2. Planning Season 2020/21
The Council confirmed that the health and safety of the participants of international ice skating events remains the number one priority. Mindful of the concern for health and safety related to COVID-19 but also the need to give Skaters the best possible opportunities to compete internationally, the ISU will give its utmost support to ISU Members in order to stage all international competitions that can safely be held during the season 2020/21.

The Council decided on the following time frame/deadline for cancellations

ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating events:
Latest by June 15, 2020 for the first event (CAN August 26-29, 2020) which means latest 10 weeks before the event. This ten-week deadline will also apply for subsequent ISU Junior Grand Prix events.

ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating events:
Latest by August 1, 2020 for first event (Skate America, October 23-25, 2020) which means 12 weeks before the event. This twelve-week deadline will also apply for subsequent ISU Grand Prix events.

A Working Group has been created consisting of:
- Mr. Alexander Lakernik, ISU Vice President Figure Skating
- Mr. David Raith, Executive Director US Figure Skating acting as liaison to the six ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating ISU Members
- Mr. Wieland Lüders, ISU Figure Skating Event Coordinator
- Ms. Patricia Mayor, ISU Sport Manager Figure Skating
- Ms. Christine Cardis, ISU Anti-Doping Manager acting as liaison to the ISU Medical Commission.

The objective of the Working Group is to work out and monitor, in consultation with the concerned organizing ISU Members and the Athletes Commission, the following:

a. Safety/health protection measures to be implemented at all events;
b. Evaluate any cancellations which could become necessary due to the sanitary situation in the host city and around the World, travel/meeting restrictions, perceived threat/fear to travel and the necessary ice time for Skaters around the World to prepare for the event;
c. Evaluate postponements and/or replacements of cancelled events;
d. Evaluate and decide upon possibly holding certain events without spectators;
e. Evaluate solutions related to consequences of multiple cancellations of events of a series (ISU Junior Grand Prix, ISU (senior) Grand Prix, Challenger Series) and working out options/solutions in order to maintain and/or adapt the respective ranking and allow the holding of the final event;
f. Evaluate the financial consequences of cancellations, postponements and replacements and working out (creative) solutions in order to ensure that all events that can possibly be held are ensured of the necessary ISU support regardless on whether the ranking of the series can be maintained or not.
g. Submit proposals on the above issues to the ISU Council for a final ISU Council decision.

Excerpt of ISU Communication No. 2316

1. Status of postponed ISU Championships season 2019/20
Mindful of the escalating negative COVID-19 developments, the resulting world-wide human tragedy and the measures taken by the public authorities as well as logistical challenges, the ISU Council concluded that a postponement of the pending 2020 ISU Championships is not possible. Consequently, the ISU Council has decided that the following ISU Championships must be definitely cancelled:

ISU World Short Track Speed Skating Championships, Seoul, March 13-15, 2020
ISU World Figure Skating Championships, Montreal, March 16-22, 2020

In regard to the planning of the 2020/21 skating season and considering the uncertain development of the COVID-19 crisis and its impact on the staging of international sports events, the ISU Council will hold another
on-line meeting on April 28 when different scenarios of the COVID-19 developments and impact on the ISU Event calendar will be discussed. The objective is to work out, and communicate to all stakeholders, options suitable for different scenarios in order to limit the uncertainty to the strict minimum. This evaluation will also consider the ISU Skating Awards in Figure Skating.

2. Novice/Junior Ice Dance & Synchronized Skating upper age limit for season 2020/21
The ISU Council considered that especially in Ice Dance and Synchronized Skating the ISU Rules for programs of the different age categories (Novice/Junior/Senior) vary greatly and the preparation of new programs for the transition to the next age category requires substantial ice training. Since currently such ice training is on hold and training opportunities will be substantially reduced due to the COVID-19 restrictions, the Council decided in line with Article 17.1.q), that exceptionally, for the 2020/21 season only and for Ice Dance and Synchronized Skating only, the Novice and Junior upper age limits will be extended by one year. However, this extended age limit applies only for Novice and Junior Ice Dance Couples and Novice and Junior Synchronized Skating Teams that were already competing together during the 2019/20 season and in cases where the same programs as for season 2019/20 are maintained. In Synchronized Skating, if a Junior or Novice Team changes Skater(s), the new Skater(s) must be of the Junior/Novice age according to Rule 108, paragraph 4 of the 2018 ISU General Regulations.

ISU Members with Novice and/or Junior Ice Dance Couples and/or Synchronized Teams opting for such extension of the Novice or Junior upper age limit must send a corresponding request to the Chair of the respective ISU Technical Committee in order to obtain a certificate confirming the exception for the Couple or Team concerned.

This Council decision does not relate to Single and Pair Skating.

Further to the above-mentioned decision as well as the decisions announced in ISU Communication No. 2312, point 5 (Figure Skating Officials Status) and point 6 (Figure Skating Requirements season 2020/21), the Council, in consultation with the Technical Committees, is further evaluating other potential consequences of the COVID-19 crisis, such as the lack of ice training, and will publish any extraordinary measures the Council deems necessary in due time.

Excerpt of ISU Communication No. 2312

5. Figure Skating Officials Status
The ISU Council discussed information provided by the Vice President Alexander Lakernik on the activity and status of Figure Skating Officials, based on his discussions with the Chair of the three Figure Skating Branch Technical Committees and Sports Director, Charlie Cyr.

a) Because of Covid-19 pandemic, all seminars and competitions of the end of the season 2019/20 were cancelled which resulted in a lack of re-certification requirements for some Officials.

In these exceptional circumstances the Council decided that the Lists of Officials for the season 2019/20 will also be valid for the season 2020/21, except for those Officials who no longer fulfil the age requirements.

b) Because of Covid-19 pandemic, the Frankfurt Global Seminar (with Examination) 2020 was cancelled. This year it was planned for the Seminar to include Technical Panel members for promotion from International to ISU categories and new candidates for all Officials positions. Now this Seminar will have to be moved to 2021. However, some Officials who fulfil all requirements in 2020 might not fulfil them in 2021.

In these exceptional circumstances the Council decided that in 2021 Technical Panel members for promotion from International to ISU categories and new candidates for all Officials positions will be accepted if they fulfil the requirements of the year 2020 or the requirements of the year 2021 (or both).

Full details will be sent to ISU Members shortly.

6. Figure Skating Requirements season 2020/21
Due to the COVID-19 pandemic many Skaters will not be able to prepare properly for the next season and it will be very difficult for them to learn new programs. Bearing this in mind, the three Technical Committees (SPTC, IDTC, SySTC) proposed, and the Council decided, to maintain the basic requirements of the season 2019/20 for the season 2020/21. The situation varies between disciplines because for Ice Dance and Synchronized Skating
all new requirements are published in ISU Communications, but for Single and Pair Skating some of these requirements are in the Rule Book. The details are indicated below.

- Ice Dance: the Pattern Dances for all Novice categories and the Rhythm Dance for Juniors and Seniors will not be changed.

- Synchronized Skating: the requirements for the Well Balanced Short and Free Programs for all categories will not be changed.

- Single and Pair Skating: the requirements for the Short Program as specified in the Single and Pair Skating Technical Rules 611 and 620 for season 2020/21 will be valid.

All 3 Committees propose for the next season slight changes in SOV, Levels and GOE which will be published in ISU Communications in due course.