

# INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION

## Communication No. 1023

### ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating

Further to what has already been distributed to the ISU Member Federations of Figure Skating on this matter (November 10, 1998 and February 17, 1999), the ISU wants to summarize the main conditions and procedures that apply to the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating (senior) that is currently composed of six (6) individual events plus a final.

The purpose of this Communication is to specify the general aspect, to serve as a standard guideline for the Member Federations and to permit a smooth implementation of this important ISU Event.

As you may note, this document is composed of two essential items:

- 1) ISU principles for Entries to ISU Grand Prix Series and Open International Competitions
- 2) Decision of the Council in relation to Rule 136, paragraph 6.

This procedure will be in force for four seasons, starting from the season 1999/2000. Only in case of necessary changes for the protection of the ISU interest and of the Event itself, could amendment of this Communication be decided by the Council.

It must be understood that it will be necessary to distribute other information and in particular all the details concerning the Event, such as technical rules and programs, calendar of competitions, financial conditions, etc.

This aspect will be covered by relevant documentation, such as announcements and others.

#### ISU Principles for Entries to ISU Grand Prix Series and Open International Competitions

The ISU controls the entries to all ISU Championships, the ISU Grand Prix Series/ Final and ISU sanctioned Open International Competitions.

A

1. World Championships medal winners and skater(s) placed 4-6 in the previous (senior) World Championships earn the right to compete in the ISU Grand Prix Series and are seeded.

2. Organizing Committees of any ISU Grand Prix event at their own discretion may invite skaters up to a certain number in each discipline. The coordination for these invitations is done through the ISU Management Commission.
3. Skaters named above in para.1 and other invited skaters who compete in the appropriate event(s) are considered as possible entries to the Open International Competitions. If without valid reason the skater(s) is unable or unwilling to compete, Rule 125, para. 4 will apply. (Exclusion from ISU Events, International Competitions, Olympic Winter Games and exhibitions).

Champions and medal winners and skater(s) placed 4-10 in any ISU Championships must give priority to events of the subsequent season for which the ISU has contractual arrangements, particularly with television. (Rule 136, para. 6).

In case of violation of this Rule, sanctions may be imposed on both the Members and the skaters.

#### B

Former ISU Champions and medal winners who remain eligible, may be invited to compete in the ISU Grand Prix Series, without having competed in the previous season ISU Championships. Provided they accept the invitation and compete in the appropriate event, they are considered as possible entries to the Open International Competitions. If the skater(s) so invited decline the invitation to the ISU Grand Prix events without valid reason they shall not be considered as a possible entry to any Open International Competition.

#### C

Entries to any ISU Event, International Competition and Open International Competition may only be made through the appropriate Member. (Rules 107, para. 10c. 115, para. 5 and 131, para. 1).

#### Decision of the Council in relation to Rule 136, paragraph 6

In accordance with Article 21, paragraph 3 of the Constitution, the Council has adopted the following decision regarding interpretation and application of Rule 136, paragraph 6.

1. The Members are free to enter or not to enter their skaters in ISU Championships and the team composition is left at the Member's discretion.
2. However, the Council has concluded that Members, by entering their skaters in any ISU Championships, accept to comply with the obligation of Rule 136, paragraph 6.
3. Members have been notified that the ISU Grand Prix Series and Final are subject to television and commercial contracts.  
(In particular, the importance of participation in this Event was also specified in ISU letters of November 10, 1998 and February 17, 1999)
4. Members who fail to respect the principles of Rule 136, para 6, as to giving first priority, are subject to sanctions as said in the Rule.

5. In the case that the obligation of giving first priority is not respected, sanctions under Rule 104, paragraph 16, will be imposed as follows:
  - (i) The Member concerned shall not be permitted, for the season in question, to enter skaters in the ISU Grand Prix Series or in any other event organized or sanctioned by the ISU, including Open International Competitions and related exhibitions, with the exception of the ISU Championships.
  - (ii) If so decided by the Council, the Member concerned may still be given the possibility to organize an individual event of the ISU Grand Prix Series and Final.
  - (iii) If the Member violates the obligation expressed in Rule 136, paragraph 6 for a second year, the Council may exclude such Member from organizing any international competition or exhibition in its country. Such sanction shall stay in force until the Member meets its obligations under the ISU Constitution and Regulations.

The Council may grant an exception from this sanction if the Member shows evidence that it has already taken binding financial and legal commitments to organize an international competition or exhibition and breach of such commitments might have severe consequences for the Member.
  - iv) An exception granted by the Council under sub paragraphs (ii) or (iii), namely to organize an individual event of the ISU Grand Prix Series or another international competition, has no impact on the sanction imposed under sub paragraph (i) which remains in force.
6. In cases of exceptionally serious and/or repeated violation of the obligation, in particular when such violation resulted in severe financial losses to the ISU, the Council may impose a financial penalty under Article 17, paragraph 1, q) or suspend the Member under Article 17, paragraph 1, g) of the Constitution.
7. Skaters who violate the obligation expressed in Rule 136, paragraph 6, shall be subject to sanctions set forth in Rule 125, paragraph 4 a) which may result in exclusion from participation in any ISU Event, international competitions, Olympic Winter Games and exhibitions for a definite period or forever, depending on the degree of the violation or its repetition.
8. The sanctions against Members will be first applied, if necessary, after the ISU Championships for year 2000. However, sanctions against skaters may be imposed if skaters who have placed 1-10 in any ISU Championship for the year 1999 (who are seeded or invited) do not participate in the ISU Grand Prix Series/Final 1999/2000 since the Rule 125, para 4 has been adopted by the Congress already in June 1998 and did not need any interpretation.

For the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating 1999/2000 please see the list of Seeded Skaters below:

### **ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating 1999/2000**

## Seeded Skaters

The following skaters are seeded for 2 individual Grand Prix events in regard to their results at the 1999 World Figure Skating Championships.

### Ladies

|                   |            |
|-------------------|------------|
| Maria Butyrskaya  | Russia     |
| Michelle Kwan     | USA        |
| Julia Soldatova   | Russia     |
| Tatiana Malinina  | Uzbekistan |
| Vanessa Gusmeroli | France     |
| Anna Rechnio      | Poland     |

### *Substitutes:*

|                  |         |
|------------------|---------|
| Sarah Hughes     | USA     |
| Elena Liashenko  | Ukraine |
| Yulia Lavrenchuk | Ukraine |

### Men

|                  |        |
|------------------|--------|
| Alexei Yagudin   | Russia |
| Evgeny Plushenko | Russia |
| Michael Weiss    | USA    |
| Elvis Stojko     | Canada |
| Alexei Urmanov   | Russia |
| Takeshi Honda    | Japan  |

### *Substitutes:*

|                    |         |
|--------------------|---------|
| Zhengxin Guo       | China   |
| Laurent Tobel      | France  |
| Andrejs Vlaschenko | Germany |

### Pairs

|                                       |        |
|---------------------------------------|--------|
| Elena Berezhnaya & Anton Sikharulidze | Russia |
| Xue Shen & Hongbo Zhao                | China  |
| Dorota Zagorska & Mariusz Siudek      | Poland |
| Maria Petrova & Alexei Tikhonov       | Russia |
| Sarah Abitbol & Stephane Bernadis     | France |
| Kristy Sargeant & Kris Wirtz          | Canada |

### *Substitutes*

|                                    |         |
|------------------------------------|---------|
| Tatiana Totmianina & Maxim Marinin | Russia  |
| Peggy Schwarz & Mirko Müller       | Germany |
| Kyoko Ina & John Zimmerman         | USA     |

### Ice Dancing

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Anjelika Krylova & Oleg Ovsyannikov     | Russia    |
| Marina Anissina & Gwendal Peizerat      | France    |
| Shae-Lynn Bourne & Victor Kraatz        | Canada    |
| Irina Lobacheva & Ilia Averbukh         | Russia    |
| Barbara Fusar-Poli & Maurizio Margaglio | Italy     |
| Margarita Drobiazko & Povilas Vanagas   | Lithuania |

### *Substitutes*

|                                     |         |
|-------------------------------------|---------|
| Kati Winkler & Rene Lohse           | Germany |
| Elena Grushina & Ruslan Goncharov   | Ukraine |
| Sylwia Nowak & Sebastian Kolasinski | Poland  |

Milano,  
May 5, 1999  
Lausanne,

**Ottavio Cinquanta**, President

**Fredi Schmid**, General Secretary