



September 8, 2004

Skater Clarification Sheet: Senior and Junior Singles and Pairs Competition Season 2004-2005 (6.0 System)

Please check your programs with your coach prior to coming to the competition. Your program must meet the well-balanced program requirements or you will receive deductions.

The short program elements are located in the 2004-2005 U.S. Figure Skating rulebook.

The requirements for the well-balanced free skating program are also located in the 2004-2005 U.S. Figure Skating rulebook. Note that these requirements are brand new this season. They are also listed and discussed in the free skating portion of this clarification.

Caution: in the free skating program, you must not exceed the maximum number of elements allowed. If you exceed the maximum number allowed for jumps, spins, step/spiral step sequences and lifts, 0.2 will be deducted from your technical score for each element in excess of the maximum.

SINGLES

To be skated according to the requirements as found in the 2004-2005 U.S. Figure Skating Rulebook, as clarified by the ISU. Important changes and/or clarifications are:

Senior and Junior Singles: Short Program

CHECK 2004-2005 U.S. Figure Skating RULEBOOK FOR REQUIRED ELEMENTS.

Length of the short program for singles

- **The short program for senior and junior singles has been lengthened to a maximum of 2 minutes and 50 seconds.** (Please note that programs that are shorter are perfectly acceptable). The reason is to allow skaters additional time to perform more challenging spins and step sequences, as well as transitions between elements.

Jumps

- **Junior Only** - double or triple loop immediately preceded by connecting steps or other free skating movements. This jump cannot be repeated. A double loop and a triple loop are not counted as the same jump.
 - Therefore, the skater may choose to do a triple loop with steps immediately preceding the jump, and then have a double loop in the combination. Likewise, a skater may also do a triple loop in the combination and do the double loop with steps immediately preceding the jump.

Spins Generally

- If a skater falls when entering a spin, a simple spin or a spinning movement is allowed immediately after this fall (for the purpose of filling time) with this spin/movement not being counted as an extra or added element.
 - In this case, there should be no deduction for an added element. The only deduction would be for a fall (or error) in the spin itself.
 - However, if a skater falls on a spin and then attempts the same spin again there should be a deduction for an added element.

Solo spin

- **Flying Spin:** the skater must do eight (8) revolutions in the landing position, which may be different than the flying position. Examples of landing positions differing from the flying position are a death drop or flying arabian entrance into sit spin. Variations of the basic landing position are acceptable during the initial eight revolutions (i.e., flying camel may be varied by such camel positions as a layover camel or a donut; flying sit may be varied by another sit position, such as a layover sit or a tuck sit, but the sit position must not be interrupted to accomplish the variation). A Biellmann is not considered a variation of a basic camel position. No change of foot is allowed in the short program flying spin.
- **Layback Spin:** the required revolutions must be executed in layback position or a variation thereof such as a sideways leaning spin or a change in position of the free leg only. A Biellmann, while an upright spin in basic classification, is not considered a "variation" of the initial layback position in the senior and junior ladies short program since it requires a change in the core body position. A Biellmann position may be used after the eight revolutions in the layback have been executed, however.

Combination spin

- **Senior and Junior-level skaters must include all three of the basic positions** (camel, sit and upright) in their combination spin.
- **In a spin combination, the minimum number of revolutions required in each position is two (2)**. In case this requirement is not fulfilled, the position is not counted.
- Combination spin must have only one change of foot.

Step Sequences

- A straight line step sequence may commence at any place of the short barrier and may go to any place of the opposite short barrier as long as the approximate shape of the straight line is maintained.
- Other patterns (circular/oval and serpentine) remain unchanged in description. Please refer to the U.S. Figure Skating 2004-2005 rulebook.

Spiral Step Sequences

- The description of the spiral step sequence for the short program remains the same as last year. Please refer to the U.S. Figure Skating 2004-2005 rulebook. It is recommended, but not required, that the skater sustain the three required spiral positions for at least three seconds each. Judges for U.S. Figure Skating competitions are permitted to consider the ability of the skater to sustain the three spiral positions and may reflect that in their base mark in establishing the difficulty of the element. (Note for skaters competing internationally: while not a requirement, to increase the level of difficulty, the required spiral positions should be held for three (3) seconds or more.)
- Jumps of not more than one-half (1/2) revolution are permitted in the spiral step sequence.
- Skaters may perform a serpentine or a circular or oval pattern or a combination of these patterns and must fully utilize the ice surface with their pattern.
- **The spiral sequence must include a minimum of three (3) spiral positions with at least one change of foot.**

General Comments: Short Program

Additional elements

- Deductions for any additional element will be taken in the mark for required elements.
- Any unprescribed jumps that are more than one-half (1/2) revolution are considered additional elements.
- Any unprescribed spins that are more than one (1) revolution are considered additional elements except as otherwise stated above.
- The execution of an unprescribed element in place of a prescribed element will be considered as an omission; and an additional deduction of 0.1-0.2 for an extra element will be taken in the mark for required elements.
- Remaining short programs deductions are unchanged for competitors in U.S. Figure Skating competitions.

Senior and Junior Singles: Free Skate

!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!Well-Balanced Program Requirements for Senior and Junior!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

The requirements adopted by the ISU took effect for U.S. Figure Skating competitions on Sept. 1, 2004, for all senior and junior events. It is customary for U.S. Figure Skating to adopt the ISU rules for programs affecting senior and junior programs to maintain consistency. The new requirements are outlined below.

Well-Balanced Program Requirements

Senior Men

- Maximum of 8 jump elements (one of which must be an Axel type jump)
- Maximum of 4 spins, one of which must be a spin-combination, one a flying spin and one a spin with only one position
- Maximum of 2 step sequences of a different nature—one is required, but not more than two

Senior Ladies

- Maximum of 7 jump elements (one of which must be an Axel type jump)
- Maximum of 4 spins, one of which must be a spin-combination, one a flying spin and one a spin with only one position
- Maximum of 2 step sequences, one of which must be a spiral step sequence

Junior Men

- Maximum of 8 jump elements (one of which must be an Axel type jump)
- Maximum of 3 spins, one of which must be a spin-combination, one a flying spin and one a spin with only one position
- Maximum of 2 step sequences of a different nature—one is required, but not more than two

Junior Ladies

- Maximum of 7 jump elements (one of which must be an Axel type jump)
- Maximum of 3 spins, one of which must be a spin-combination, one a flying spin and one a spin with only one position
- Maximum of 2 step sequences, one of which must be a spiral step sequence

MAXIMUM MEANS MAXIMUM: For U.S. Figure Skating COMPETITIONS, SKATERS WILL RECEIVE A 0.2 DEDUCTION FOR EVERY ELEMENT ABOVE THE MAXIMUM ALLOWED.

Jump Elements Generally:

- A jump must contain at least one revolution to be counted as a jump element.
- Jump elements are made up of jumps found in the ISU Scale of Values. These include the toe loop, Salchow, loop, flip, Lutz and Axel and the multi-revolution jumps from these categories. These jumps are referred to in this Clarification as "Classified Jumps."
- A one-foot Axel is considered an Axel jump element, although it is not specifically listed in the ISU Scale of Values. It is an exception to the rule stated above and will be counted as fulfilling the requirement of an "Axel type jump", as well as a jump element.
- **Note:** walley jumps and inside Axels are not found in the ISU Scale of Values. These jumps, along with half turn jumps such as half loop, split jump, stag jump and falling leaf, are **not** considered to be jump elements in the new well-balanced program rules and are not limited. These jumps are referred to in this clarification as "Unclassified Jumps." Be advised that these Unclassified Jumps will not increase a skater's technical merit mark. Judges will evaluate such Unclassified Jumps as transitions/skating movements. The inside axel jump will **not** fulfill the requirement for an "axel type jump."

Definition of Jump Elements: A **jump element** is defined as an individual jump, a jump combination or a jump sequence.

- **Individual jumps.** Individual jumps are jumps that are not in combination or sequence.
- **Jump combinations.**
 - Jump Combinations may consist of the same or another single, double, triple, or quadruple jump.
 - **There may be up to three (3) jump combinations or jump sequences in the FS program**, but a skater will not receive a deduction if he or she elects not to execute any jump combinations or sequences. The judge in U.S. Figure Skating competitions is free to factor a lack of any jump combination or sequence into the mark for technical merit so it is wise to include them. (In ISU competitions, the skater may lose significant points if he or she does not make wise use of jump combinations or jump sequences in his or her free program.) The choice is the skater's.
 - **One three-jump combination is permitted. The remaining jump combinations are limited to two-jumps only.**
- **Jump sequence** may consist of any number of jumps of any number of revolutions linked by hops and turns immediately following each other. There **cannot be more than one (1) revolution on the ice between any hop or jump**, the **sequence must have a constant rhythm** and there can be **no crossovers during the sequence**.
 - **If there is more than one revolution between any hop or jump, or if there are crossovers, then the jumps shall be considered two separate jump elements with connecting steps or transitions and shall take up two of the skater's allowed jump elements.**
 - Sequences which contain **only** Unclassified Jumps, including jumps of less than one (1) revolution performed as part of connecting footwork are permitted and are not considered to be jump elements (split jump, falling leaf, stag, half loop, etc.). As noted above, walley jumps and inside axels are Unclassified Jumps and are permitted within these jump sequences. Remember, Unclassified Jumps are evaluated by the judge in US competitions as part of transitions/skating movements and do not receive credit within the mark for technical merit.

Repetitions of jump elements

- Of all the triple and quadruple jumps, only two (2) can be repeated and must be in either a jump combination or sequence. A repeated triple or quadruple solo jump not included in a jump combination or sequence will be considered as a part of an unsuccessfully executed jump combination and counted as a jump combination with only one jump executed. If three (3) jump combinations or jump sequences (in total) have already been executed, the repeated solo jump will be treated as an additional element.

Spin Combinations

- Spin combinations in the free program must contain at least two (2) **different** basic positions or their variations.
- In a spin combination, the minimum number of revolutions required in each position is two (2). In case this requirement is not fulfilled, the judge will reflect this in the technical merit mark as part of the judge's assessment of the execution of the element.
- In the spin combination, the change of foot is optional, but recommended for increased difficulty.
- May commence with a jump.

Flying Spin

- Landing position can be different than the flying position at skater's option.
- During the free program flying spin, the skater may change position and may change feet.
- **Note:** to be counted as a position for purposes of assessing difficulty, a position must be held two revolutions or more before any change occurs.

Spin with only one position

- May commence with a jump.
- **Skater must maintain one position throughout the required revolutions.**
- If the position changes prior to the conclusion of the required revolutions (other than with a permitted variation), the judges shall consider the spin to be a combination spin, rather than a spin with one position.
- **Variations of the basic spinning position are acceptable during the initial eight revolutions (for example, camel may be varied by such camel positions as a layover camel or a donut; sit may be varied by another sit position, such as a layover sit or a tuck sit). However, the basic position must not be interrupted while transitioning to a variation. A Biellmann is considered an upright spin and cannot be considered as a variation of a basic camel position.**
- **Layback Spin:** the required revolutions must be executed in layback position or a variation thereof such as a sideways leaning spin or by executing a change in the position of the free leg only. **Special rules for the Layback Spin: If the skater chooses to do a layback spin, he or she may execute a Biellmann only after the required six (6) revolutions in the layback are completed.**
- Examples of spins with only one position with a change of foot are: sit change sit spin or camel change camel spin. Variations of the position are permitted only as described above.
- The spinning edge may be varied and judges will note that in assessing the technical difficulty of the spin. (In ISU competitions, this is a feature that will be noted by the technical specialist in the determination of the level of the spin.)

Spins—revolutions

- The minimum number of revolutions is **six (6)** for the flying spin and the spin with only one position. Revolutions are counted from the entry to the exit of the spin in the free program.
- Minimum number of revolutions for the combination spin is **ten (10)**. Revolutions are counted from the entry to the exit of the spin in the free program.

Spins generally

- If a skater falls when entering a spin, a simple spin or a spinning movement is allowed immediately after this fall (for the purpose of filling time) with this spin/movement not being counted as a spin element.
- A spin with **less than three (3)** revolutions is considered a skating movement, not a spin.

Step sequences

- The skater has complete freedom in selecting the kind of step sequence he/she intends to execute.
- Men: In U.S. Figure Skating competitions, one step sequence is required. If a second step sequence is executed (and it is recommended that a second step sequence be executed to increase technical difficulty), it must be of a different nature.
- Men: A moves-in-the-field sequence is no longer required. If one is included, it will not fulfill the step sequence requirement for men, nor will it gain the skater extra technical points. However, moves can and should be executed and will be assessed by the judges as transitions/skating movements.
- Jumps can be included in the step sequence, but must not interrupt the flow of the sequence. If the flow of the sequence is interrupted, the steps after the interruption will not be counted. **Cautionary Note: Classified Jumps of one revolution or more within the step sequence will count as a jump element. Such jumps will count against the maximum number of jumps permitted in the program.**
- The step sequence must fully utilize the ice surface.

Spiral step sequence—(ladies)

- Ladies must do a **spiral step sequence** in their free skating program.
- In the free program, the ladies may do any pattern or combination of patterns they wish.
- Three (3) spiral positions are mandatory for the spiral step sequence in the free program. Please see the description for the spiral step sequence given in the short program clarification remarks above.
- It is recommended, but not required, that the skater sustain the three required spiral positions for at least three seconds. Judges will consider the ability of the skater to sustain the three required spiral positions and will reflect that in their technical merit mark. (Note for skaters competing internationally: while not a requirement, to increase the level of difficulty of the spiral step sequence and their grade of execution, the required spiral positions should be held for three (3) seconds or more.)
- In addition to the three mandatory spiral positions, short spiral positions of less than three seconds may be included as transitions within the spiral step sequence.
- A spiral with a change of edge (for example, forward inside to forward outside edge without a change of foot) will be counted as two spiral positions. Sustaining the position both before and after the change of edge for at least three (3) seconds is recommended, but not required, to increase the difficulty of the two positions. (In ISU events, the technical specialist will take this into account in calling the level of difficulty for the spiral step sequence.)
- A jump may be included in the spiral step sequence, but must not interrupt the flow of the sequence. If the flow of the sequence is interrupted, the positions after the interruption will not be counted. **Cautionary Note: Classified Jumps of one revolution or more within the spiral step sequence will count as a jump element. Such jumps will count against the maximum number of jumps permitted in the program.**

Note: Skaters at this level should perform transitions and connecting steps (not just crossovers) throughout the entire program to weave their elements together. (In international competitions, these transitions will be given a separate mark as one of the five marks given for components.) U.S. Figure Skating rules require a deduction of 0.2 from the technical mark if the program lacks connecting steps between the elements.

The following deductions will be taken from the first mark when a skater has not met the well-balanced program requirements.

- If a skater exceeds the maximum number of elements, a deduction of 0.2 must be taken for each element in excess of the maximum. There is no minimum for the senior and junior level.
- No axel type jump: -0.2
- Missing required spin: -0.2
- Missing step sequence (Men) or spiral step sequence (Ladies): -0.2
- Lack of connecting steps between elements: -0.2
- Step sequence or spiral step sequence not fully utilizing the ice: -0.1
- Spins less than required revolutions: -0.1

PAIRS

To be skated according to the requirements as found in the 2004-2005 U.S. Figure Skating rulebook. Important changes and/or clarifications are:

Senior and Junior Pairs: Short Program

CHECK 2004-2005 U.S. Figure Skating RULEBOOK FOR REQUIRED ELEMENTS.

Length of the short program for pairs

- **The short program for senior and junior pairs has been lengthened to a maximum of 2 minutes and 50 seconds.** (Please note that programs that are shorter are perfectly acceptable). The reason is to permit time for the team to execute more challenging lifts, spins and spiral step sequences, as well as transitions between elements.

Lifts

- The **requirement of a split position for the twist lift has been removed and is no longer mandatory.** However, it is still recommended and will increase the difficulty of this element if performed by the team.
- Lifts must have a minimum of two (2) revolutions by the lady and a minimum of one (1) and maximum of three and one-half (3 1/2) revolutions by the man.
- Partners may give each other assistance only through hand-to-hand, hand-to-arm, hand-to-body and hand-to-upper part of leg (above the knee) grips.

Pair spins

- If a skater or both skaters fall when entering a spin, a simple spin or a spinning movement is allowed immediately after this fall (for the purpose of filling time) with this spin/movement not being counted as an extra or added element.
 - In this case, there should be no deduction for an added element. The only deduction would be for a fall (or error) in the spin itself.
 - However, if a skater falls on a spin and then attempts the same spin again there should be a deduction for an added element.
- Pair spin combination
 - May not be commenced with a jump.
 - The minimum number of revolutions required in each position is two (2). In case this requirement is not fulfilled, the position is not counted.
 - **Both the lady and the man must execute at least one change of position (at least two of the three basic positions must be demonstrated); change of position may be executed simultaneously or separately.**
 - **One change of foot (only one) is required and must be done simultaneously by both partners.**
 - Rotation must be continuous and **no stop is permitted.**
 - Eight (8) total revolutions by both partners required.
- Solo spin combination:
 - May be commenced with a jump.
 - One change of foot (only one) and at least one change of position is required
 - Change of foot and change of position may be made at the same time or separately.
 - Change of foot may be executed as a stepover or a jump.
 - Minimum number of revolutions required in each position is two (2).
 - Minimum number of revolutions on each foot is five (5).
 - Concluding upright at end of spin is not considered another position and revolutions in it are not counted.

Death spirals

- In the final position while the lady is performing the actual death spiral, both the man and the lady must execute a minimum of one revolution (man in the pivot position).

Spiral Step Sequence

- The description of the spiral step sequence for the pair short program remains the same as last year. Please refer to the U.S. Figure Skating 2004-2005 rulebook. It is recommended, but not required, that both skaters sustain each of the required spiral positions for at least three seconds each. Judges for U.S. Figure Skating competitions are permitted to consider the ability of the skaters to sustain each of the required spiral positions and may reflect that in their base mark. (Note for skaters competing internationally: while not a requirement, to increase the level of difficulty and grade of execution, the required spiral positions should be held for three (3) seconds or more.)

Senior and Junior Pairs: Free Skate

!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!Well-Balanced Program Requirements for Senior and Junior!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

The requirements adopted by the ISU took effect for U.S. Figure Skating competitions on Sept. 1, 2004, for all senior and junior events. It is customary for U.S. Figure Skating to adopt the ISU rules for programs affecting senior and junior programs to maintain consistency. The new requirements are outlined below.

Well-Balanced Program Requirements

Senior Pairs

- Maximum of 3 lifts, **one of which must be** from group 3 or 4
- Maximum of 1 twist lift (split optional)
- Maximum of 2 different throw jumps
- Maximum of 1 solo jump
- Maximum of 1 jump combination or sequence
- Maximum of 1 solo spin combination
- Maximum of 1 pair spin combination
- Maximum of 1 death spiral
- Maximum of 1 step sequence
- Maximum of 1 sequence of spirals, Ina Bauers, spread eagles and other moves in the field
- Maximum of 1 additional optional element which can be a death spiral (different from the one above), another solo or pair spin combination or a solo or pair spin (seniors only)

Junior Pairs

- Maximum of 3 lifts, **one of which must be** from group 3 or 4
- Maximum of 1 twist lift (split optional)
- Maximum of 2 different throw jumps
- Maximum of 1 solo jump
- Maximum of 1 jump combination or sequence
- Maximum of 1 solo spin or solo spin combination
- Maximum of 1 pair spin or pair spin combination
- Maximum of 1 death spiral
- Maximum of 1 step sequence
- Maximum of 1 sequence of spirals, Ina Bauers, spread eagles and other moves in the field

MAXIMUM MEANS MAXIMUM: For U.S. Figure Skating COMPETITIONS, YOU WILL RECEIVE A 0.2 DEDUCTION FOR EVERY ELEMENT ABOVE THE MAXIMUM ALLOWED.

Lifts

- Must have a minimum of two (2) revolutions by the lady and a minimum of one (1) and maximum of three and one-half (3 1/2) revolutions by the man.
- **One lift must be from Group 3 or 4.**
- Partners may give each other assistance only through hand-to-hand, hand-to-arm, hand-to-body and hand-to-upper part of leg (above the knee) grips.

Carries vs. Carries in a Lift: **Note important distinction!**

- Carry Lift (optional)
 - A carry lift consists of the simple **carrying of a partner WITHOUT rotation.**
 - The carrying of one partner by the other on the back, shoulders, knees or another part of the body is allowed only in the carry lift.
 - **The carry lift is not counted in the number of overhead lifts, nor does it count in the mark for technical merit. It is assessed by the judges as a transition or connecting step/move and receives no technical points.**
 - All holds in the carry lift are unrestricted.
 - There may be only one-half (1/2) rotation by the man in the beginning and/or at the end of the carry.
 - A carry lift does not need to be fully extended although most carries do have full extension.
 - Carry lifts are unrestricted in number for the senior and junior pairs free skating program.
 - Teams below the junior level are not allowed to perform carry lifts.
 - The carry lift is an optional element and does not need to be performed by teams.
- Carries in a Lift (optional)
 - Lifts containing a carry must have a legal hold and **must rotate according to the rules** (the lady must rotate two (2) times the man must rotate at least one (1) revolution continuously, but not more than three and one-half (3 1/2) revolutions in total).
 - **Only one of the lifts in the junior or senior free skating program may contain a carry within the lift.**
 - A lift containing a carry is counted as one of the maximum of three overhead lifts permitted.
 - A carry in a lift may happen before the man rotates, in the middle of his rotations or at the end of the lift.
 - While the carry in the lift may occur at any point in the lift, **to receive consideration for enhanced difficulty, the carry portion of the lift should occur once the lift has reached full extension.**
 - Executing a carry in a lift is an optional element and does not need to be performed by teams.

(Small) Dance Lifts- any level

- Small dance lifts (also known as small lifts) which may be either ascending and descending or rotational in character, in which the man does not raise his hands higher than his shoulder level, as well as movements which may include the holding of the lady by the leg are permitted in the free skating program.
- Small dance lifts no longer have the one and one-half (1 1/2) revolution maximum restriction; number of rotations is not restricted.

Spins

- Pair spin combination:
 - May not be commenced with a jump.
 - The minimum number of revolutions required in each position is two (2). In case this requirement is not fulfilled, the position is not counted.
 - **Both the lady and the man must execute at least one change of position** (at least two of the three basic positions must be demonstrated); change of position may be executed **simultaneously or separately.**
 - **At least one change of foot is required;** change of foot **may be executed simultaneously or separately.**
 - Rotation should be continuous and **no stop is permitted.**
 - Eight (8) total revolutions by both partners required, counted from entry of the spin to exit.
- Solo spin combination:
 - Ten (10) revolutions total, counted from entry of the spin to exit.
 - May be commenced with a jump.
 - At least one change of foot and at least one change of position are required
 - **Change of foot and change of position may be made at the same time or separately.**
 - Change of foot may be executed as a stepover or a jump.
 - Minimum number of revolutions required in each position is two (2).
- Juniors: may substitute a pair spin (6 revolutions minimum) or a solo spin (6 revolutions minimum) for the pair spin combination or solo spin combination, respectively listed above.
- Spins Generally: If a skater or both skaters fall when entering a spin, a simple spin or a spinning movement is allowed immediately after this fall (for the purpose of filling time) with this spin/movement not being counted as an extra or added element.

Seniors: Additional Optional Element: the senior pair only may have one additional optional element as described above in the well-balanced program requirements.

Note: Skaters at this level should perform transitions and connecting steps (not just crossovers) throughout the entire program to weave their elements together. Judges will make note of the transitions/connecting steps. (In international competitions, these transitions will be given their own mark as one of the five marks given for components.) U.S. Figure Skating rules require a deduction of 0.2 from the technical mark if the program lacks connecting steps between the elements.

The following deductions will be taken from the first mark for not meeting well-balanced program requirements:

- If a senior or junior pair exceeds the maximum number of elements, a deduction of 0.2 must be taken for each element exceeding the maximum. There is no minimum for the senior and junior level
- No level 3 or 4 lift: -0.2
- Lack of connecting steps between the elements: -0.2
- Spins less than required revolutions: -0.1
- Step sequence or spiral step sequence not fully utilizing the ice: -0.1

For Illegal elements: -0.1 will be deducted in each mark

General (all Singles & Pairs)

Clothing for U.S. Figure Skating Competitions

- **Ladies** in singles and pairs may wear skirts, trousers, and tights (including unitards). Costumes must be appropriate for athletic wear.
- **Men** must wear trousers (pants), but not tights. Costumes must be appropriate for athletic wear.
- Clothing not meeting the foregoing requirements must be penalized by the judges by a deduction of 0.1 in the second mark.

Allowance for a fresh start

- The two (2) minute time period commences immediately after the referee's decision has been announced to the skater.

U.S. Figure Skating is NOT using the New ISU Judging System for any qualifying competitions in the 2004-2005 season but has incorporated the rules governing senior and junior programs to reflect the changes made by the ISU and to better prepare its skaters to succeed under either system. The new ISU rules establishing levels of difficulty have not been adopted this year, but U.S. judges are free to use them as guidance as they assess a skater for technical difficulty. Levels of difficulty and other information for the new ISU judging system for singles & pairs can be found on the ISU web site (www.isu.org), most specifically in ISU Communications 1263 and 1284. The ISU is regularly releasing new communications with updates on rules. It is a good idea for you to check their web site regularly.
