



Becoming a Synchronized Skating Judge

The information in this document is current as of August 24, 2023. 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, Senior, and Senior Elite 12.

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, Senior, and Senior Elite 12.

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@skateabnwtun.ca for more information.

Created: May 2020
Updated: October 2023