January 17 - 2013

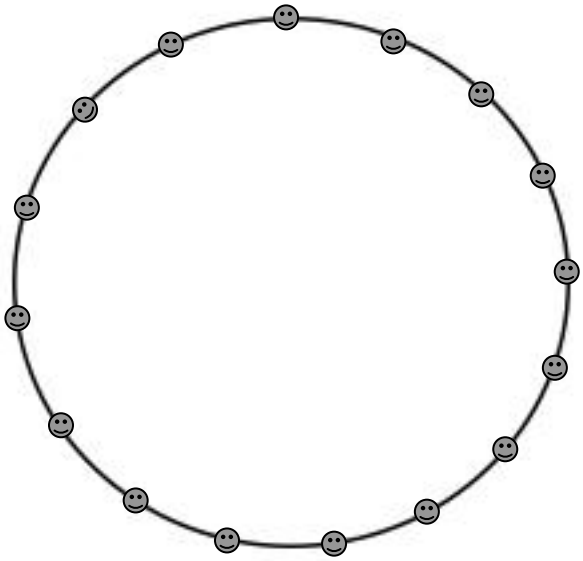
2012/2013 Records of Clarifications from ISU Sports Directorate and SyS TC

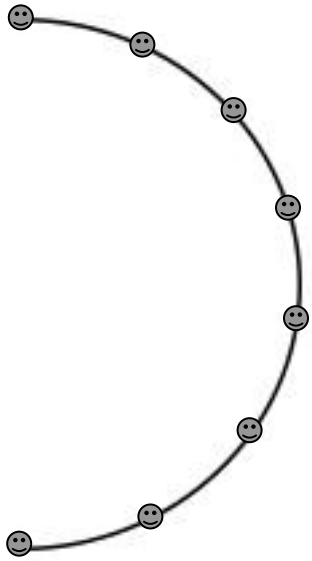
SYNCHRONIZED SKATING — Intersection Element – Whip

Question:

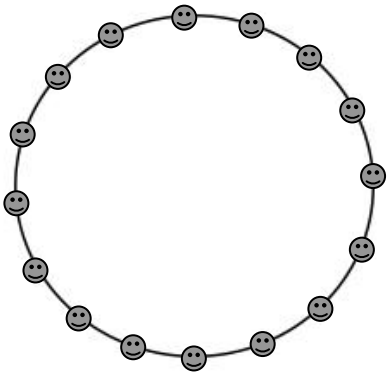
1) Could you please explain what a ½ circle strong curve means for the Whip Intersection?

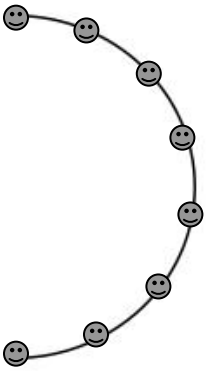
1) The simplest manner to explain this is to show some drawings. Depending on the holds the ½ circle may be different sizes, but a ½ circle strong curve is always a true ½ circle curve, independent of the circle size. Below shown in the drawing to the left is one large circle (when the skaters use a hand hold). The drawing to the right shows a true ½ circle of that size of a circle.





If the skaters use a shoulder hold instead of a hand hold, the true ½ circle curve will become smaller, but a true ½ circle curve is still there, as shown in the drawings below.





These drawings show the minimum amount of curve to get the call (i.e. a greater amount of strong curve will also receive the call).

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SYNCHRONIZED SKATING — Intersection Element – Whip continued

Questions:

2) For the technical call, is the skating path that the lead skaters (slow end) during the preparation and approach of a whip intersection considered?

3) Are the shoulders of the lead skaters (slow end) considered when determining the strong ½ circle?

Answer:

2) No, the paths of the lead skaters are not considered by the technical panel when determining the level of a Whip Intersection.

3) If the lead skaters shoulders are placed on a diagonal angle (not twisted) towards the axis of the intersection as they become "back to back" then the technical panel will accept the strong 1/2 circle. If three (3) or more skaters twist their shoulders to look for their hole as they whip, the intersection is lowered one (1) level.

SYNCHRONIZED SKATING — Circle and Wheel – Travel

Question:

1) Is it permitted to include toe steps during the traveling in a circle or a wheel or will the travel end if toe steps are included?

Answer:

1) Yes, teams are permitted to include toe steps during the travel (since toe steps are listed as linking steps) and travel will be counted as long as the toe steps are not assisting the travel. The travel will not be considered as ended if toe steps are included.

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SYNCHRONIZED SKATING — Group Lift Element – Balancing

Questions:

1) Is it permitted to change from one balancing lift position to another balancing lift position during the required rotation?

2) Would you consider a split lift as balancing where the lifting skaters are holding the upstairs skater in the following positions? One (1) supporting skater at the front foot, one (1) supporting skater in the center holding both hands (hand to hand) of the upstairs skater and one (1) supporting skater at the back foot.

Answers:

1) Yes, skaters are permitted to change between different balancing positions during the rotation. The same position does not have to be held throughout the entire rotation. A balanced position must be held during the full rotation.

2) Yes, such a lift would be considered a balancing lift as it meets the requirements of a balancing lift since the position of the lifted skater is stabilized mostly by their own strength and that the position influences their balance. The only lifting points are the feet and the hands of the upstairs skater.

A split lift with four (4) lifting skaters in the following positions: one (1) supporting skater at the front foot, two (2) supporting skaters in the middle with each skater holding one hand and also supporting the body of the upstairs skater and one (1) supporting skater at the back foot would NOT considered a balancing lift since the lifted skater is being stabilized by the two (2) skaters at the center.

SYNCHRONIZED SKATING — Short Program - Transitions

Questions:

1) In the short program, is a team permitted to execute four (4) spins or four (4) other free skating elements/moves as part of a transition or would those four (4) spins be considered as a Creative Element?

2) In a short program, would the following example be considered as an Intersection Element;
   a) Skaters are in eight (8) pairs in a circle formation and are rotating around each other in order to change places or to go back to the same place?

   b) Eight (8) skaters are circling around eight (8) skaters who are standing still?

Answers:

1) Yes, four (4) spins or four (4) other free skating elements/moves are permitted during transitions. The Creative Element will not be considered as an extra element in a short program during transitions. *(See page 21 Communication 1759)*

2) No, Example a) and Example b) are not considered as an Intersection Element, since one skater circling around another skater is not considered as intersecting.

SYNCHRONIZED SKATING — No Hold Element – start and finish

Question:

1) Is the team permitted to form the NHE block configuration/shape at centre ice and then move the block down towards one end barrier in order to start the element without penalty?

Answer:

1) Yes, the team is permitted to form the NHE block configuration/shape at centre ice and move it towards one end barrier in order to start the NHE and as long as the NHE ends close to the opposite end barrier there would not be a penalty of DED1. The reasoning is that forming the element at centre ice and moving towards one end barrier is considered a transition (in both a short and free skate program) since the NHE is the next element.

If the NHE is configuration/shape is formed and executed, starting at centre ice and only moving towards and ending at one end barrier (all skaters covering ½ of the ice surface or a comparable distance), the call will be NHE level + DED1.