

2026 ISI TEST & COMPETITION RULE REVISIONS

These Test & Competition Revisions are mandatory for all tests and competition events beginning September 1, 2026

1. TEST REVISIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

- **Freestyle 4 & 5 Spins** – The sit spin (FS 4) and camel spin (FS 5) must be performed on a backward inside edge after entry. Changes of edge are allowed on spin variations after the basic spin requirements have been performed.
- **Freestyle 5 Dance Step** – A chasse step is added before the LFO bracket turn.
- **Open Freestyle Program Duration** – Gold Short is 2:30 / Platinum Short is 3:00 / Platinum is 3:30 / Platinum Plus Short is 3:00 / Platinum Plus is 4:00
- **Open Freestyle Crossover Equivalent Levels added for USFS Adult tests** – See the *2026 ISI Handbook* or the new Open Freestyle Crossover Chart on the ISI website for more details.

As a reminder, the Open Freestyle Crossover Chart lists the lowest equivalent crossover level. This is the level where the skater must start testing in ISI - they are not “grandfathered” into that level. Coaches and skaters should carefully check the program duration and jump limitations. The equivalent level may not be appropriate for the skater’s current program content. Skaters can change their program content to follow the maneuver limitations; or they can “test up” to a higher ISI Open Freestyle level so they can perform their current program. There is never a penalty for skating under the prescribed program duration time.
- **Open Solo Free Dance Program Duration** – Gold is 2:30 / Platinum is 3:00 / Diamond is 3:30
- **Open Solo Free Dance Maneuvers** - See the *2026 ISI Handbook* for updated maneuver descriptions and test maneuver changes for all Open Solo Free Dance levels.
- **USFS 3rd Figure Test and Higher Skaters** – Skaters who have passed the USFS 3rd figure test and higher will be allowed a one-time opportunity to crossover to the ISI equivalent level, take the equivalent level ISI Figure test, and compete in ISI competitions. After this one-time crossover, skaters will be required to continue taking ISI Figure tests to compete at a higher figure level in ISI competitions.
- **New! Accessible Skater Program** – The current ISI Special Skater 1-10 tests have been revised into a new ISI Accessible Skater Program. Levels 1-10 are still beginning skating skills progressions (Tot-Delta levels) and must be taken in order. Additional gem levels (Emerald, Topaz, Ruby, Sapphire) have been added to include more advanced skating skills (Freestyle 1-5). The gem levels are similar to Open Freestyle levels and also more closely aligned with maneuvers from the Special Olympics program - making it easier for routines to fit in both skating programs. Please see the *2026 ISI Handbook* or the ISI website for more details on the new ISI Accessible Skater Program.

2. COMPETITION EVENT REVISIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

- **Event Groups** – The maximum number of entries (individual, partner, or teams) in an event group is seven. This is reduced from the current maximum of nine.
- **Event Posting** – Results will be posted for all seven places (without judge scores). At ISI national events, the 7th place medal will have an orange color ribbon.
- **Edges in Delta, Freestyle 1, Freestyle Synchro, Team Compulsories / Swing Rolls for Couple 1** – If the required edges / swing rolls are not performed consecutively, the skater will receive a bottom of the point range score of 7.0 or 7.5 if skating against the book.
- **Open Freestyle Jump Limitations** – Platinum Short and Platinum programs - no double Axel or triple jump. Platinum Plus Short and Platinum Plus programs - can include any jumps.
- **New! Platinum Plus Short Event** – This new event is for higher-level skaters with more difficult maneuvers.

- **Solo Compulsory Events** – Only the 3 required maneuvers can be performed - with no additional required maneuvers or uncaptured moves - along with 3-turns, mohawks, crossovers, and arm movements. Only the first attempt at each maneuver will be scored. If a required maneuver is attempted more than once, the first attempt is scored, and the skater will be given a score of 2.0 under Penalty by Judge 1 (Referee) only.
- **Spotlight and other events with props** – Entrances to the ice vary greatly from rink to rink - so check with the competition director and plan your props accordingly. It may not be possible to use a different ice door.
- **Dance 1-2** – The Chasse, Progressive, and Swing Roll sequences have a mandatory pattern and must be performed two times each with a T-stop at the end of each sequence.
- **Pair, Open Pair, Couple, Free Dance, Couple Spotlight, Family Spotlight, and all Team events** – The Lift Reference Chart has been updated to show acrobatic, adagio, dance, group, and stationary/rotational lift limitations for each event and level. All coaches should carefully check the 2026 ISI Handbook Lift Definitions & Lift Reference Chart to make sure all lifts are allowed in your event and program level.
- **Kaleidoskate Event** – This event is like Pattern skating in that skaters should form various designs such as lines, squares, circles, blocks, wheels, intersections, triangles, stars, diamonds, etc. Emphasis should be on creating constantly changing formations that resemble the unique visual patterns seen in a kaleidoscope or a marching band halftime show. Since the judging criteria are different, this event is not for production or synchronized team programs.
- **NEW! Ice Show Team Event** – A new group event where you can enter a group number or program routine from your local ice show. Costumes and props can be used to illustrate the theme of the program, but they are not required. There are no maneuver limitations and no required maneuvers. See additional event details in the 2026 ISI Handbook.

3. **JUDGING REVISIONS & CLARIFICATIONS**

- **2026 Update Test** – All currently certified ISI judges are required to take the 2026 Update Test after 8/1/26 to maintain their current certification level. If you take a Bronze, Silver, or Gold certification test after 8/1/26, you are not required to take the 2026 Update Test.
- **Artistic Event** – The Innovative Moves judging criterion has been changed to Creative Moves. This will include the skater's ability to perform a variety of different, unique, and innovative moves. Variations of traditional maneuvers are also scored here.
- **Synchronized Dance Event** – Three (3) of the five following synchro maneuvers must be included: line, circle, block, wheel, intersection. The first 3 maneuvers performed will each be scored by one judge under Correctness of Maneuver.
- **Updated Lift Reference Chart** – The Lift Reference Chart has been updated to show acrobatic, adagio, dance, group, and stationary/rotational lift limitations for each event and level. All coaches should carefully check the 2026 ISI Handbook Lift Definitions & Lift Reference Chart to make sure all lifts are allowed in your event and program level.
- **Family-Friendly Programs** – Judges can score at the bottom of the point range (in General Overall or Judge Appeal) for programs that do not follow these family-friendly program guidelines: Costumes, props, themes, song lyrics, and choreography for all ISI competition programs should be family-friendly and suitable for viewing by skaters of all ages. Family-friendly implies that the content or experience is free from explicit or inappropriate material. Program content should prioritize values such as safety (non-violence), inclusivity, and entertainment that all ages can share and enjoy.
- **Additional Penalties** – There are some events where guidelines have been given regarding performance; however, if a penalty is not listed in the ISI Handbook, a penalty cannot be given for not following the guidelines.

**For more information and complete details about any Rule Revision or clarification,
please refer to the 2026 edition of the ISI Handbook.**

**There have also been additional changes in verbiage, an updated Lift Reference Chart,
and other updated event charts.**