

## Communication No. 2389

### Virtual Figure Skating events with remote judging

With a complicated skating season coming to an end and with the focus now on the coming months and the beginning of the Olympic season that could still be negatively affected by the pandemic, the ISU herewith provides an update on the various initiatives that have been pursued with the aim of enabling Skaters to compete even when the free movement of persons is restricted.

#### 1. Virtual Events Toolkit

As announced on the ISU website on January 28, 2021, the ISU has launched the Virtual Events Toolkit which is available on the [ISU eLearning platform](#). The primary goal of the Toolkit is developmental and educational for Officials, Skaters and Coaches in all ISU Member Federations.

The Toolkit is a set of practical and easy-to-use ideas that can be used for the online hosting of a variety of interactive sessions. The Toolkit provides a framework and detailed instructions for the following kinds of virtual activities: monitoring or feedback sessions for Skaters; meetings and seminars for Officials, Coaches and Skaters; trial or practice judging; technical panel practices; live competitions; competitions using submitted videos.

The essence of the Toolkit is its versatility as it provides flexible ways for any group wishing to use the digital tools to produce interactive events. The instructions in the Toolkit are divided into comprehensive sections with step-by-step procedures. Numerous videos included in the Toolkit specifically explain and illustrate how to build an event. Moreover, although the majority of examples are from Single & Pair Skating and Ice Dance, the techniques can also be adapted to Synchronized Skating, Short Track and Speed Skating.

The platform used in the Toolkit is Zoom, which is accessible globally. However, most of the instructions can be applied to other online platforms with similar functionalities.

The Toolkit's online scoring system for Figure Skating can be used to enhance many of the activities listed above. It is not intended to be used for any ISU sanctioned International Competitions for which the ISU certified software, made available by the ISU free of charge, remains essential.

For further information please contact the ISU Toolkit Administrator: [virtualeventstoolkit@gmail.com](mailto:virtualeventstoolkit@gmail.com)

#### 2. Virtual test competitions with remote judging

During the past months, several initiatives and tests have been performed to evaluate possibilities for remotely judged Figure Skating Competitions, namely the following:

Cooperation with Skate Canada:

The ISU Development Commission and the ISU Centers of Excellence conducted two tests on November 17, 2020 and January 26, 2021 in cooperation with Skate Canada which made available its remote judging system and the knowledge and experience of its experts. The first test had live

judging of pre-recorded videos of Skaters' performances. The second test was conducted with two live sites as well as remote live judging.

**Moscow – Pair Skating tests:**

A group lead by the ISU Vice President Alexander Lakernik conducted two tests in Moscow on January 28 (live judging, pre-recorded performances) and March 18, 2021 (live judging and skating).

ST Sportservice (Swiss Timing), as the official ISU Results Provider, initiated the development of a remote judging system and on March 2, 2021 demonstrated the system set-up and functionality. This demonstration did not yet include live skating.

While all three remote systems used different approaches to utilizing the technical setup and required connections on a secured platform, all three involved the official ISU/ST Sportservice calculation software (ISUCalcFS) and the official ISU/ST Sportservice scoring system (ISUScoreFS). These software programs provided the acting officials on their personal home devices the exact same screen layout and operations to input GOEs and Program Components Scores as during a live onsite competition. Results were calculated instantly, respecting all ISU rules and regulations and could be made available through interfaces such as live internet results and TV graphics.

The most challenging component in all approaches remains a stable live video feed of the live performance as well as the individual element clips required for the review process. A stable and high speed internet connection is necessary to ensure that the feed and clips can be received simultaneously (meaning without significant delay of more than a few seconds) by all the various participants involved in the judging process.

Several observers, including ISU Office Holders, Figure Skating Officials and Skate Canada and Swiss Timing experts, were invited to attend the different tests with the goal of sharing experiences and improving and speeding up the development of the different systems. The goal remains to make available to ISU Members, at a reasonable cost, a system that allows the holding of virtual live Figure Skating International Competitions that are judged remotely. While this goal could not yet be fully achieved, further updates on the progress made will be published in due course.

Tubbergen,  
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Lausanne

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