



Competition Restructure Live Stream Presentation Q & A

The following Q & A includes questions asked during the October 20, 2011 on-line web presentation on Competition Restructuring. Questions submitted following the presentation and at recent Sectional Championship meetings have also been included.

A) Questions concerning the future direction of the Gold Free Skating tests:

- 1. Since the pre-novice and novice singles categories have a short and free program, will the Gold Free Skating test also have a short and free program component?**

There is no change to the Gold Free Skating test. Part 1: elements and part 2: free program.

- 2. Will there be score targets for tests and will evaluations remain the same for tests in the future? If they are going to be different when will this information be made available?**

There are no changes to the testing process. There will, however, be an opportunity for skaters to try free skating tests in competition. It is under consideration that tests taken in competition will consist of only one portion, the free program and passing scores will be included as a part of the rule and regulation.

- 3. Are the Gold Test standards going to change now that it is the minimum standard for novice and up?**

Changes to the program requirements for the Gold Tests were introduced July 1, 2011. There will be no other changes to the Gold Tests. The passing standards for elements and program are not changing (Skate Canada Rule Book, Section 4000-E-2.0).

B) Questions concerning the competitive test equivalencies and grandfathering of competitive tests into the free skating and dance tests.

NOTE: Equivalencies have been granted for all competitive tests regardless of date passed:

Juvenile Competitive Singles Test	=	Junior Silver Free Skating Test
Pre-Novice Competitive Singles Test	=	Senior Silver Free Skating Test
Nov/Jr/Sr Competitive Singles Test	=	Gold Free Skating Test
Juvenile, Pre-Novice Competitive Pair test	=	Junior Bronze Free Skating Test
Nov/Jr/Sr Competitive Pair Test	=	Gold Free Skating Test
Pre-Novice Competitive Dance Test	=	(Not required due to current structure)
Nov/Jr/Sr Competitive Dance Test	=	Gold Dance Test

4. Will Novice Competitive Singles tests passed prior to July 1, 2011 be given credit for the Gold Free Skating test?

Yes. Regardless of the date passed, all skaters who have passed a Novice, Junior or Senior Competitive Singles or Pairs Test are credited with a Gold Free Skating test.

5. Will Juvenile Competitive Singles tests passed prior to July 1, 2011 be given credit for the Junior Silver Free Skating test?

Yes, they will be credited with a Junior Silver Free Skating Test.

6. Will a skater who has already passed their Junior Competitive test (and thus received credit for the Gold Free Skating test) be qualified as a senior competitive singles skater?

Yes. Any skater who has been credited with the Gold Free Skating test is qualified to skate in the novice, junior or senior category.

7. If a skater tries and passes the Gold Free Skating Test now before competitive test are removed on July 1, 2012, are they qualified to compete in novice?

A skater who has credit for the Gold Free Skating Test will be qualified to compete in the novice, junior or senior category regardless of when the test was passed.

8. If a skater has passed their Gold Free Skating test, can they compete in the pre-novice category?

Yes, as long as they also meet the age requirement. The test prerequisites are minimum standards only so a skater can have a higher test and still qualify for a lower category. It is important that coaches put their skater in a category where the skater's ability is appropriate for the well-balanced program requirements.

C) Questions concerning the relationship between these LTAD stages and Active for Life:

9. How will the Active for Life program serve athletes who do not move on to Train to Compete by the age of 16?

Athletes will continue to be served in the STARSkate program. The Skating Programs Committee is aware that many athletes do not wish to participate with younger athletes after they have reached the age of graduating from High School, so the Committee hopes to add a "young adult" category (19-25) to the adult competition structure.

10. Can skaters compete in both streams in the same year (STARSkate and Competitive)?

Currently, once a skater chooses to skate in a Juvenile or higher category at sectionals he/she cannot compete in a STARSkate category in the same discipline at the Sectional STARSkate Championships for that competition season. The same will apply within the new structure. Skaters in Juvenile or higher categories will not be able to compete in Active for Life categories (STARSkate) in the same discipline at the Sectional STARSkate Championships.

For all other invitational/interclub events, it is up to the local organizing committee to determine the nature of the events so the qualifications to compete may be different depending on the needs/dynamics of the section or region.

D) Questions concerning the relationship between these stages and Learn to Train

11. I understand the LTAD structure and can see how the proposed changes can benefit competitive athletes. Will there still be opportunity for my introductory skaters to compete?

Prior to the pre-juvenile level, athletes are in the "Learn to Train" stage. The Learn to Train stage is not covered by this round of restructuring. At this point, there are no changes to the levels of competition before pre-juvenile. Skate Canada currently has several different concepts of training and competition being piloted at different clubs across the country. Decisions and subsequent announcements for this level will be considered once the concept testing is completed and analyzed.

E) Questions concerning officials' and coaches' training:

12. How will these changes affect me in completing my NCCP Level 3 certification (tests passed requirements)?

Now that the Board of Directors has approved this competition structure change the Coaching Committee will begin the process of reviewing and modifying the NCCP certification requirements. The requirements will be communicated as soon as they have been determined.

13. I recently took my NCCP Intermediate STARSkate / Provincial Coach (ISPC) courses. To complete the Provincial Coach certification I need to have a skater pass a juvenile or pre-novice competitive test. Will this change to the equivalent Jr. Silver Free Skating test?

See answer in Q. 12 above.

14. Will officials' training be required to accommodate this change to our programming?

Since there is no change to the manner in which competitions are judged there is no need for judges re-training. If they wish, judges who are not also evaluators may decide to complete the training to become gold evaluators.

F) Questions regarding the number of competitors in the Learn to Compete categories:

15. Do you think that the lack of test prerequisites will lead to a large number of competitors in the juvenile and pre-novice categories?

In the short term, it is possible that the number of competitors in these categories will increase. This increase will be tempered by the fact that there will now be an age restriction on pre-novice. In addition, athletes must be willing to skate programs that meet the well-balanced program criteria (i.e., double-double combination requirement in the pre-novice short program). By removing the strict test requirements at each level of competition within the stage, the system will have much more flexibility for coaches to make appropriate decisions for athletes based on their individual training schedules, growth and maturation cycles along with their skill acquisition.

16. Do you anticipate a decrease in quality in the Learn to Compete categories?

We do not anticipate a lower quality in the middle and top of these events. Skaters who are at the higher end of skill development at this stage are still quite competitive and will be striving to qualify for Challenge and/or place on the podium at Challenge. In addition, coaches of these top skaters

will always be preparing them for the next stage ahead, so competitive spirit is expected to continue to work just as it does now, driving these athletes to do better than their competitors in order to win.

17. For invitational events, will Sections be able to define age categories even more beyond the “under 11”, “under 14” categories?

The current age categories have been developed considering both the LTAD ideal ages and the organization demographics. At this point additional lower age categories are not being considered. Age requirements are as of July 1.

G) Questions concerning how to choose the appropriate category for a skater:

18. What if you have a skater who doesn't meet the age range for a category? For example, will a 14-year old skater who technically fits into the Juvenile category be allowed to compete as a Juvenile or will they have to move to Pre-Novice?

The categories within an LTAD stage (i.e., Learn to Compete) are strictly grouped by age. In this case, the 14 year old will have to either move to Pre-Novice or to the appropriate STARSkate (Active for Life) category.

19. Will Skate Canada send out a target score that will help coaches know when to move their skaters up and when their skaters meet the standards and expectations for the level of event?

The Coaching and Skating Programs Department is working on a tool to help coaches decide when skaters should move from one level to the next within each discipline. This tool will include target developmental scores (technical, program component and total scores) and will be available to all coaches as soon as possible.

20. How do you know where the skater should be competing once they pass the gold test?

One guide for determining the level of competition is the well balanced program criteria (in particular the short program/dance criteria) which outlines the elements skaters are expected to perform successfully. Also, see the answer to Q.19 above.

21. Does having competed at a higher level limit a skater from entering a lower level ever again? For instance, if a skater competes in junior can they compete in novice next time?

There are no changes to the current rules in this case. A skater may compete in a lower category the following year provided they are qualified for entry based all the requirements outlined in the Skate Canada Rule Book Section 5000-2.0 and the Qualifying Competition Handbook, 515.

H) Questions specific to Dance and Pairs:

22. If a pre-novice dance team has their Gold Dance tests, is there still a Novice Competitive Dance test that they must also pass before they can move up to compete in the novice category?

If a pre-novice dance team has already passed their Gold Dance tests then they have the test prerequisites necessary to compete in novice, junior or senior. No further testing is required.

23. For a team wanting to compete in Novice Dance, do both skaters have to pass their Gold Dance test or does only one member of the team have to have passed their Gold Dance test?

Both members of the team must have passed their Gold Dance test in order to compete in the novice category. For teams that have passed their Novice Dance Competitive test, they will be granted equivalency for their Gold Dance test.

I) General Questions:

24. What is the rationale for the switch of Novice being equivalent to the Gold test?

The gold tests most closely match the minimum skill requirements in all disciplines and are aligned to the minimum entry standard of skills as outlined in the LTAD model. The program requirements for the Gold Free Skating test were realigned in July, 2011 so they are more comparable to the current novice test.

25. What is the rationale for assigning the same test pre-requisite for pre-juvenile, juvenile and pre-novice categories?

It is expected that skaters will take tests progressively while developing within the Learn to Compete stage. By removing the strict test requirements at each level of competition level within the stage, the system will have much more flexibility for coaches to make appropriate decisions for athletes based on their individual training schedules, growth and maturation cycles along with their skill acquisition.

26. Are the men's ages going to be the same as the women's for the categories?

Yes, the age groupings for men will be the same as the women for the singles categories.

27. Regarding the technical notice for 'Well Balanced Programs' presented in March for novice and below, do you expect that these will change from the year before?

At this point we do not anticipate any major changes. The only changes being contemplated are the inclusion of some possible mandatory jump elements. This issue is still under discussion.

28. Is the pre-novice category still included in Skate Canada Challenge?

Yes, the Challenge competition for pre-novice competitors will remain and will continue to act as the national championships for this level. There is only one age category for pre-novice (under 16 for singles and under 18 for pair and dance), so all qualified pre-novice athletes will compete at Sectionals for a berth at the Challenge competition.

29. Is the novice category still included in the Canadian Figure Skating Championships?

Yes, novice competitors will continue to compete at the Canadian Figure Skating Championships.

30. Will the general timing of Sectionals change?

No, the general timing of Sectionals will not change. That being said, Sectionals will be geared to the pre-novice to senior competitors. Sections are being encouraged to hold pre-juvenile and juvenile events later in the season as "peak" competitions for these categories.