



**Ice Skating Australia Inc**

[isa.org.au](http://isa.org.au)

# **Technical Regulations Committee Report AGM 2024**

Prepared by  
**Chair, Sharon Mellema**

## Summary

This report provides an overview of the Technical Regulations Committee's activities during the last 12 months.

Analysis of ISA Communications and ISA By-Laws that are overseen by Technical Regulations Committee revealed several by-laws needed to be updated and numerous Communications required to be updated, replaced or archived. This is an ongoing process.

As all by-laws sections were not available in word document format for editing, duplicating each by-law took a significant amount of time. Now as each by-law section is changed, the ISA board holds the document electronically in a central location. At the same time updating the by-laws, ISA board decided on specific font style, font size, layout with consistent terminology to be used across the by-laws and ISA communications. This new format is gradually being brought in as ISA communications and by-laws are updated.

I would like to acknowledge and appreciate the time and effort put in by so many people. As well as the advice and feedback provided from other ISA Standing Committees, Officials and Coaches in drafting documents in preparation for submission to ISA Board.

## 1. ISA By-Law Section 2 – Tests

- Review commenced June 2023; Submitted 3/2/24; Approved April 2024

### ➤ Overview

The current By-Law Section 2 - Tests consisted of 20 pages with the last update in May 2022. With the introduction of Solo Ice Dance and many technical element changes, our testing structure needed to be updated with current requirements and consistent terminology. As per 2023 ISA AGM, incorporating the amendment to the by-laws reducing failed tests wait time from 28 days to 14 days.

All test papers and technical pattern diagrams needed a fresh look and updating to include the technical changes over the years. These documents are now in word format.

### ➤ Summary of main changes

Section 2 split into 4 parts  
Part A – General and Pattern Skills Tests  
Part B – Single Skating  
Part C – Pair Skating  
Part D – Ice Dance and Solo Ice Dance

### **Part A – General and Pattern Skills Tests**

- To be inclusive with members in States and Territories; State Associations now referred to as ISA Members.
- Accommodate test applications via electronic means.
- Failed test waiting period reduced from 28 to 14 days.
- Defining number of judges for Solo Ice Dance.
- Renumbering by-law numbers.
- Removed by-laws relating to introduction of pattern skill tests 2012.

### **Part B – Single Skating**

- Renumbering of by-law numbers.
- Generic Pass Mark wording referenced in its own by-law rather than repeating the same wording for every test.
- Update Elementary Singles Technical Test requirements consistent with ISU jump combination/sequence and combination spin definitions.
- Basic Novice Singles Technical Test requirements consistent with ISU Novice Communication.
- Advanced Novice Singles Test Technical Test corrected to reference ISU Advanced Novice short program not free program.
- Junior Singles Technical Test corrected wording “perform any of the current short program groups” to “perform any junior short program group” as listed in rule 611 of the ISU Regulations.
- Additional wording referencing ISU group requirements for spin elements
- Simplified Senior Singles Technical Test wording.
- Pass Mark GOE wording extended to accommodate negative GOEs less than -3.

### **Part C – Pair Skating**

- Renumbering of by-law numbers.
- Generic Pass Mark wording referenced in its own by-law rather than repeating the same wording for every test.
- Basic Novice and Advanced Novice Pair Technical Test requirements consistent with ISU Novice Communication.
- Junior and Senior Pair Technical Test correct short program group wording.

### **Part D – Ice Dance and Solo Ice Dance**

- Renumbering of by-law numbers.
- Clarification test requirements either partnered or solo
- New by-laws for Solo Ice Dance testing requirements.
- Updating and adding prerequisites for Pattern Dance (Recreational) Tests.
- Updating and adding prerequisites for Competitive Dance Tests.
- Pass Mark GOE wording extended to accommodate negative GOEs less than -2.
- New Solo Ice Dance Test by-laws added.

### **TEST PAPERS & DIAGRAMS**

- All test papers updated with current elements and wording.
- Solo Ice Dance test papers created.
- Pattern Skills Test Diagrams given a fresh look.

## 2. ISA By-Law Section 3 – Single and Pair Skating

- Review commenced June 2023; Submitted 5/7/23; Approved November 2023

### ➤ Overview

Upon reviewing Section 3, changes made were mainly terminology and formatting, but changes were needed to be consistent with current ISU technical requirements and ISA competition requirements that have changed since the last by-law update.

### ➤ Update/Amendment summary

- ISU updated Jump combination/sequence definition;
- Technical changes and/or wording for clarity made in ISA communications for competition but not referenced in by-law;
- Program Component Factors corrected.
- Amend incorrect Advanced Novice Boys and Advanced Novice Pair Free Skating duration.
- Correct category name Pre Primary Pair to Pre Novice Pair

## 3. ISA By-Law Section 4 – Ice Dance

- Review commenced January 2024; Submitted 5/2/24; Approved March 2024

### ➤ Overview

After the completion of ISA By-Law Section 2 – Tests to include Solo Ice Dance, Section 4 – Ice Dance needed updating to include Solo Ice Dance categories.

### ➤ Update/Amendment summary

- Removed obsolete ISU rule numbers
- Removed specific rules from by-laws that are seasonal and are published in ISU/ISA Communications each season.
- Update terminology to be consistent throughout all by-laws.
- Updated old Section 2 by-law numbers referenced in Section 4 with new Section 2 by-law numbers.
- Clarification on prerequisite test being partnered.
- New by-laws for Solo Ice Dance based on ISU, ISA non-ISU category requirements.
- Each category has its own by-law for ease of future changes.
- Updated incorrect program component factors.

## 4. ISA By-Law Section 5 – Adult Single and Pair Skating

- Review commenced June 2023; Submitted 9/7/23; Approved October 2023

### ➤ Overview

This by-law has not kept up with the ISU technical changes and the changing face of adult skating. This first review was about getting this by-law updated to current rules and terminology. Currently, this by-law is under a second review with Sports Development Committee. After the trial period for adult category Pewter had concluded, it was Technical Regulations Committee recommendation not to continue offering this category. ISA board has approved the new adult singles category – Pewter and this category will need to be included in Section 5 by-laws.

### ➤ Update/Amendment summary

- Renaming 'group' to 'class' in anticipation moving to further ISU or ISA age classes.
- Removing jump sequence from Copper as axel jump is not permitted.
- Correcting Program Components Marking
- Correcting Program Components Factors
- Removing specific ISU seasons from requirements by adding 'current'

## 5. ISA By-Law Section 6 – Championships and Competitions

- Review commenced July 2023; Submitted August 2023; Approved October 2023

### ➤ Overview

Most of the changes in this review focused on consistent terminology and corrected title wording.

A second review is underway with consideration to include Solo Ice Dance titles, review the wording on for technical requirements from 1 Feb including the introduction of new season rules before 1 July. Expand and update clarification wording for Aussie Skate eligibility.

### ➤ Update/Amendment summary

- Remove State Association replace ISA Member; remove division replace category; remove references to short dance replace rhythm dance
- Expanding "Dance" to read "Ice Dance" or "Solo Ice Dance"
- Adding missing categories for titles i.e. Senior Elite 12
- Expanding and update title names into disciplines
- Refer to discipline and categories rather than events or divisions
- Correcting recommended official naming.

## 6. ISA By-Law Section 8 - International

- Review commenced July 2023;

### ➤ Overview

The last update for this by-law was May 2018. This section requires terminology to be updated and consistent with other by-laws and the inclusion of Theatre On Ice throughout this Section. Entries, selection and nominations by-laws are outdated when compared to current policies. Selection and nominations by-law expanded to include Winter Youth Olympic Games. Existing by-laws expanded to include Synchronized needs. Currently, at time of writing this report, this section is on hold until Solo Ice Dance requirements are determined and other by-laws relating to Solo Ice Dance are approved.

## 7. ISA Bonus System

- Review commenced July 2023; Submitted 5/7/24 – ISA Communication 153 Approved 28/8/23 & published 4/9/23
- Second review commenced December 2023; Submitted 29/1/24 – ISA Communication 158; Not approved 20 March 2024

### ➤ Overview

Since ISA Bonus system was introduced back in 2019, six communications have been produced over the four year period before this review. These communications had a mixture of current and non-current information. The current technical information was spread over two ISA communications. It was decided that one ISA communication would be produced which would have all the Bonus system information. Any changes would necessitate an updated communication replacing the previous communication. This would mean there would always be only one ISA Communication with ISA Bonus system requirements. ISA Communication 153 Approved 28/8/23

### ➤ Update/Amendment summary

ISA Communication 153 Approved 28/8/23

- 1.0 Bonus for Basic Camel position for Preliminary Single skating and level feature for 6 revs in Basic Sit position.
- Missing bonus information for Basic Novice, Intermediate and Intermediate Novice (missed from previous ISA communication)
- Advanced Novice bonus wording matching ISU bonus wording
- Junior Men – added 3Lo as previously wasn't included as a bonus point jump in Free Program
- Amended jump wording in Junior Men Short “or season prescribed triple solo jump element” rather than nominating the season element.
- Wording brought into document from previous Bonus System communications.

The object of the first review of the bonus system was to condense the communications and to mostly confirm the current bonus point system which was already in place. Since inception, no data is available to indicate the ISA Bonus system effectiveness.

The second review was to enhance the performance requirements as the bonus system is about risk and reward with a view to increasing the standard of performances. This review commenced in November 2023 in preparation for commencement from 1 February. To get a starting point for statistical data, a detailed analysis of the last 12 months was undertaken. Information was gathered from ISA ranking document, champ series and club results. Categories from Preliminary to Junior were analysed. Data analysed for each category – Bonus Jumps performed, how many succeeded and how many did not; GOEs; results with or without bonus points; effects on competition result and ISA rankings; which were the preferred bonus jump of choice. High Performance Committee was consulted for their input.

From this analysis, an updated ISA communication was presented first to ISA Coaching Committee for input before submitting to ISA Board. Discussions via zoom with ISA Coaching Committee members took place on whether the Bonus system is effective. Without any statistical data, there was no conclusion. It was agreed that the bonus system is a motivational tool for the skaters and coaches. However, ISA Coaching Committee members were concerned the bonus system affected the ISA ranking for international selection with programs performed at international competitions recorded in the ISA Rankings. These programs (with bonus jumps according to ISA bonus system) did not have bonus points applied and this potentially could affect rankings and the selection process.

Data gathered over the previous 12 months from Champ Series events indicated the most used and successful combination jumps were toe combinations. To help increase the use and success of loop combination jumps, it was agreed to remove the toe combination jumps from receiving bonus points and to add 2Lo+2Lo as a bonus jump combination with the other existing loop combination jumps with a view to alternating toe/loop combination jumps each year.

After consultation with ISA Coaching Committee, the recommended changes to the current bonus communication for 2024 ISA skating season as summarised below were submitted to the board for approval. However, the recommended changes were not approved by the board with the comment, *“Will be placed on hold for this current season. Review in June after consideration of bonus system and impact on Season Ranking of athletes/inclusion of previous/current competition seasons.”*

➤ **Recommended changes not approved**

- For ISA Ranking calculation purposes only (except for Advanced Novice category), any competition scores with bonuses will have bonus points removed before recorded in the ISA Season Ranking document. Competition

Technical Element Scores inclusive of bonuses will be valid for competition results and 2024 AFSC qualification purposes.

- Preliminary – Each different double jump replaced ‘any double jump’ (data showed 2S widely used and repeated)
- Basic Novice, Intermediate and Intermediate Novice – Double lutz/double loop; double lutz/double toe; double flip/double loop; double flip/double toe replaced with Double lutz/double loop; double flip/double loop; double loop/double loop (data showed double toe widely used and received bonus. Loop combinations less used and less success.)
- Junior Women Free – changed from ‘any triple’ to 1.0 bonus point for any triple/triple combination or 1.0 bonus point for triple axel, triple lutz, triple flip, triple loop.

## 8. AFSC scores

- Review commenced September 2023; Submitted 29/1/24; Not approved 24/2/24 (ISA Comm 156 released 21/3/24 with previous seasons scores)

### ➤ Overview

In September 2023, the ISA board requested Technical Regulations Committee to review AFSC scores for 2024 ISA season. Of all the tasks the Technical Regulations Committee has undertaken, this by far was the biggest undertaking with many hours’ work and input by ISA standing committees, many ISA officials and coaches from different areas of the sport. There was no documentation available with detail on how all the current total element scores were calculated. To determine total element scores, it required all technical element scores (Single/Pair Skating/Ice Dance/Solo Ice Dance/Adults all categories and segments) to be recalculated from scratch.

The current AFSC TES scores were formulated back in 2022 based on ISA AGM “resolving unanimously that in the interest of a consistent approach to qualifying TES scores for AFSC entry across Australia, ISA should develop and implement the qualifying TES scores for AFSC”. Since then, there have been significant changes in required elements and their SOV which has affected Total Element Scores.

The methodology used for the presented scores was to break up each segment in each discipline using the lowest minimum required elements within the rules with an appropriate GOE for a **minimum performance standard** to qualify for AFSC. To assist with these calculations, international TES were generated at the same time as it made sense to use the same technical elements for international scores using higher spin levels, less deductions (i.e. under-rotated jumps) or increased revolutions in jumps, higher step levels and increasing/decreasing GOEs for elements. The current international TES scores were last generated back in **2019**.

The principle of the scores is about a minimum performance standard. Considerations made looked at performance steppingstones from Test - AFSC TES - International TES.



Current results were researched and compared with suggested scores to ensure proposed scores did not appear inflated unnecessarily. ISA rankings were compared to see what impact new scores may have on rankings; champ series results for performances; international scores comparisons, zoom meetings, numerous checks and balances.

As an example:

Intermediate Novice – current min 10

- 2022/2023 season step sequence was replaced with choreo sequence. A large increase in base values. StSq1 = 1.8 ChSq1 = 3.0 (StSq2 BV = 2.6)
- Below result has 2 falls 3 downgraded jumps and 3 elements with -5 but currently is a AFSC qualifying program.
- Under by-law test GOE requirements, would not pass Basic Novice Technical Test

#### INTERMEDIATE NOVICE GIRLS FREE SKATING

Rank	Name	Nation	Starting Number	Total Segment Score	Total Element Score	Total Program Component Score (factored)	Total Deductions									
17	[REDACTED]	NSW	18	25.58	10.33	16.25	-1.00									
#	Executed Elements	Info	Base Value	GOE	J1	J2	J3	J4	J5	J6	J7	J8	J9	Ref.	Scores of Panel	
1	2F<<+1Lo	<<	1.00	-0.18	-4	-3	-4	-5	-3	-4	-3				0.82	
2	2F<<	<<	0.50	-0.19	-4	-3	-5	-4	-4	-4	-3				0.31	
3	2T<<	F	0.40	-0.20	-5	-5	-5	-5	-5	-5	-5				0.20	
4	CCoSp2		2.50	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	1				2.50	
5	1Lz+1A+SEQ		1.70	-0.11	-2	1	-1	-2	0	-1	-1				1.59	
6	ChSq1		3.00	0.10	0	1	0	1	0	-2	0				3.10	
7	1A		1.10	-0.15	0	-1	-1	-4	-2	-2	-1				0.95	
8	CSSp2V	F	1.73	-0.87	-5	-5	-5	-5	-5	-5	-5				0.86	
			<b>11.93</b>												<b>10.33</b>	
Program Components				Factor												
Composition				1.70	3.50	3.50	3.00	2.75	3.50	3.00	3.25					3.25
Presentation				1.70	3.25	3.25	2.75	3.25	3.25	3.00	3.00					3.15
Skating Skills				1.70	3.25	3.25	3.00	3.00	3.25	3.00	3.25					3.15
<b>Judges Total Program Component Score (factored)</b>															<b>16.25</b>	

#### Recommended AFSC score Intermediate Novice 13.4

#### INTERMEDIATE NOVICE GIRLS FREE SKATING

Rank	Name	Nation	Starting Number	Total Segment Score	Total Element Score	Total Program Component Score (factored)	Total Deductions									
9	[REDACTED]	NSW	7	28.27	13.40	14.87	0.00									
#	Executed Elements	Info	Base Value	GOE	J1	J2	J3	J4	J5	J6	J7	J8	J9	Ref.	Scores of Panel	
1	2Lo+1A+SEQ		2.80	-0.20	-2	-2	-1	-1	0	-1					2.60	
2	2S		1.30	-0.02	0	0	-1	0	0	0					1.28	
3	CCoSp2V		1.88	-0.16	-1	-1	-1	-1	-2	1					1.72	
4	2Lo		1.70	-0.09	0	-1	-1	-1	0	0					1.61	
5	1F		0.50	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0					0.50	
6	ChSq1		3.00	-0.17	-2	-1	0	1	1	-1					2.83	
7	1A+1Lo		1.60	-0.06	0	-2	0	0	0	-1					1.54	
8	CSSp2V		1.73	-0.41	-4	-3	-2	-1	-2	-2					1.32	
			<b>14.51</b>												<b>13.40</b>	
Program Components				Factor												
Composition				1.70	2.75	2.50	3.25	3.75	3.00	2.50						2.96
Presentation				1.70	2.75	2.75	3.00	3.50	3.25	2.50						2.96
Skating Skills				1.70	3.25	2.50	2.75	3.00	2.75	2.75						2.83
<b>Judges Total Program Component Score (factored)</b>															<b>14.87</b>	

Basic Novice current min TES 8.3 does not accommodate the extra jump introduced in 2023/2024 season. Subsequently this “Australian” season (results up to Dec 2023), out of the 48 skaters with ISA Rankings all 48 skaters have the current AFSC qualifying score. As a comparison, reviewing this score from 8.3 to the proposed 13.0, out of those 48 Basic Novice skaters 33 would still have the score to qualify for AFSC.

Further comparisons; Intermediate Novice 38 skaters – 36 with current qualifying score. With the proposed score 27 skaters would still have a qualifying score. The biggest drop is in ISA Intermediate. Currently, 40 skaters with 30 qualifying scores. The proposed score reduces this number from 30 to 12. Advanced Novice – 49 skaters currently with 47 qualifying. The proposed change reduces Advanced Novice to 34 skaters qualified.

➤ **Update summary**

Before presenting to ISA Board, a final draft of these scores (including all calculations for all categories) were presented to the High Performance and ISA Coaching Committee members for consideration. A zoom meeting was conducted with ISA Coaching Committee for discussion, for input and feedback on the proposed scores. Following discussions, the scores were accepted as being realistic and achievable without any changes.

All scores were presented to the board in time for implementation for 2024 Australian skating season.

The Board considered the scores and the motion that was passed was: ***“That the 2023 AFSC Qualification Scores remain the same for qualification to the 2024 AFSC and that the Board will review the scores in September 2024 with a view to amending the required scores for qualification to the 2025 AFSC.”***

## Conclusion

My first year as Chair of the ISA Technical Regulations Committee has been quite busy, with several by-laws to be amended as well as the revision and creation of new ISA Communications.

I would like to thank ISA Member Delegates for your votes in electing me and entrusting me with this important role in our sport. The Technical Regulations Committee and I will continue to provide a logical approach to advance our sport.

Also, I would like to thank the ISA board for its support and especially Angelique Clyde-Smith as Assistant to Chair Technical Regulations (Ice Dance) for all her work and expertise in producing the Ice Dance and Solo Ice Dance technical regulations and by-law updates. With the expansion of Solo Ice Dance, this has created an enormous amount of work. I look forward to continuing working with Angelique and all the ISA Standing Committees, ISA officials and coaches.

If there is one thing the Technical Regulations Committee wishes to see changed, it is the board's approval procedures. It is understood that time is required to read, understand and discuss submissions before voting, but it is also critical that ISA by-laws and communications are approved and published in a timely and organised manner. There appears to be a large wait time between when by-laws and/or communications are submitted for approval and when they are approved and then published. I have noted submission and approval dates in my report. Moving forward, I will assist wherever I can to improve the flow of information for the betterment of the sport.

