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Section Memo – Ice Dance information for coaches and technical panel officials

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To: Section Offices

Following the first summer ice dance competition of the season, it was observed that some of the changes in technical rules are being interpreted differently, mainly with respect to the calling specifications of elements. In order to assure that all coaches receive feedback, we have provided a short summary as a reminder of particular points to pay attention to early in the season.

Note that this is not an official document nor is it a comprehensive list. Please also point coaches and technical panel officials to the following link on the [Skate Canada Info Centre to the Competitions Resource Guide](#), through which they can access all Skate Canada and ISU Ice Dance reference documents.

Twizzles: (Sequential in Rhythm Dance and Synchronized in Free Dance)

- When a third twizzle is executed in both Sequential **AND synchronized twizzles**, there can only be a maximum of 1 step between the 2nd and 3rd twizzle. This is new for Synchronized twizzles this year.
- Novice, Junior & Senior synchronized twizzles this year **must have at least 2 steps with a maximum of 4 steps** between the 1st and 2nd twizzle. Pre-Juvenile, Juvenile and Pre-Novice synchronized twizzles are the same as last season – up to three steps (no minimum number) in between twizzles.
- Double check both partners of your teams for steps between twizzles remembering a transfer of weight is counted as a step this year. It is very important that the skaters fully understand the weight transfer rule as it can happen easily if they are not aware.
- The “A” feature, arms fully extended in front of the body, is being used a lot this year. The **fully extended requirement** is important and must be maintained throughout all rotations of the twizzle. Many seem to bring arms in or release before the 4th rotation is complete.
- The “A” feature, arms extended in front of the body, can be at any level this year provided they are in front of the body. While doing this feature, if the elbows are above the shoulder it **does not** also count for the “elbows above the shoulder” feature as that feature does not allow the hands to be clasped.

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Step Sequences:

- Double check step sequences for a single twizzle that may be inadvertently performed prior to the double twizzle. If a single twizzle is performed first, then the technical panel cannot consider the double twizzle for the level. Sometimes an unplanned twizzle starts to develop from 3 turns or other choreography without it having been originally choreographed that way.

Spins:

- New this season is the number of rotations required in the difficult position for it to count as a feature in the simple spin. Both Sp and CoSp now need **3 rotations** in the difficult position to count.

Entry and Exits for spins and lifts:

- This year for the feature “continuous combination of steps and/or movements”, both partners must do two steps or movements for it to be counted as 1 feature. It must be two different steps or movements and **the partners have the option to choose to do the same two different steps or movements**. A movement that engages both partners is counted as one movement for each partner and then they both must do 1 more.
 - Example: an assisted lift or a kick over the partners head would be counted as 1 movement by each partner; then they would both have to do one more. These steps or movements must be continuous without delay before, after, or between the two steps or movements - immediate and continuous.

Tea-Time Foxtrot Pattern Dance Element:

- **1TTKP 1 and 2:**
 - Watch the entry edge of the 3 turn carefully
 - Have at least 1 blade length between feet for the Choctaw
 - Lady must take care to stay on the LFI edge and not anticipate the twizzle too early and flatten that edge
 - Lady must complete 2 rotations in the twizzle and exit with control
- **1TTKP 3 and 4:**
 - Watch timing of the entry edge into the rocker - it is easy to hold that too long

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- Be sure to do a “rolling action” in the cross roll entering the rocker
- **Be sure to finish the dance.** Step 54 is the last step of the dance and is 6 beats in duration. If this step is not complete it could affect the level as it will be considered as “100% of the section of the dance not completed”. It can also affect the GOE. Double check the choreography to be sure the final step of the dance is completed with 6 beats before moving into the next part of the Rhythm Dance.

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