



Challenger Series
in
Synchronized Skating

2020/21

ANNOUNCEMENT

(revised August 31, 2020)

INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION

1. GENERAL

The Challenger Series Synchronized Skating is a series of International Synchronized Skating Competitions financially supported by the ISU.

Since last season, the ISU Council agreed to financially support a restricted group of identified ISU Members traditionally staging International Synchronized Skating Competitions in Europe being part of the ISU Event Calendar and new International Synchronized Skating Competitions in Asia and in the North America.

The objective is to ensure the proper and consistent organization and conduct of up to five (5) International Competitions linked together within the Challenger Series Synchronized Skating giving adequate opportunities for many Teams to compete at the international level and earn World Standing Points and to get prepared for competing at the ISU Championships; as well to increase the opportunity for Officials to officiate at an international level.

The five (5) events selected to be part of the ISU Challenger Series in Synchronized Skating for the 2020/21 season are:

Date	Competition	Place
04-05 Dec. 2020	Asia Trophy 2020 cancelled	Hong Kong, HKG
10-13 Dec. 2020	California Cup 2020 cancelled	Irvine, USA
17-19 Dec. 2020	Hevelius Cup 2020	Gdansk, POL
14-17 Jan. 2021	Marie Lundmark Trophy 2021	Turku, FIN
21-23 Jan. 2020	Mozartcup 2021	Salzburg, AUT

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

2. MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

To be considered for the Challenger Series Synchronized Skating, the competition must have at least a minimum of entries per categories. The minimum number of entries per categories is as follows:

- **Junior / Senior Teams: minimum of five (5) entries each, from at least four (4) ISU Members**

Each competition must strictly comply with the ISU Constitution, General and Special Regulations and Technical Rules 2018, in particular but not limited to the current Rules in the ISU Constitution and General Regulations 2018 and the Special Regulations and Technical Rules Synchronized Skating 2018.

3. ENTRIES

3.1 Participation

Participation is open to all Teams of ISU Members, who are eligible for International "Junior" and "Senior" Competitions by age (Rule 108) and by citizenship (Rule 109), and entered through the respective ISU Member. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and related travel restrictions, no maximum entries number per ISU Member shall apply

There is a limitation for the Teams to two (2) participations in the events of the Challenger Series in Synchronized Skating. If a Team does not complete an event after initially drawn for starting order of the Short Program due to any circumstances, such an event will count as one (1) participation in the Challenger Series.

The entry deadline for each event should be **not later than 21 days but at the earliest 30 days prior** to the first official practice day. The exact entry deadlines of the respective event within the Challenger Series in Synchronized Skating will be outlined in the individual event announcements. Late entries must have the approval of the ISU Vice President Figure Skating.

Teams, who enter an event of the Challenger Series in Synchronized Skating and withdraw from that event after the entry deadline but before the initial starting order draw without giving a significant reason (injury/illness

or other circumstances), may enter another event of the Challenger Series in Synchronized Skating of the same season only after having sent an acceptable explanation of the reason for their withdrawal to the Vice President Figure Skating who will decide upon the entry on a case by case basis, and the ISU Secretariat.

3.2 Entry Fees

Entry fees for participation is at the discretion of the organizing ISU Member and must be communicated in the individual announcement.

4. TECHNICAL DATA

JUNIOR	Short Program	Duration: 2 minutes and 50 seconds, but may be less, The General Short Program Elements and requirements are listed in Rule 991, paragraphs 1 a), 2 and 3, Rule 992, paragraphs 1 a), 2 and 3 a). The Short Program Elements and Requirements to be skated for Season 2020/21 are listed in ISU Communication 2236.
	Free Skating	Duration: 3 minutes and 30 seconds +/- 10 seconds The Well Balanced Program Requirements are listed in Rule 991, paragraphs 1 b), 2 and 4, Rule 992, paragraph 1 b), 2 and 3c). The Free Skating Elements and Requirements to be skated for Season 2020/21 are listed in ISU Communication 2236.
SENIOR	Short Program	Duration: 2 minutes and 50 seconds, but may be less, The General Short Program Elements and requirements are listed in Rule 991, paragraphs 1 a), 2 and 3, Rule 992, paragraphs 1 a), 2 and 3 a). The Short Program Elements and Requirements to be skated for Season 2020/21 are listed in ISU Communication 2236.
	Free Skating	Duration: 4 minutes +/- 10 seconds The Well Balanced Program Requirements are listed in Rule 991, paragraphs 1 b), 2 and 4, Rule 992, paragraph 1 b), 2 and 3 c). The Free Skating Elements and Requirements to be skated for Season 2020/21 are listed in ISU Communication 2236.

5. RESULTS

The marking system (ISU Judging System) as described in ISU Special Regulations & Technical Rules Synchronized Skating 2018, Rule 842 and Rule 843 (Determination and publication of results) will be used.

6. DRAWS

The Draws for the starting order must follow the ISU Rule 970. The initial draw for the starting order of the Short Program may only commence on the day prior to the first competition day of the respective ISU Challenger Series in Synchronized Skating event. No electronic Draws can be done in advance.

The starting order for the Free Skating should be conducted as outlined in ISU Rule 970, Paragraph 2.

7. PRACTICES

Practice sessions must be offered to the participants of the Challenger Series in Synchronized Skating categories allowing enough time for the Teams to complete their programs at least once in the main arena using their competition music prior to the competition. Priority for practice sessions need to be given to the Challenger Series in Synchronized Skating categories (Junior and Senior) in case there are other categories (i.e. Novices) also taking part at the site of the Challenger Series in Synchronized Skating event.

8. EVENT OFFICIALS AND COMPOSITION OF THE PANEL OF JUDGES

8.1 Appointment of Event Officials as per ISU Regulations

Following the principles of Rule 910, paragraph 5 a) of the ISU Special Regulations and Technical Rules Synchronized Skating 2018, the members of each individual Technical Panel (Technical Controller and the Technical Specialists) must not be from the same ISU Member. The Technical Panel members must have the qualification of "ISU", however one (1) of the three (3) members may have the qualification "International".

The Referee must have at least the qualification "International" and can be of the same ISU Member as one (1) member of the Technical Panel (Technical Controller and Technical Specialists).

The Data Operator and the Replay Operator must have the qualification of at least "International".

No exception can be granted with respect to the above-mentioned composition of the Technical Panels and the qualification of the Referees and Data & Replay Operators.

The Technical Panel members, the Referee and the Data and Replay Operators of International Competitions included in the Challenger Series in Synchronized Skating must be proposed by the respective ISU organizing Member to the ISU Secretariat **latest 45 days prior to the first day of the competition**. Based on the information received and further to internal ISU consultations, involving possible changes as necessary to comply with the above-mentioned minimum requirements, the ISU Vice President Figure Skating will decide upon the final appointments of the above-mentioned Event Officials. The respective organizing ISU Member will be informed through the ISU Secretariat and must inform the participating ISU Members accordingly.

Any subsequent changes due to the non-availability of previously appointed Technical Panel members, the Referees and the Data & Replay Operators must be announced by the organizing ISU Member to the ISU Vice President Figure Skating with copy to the ISU Secretariat. If such changes to be approved by the ISU Vice President Figure Skating would not be in line with the above-mentioned minimum requirements, the concerned organizing ISU Members will be notified through the ISU Secretariat for possible adjustments.

If ultimately the organizing Member is unable to apply the necessary adjustments and the final appointments of the above-mentioned Event Officials would not meet the above-mentioned minimum requirements and have an impact on the status of the concerned International Competition as an event of the Challenger Series in Synchronized Skating and consequently on the ISU World Standing Points and/or the validity of the Minimum Total Technical Scores, then the concerned organizing ISU Member will be informed accordingly through the ISU Secretariat. The organizing ISU Member must immediately inform the participating ISU Members accordingly.

8.2 Panel of Judges

The panel of Judges must include at least seven (7) Judges, all from different ISU Members. In exceptional cases the minimum of six (6) Judges per panel may be authorized by the ISU Vice President Figure Skating. The qualification of the Judges must be at least "International".

The panel of Judges must be submitted to the ISU Secretariat latest **seven (7) days before the first day of the competition** for reviewal and approval.

8.3 Officials Remuneration

The Judges, the Referees, the Technical Controllers, the Technical Specialists and the Data & Replay Operators officiating in the Challenger Series in Synchronized Skating categories (Junior and Senior) of the event will, at the expense of the organizing ISU Member, receive pocket money of CHF 200.00 or the equivalent in the local currency.

8.4 Expenses

The Organizing Committee will provide and cover the expenses for rooms and meals for all Referees, the Technical Controllers, the Technical Specialist, the Data and Replay Operators and Judges participating from dinner the day prior to the first practice day and ending with lunch the day after the Exhibition (if applicable) or the last Round Table Discussion, whichever is later.

The Organizing Committee will cover the costs for travel expenses for all Referees, the Technical Controllers, the Technical Specialist, the Data and Replay Operators.

9. ISU WORLD STANDING POINTS FOR SYNCHRONIZED SKATING

The holding of Challenger Series events during the season 2020/21 will most likely be complicated and if held, only be accessible to a limited number of Teams.

The Council therefore decided that for the sake of fairness, no World Standing/Ranking points will be awarded in the ISU Challenger Series in Synchronized Skating this season. The same principle applies to all other ISU Synchronized Skating International Competitions.

10. RECOGNITION OF BEST SCORES

Provided that all requirements of the composition of the Technical Panel and the Panel of Judges as per paragraph 8 above are fulfilled, the scores achieved at an event of the Challenger Series in Synchronized Skating will be recognized as Teams Personal Best Scores and Season Best Scores.

11. CHALLENGER SERIES IN SYNCHRONIZED SKATING RANKING & PRIZE MONEY

Based on the current travel restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 situation, which would not allow all Teams to travel to the locations of the Challenger Series events, and with regards to fairness to all Teams, the ISU Council decided there will be no Challenger Series Ranking this season and therefore no ISU Prize Money will be awarded.

12. ANTI-DOPING TESTS

Anti-Doping Tests are not mandatory, but may be performed at the discretion of each organizing ISU Member in line with the current ISU Anti-Doping Rules and Procedures (ISU Communications No. 2213 and 2243 or any further updates of these Communications).

13. ISU CONTRIBUTION

Each ISU Member, organizing an event included in the Challenger Series in Synchronized Skating will receive an ISU contribution of CHF 20'000. This contribution will be paid when the event has been successfully completed in line with the requirements included in ISU Communication 2308, this general Announcement of the ISU Challenger Series in Synchronized Skating and all relevant ISU Rules and Regulations. The contribution must be used to cover the costs for the Officials Remuneration (see paragraph 8.3) and the expenses for accommodation and travel (see paragraph 8.4). Any remaining funds may cover ice costs or other organizational expenses of the organizing ISU Member.

14. ISU GUIDELINES TO HOLD AN ISU EVENT

Each Challenger Series event will be organized in accordance with the host country's national health/sanitary requirements. Unless being in conflict with such national health/sanitary requirements, the ISU Guidelines for ISU Events during the COVID-19 Pandemic are strongly recommended to be applied. These Guidelines are available on the ISU Website.

14. INFORMATION

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