

# IJS Presentation Guidelines

Currently the IJS Program Component Guidelines direct judges to evaluate everything contained in the program as part of the five following separate classifications –

- **Skating Skills** – *Overall quality of skating performance*
  - *Balance* - Ability to maintain the run on the blade while changing position.
  - *Flow* - Effortless glide, rhythmic, strong, clean strokes.
  - *Sureness of edges, steps, and turns* - Clean, controlled curves, deep edges, and precise steps embodied by the efficient use of lean and effortless transfer of weight.
  - *Mastery of multidirectional skating* – Use of unexpected changes of direction filling all corners and areas of the ice surface with an interesting disbursement of jumps and spins.
  - *Mastery of skating on one foot* – demonstrating agility and quick acceleration combined with changes of lean and direction.
- **Transitions** – *A creative linking of required elements*
  - *Variety of edges, steps, and turns*
  - *Difficulty*
  - *Intricacy*
  - *Quality*
- **Performance and Execution** – *Personal involvement*
  - *Carriage and body alignment/movement*
  - *Variation of speed*
  - *Variety and contrast*
  - *Projection and involvement of audience*
- **Choreography** – *Composition – communication with the audience*
  - *Use of personal and private space – ice coverage and pattern*

- *Proportion*
- *Identifiable purpose*
- *Originality*
- *Musical phrasing and form*
- *Use of musical highlights*
- **Interpretation** – *Use of body movements and the musical score as an instrument of communication*
  - *Effortless movement to the musical score*
  - *Expression of the music's style, rhythm, and character*
  - *Subtle use of the musical score – nuances and subtle variation to tempo, dynamics, and intensity.*

*The Technical Panel calls the required technical content and establishes the levels of difficulty add to the base value. Judges evaluate the skater's degree of success or failure in performing the required elements as Grades of Execution (GOEs).*

*Technical elements, jumps, spins, and step/spiral sequences, contribute to the overall fabric, theme, and performance of the composition of a well-balanced program.*

IJS Program Components includes a separate classification for transitions evaluated as a separate skill. The problem is that one element can immediately precede another element as well as short and longer intervals recognized as transitions.

Connections using only forward and back crossovers will receive very low transition marks. The elapsed time of the transition, the speed, difficulty and variety of edges, turns, and other moves (pivots, spread eagles, Ina Baur, etc.) will result in higher scores.

Choreography and Interpretation are also considered separately, but the choice of music impacts both components.

### **Program Components**

Guidelines provide judges with a standard to measure and evaluate competence in a test or competitive. Guidelines also provide a roadmap for coaches to teach their skaters.

The program components and required technical elements in top performances that receive high marks are skillfully executed to create illusions in an extraordinary demonstration of the human spirit.

### **Definitions of terms used by Choreographers:**

**Choreographic Risk** – Not being predictable in connecting body movement to difficult technical skills through the selection and execution of uncommon themes.

**Communication** – The ability of a skater to use their body in combination with the music score to convey the purpose or theme of the program.

**Difficulty** – The level of skill difficulty is established by the IJS and determined by the Technical Panel. Judges consider originality and apply their own determination of difficulty to the skater's ability to perform the program components. Difficulty is rewarded when artistic performance is not sacrificed.

**Direction** – The forward and backward, clockwise and counterclockwise use of the horizontal and vertical planes while performing turns that rotate in both directions.

**Duration** – The use of slow or fast motion in combination of brief or extended measures of music.

**Emotional energy** – The skater's emotional investment in performing the program.

**Expression** – Effectively conveying specific feelings.

**Finesse** - Refinement, delicacy and artful manipulation of nuance.

**Gesture** – An effective use of body movements that are not miming.

**Grace** – An elegance of movement

**Intricacy** – A sign of advanced proficiency is when a complex program is well executed and doesn't look difficult.

**Level** – Body movements that effectively use high, medium, and low space.

**Melodic Pattern** - The relationship of the music's melodic patterns and the skating.

**Motivation** – Purposeful movement throughout the program of all parts contributes to the whole performance.

**Originality** - The ability to present a new and unique choreographic idea.

**Parts** – The continuous use of the whole body including face expressions and hand gestures.

**Phrasing** – The placement of associating musical high and low points with the skater's technical ability to achieve an overall climax at the end of the program.

**Physical and emotional involvement** – Requires the skater to dissolve the barrier between the skater and their skating. A oneness with the music.

**Physical energy** – The skater's ability to provide the appearance of effortlessness throughout the performance. Performed with an economy of movement with no wasted effort.

**Place and Pathway** – Imaginative, unpredictable, and unexpected paths used to cover the ice with three dimensional and 360 degree body movements.

**Projection** – An emotional connection with the audience that sometimes is expressed by the audience clapping in time with the music. Receives a standing ovation at the end of the program.

Purpose – The ability to reveal a coherent theme as the program is performed.

Quality – The use of movements that exhibit a high degree of competence and self-confidence. Poorly executed moves should be reflected in low marks.

Rhythm – The relationship a skater establishes to the meter of the music

Rhythmic Pattern - The relationship of the skater's performance to the rhythmic patterns provided by the music.

Shapes – Clear, imaginative, and expressive uses of the body.

Size – A description of a skater's movement as large, medium, or small.

Speed – The speed over the ice that ebbs and flows appropriately to provide the maximum effect to show off and connect each technical element.

Steps – Skating actions that include: gliding, sliding, turning, jumping, hopping, toe work etc.

Style – The impression a skater conveys with their movement over the ice that is reflective of the skater's personality.

Tempo – A steady or constant execution of the musical score by the conductor of the orchestra who recorded the musical arrangement.

Timing – The ability of the skater to respond to the underlying beat.

Use of Energy – The ability of a skater to manipulate real or apparent physical and emotional energy.

Use of Space – A skater's ability to use personal and private space, the ice surface, and communicate with the audience.

Use of the Body – The proficiency with which the skater can use facial expressions, head positions, arms, hands, skating and free legs, plus a flexibility to bend sideways and both forward and backwards.

Variety – The goal of competitive programs is to show figure skating proficiency over a large range of complex body movements and technical elements.