

A proposal for Adult divisions To be submitted at the ISA AGM 2015

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Version: 1.6

The Motivation:

The motivation behind this proposal is:

- To encourage younger skaters to stay in the sport once they turn 18
- To encourage existing Adult skaters to continue with the sport
- To enable returning Adult skaters to resume the sport
- To enable new Adult skaters to enter the sport

The Concern:

Competition is one of the primary opportunities for skaters to display their skills and compare themselves to others. Ideally, skaters should compete against people with similar skill levels and similar abilities.

If a skater competes in a division for which the skill level is too high for them, then it is likely to be discouraging for the skater. Alternatively, if a skater competes in a division for which the skill level is too low for them, then it is unfair on the other skaters.

If an older skater is required to compete against a young skater then, even though they may have similar skill levels, their age difference is likely to play a part in their ability to execute elements and so affect their competitiveness.

Relating this back to the motivations listed above:

- Young skaters that transition from the Mainstream division to the Adult division should be provided with guidance as to which divisions are most appropriate for their skill levels.
- Existing Adult skaters that are finding it difficult to sustain their skill levels should be able to transition to less demanding divisions.
- Returning Adult skaters should be able to resume competition at whatever divisions are now appropriate for their skills and abilities
- New Adult skaters should be able to compete in divisions which give them the opportunity of being competitive even though they are inexperienced.

The proposal:

1. Transition Skaters

The proposed transition path for skaters who have competed in Preliminary, Elementary, Pre-Primary, Novice, Intermediate, or Primary ISA Divisions within the previous 5 years is as follows:

ISA Division	Adult Division
Preliminary	Adult Bronze
Elementary	Adult Silver
Pre-Primary	Adult Gold
Novice	Adult Master
Intermediate	Adult Master
Primary	Adult Master

The proposed transition path for skaters who have competed in Junior or Senior ISA divisions within the previous 2 years is as follows:

ISA Division	Adult Division
Junior	Elite
Senior	Elite
Senior (Elite)	Masters Elite

Additional Clauses:

1. Skaters who have competed in Junior or Senior ISA divisions within the previous 2 years and are wanting to transition to an Adult division lower than Elite, should seek approval from their state body.
2. Skaters who have competed in Senior ISA divisions at World or Olympic competitions (Senior Elite) within the previous 2 years and are wanting to transition to an Adult division lower than Masters Elite, should seek approval from their state body.

Note that the U.S. Figure Skating have a similar set of guideline for skaters transitioning from Mainstream to Adult. See the following link:

<http://www.usfsa.org/Content/Standard%20Track%20Free%20Skate%20to%20Adult%20Free%20Skate%20Chart%20Equivalencies.pdf>

2. Existing Adult Skaters

Adult skaters that already compete but wish to transition from their current Adult division to a lower one should seek approval from their state body. Competition results would be a good indication of when such a transition is appropriate.

3. Returning Adult Skaters

Adult skaters that have not competed for an extended period should seek the advice of their coach as to which division they should return to.

It is at the discretion of the coach as to which division should be chosen.

4. Age Categories

The following categories are proposed for the Adult divisions:

Class	Age Group
Young Adult	18 - 27
I	28 – 37
II	38 – 47
III	48 – 57
IV	58 – 67
V	68+

These age categories are based on those used in International competitions such as:

- The Oberstdorf ISU International Adult Figure Skating competition, Germany.
 - <http://tramino.s3.amazonaws.com/s/eissportzentrum/628625/2015-adult-announcement.pdf>
- The Italian Adults Cup in Milan.
 - http://pattinaggioadulti.weebly.com/uploads/4/5/8/0/45804155/announcement_adults_cup_definitivo.pdf

In the situation where a skater has no competition in their age group, the skater should have the option to skate in a younger (and presumably more challenging) age group.

5. Competition Organisers

Because the range of ages and the range of skill levels gives rise to many combinations, it is possible that a competition may find that it has a number of divisions with only one or two people in them.

To handle this situation:

- Competition organisers should be allowed to combine two or more age groups of the **same** skill level to ensure an adequate number of competitors for a division.
- Consideration should be given to whether competitors are happy with the changes.
- Competition organisers should avoid combining **different** skill levels, even if they are of the same age group.

6. Judges Comments

If skaters do compete at a level inconsistent with their skills and ability, it should be possible for judges to include a recommendation in their comments that a skater consider competing at either a higher or lower level.

This would have the following benefits:

- For a skater who wishes to compete at a lower level, a judge's comment to that effect would be useful when approaching a state body for a change.
- For a skater who inadvertently enters a competition at too low a level, a judge's comment would allow them to adjust their choice of division next time
- For a skater who intentionally enters a competition at too low a level, a judge's comment would make it more difficult for them to do the same thing again. Repeated comments from judges would certainly draw the attention of other competitors and their coaches.

7. Conclusion

Hopefully this proposal addresses the concerns listed earlier and will provide a way for Adult skaters to enjoy Adult level competition at any age or skill level.