I N T E R N A T I O N A L S K A T I N G U N I O N

Communication No. 1416

TV Celebrity Figure Skating Programs

In response to Member enquiries, the ISU Council has evaluated certain current TV programs now offered in different countries featuring figure skaters and celebrities skating together.

Some of these programs are being conducted as a kind of competition using judging criteria, systems and juries of different types including judging by the public through telephone or e-mail voting. The "judging" results are announced, and prizes awarded. While these programs apparently are marketed to advertisers and the public as entertainment, from the point of view of the ISU, they are a figure skating "competition".

Accordingly, if any such program involves: (i) judging of any kind, AND (ii) international participation by skaters (whether eligible or ineligible) and/or officials from at least 2 ISU Members/countries, the program would be considered by the ISU to be an international competition that requires an ISU sanction (Rule 104, paragraph 15).

To qualify for an ISU sanction, an international ice skating competition must meet all ISU requirements, including, without limitation, use of the ISU Judging System and ISU Officials. Accordingly, participation by an ISU-eligible skater or Official in such an international event (conducted without an ISU sanction) could be evaluated by the proper ISU authorities as a breach of Rule 102, paragraph 2 of the ISU General Regulations. The result for the participant could be loss of ISU eligibility to skate/officiate in ISU sanctioned events and the Olympic Winter Games.

If there is no such international participation in the above-mentioned kind of events by skaters or officials, no ISU sanction is required. Of course, a sanction by the ISU Member with jurisdiction over the country in which the program takes place would be required to authorize the participation of eligible skaters or officials of that Member.

As a matter of principle, the ISU recommends to all Officials (Referees, Technical Controllers, Technical Specialists and Judges) on the ISU lists, not to participate in such programs in their country even when sanctioned by the Member. In no case should any participant in such a program be identified in any way as an International Skating Union (or ISU) Judge, Referee or other Official.

Milan, **Ottavio Cinquanta**, President

August 31, 2006

Lausanne, **Fredi Schmid**, Director General