

Competitive Test Restructuring to CPC:

A Basic “How to” for Test Judges

Competitive Test Standard Restructuring to CPC

With the widespread success and use of the Cumulative Points Calculation system for competitive events, the need to revise the Skate Canada Competitive Test Standards has become clear. The primary goal of this restructuring is to align the competitive test standards to the existing standards applied in competitions.

After extensive development and analysis, a revised set of standards are now in place for all competitive tests. The updated test standards are closely linked to the current well balanced program requirements and care has been taken to avoid imposing new or different standards.

The implementation of the new standards required revisions to the test sheets and testing methods. As you will see, the new sheets are easy to use, provide a greater level of feedback to the skater and more closely match the type of assessment taking place in competition.

Formal and informal testing of the new standards occurred this summer. Results were very positive and showed that the established passing scores accurately reflected desired performance levels and results were consistent across both testing methods.

As with the previous system, there are two different ways of taking tests, in a competition setting and at a test day. Each method arrives at the final result in a slightly different way.

Tests taken in Competition

How is this done?

A separate panel of judges for competitive testing during competitions is no longer needed. Now, the results generated by the panel on the event is used to calculate test results. The skater completes their competition free program. At the completion of the performance, the Data Specialists signal the computer to calculate and print the test results. One official on the panel will be assigned as the test referee. This person may be any one of the judges or the event referee, so long as they are qualified to judge tests at this level. As a double check, the test referee will verify and sign the test sheet before it is released to the skater.

For each level there is a minimum technical score, skating skills score, total competition score and mandatory technical requirements (e.g. meeting the double Axel or triple jump requirement at the Junior level) needed to pass the test. If all requirements are met, the result is a pass. If one or more requirements are not met, the result is a retry.

The total passing score was developed by creating theoretical programs based on the minimum acceptable standard for the given level of competition. The passing standards are based on skaters performing elements with good quality, meaning that fifty percent or more of their elements should be at a zero (0) Grade Of Execution or higher. A minimum technical score is also required to pass the tests ensuring that program component scores cannot be used to bring the total competition score above the standard in cases where the technical elements are lacking.

The Pre-Novice dance test is currently the only competitive test that cannot be taken within the competition setting.

Tests taken outside of Competition at a Test Day

Tests will be evaluated by a panel of three judges, with a pass from two of the three judges needed for the test to pass. Tests outside of competitions are evaluated on the quality of the elements executed as well as the five program component scores. There are minimum passing requirements for GOE and program component scores along with mandatory technical elements. This can be found in section 5000 of the Skate Canada Rule Book.

How is this done in singles and pairs?

Each judge identifies the elements executed and assigns a GOE score. The judge is NOT responsible for identifying the level of difficulty to an element. As each element is skated, the element will be recorded in the appropriate box (e.g. the first jump element completed goes in jump box #1). Extra elements will be ignored. Any empty box will be given a GOE score of -3 to compensate for the missing element. Spins and jumps must meet the requirements specified on the test sheet or else the element is given a -3. For example, if a combination spin with change of foot is required in the program, yet all executed spins are in one position (not a combination), the last spin that does not meet any other requirements shall be assigned a -3 GOE.

Special conditions for Junior and Senior Singles: In **Junior**, if a jump element is made up entirely of single jumps (excluding single axel) the jump element is automatically assigned a -3 GOE. In **Senior**, if a jump element is made up entirely of singles jumps (including single Axel) the jump element is automatically assigned a -3 GOE.

At the completion of the program, the GOE scores will be totaled. To meet the GOE requirement, the sum of all GOE scores must be -6 or higher. The judge will then assign a score to each of the five program components, just as they would in a competition. The sum of the program components will also be recorded on the test sheet.

Based on the test being attempted, there are specific passing requirements for both technical content and program components. In the technical content section, the skater must meet the minimum standards of technical difficulty. For example, at the Juvenile singles level, the skater must complete two different double jumps to pass. In the program component section, the skater must meet the minimum total component score and the minimum skating skills score. The minimum skating skills score required for each level is the same across all three disciplines.

If all requirements are met, the result is a pass. If one or more requirements are not met, the result is a retry.

How is this done in dance?

Dance tests are scored in a similar fashion to the singles and pairs. Technical elements are identified and given a GOE score, and then components are scored at the end of the program. Novice, Junior and Senior competitive dance tests are taken using the skaters' free dance. At the Novice level, the total GOE score must be -6 or higher. At the Junior and Senior levels the total GOE score increases to -5 or higher. Program components are scored in the same manner as in singles and pairs.

The content of the Pre-Novice dance test remains the same. Each stroking exercise is given a GOE score and must receive a zero (0) or higher to pass.

As an extra condition for Junior and Senior tests, both step sequences must be scored at a -1 GOE or higher to pass the test.

Frequently Asked Questions

General Questions

Q. Why are we changing the test system?

A. The primary goal in revising the competitive test system is to maintain a closer link between the existing competitive standards and testing requirements. This change will bring the judging system for tests into line with the judging system for competition.

Q. When does this system take effect?

A. The new competitive test standards take effect on October 1, 2007.

Q. Can we still do tests in the old system?

A. No. As of October 1, 2007 all competitive singles, pairs and dance tests must use the new system. Test sheets are available on the Skate Canada Members Only Web Site under "Technical and Program information / Test Sheets"

Q. We did a test day on October 2, using the old system, is this test result valid?

A. No. Any tests done on or after October 1, 2007 must be conducted using the new system.

Q. What happens if the ISU makes changes to the scale of values or technical requirements?

A. Skate Canada will regularly assess the standards based on any changes the ISU makes to the scale of values and/or the principles of calculation associated with the CPC system. We anticipate that minor changes may be required on a yearly basis. This type of change would happen on July 1st of the given skating season.

Q. Will the test standards change throughout the season?

A. No. If modifications to the test standards are required because of changes from the ISU, the new standards will come into effect on July 1st of the relevant skating season. These modifications would only be used to maintain a passing standard in the case of changing scale of values/ principles of communication/ well balanced program rules. If an alteration to the passing standard is required to make the test more or less difficult, this type of change would come into effect on October 1st of a given year.

Q. If I'm taking a test during a spring competition, and the well balanced program criteria is changing for the following season, may I take my test with the new program requirements?

A. No. Tests must be taken using the program requirements of the current season starting July 1st and finishing the June 30th following.

Q. Have the new competitive standards been tested? If so how?

A. The system was tested throughout the summer of 2007. At Minto Summer Skate, the minimum passing totals established by Skate Canada were analyzed against actual performance levels. Passing requirements proved accurate when compared with actual performances. At the Quebec Summer Provincial Competition, testing was completed to ensure consistency between the two methods of testing. At the event, judges evaluated entire flights of skaters and results were compared to the competition scores. Outcomes were positive with the vast majority (85%-90%) of results were identical between the two methods.

Q. Is it true that when the new system was tested there were inconsistencies when the same test was evaluated using the competition and test day criteria?

A. During testing, minor discrepancies occurred in two cases --- "borderline" passes and in situations where skaters attempted a significantly higher level of difficulty than required. Borderline tests (as in the past) will always be subject to the interpretations of evaluators in competition and test day formats regardless of the testing system being used. The zone of subjectivity has been narrowed with the new testing system and an acceptable level of tolerance has been achieved.

For skaters attempting a significantly higher level of difficulty but with multiple errors, the results in competition testing were considered borderline passes. Under the test day system, these tests would not pass due to the number of GOE reductions. This inconsistency is considered acceptable as it would be highly unlikely to have a skater executing a higher level of difficulty in a test day situation.

Tests Taken Outside of a Competition

Q. Why is the total GOE score for singles and pair tests -6 or higher for tests taken outside of competitions?

A. The total GOE score of -6 or higher allows for the skater to make a maximum of two serious errors and still pass the test. It also allows for skaters to make up for weaknesses in some areas with stronger performances in another area. This replicates the scoring process in tests taken in competition.

Q. Can tests still be judged by a single panel?

A. Yes. The preference is for a panel of 3 judges, however if a single panel is needed, tests can be conducted by one judge. As before, passing marks are required from two of the three evaluators for the test to be successful.

Q. As a Judge do I have to call levels of technical elements during a test?

A. No. Your responsibilities when judging a competitive test are the same as judging a performance in a competition setting – you identify the elements, note any errors or positives and assess the quality of each element.

Q. Have the summary test sheets changed as well?

A. No, the summary sheets remain the same. When entering results, a P for pass and a R for retry will be recorded for each judge. Total scores are no longer required. The overall test result is determined as in the past - 2 out of 3 judges are required to pass the test for an overall pass.

Q. Is the goal of the test system to discourage skaters from taking tests at test days?

A. The goal of the new test system is to retain a strong link between competitive standards and the testing system. Skaters should be judged using a method that replicates the competitive experience as closely as possible. Athletes are encouraged to select the testing location that best suits their needs.

Q. When planning a test day, do clubs need to schedule more time for competitive tests using this system?

A. No, tests should take approximately the same amount of time as in the previous system.

Tests Taken at a Competition

Q. For tests taken in competition can high program component scores compensate for low technical scores?

A. No, there are minimum required scores for technical elements and total score. Both of these criteria need to be met, for the test to pass. Additionally, each test has various technical requirements (e.g. two double jumps for Juvenile singles or two step sequences with a GOE of -1 or higher for Junior and Senior dance) that are mandatory for tests to pass.

Q. What do the test sheets for tests in competition look like?

A. A detailed sheet will show all elements (including their level of difficulty), the trimmed mean GOE scores for each element, the total element score, the trimmed mean program component scores, the total program component scores as well as any other specific requirements for an individual test.

Q. What is a trimmed mean?

A. When the judging panels are composed of five or more judges, the trimmed mean is calculated by dropping the highest and the lowest score, then calculating the mean (or average) of the remaining scores. When the judging panels are composed of 4 judges or fewer, all scores are used in calculating the trimmed mean.

Q. If a skater does not register for a test in advance of the competition, yet achieves the standards for the test in the event can the test be awarded?

A. No, skaters must register for their test prior to the competition

Q. If a skater attempting the Pre-Novice test achieves the passing standards for the Novice test, can the skater be awarded both tests?

A. No, the skater can only be assessed for the test at the level in which they are competing

Q. Is there a higher pass rate for tests done in competitions versus traditional test days?

A. No. Testing of the new competitive test system showed a high correlation between results of tests taken in competition and those taken at traditional test days. Skate Canada will continue to monitor the new testing system for any inconsistencies that may exist.

Q. Will doing these tests during a competition take more time than the competitive judging process?

A. No. Completing tests during a competition is a seamless process that is fast and easy for the judges, skaters and data specialists. The computer system handles the calculation process and the data specialists print a copy of the test sheet at the conclusion of the event.

Q. If we are running the competition without touch panels or laptops, how do we do the competitive tests?

A. Once the Data Specialists have manually input the scores and the final results have been calculated, the test sheet can be printed and signed by the test referee assigned to the test.

Dance & Pairs

Q. How will the Pre-Novice free dance test work with this new system?

A. The content for the Pre-Novice free dance remains unchanged. All exercises must receive a GOE of zero (0) or higher to pass.

Q. Is the content for the Pre-Novice dance test changing?

A. Not at this time, however Skate Canada is looking into other possible formats and contents for this test.

Q. Why is the passing standard higher for Junior and Senior dance tests (-5 or higher GOE total) than singles and pairs (-6 or higher GOE total) tests?

A. In ice dancing the relative level of difficulty does not increase at the same rate as singles or pairs. The higher standard is set to measure an increasing quality of performance as teams move up through the competitive tests. i.e. a higher standard of performance is measured through lower tolerance for error.

Q. Why do Junior and Senior dance both have the same total GOE requirement when there is an extra element at the Senior level?

A. This is to reflect the expectation of improvement of quality with fewer mistakes. More elements with the same GOE total means a lower tolerance for error.

Q. Are judges expected to know the groupings for pair lifts during the test?

A. Yes. Judges are expected to be able to identify elements, errors and quality for all disciplines, this includes the groupings for pair lifts.

Q. How does this system work for tests taken as a couple?

A. For competitive pair and dance tests the skaters are evaluated as a couple and one set of scores will be awarded to both skaters. If one of the skaters has previously passed the test, the current test will apply only to the test candidate.

Singles

Q. Is there a mandatory GOE for jump requirements when completed as a solo jump or as the last jump of a combination? If so, why ?

A. Yes. If the jump is executed as a solo jump, or as the last jump of a combination or sequence, the GOE for the element must be -1 to meet the requirement. If the jump is the first jump of a combination or sequence, the element is considered to have met the requirement, regardless of GOE. This was done to compensate the skater if they landed the first jump of a combo or sequence and then fell on the second jump.

Q. If a skater taking the Junior competitive singles test performs a double Axel, double toe-loop combination and the double Axel is more than a ¼ turn under rotated does this meet the mandatory passing requirement?

A. No. The mandatory jump requirement necessitates that the double Axel be rotated with less than ¼ turn cheat.

Q. What happens in a singles test if the skater does not perform an Axel type jump?

A. If the skater completed the maximum number of jump elements and did not include an Axel the last jump element performed is given a -3 GOE regardless of how it was performed. If the skater did not use all of the allocated jump elements, consider the last empty jump box to be taken by the Axel and give it a -3 GOE.

Q. Where can I get more information?

A. Test sheets can be found in the Members Only section of the Skate Canada website. You can also contact Rob Davison at: rdavison@skatecanada.ca with questions not addressed in this document.

Sample Test Sheet

You are judging a Juvenile Free Program, The elements and GOEs you recorded are as follows:

Element Skated	GOE rewarded	Comment
1Lz	0	
FSSp	-1	Weak position
2T	-2	Step out
2S	0	
CCoSp	+1	Fast rotation
1F	0	
1Lz + 2T + C	0	
2T + 1T + C	0	
SISt	0	
2S + 1Lo + C	-1	Hand touch down
CUpSp	0	
1F	+1	
1A	0	

The example on the next page is how the test would appear and be marked using the new competitive test standards and sheets.

Note: In the competition setting the 1F and 1A would be invalidated as they are the 8th and 9th jump element (there is a maximum of 7 jumps allowed at the Juvenile level). On the test sheet example below, there are only 7 jump boxes available, therefore the 1F and 1A are not counted.

JUVENILE COMPETITIVE SINGLES TEST JUDGING SHEET

HOME CLUB COPY

Club Holding Test			
Candidate		Date (D/M/Y)	
Home Club of Candidate		Coach	
Signature of Judge		Judge	
FREE SKATING PROGRAM			
	Pass <input type="checkbox"/>	Retry <input type="checkbox"/>	

JUVENILE COMPETITIVE SINGLES TEST JUDGING SHEET

Candidate _____ Judge _____ Date _____ (D/M/Y)

CANDIDATE'S COPY

TECHNICAL CONTENT		Element	GOE	COMMENTS
Jumps	1st Jump Element	1Lz	0	
	2nd Jump Element	2T	-2	
	3rd Jump Element	2S	0	
	4th Jump Element	1F	0	
	5th Jump Element	1Lz + 2T + C	0	
	6th Jump Element	2T + 1T + C	1	changed to -3 as 3rd repeated 2T
	7th Jump Element	2S + 1Lo + C	0	changed to -3 as missing axel requirement
Spins	Combination Spin w . change of foot. Minimum 3 rotations on each foot	CCoSp	1	
	Flying Spin Minimum 4 rotations	FSSp	-1	
	Spin of any nature Minimum 4 rotations	CUpSp	0	
Steps / Spirals	Step Sequence	SISt	0	
Sum of GOE scores			3	changed to -8 with WBP changes * Program no longer meets GOE requirement

The program must contain at least **two** different double jumps. Maximum 3 combinations or sequences. One combination may include three jumps. Three different jumps may be repeated and no jump may be repeated more than twice.
Additional elements beyond the maximum allowed shall not be considered. An omitted element or an element not meeting the Well Balanced Program criteria shall be considered as a "-3"

Two different double jumps at -1 GOE or better OR as 1st jump of combination or sequence? *Required Content to Pass	Passing Requirement met? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<i>Passing Requirement, Sum of all GOE scores must be -6 or higher</i>	Passing Requirement met? <input type="checkbox"/>

PROGRAM COMPONENTS	SCORE	COMMENTS
Skating Skills <small>*Must be 2.00 or higher</small>	2.25	
Transitions/Linking Footwork and Movement	1.75	
Performance/Execution	2.50	
Choreography/Composition	2.00	
Interpretation	1.50	
Sum of component scores	10.00	

Total Component Score (sum of 5 PC Marks) Passing Total = 10.00	Passing Requirement met? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Does the Skating Skills Score = 2.00 or higher? *Required for Pass	Passing Requirement met? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Result	RETRY
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All 4 passing requirements must be met to pass