Ice Skating Australia Limited
Affiliated to the International Skating Union

ISA Communication 178

Aussie Skate™
Changes to Aussie Skate Ice Dance

Date Approved: December, 2025 **Effective Start Date:** 1 January 2026

1. Purpose of the Communication

To advise of changes to the Aussie Skate Ice Dance Curriculum. This includes the replacement of two of the current dances with two new dances.

2. Application of the Communication

These changes will apply from 1st January 2026. If any rink is teaching Aussie Skate Ice Dance, they will be required to incorporate these into their Aussie Skate Programs.

This will also result in a change to Aussie Skate Ice Dance competitions as the two new dances will now be competitive dances and can be performed as either solo or couples.

3. Communication Details

Reason for the change

The two dances currently in Aussie Skate Ice Dance 3 & 4 (Swing Dance and Fiesta Tango) are also in ISA Elementary Dance Test. With the introduction of Solo Ice Dance as an international competitive discipline, it was deemed appropriate to bring in dances that are more suitable for beginning skaters that can be done without a partner while skaters are still learning and gain confidence in the discipline of Ice Dance.

These are forward facing dances with no turns and easy to teach in a group class as skaters can easily follow the coach.

This would encourage continued training in a variety of dances and increase competency in different styles of pattern dance.

What are the changes?

Aussie Skate Ice Dance Level	Old Pattern Dance	New Pattern Dance to replace
3	Swing Dance	Baby Blues
4	Fiesta Tango	Swing Foxtrot

Dance Elements

The following elements will be part of the curriculum of Aussie Skate lessons for Aussie Skate Ice Dance 3 & 4. These elements will be evaluated as part of each ice dance test.

Baby Blues

- Cross Roll Swing
- Swing Roll with Change of Edge (O-I)
- Progressive (Run) LFO to RFI to LFI
- Progressive (Run) RFO to LFI to RFI
- Russian or Power Stroking to 4/4 Timing
- Waltz Hold – demonstrate hold
- 2 sequences of the Baby Blues Pattern – one circuit of rink

Videos of Baby Blues
There are a number of clips of the Baby Blues performed in the link below
baby blues ice dance tutorial - YouTube

Swing Foxtrot

- Consecutive Forward Cross Rolls (4 steps)
- Cross Roll Swing (both feet)
- Step RFI to LFI (series of 4 steps)
- Step RFI to LFI (with foot tuck under behind skating foot)
- Foxtrot Hold – demonstrate hold
- 2 sequences of Swing Foxtrot pattern – one circuit of rink

Videos of the Swing Foxtrot.
Note these examples are from roller skating
Max Montgomery - Swing Foxtrot (part of Prelim Test) - 27 Jan 2013
Patinagem Maria Gomes Swing Foxtrot

Aussie Skate Competitions

These dances will replace the Swing Dance and Fiesta Tango for Aussie Skate Ice Dance competitions.

Aussie Skate Ice Dance Level	Pattern Dance Required
3	Baby Blues
4	Swing Foxtrot

Conducting Aussie Skate Dance Competitions

For Solo Ice Sance events, competition organisers may choose to have two skaters compete at the same time. Skaters will start at opposite ends of the rink and perform their pattern down the long axis of the rink. This will be dependent on rink size and safety considerations.

Aussie Skate Test Levels

Skaters must pass the relevant test to compete in a competition level. However, once they have passed a dance test, they may choose which dance they want to perform for that particular competition. For example, if they have passed the Swing Foxtrot test, they may choose to compete the Dutch Waltz. This is to help skaters develop their dance competency and encourage participation.

	Competition Level			
Test Passed	Dutch Waltz	Tango Canasta	Baby Blues	Swing Foxtrot
Dance 1	Yes	No	No	No
Dance 2	Yes	Yes	No	No
Dance 3	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Dance 4	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Judging of Aussie Skate Dance

Attached with this communication are new guidelines for judging of Aussie Skate Ice Dance Competitions.

For further information about this communication please contact Aussie Skate Committee Chair Kim Wilson at aussie.skate@isa.org.au.

Aussie Skate Judging – Ice Dance
Guidelines for applying GOEs to Elements

These are guidelines to assist judges when evaluating ice dance pattern dances performed in competition. These guidelines apply to Aussie Skate Ice Dance 1-4.

General Guidelines

- All events are to take place on full ice.
- Each dance is one round of the rink. See Requirements below.
- Partnered Ice Dance and Solo Ice Dance must be separate competition categories. However the same pattern dance may warm up in the same group.
- Music: Only Official ISU Ice Dance music is permitted (except the last tune) and must be provided by the competitor(s). Ice Dance pattern music is available on the ISA website Ice Dance – Ice Skating Australia | Official Website
- Warm-up: 30 seconds without music, 2 minutes and 30 seconds with music using the last ISU tune.
- After the completion of the last step of the Pattern Dance, the competitor must reach their final pose within 20 seconds. If this time limit is exceeded, a deduction shall apply.
- Dance Patterns can be found at https://www.isa.org.au/ice-dance-technical. Refer to section ISA Ice Dance Patterns.
- For solo dance events, competition organisers may choose to have two skaters compete at the same time. Skaters will start at opposite ends of the rink and perform their pattern down the long axis of the rink. This will be dependent on rink size and safety considerations.

Requirements

Dance 1	Dutch Waltz	2 sequences (1 round)
Dance 2	Canasta Tango	2 sequences (1 round)
Dance 3	Swing Dance	2 sequences (1 round)
Dance 4	Fiesta Tango	2 sequences (1 round)

Judging

Aussie Skate Ice Dance is judged in Program Components only. These include:

- Timing
- Performance
- Skating Skills

Marking Guidelines

Category	Mark Range	Definition	Errors
Blue	4.25 – 5.00	Established/Secure	No errors
Yellow	3.25 – 4.00	Competent/Confident	No serious errors including falls and/or major mistakes which result in a break in the delivery of the program.
Green	2.25 – 3.00	Developing/Progressing	Any type of error MUST be reflected in one or more of the Component Marks. The consequence of the adjustment in mark depends on the severity and impact they have on the fluidity and continuity of the program. This adjustment is applicable to all levels of competition.
Orange	1.25 – 2.00	Emerging/Learning	
Red	0.25 – 1.00	Beginning/Starting	
	0	Not skated	

See below for guidelines on evaluation of the components

Deductions

- Falls - defined as loss of control by a Skater with the result that the majority of his/her own body weight is on the ice supported by any other part of the body other than the blades e.g., hand(s), knee(s), buttock(s), or any part of the arm (ISU Rule 953, paragraph 1).
    - -0.25 for every Fall of one (1) Skater
    - -0.50 for every Fall of both Skaters at the same time
- Time Violation (0.25 for every 5 seconds (or part) in excess of permitted time after the last prescribed step in the Pattern Dance to the ending movement/pose.

Deduction from Timing Component

- Step 1 of the Pattern Dance is not started on the prescribed beat (0.25 for each sequence)

Aussie Skate Ice Dance - Component Guidelines

4.25 to 5.0 **Established/ Secure**	**100% accuracy** throughout the dance Musical Sensitivity is **very evident.**	**Very Good to Excellent:** • Demonstration of character/expression • Use of nuances/accents • Carriage/Body lines • Holds/Positions/Spacing • Unison/Oneness	**Very good to excellent:** • Quality and correctness of edges • Speed/flow/glide **Quiet/No** toe pushing **Maximum use** of the ice surface# Pattern is **correct***
3.25 to 4.0 **Competent/ Confident**	Minimum of 90% accuracy throughout the dance Musical Sensitivity is **evident.**	**Good:** • Demonstration of character/expression • Use of nuances/accents • Carriage/Body lines • Holds/Positions/Spacing • Unison/Oneness	**Good:** • Quality and correctness of edges • Speed/Flow/Glide **Quiet/Minimal** toe pushing Covers **at least 90%** of the ice surface# Pattern is **correct***
2.25 to 3.0 **Developing/ Progressing**	**Minimum of 75% accuracy** throughout the dance **Some** Musical Sensitivity is evident.	**Reasonable/Acceptable:** • Demonstration of character/expression • Use of nuances/accents • Carriage/Body lines • Holds/Positions/Spacing • Unison/Oneness	**Reasonable/Acceptable:** • Quality and correctness of edges (shallow with **few** flats) • Speed/Flow/Glide **Some** noise/**Minimal** toe pushing Covers **at least 75%** of the ice surface# Pattern is **mostly correct*** and
1.25 to 2.0 **Emerging/ Learning**	**Minimum of 50% accuracy** throughout the dance **Little** Musical Sensitivity	**Minimal/inconsistent:** • Demonstration of character/expression • Use of nuances/accents • Carriage/Body lines • Holds/Positions/Spacing • Unison/Oneness	**Weak:** • Quality and correctness of edges (frequent flats) • Speed/Flow/Glide **Noisy/Frequent** toe pushing Covers **at least 50%** of surface# Pattern is **seldom correct***
0.25 to 1.0 **Beginning/ Starting**	**Less than 50% accuracy** throughout the dance **No** Musical Sensitivity	**Little to no:** • Demonstration of character/expression • Use of nuances/accents • Carriage/Body lines • Holds/Positions/Spacing • Unison/Oneness	**Poor:** • Quality and correctness of edges (mostly flats) • Speed/Flow/Glide **Noisy/Frequent** toe pushing Covers **less than 50%** of the ice surface# Pattern is **mostly incorrect** and

#Where ice surface is at least 55m x 25m. Adjustments may be made for smaller rinks.

*Correctness includes not crossing the long axis except where permitted in the pattern. On smaller rinks, some parts of some dances may need to cross the long axis in order to keep the pattern and the edges correct.