

INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION

Communication No. 2034

FIGURE SKATING

MUSIC RULES 343 and 823

At the 2016 Congress Proposal 236 for Rules 343 and 823 paragraph 1.a) and 2 regarding the music reproduction system was accepted, after a long discussion.

The main purpose of Proposal 236 was to exclude using CD players at Competitions.

Immediately after the Congress there were many discussions during which experts pointed out multiple operational and technical problems related to the new Rules 343/823.

Summary of the problems and disadvantages of the new rule:

- There is lack of an uniform medium of delivery, it does not allow Skaters to use one and the same music file / medium for all competitions
- it eliminates an easy way of storing / sorting the music of the Skaters at events
- it is time consuming at registration
- it eliminates an independent back-up system to play the Skaters original music with any involvement of a 3rd party directly from the original CD
- it puts the OC on time pressure to have the music re-recorded immediately
- it eliminates a stable and reliable way of playing music via a CD player

Further to the “technical” and “operational” concerns Rule 343/823 as accepted by the 2016 Congress raises significant legal questions.

According to Rule 131, Competitors as well as their ISU Members have to certify that their music has been fully cleared and authorized for public use and television etc. Up to now, all competitors had to hand their music CDs over to the OC at accreditation and got them back after the competition which ensured up to a reasonable degree that their music was used exclusively for the competition and media coverage of it, i.e. the purpose mentioned in Rule 131. In contrast, the new rule creates a multitude of risks of abuse.

In case that Competitors would be requested by the Organizer to send their music via e-mail or a cloud upload or any other means of electronic transmission, first of all the Skaters would have to be protected by requesting the respective Organizing Committees to guarantee that their music will exclusively be used for the limited purposes stated in Rule 131 and to guarantee that the respective music will not be accessible to third parties. Apart from the fact that respective guarantees might be of greater or lesser value depending on the honesty of the people giving it, they cannot offer any security against inherent risks of the use of the internet as such. As ample experience demonstrates, the risk that unauthorized third persons get hold of materials which are electronically transmitted is considerable. In case of respective misuses of music files copyright infringement law suits could follow, and it cannot be excluded that the ISU would be held responsible based on the fact that with the new rule it encourages / tolerates the use of unsafe transmission methods.

Based on the above mentioned problems there needs to be a clear rule which is the same for all international competitions (possible file format and delivery medium) and a system which is usable in an easy way on all level of events; there should be one unique and clear defined original music medium for each Skater at the competition, and this would be the simple CD.

Taking into consideration all above mentioned reasons showing that the application of the new Rule 343/823 would bring about unsurmountable problems and unreasonable risks the **Council has decided to suspend the new Rules and replace them by the old ones (as copied below), still allowing CDs and CD players at Competitions** based on Art. 17 paragraph 1.q) ii) of the Constitution which reads as follows:

1. q) In case exceptional circumstances so require and warrant
 - ii) suspension of applicability of any Rule in the General Regulations, Special Regulations and in Technical Rules.

Tubbergen,
August 15, 2016
Lausanne,

Jan Dijkema, President

Fredi Schmid, Director General

Single & Pair Skating / Ice Dance

Rule 343
Music reproduction system

1. All Competitors shall furnish competition music of excellent quality on CD or in any other approved format.
 - a) The music covers/discs must show the exact running time of the music (not skating time), which shall be certified by the Competitor and by the coach, when submitted at the time of registration;
 - b) Each program (Short Program/Free Skating/Pattern Dance when music is provided by the Couple/Short Dance/Free Dance) must be recorded on one track and on a separate disc;
 - c) Competitors must provide a back-up drive for each program.
2. All music used for competitive events must be played on high quality electronic recorders, e.g. MP3 Player or similar, computer or CD Player, one or two of which shall be used during the competition. The organizer shall furnish, for each rink used for the competition and practice, adequate facilities for the reproduction and playback of music. The facilities to be provided by the organizer must be set forth in the Announcement of the Competition.
3. Precaution must be taken to prevent frequency and/or voltage variations.
4. The volume level of the music as determined by the Medical Commission in either the practice or competition rinks must not exceed 85-90-dB Sound Pressure Level in any part of the arena.

Synchronized Skating
Rule 823
Music reproduction system

1. Teams shall furnish competition music of excellent quality on CD, or in any other approved format.
 - a) The music covers/discs must show the exact running time of the music (not skating time), which shall be certified by the Team and by the coach, when submitted at the time of registration.
 - b) Each program (Short Program/Free Skating) must be recorded on one track and on a separate disc.
 - c) Teams must provide a back-up drive for each program.
2. All music used for competitive events must be played on high quality electronic recorders, e.g. MP3 player or similar, computer or CD player, one or two of which shall be used during the competition. The organizer shall furnish, for each rink used for the competition and practice, adequate facilities for the reproduction and playback of music. The facilities to be provided by the organizer must be set forth in the Announcement of the competition.
3. Precautions must be taken to prevent frequency and/or voltage variations.
4. The volume level of the music as determined by the ISU Medical Commission in either the practice or competition rinks must not exceed 85–90 dB Sound Pressure Level in any part of the arena.