

Dance Format

Further to the decision of the ISU Congress 2010 the Ice Dance format has changed this season. Ice Dance competitions are now composed of two segments: Short Dance and Free Dance.

Short Dance

The duration of the Short Dance is two minutes and fifty seconds (plus or minus ten seconds). In the Short Dance the Ice Dance couple create a dance to music with designated rhythms and/or themes, which vary from season to season. The dance reflects the character of selected dance rhythms or themes which are translated to the ice by demonstrating technical skill with steps and movements along with flow and the use of edges. The dance contains elements selected from a list of required elements as well as a full pattern of a Compulsory Dance, which also will be selected annually. Such pattern will be judged on its key-points as well as its integration into the Short Dance as a whole. The rhythm (or group of rhythms) and/or theme(s) as well as the guidelines and technical requirements for the Junior and Senior programs, including specified elements for this season is published in an ISU Communication available on the website and as mentioned below.

Free Dance

The duration of the Novice Free Dance is three minutes, the duration of Junior Free Dance is three and a half minutes and the duration of the Senior Free Dance is four minutes (plus or minus ten seconds respectively).

Free Dance is the skating by the couple of a creative dance program blending dance steps and movements to express the character/rhythms of the dance music chosen by the couple. The Free Dance contains combinations of new or known dance steps, lifts, spins and movements as Required Elements composed into a well balanced program. The skaters display their skating technique as well as creativity in areas such as concept, arrangement, and expression. The program is skated primarily in time to a rhythmic beat rather than to the melody alone and the choreography can be expected to reflect the dance character, accents and nuances of the chosen dance music, demonstrating a close relationship between partners with obvious, distinct changes of mood and pace with variations in speed and tempo.

For detailed information about the season 2011/2012 see Communications 1670, 1671 on www.isu.org