



Union Luxembourgeoise de Patinage (ULP)

Officials Qualification Framework

Figure Skating

Introduction

The ULP has a fundamental responsibility to establish a clear and coherent framework for the qualification and training of judges and referees. As guardians of fairness and technical accuracy within our sport, these officials play a crucial role in ensuring that competitions are conducted according to international standards. It is therefore essential for the Union to provide structured educational pathways, certification processes, and ongoing professional development opportunities that not only uphold the integrity of our discipline but also encourage the next generation of officials to emerge and grow within a well-defined system.

In this context, the Union works in very close cooperation with the Royal Belgian Figure Skating Federation for training and practical learning, benefiting from their expertise and long-standing experience. At the same time, the Union is progressively developing its own comprehensive program for the education, development, and supervision of national judges and referees, ensuring sustainable growth and autonomy within our officiating structure.

Definitions

Some of the roles involved include:

- Judge – official responsible for evaluating the quality of a skater's performance. Judges assign scores based on components such as skating skills, presentation and composition, and on the execution of elements.
- Referee – official supervising the entire competition. They ensure that all rules are followed, manage the judging panel, handle any issues that arise, and validate the results together with the technical controller. The referee is also a judge.
- Technical Specialist (TS) – official identifying each technical element performed by the skater (jumps, spins, steps, lifts, etc.) in real time. They determine what was executed and which level of difficulty should be awarded.
- Technical Controller (TC) – official overseeing the work of the technical panel. They confirm or correct the calls made by the technical specialist and ensure that all technical rules are applied correctly. They validate the results together with the referee. The TC is usually also a judge.
- Data / Replay Operator – official operating the judging score system and executing the orders from the technical panel.
- International official - is an official certified as "international" level by the International Skating Union (ISU), authorized to officiate at ISU-listed international competitions.
- ISU official - is an official certified as "ISU" level by the International Skating Union (ISU), authorized to officiate at all ISU-sanctioned events, including ISU Championships.

Qualification levels

Officials' hierarchy according to ISU regulations.

National/Federation (ULP) Level

- Required Experience:
Officiating at national competitions: Short Program, Free Skate - Gaining practical experience and being regularly active.
- Training & Exams:
National seminars (national rules, introduction to the scoring system, etc.), national exams or internal federation tests.

- Other Criteria:
Knowledge of rules, impartiality, communication skills (English required), age requirements depending on the federation.

International level

All detailed requirements are set by the ISU and published in the special regulations and technical rules of the ISU.

- Required Experience:
The official must have officiated at a certain number of national competitions within the previous 36 months, covering specific segments.
For Singles & Pairs judges, typically three national competitions including both short and free segments.
- Training & Exams:
Attendance at an ISU Seminar prior to the exam.
Passing the ISU examination: written part (rules, IJS, etc.) and practical part (trial officiating).
- Other Criteria:
Minimum age for first nomination (e.g., at least 24 years old).
Names are submitted by the national federation (ULP) - verification of segments officiated is required.

ISU level

All detailed requirements are set by the ISU and published in the special regulations and technical rules of the ISU.

- Required Experience:
Once an international official has gained sufficient experience:
Officiating at multiple ISU-listed international competitions (Senior and Junior), including short and free segments.
For Singles & Pairs judges, typically at least four international competitions within the previous 48 months, with the required segments, including at least one Senior, one Junior, one Pairs and one ISU event.
- Training & Exams:
Attendance at an ISU Seminar.
Passing the ISU examination: written part (rules, IJS, etc.) and practical part (trial officiating).

Key elements every official must follow to be recognized at international/ISU level

- Training through ISU Seminars: The “ISU Seminar for Judges / Referees / Technical Controllers / Technical Specialists” is mandatory for all first nominations, and for re-nominations at specified intervals.
- Examinations:
Written and verbal: demonstrating understanding of the rules, the ISU Judging System (IJS), and other relevant regulations.
Practical “trial judging”: Judging programs or segments under controlled conditions.
- Required Service: Minimum number of national or international competitions where the official has served as judge or referee.
- Re-appointment: Even after nomination, officials must remain active: judging/refereeing at international/ISU competitions, participating in seminars or webinars, and meeting service requirements over recent seasons to be eligible for re-appointment on the ISU list or as a referee.
- Language & Knowledge of Rules: A good knowledge of ISU rules is required, and English is necessary, as communications, seminars, and exams are conducted in English. Officials must demonstrate impartiality, integrity, and technical competence.

Procedure at the National ULP Level

All applications to become an official within the Luxembourg Federation must be submitted to the Secretariat by email, including a detailed CV and a motivation letter.

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Be of Luxembourgish nationality, or
- Have residence in Luxembourg more than 1 year with previous consent of the ISU Federation member of his nationality
- Be at least 18 years old
- For judges/TS: Be a former competitive skater with experience at the international level.

Depending on the needs of the ULP, a candidate may be proposed to train for a different role than initially requested. If the ULP can provide training using its own resources, such training will be certified by the ULP at the national level.

The practical component is generally carried out during national and interclub competitions, in cooperation with neighboring federations such as Belgium, Germany, France or the Netherlands.

If the ULP is unable to provide the training, the candidate will have the opportunity to continue their training within one of these federations, with arrangements coordinated by the ULP.

Training is generally free of charge. Candidates are responsible for transportation costs and, if necessary, accommodation expenses if the training is not provided by the ULP.

Expenses may be reimbursed on demand by ULP once training is completed.

ULP Committee
Howald, 28 December 2025