

# Becoming a Synchronized Skating Judge

The information in this document is current as of May 25, 2020. Please visit the [Officials Appointment and Qualification Procedure](#) page on the Skate Canada Info Centre for more details and the most up-to-date information.

## Prerequisites

To apply to become a synchronized skating judge, you must be at least **16** years old and have a “skating background,” defined as:

- Any **two** of Junior Bronze or STAR 5 Free Skating, Skills, Dance tests; or
- Any **one** of Senior Bronze Free Skating, Skills, Dance or a Juvenile Competitive test; or
- Any **one** higher level test.

## Procedure

Synchronized skating judges begin judging at the **Novice** level. (This is different from singles, pairs, and ice dance, which have Star and Juvenile judging levels.) Novice-level synchronized skating judges can judge all categories except for Intermediate, Open, Junior, and Senior.

To become a Novice Judge, candidates must go through the following steps.

### 1. Attend a Novice Clinic

A Novice Clinic may be held in person (usually about 2 days long) or online. When held online, several short conference calls are typically scheduled over the course of a few weeks. It has become more common to hold clinics online to avoid the complications and cost of travel.

The clinic uses lectures, discussion, and video to cover:

- Judging procedures, expectations, soft skills, and deportment
- Grade of Execution (GOE) understanding and application
- Program Component Scores (PCS) understanding and application

## 2. Submit Trial Judging Reports

Following completion of a Novice Clinic, candidates will have the opportunity to practice their skills by **trial judging** at competitions. This involves sitting in the stands (or on panel, if there is extra room) and judging teams' performances on paper to gain experience assigning marks and writing comments.

Once you've gained some experience, you'll submit some of your trial judging paperwork for evaluation. An experienced official will review your paperwork and discuss the event with you, then write a report on your judging. You'll submit these reports to the Section Officials Coordinating Committee (OCC) as part of your "promotion package."

To earn your Novice Judge status, you'll need to submit **two** satisfactory reports of trial judging **Pre-Novice, Novice, Adult I, or Adult II** events.

## 3. Complete a Written Exam

Candidates must earn a mark of at least 80% on a written, open-book exam. The exam will be supplied to candidates following the Novice Clinic, with a specified date it must be returned.

## Next Steps

Successful candidates are promoted to the status of Novice Synchronized Skating Judge and can judge all synchronized skating categories except for Intermediate, Open, Junior, and Senior.

The next promotions are to Junior, then Senior Judge. These promotions also involve taking a clinic, submission of reports (judging and trial judging), and a written exam.

**Still have questions or want to apply?** Please contact [info@skateabnwnun.ca](mailto:info@skateabnwnun.ca) for more information.