

The 6.0 Judging System

Many judges and coaches grew up with the 6.0 judging system. In this system Judges give a technical merit and presentation mark for each program. The 6.0 judging system is still widely used in pre-juvenile and below events. In open competitions, the host club may elect to conduct Juvenile through Senior events using the IJS.

In the 6.0 judging system the judges are required to evaluate the following technical elements:

- If jumps are sufficiently rotated, have correct take off and landing edges, height, speed into and out of jumps, body positions (form/style)
- Holding spins for the minimum number of rotations in position, centered (no traveling or recentering), controlled exit
- The difficulty of spiral sequences, spiral positions are held for minimum time, number of feet, speed, edges
- The difficulty of footwork sequences, turns, edges, changes of rotations, covering minimum ice surface (end to end in straight line and completing circular pattern), good carriage, speed

Judges in the 6.0 system award a performance mark based the skater's ability to perform a well-balanced program whose technical highlights are coordinated with the musical score. The overall performance needs to be visually pleasing to watch and should involve a sympathetic response from the audience.

The judges evaluate the following area of the skater's presentation skills:

- Skating skills
- Transitions
- Performance and execution
- Choreography
- Interpretation

The judging system was designed to rank national senior competitors using an absolute range from zero (0.0) to six (6.0) –

- 6.0 mark is considered error free (perfect)
- 5.0 is "very good"
- 4.0 is "good"
- 3.0 is "fair"
- 2.0 is "poor"
- Is "very poor"
- Is "not skated"

Judges use a midpoint that coincides with the minimum "passing average" for the test level of the event. For example, in a Pre-Juvenile event a judge compares the first skater to the passing mark of a Pre-Juvenile test or 2.7. Judges mark the first skater of an event by comparison to the mid point,

Depending on the number of skaters in the event, the judge must allow room to insert marks for skaters who perform better or worse than the first skater. If second skater performed at about the same level of the first skater then his or her mark will be close to the first skater with minor differences in technical and presentation marks. The performance is much better or not as good, then the difference separating the skaters varies accordingly.

If insufficient space separates the skaters, the judge can break a total point tie by adjusting the technical and presentation marks. In a free skating program, the skater with better presentation mark wins the tie.

If 6.0 system is used in event that have a Short Program, a tie is broken with the higher technical mark.