May the rotation may be executed with rotating linking steps, a combination of rotating linking steps and turns, or turns only?

Would each of the following examples be accepted as a 360° rotation?

- toe steps that begin backward and rotate 360°
- backward three turn / change of foot / forward three turn
- backward double twizzle
- backward outside three turn / forward inside mohawk
- backward double three turn

3. *Circle/Wheel(s) must rotate as they travel. If the rotation stops (in order for a cd to occur) travel will end*

Would it be ok to change rotational direction while travelling, if maintaining the flow, “rotating”?

Answers:

1. **For the change of rotational direction it is permitted to include BACKWARD linking steps before or after the rotation, however part of the actual rotation must occur on the correct pattern (either inward or outward from the circle/wheel)**
2. **Yes. The requirements are the same as last season and all of those examples are permitted as a change of rotational direction (applies for both circle and wheel)**
3. **Yes. A change of rotational direction is permitted to be executed during travel. A change of rotational direction will be counted as long as it is executed correctly. Travel will be counted as long as it is not interrupted and executed correctly**

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SYNCHRONIZED SKATING

Block

Questions:

- 1) *The block may pivot more than 270° using other steps or turns after completing the requirements*
Is it ok to pivot using other steps and turns **BEFORE** completing the requirements?
- 2) Is it ok to execute the change of configuration in block with $\frac{1}{2}$ of the team rotates in one direction and the other $\frac{1}{2}$ of the team rotates in the other direction (same turns, but different direction)?
- 3) Must the pivot be executed in four (4) lines in both programs or may it be executed in three (3) lines in free program?

Answers:

- 1) **Yes. The block is permitted to pivot before starting the requirements, but the measurement of the 270°'s will be started on the entry edge of the first turn in the series of one (1) foot turns**
- 2) **Changing Configuration using rotations/turns in one direction by $\frac{1}{2}$ of the team and in the opposite direction by other $\frac{1}{2}$ of the team is permitted in the Free Program only. This would be considered as a Mirror Image Pattern and is not permitted in a Short Program for 2011 -2012**
- 3) **For the free program: pivoting may be executed in three (3) OR four (4) lines OR in any block configuration that the team chooses. There must be a minimum of three (3) lines. For the short program 2011 –2012: the pivot must be executed in four (4) lines**

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SYNCHRONIZED SKATING

Circle

Questions:

- 1) For C4: When weaving while traveling in a circle in a circle opposite directions and the change of rotational direction is omitted (Option 2), AND if the travel is not counted AND only the change of configuration is counted, what would be the call?
- 2) If the travel is OK but one of the three (3) extra features is not executed correctly and therefore not counted (example: while weaving the skaters only change places once), what would be the call?
- 3) *Travel with two (2) turns (any level) and linking steps*
Must the two turns be different or may they be the same turn?
- 4) *Weaving while traveling*
Can the two weaving circles rotate in the same direction?
- 5) After completing the requirements of weaving (changing places twice) while traveling, would it be permitted to have six (6) skaters in the center circle to complete the rest of the travel of $\frac{1}{4}$ of the ice surface?
- 6) What if one circle keeps the same size and only the other one executes the weaving?

Answers:

- 1) The call would be C1 since the requirements for a C2 are not met
- 2) If attempting the three (3) extra travel features and one of the three extra features is incorrectly executed AND the travel is correctly executed the call would be C3
- 3) The same turn may be executed twice
- 4) Yes, they may rotate in the same direction (or in opposite direction)
- 5) No, each extra travel feature must be executed during the entire travel with turns and linking steps
- 6) This will be permitted, as long as the skaters change places two times. The method is not being evaluated just the result

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SYNCHRONIZED SKATING

Intersection / pi

Questions:

- 1) Would you consider a circle that weaves as an intersection?
- 2) *For pi3 only backward turns and rotating linking steps are permitted*
Would a continuous rotation that consisted of backward three turn + a forward mohawk be permitted?
- 3) Is it permitted to execute a forward three (3) turn after the required rotations have been completed through the point of intersections. Would this three turn be counted as one of the two steps allowed before re grasping?
- 4) If executing a collapsing intersection, must all three rotations finish within the intersection?
- 5) If I have understood it correctly the number of steps before and after an intersection don't fall under the same definition? Could you list which steps are considered to be counted as "one step" before the re-grasp after the intersection?

Answers:

- 1) **Yes, as long as all skaters participate in the intersection it will be called as level 1**
- 2) **Yes this would be permitted since "backward" refers to the start of a rotation. Of course there could be a forward 180° turn used to complete a backward 360° (as long as no pause is executed between the two 180° turns)**
- 3) **A forward three turn is permitted during the exit phase after the pi has been completed in order to rejoin. This three turn would be counted as one step. If executing a collapsing intersection the forward three turn is only permitted after all skaters have exited the intersection, otherwise one level lower will be called**
- 4) **Yes, all three rotations must finish within the intersection**
- 5) **Yes, it is true that there are different definitions for the required steps during the preparation phase and for the exit phase of an intersection. During the preparation phase of an intersection the skaters must be back to back four (4) steps. In this case each foot placement is counted as one step. For example: one crossover is two steps. During the exit phase where the skaters are permitted only two (2) steps in order to re-grasp we define these two steps differently. For example: a mohawk, chasse, crossover, Choctaw, or any other one foot turn are counted as one step**

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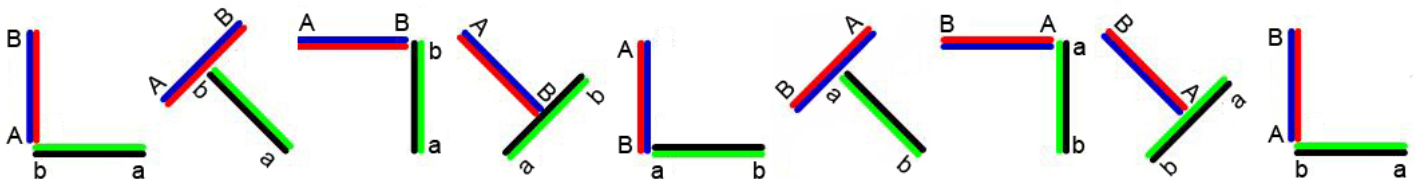
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SYNCHRONIZED SKATING

Line

Questions:

- 1) In L3 or L4 where three (3) difficult turns are required - can the turns be repeated or must they all be different?
- 2) Do the turns have to be correctly executed while pivoting?
- 3) Is it permitted to change the pivot point three (3) times during Interacting and Pivoting Lines?



- 4) Is this diagram exactly what the lines must do? I can't see any interacting action. I mean the lines are not switching position.

Answers:

- 1) Turns may be repeated
- 2) No the turns do not have to be correctly executed, just recognizable as difficult turns
- 3) Changing pivot points three (3) times is permitted, the minimum requirement is two (2) times
- 4) Yes, this is what the lines must do as a minimum. The interacting is considered as correct and complete when the ends of the two lines (a, b, A and B) meet at least once during the element. The definition of interacting in the regulations says:

An action where two lines change their position in relationship to each other

If two lines were interacting only they would have to change sides to show a change of position. If two lines are interacting and pivoting they are not required to change sides to show a change of position, but the pivot point must change twice in both lines, all corners must meet at least once and minimum pivot should be 360° for both lines, include 3 difficult turns and all skaters must skate a comparable distance of the full length of the ice surface

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SYNCHRONIZED SKATING

Moves in the Field – 3 different configurations

Questions:

- 1) Why are the requirements for the “three (3) different configurations” different than last season?
- 2) Would a four (4) line block (no hold) be considered as different from a three (3) line block (in hold or in a no hold)? Or one circle (skaters in no hold) compared to two circles (skaters arranged in pairs)?

Answers:

- 1) The difference is that the three configurations must be different in both the aspects of number of lines/skaters and configuration. So four lines/pairs/single skaters etc may only be used once independent of the configuration (including the mirror image) From the regulations the definition of Configuration is as follows:

Configuration (Arrangement / Form)

A configuration is the arrangement and/or form of the element. By Arrangement it is meant that the skaters must change the team member beside whom they skate. By Form it is meant the number of lines in an element (for example Block or Wheel etc.)

The first configuration that the fm is executed in is counted and there must be a different number of lines and/or shape (the arrangement of those lines) at the start of each fm. Once a team has executed four (4) lines in a circle then the four (4) lines OR circle cannot again be used to count towards the “three different configurations with a different number of lines in each” variation. The same principle applies for pairs. Once pairs are executing an fm in any shape then both the shape and pairs can’t be counted again for the three different configurations

- 2) Yes, both examples are considered as different. Four lines are different than three lines. One circle is different than a circle in a circle

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SYNCHRONIZED SKATING

Moves in the Field

Questions:

- 1) *A minimum of four (4) skaters must release OR connect in a new configuration. Is it possible to change configuration in no hold?*
- 2) *All skaters execute a change of position during one (1) fm executed on one (1) foot*
If a skater begins on the right side of another skater, they must change to the left side of that same skater in order to meet the requirements. Who's left? Left from the skater's or spectator's point of view?
- 3) *Do you have to release the hold from that skater you are changing places with?*
- 4) *Would the following example be accepted? Skaters start in a line, then break into pairs, pivot 180° in pairs, and return to a line - but now next to a different skater than originally?*
- 5) *“Only one fm may be on two feet”*: In free skating if half of the team is executing a 135° spiral and the other half of the team is executing an outside Ina Bauer for one of the required fm's; Is the team permitted to execute another outside spread eagle as a second fm?

Answers:

- 1) **No, for two reasons:**
 - a) a no hold may be used only once for a configuration (given that you can never change a configuration in a no hold)
 - b) for a change of configuration to be counted at least four (4) skaters must release or connect in a new configuration (*this is a specific requirement for the MF change of configuration and not for the other elements*)
- 2) **Skater's point of view**
- 3) **Yes, skaters must release their hold to be able to execute this variation correctly, since they cannot end up on the other side of the skater next to them if holding on the whole time**
- 4) **No this example does not meet the requirements of changing position. All skaters have not changed with the skater next to them due to that all skaters have not released their hold**
- 5) **Yes, the team is allowed to execute an outside Ina Bauer (½ or whole team) and then an outside Spread Eagle. However they will not fulfill the requirements for the “Only one fm may be on two feet” variation, for that variation ALL skaters must be on one foot for two of the fm's**

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SYNCHRONIZED SKATING

Lifts/Movements in Isolation

Questions:

- 1) Will a vault up and a vault down in a lift be counted towards the two permitted vaults in a Senior Free?
- 2) For MI4 is it permitted for the lifted skater to start in a tummy position, turn to their side and then the rotation is executed before they turn onto their back before landing the lift? This does complete all the requirements but the lifted skater does not go directly from tummy to back or vice versa.
- 3) Define the “back position” for the group lift. May the lifted skater’s shoulders be rotated /twisted slightly in order to add an arm position as long as their lower back is still in a normal “back position”?
- 4) Define “unbalanced position” for a group lift.

Answers:

- 1) If the lift extra feature *Vaulting up and down* is used as part of a lift then it will not be counted as a vault. A vault up and/or down will not fulfill the requirements for a vault since the vault must have a continuous movement up and down without a sustained position in the air. The group lift extra feature will be “vaulting up to a sustained lift position before vaulting down”. Two additional vaults is still permitted in a Senior Free. “Vaulting up and down” for the group lift extra feature must be a type of somersault or cartwheel like movement
- 2) Yes, the lift as described is permitted and will be counted as long as both the back and stomach position is achieved while being above the heads of the lifting skaters (independent of the rotation)
- 3) Lifted skater is on their back: It has never been said that the shoulders may be rotated. There should not be any complicated description or grey areas for interpretation for the Technical Panels, therefore on the front is on the front and on the back is on the back. The whole torso must be included while executing the extra feature
- 4) Basically if the lifted skater is being held by only their hands / shoulders / upper torso (not holding the legs) or by only their legs / hips then the lifted skater will be unbalanced and will meet the criteria

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SYNCHRONIZED SKATING

Movements in Isolation

Questions:

- 1) Is a team of 15 (or less) skaters allowed to attempt a MI3 i.e. including four (4) pairs or eight (8) individual fe/fm's?
- 2) MI3 for junior: Is the base value the same for fm3 versus fe3?
- 3) If all skaters are in a spread eagle position, after that $\frac{1}{2}$ of the team executes an axel jump, and the other $\frac{1}{2}$ of the team continues to execute spread eagle. Will technical panel call this element as a MI and count axel towards the level of the fe?

Answers:

- 1) **Yes. A team of 15 (or less) skaters are permitted to attempt and get credit for MI3. The regulations state that a team of 16 are not permitted to have more than $\frac{1}{2}$ of the team attempting the move/element to be counted for points; i.e. maximum of 8 skaters. The maximum of 8 skaters rule applies also to a team with less than 16 skaters**
- 2) **There is no change in the scale of values – an fe3 has more value and therefore more points than an fm3**
- 3) **Yes the axel will be counted as long as the fe/fm to be counted for points is written on the Program Content Sheet. If the fe/fm is not written on the Program Content Sheet the technical panel will select the lowest fe/fm and in this case it would be the fm3.
For Junior: it is permitted to execute a fe/fm for points and a fe/fm3 by the remaining skaters (*with the exception of lifts and axel jumps*). In this case MI2 + fe3 or MI3+ fm3 would be the highest call for that combination depending whether an fe or fm was written on the Program content sheet).
For Senior: In the case that the axel was counted for points the call would be MI2 + fe3 - since the remaining skaters must executed a different fe3 to achieve a MI3**

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SYNCHRONIZED SKATING

No Hold Step Sequence

Questions:

- 1) *A minimum 1/2 pattern of the required minimum distance for the NHSS while executing the series of 1 foot turns. Can the required distance be comparable? Is retrogression permitted?*
- 2) **Will extra turns be acceptable to execute both before and/or after the series of 3 or 4 turns executed on one foot?**
- 3) *A body movement may not be executed at the same time as an extra feature - In this case only the extra feature will be counted*
If a team executes a spiral as a body movement will it be considered as an extra feature even if 2 extra features have already been counted?
- 4) **How many Toe Steps will be enough to call them as an extra feature?**

Answers:

- 1) **The series of turns must cover 1/2 of required minimum distance (26m) or comparable if there is retrogression, so yes, retrogression can be used**
- 2) **During a series of 3 and 4 difficult turns, extra turns may be added either before or after the 3 or 4 required difficult turns. The 1/2 of the ice, requirement for the NHSS will be measured using the starting edge of the first required turn in the series of 3 or 4 difficult turns and will end on the exit edge of the final required turn in the series of 3 or 4 difficult turns that is to be used for the level of the ss**
- 3) **This was the one thing that was changed in Frankfurt and will be published with another communication that if executing something that is both considered a body move and an extra feature, only one will be counted (either body move or extra feature). So if the tech panel sees two extra features and two body moves (where one or both also qualify as a extra feature) they will give credit for it (NHSS2)**
- 4) **The technical panel will not count how many toe steps. There must be enough to be recognized by the technical panel (same principle applies to all other extra features)**

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SYNCHRONIZED SKATING

Wheel

Questions:

- 1) Junior short program: Wheel is a 4-spoke and since the team is not permitted to execute a change of configuration, there is no way for the Wheel element to be called higher than Level 1. Is it true that teams may only attempt the travel and change of rotational direction?

Two 360 rotations executed one after the other while traveling.

- 2) In the traveling could the two 360° rotations be counted as the two turns required for the travel?
- 3) Can the method of executing the rotations be the same or must they be different?
- 4) How many turns be must included (besides the two rotations already mentioned) to achieve the highest level?
- 5) Is double twizzle permitted?

Answers:

- 1) All Junior Short Program Wheel Elements will be called as W1 as long as the cd and travel are clearly attempted. The quality will be evaluated for the Judges in the GOE
- 2) Yes, as long as the rotations are executed as turns and on one foot
- 3) The same rotation may be executed two times
- 4) The rotations may be executed using turns or while on two feet. There must be two turns executed while the wheel is traveling
- 5) Yes and will be counted as the TWO 360° rotations

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SYNCHRONIZED SKATING

Step Sequences (BSS/CSS)

Questions:

- 1) For BSS and CSS, the calling specifications state that if the turns represent 50 to 75% of the chosen pattern than the call will be lowered one level. What is the call if it's less than 50%?
- 2) The requirement says: The turns must be distributed over at least 75% (3/4) of the chosen pattern. Does it mean the number of turns must be 75% of all steps in the SS or the turns must cover 75% of the pattern regardless of the number?

Answers:

- 1) **One level lower level will be counted only one time for an error in distribution of turns for the BSS and CSS. One level lower will be called for all forms of this error. The lowest level for a step sequence will be ss1 as long as there are two correctly executed turns**
- 2) **The turns must be dispersed throughout 75% of the pattern, the technical panel will not count the number of linking steps in the SS. s1 will be the lowest call as long as two clean turns are executed**

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SYNCHRONIZED SKATING

Pair lifts/Transition

Question:

Is a pair lift permitted in a transition?

Answer:

Yes. Pair Lifts are not illegal elements. Pair Lifts are no longer to be counted in the Movements in Isolation Element or in the Pair Element