



South African Figure Skating Association

COMMUNICATION S26-003

Section Skills & Star Test Requirements

Date Approved: 31 August 2026

Effective Start Date: 1 July 2026

1. Purpose of the Communication

The purpose of this communication is to provide guidance on the application of ANNEXURE D – SECTION SKILLS & STAR TEST REQUIREMENTS (MEDAL & CERTIFICATE RECOGNITION) for the 2026/2027 season.

Annexure D sets out the minimum eligibility requirements for participation and qualification in SAFSA-sanctioned competitions, including the South African Competitive Finals and the South African National Championships.

For each discipline and section, Annexure D specifies:

- The required Skills Level;
- The required Dance Pattern Tests;
- The required Star Test level, where applicable;
- The eligibility requirements applicable to both the Competitive Stream and the Championship Stream; and
- The prescribed team composition requirements, including team and reserve limits, for Synchronised Skating sections.

The Annexure also sets out the procedures and criteria governing the awarding and recognition of Skills Tests, Dance Tests and Star Tests, including the issuing of certificates, pins and medals.

All athletes, coaches, clubs, officials and Provincial Associations are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the requirements contained in Annexure D and to read these requirements together with the relevant SAFSA Rules and supporting Annexures.



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2. Competitive Stream Requirements

Competitive Stream – South African Competitive Finals Qualification Requirements

Annexure D outlines the minimum Dance Test and/or Skills Level requirements applicable to each section within the Competitive Stream.

Athletes competing in the Competitive Stream are not required to have passed a Star Test in order to qualify for participation in the South African Competitive Finals.

Eligibility to compete within the Competitive Stream is determined solely by compliance with the prescribed:

- Dance Pattern requirements; and/or
- Skills Level requirements;

as applicable to the discipline and section concerned.

As no Star Test qualification requirement applies within the Competitive Stream, qualification for the South African Competitive Finals is based exclusively on the official SAFSA National Rankings. The final qualification list for the Competitive Finals will be determined using the most recent rankings published following the final National Championships qualifying event of the season.



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3. Championship Stream Requirements

Championship Stream – National Championships Qualification Requirements

Annexure D further outlines the minimum eligibility requirements applicable to each Championship Stream section.

Athletes competing in the Championship Stream must comply with all prescribed requirements applicable to their discipline and section, including:

- Age eligibility requirements;
- Dance Pattern requirements; and/or Skills Level requirements
- The prescribed Star Test requirement for the relevant section.

Unlike the Competitive Stream, athletes in the Championship Stream are required to have successfully completed the applicable Star Test level in order to be eligible for qualification and entry into the South African National Championships.

Compliance with these requirements is mandatory for consideration for National Championships participation and must be read together with the relevant SAFSA Rules and Annexures.

National Championships Entry Limits and Hosting Constraints

Members are reminded that meeting the prescribed eligibility requirements does not automatically guarantee acceptance of an entry into the National Championships.

The National Championships Local Organising Committee (LOC), with the permission of the SAFSA Executive, may impose entry limitations where necessary due to:

- Available ice time;
- Competition scheduling constraints;
- Venue capacity limitations; and
- Other logistical requirements necessary to host a National Championships event to the required standard.

Where entry limitations become necessary, National Rankings and seasonal performance indicators will be used as determining factors for acceptance into affected sections.

Further details regarding entry limitations, where applicable, will be communicated by SAFSA.



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4. Synchronised Skating Team Composition Requirements

Annexure D also prescribes the eligibility and composition requirements for Synchronised Skating teams.

These provisions include:

- Minimum team size requirements;
- Maximum team size requirements;
- Permitted reserve skater limits;
- Section-specific team composition standards; and
- Any additional eligibility criteria applicable to Synchronised Skating competition.

Coaches, team managers and clubs are responsible for ensuring that all team entries comply fully with the requirements contained in Annexure D.

5. Medal and Certificate Recognition

The second part of ANNEXURE D – SECTION SKILLS & STAR TEST REQUIREMENTS (MEDAL & CERTIFICATE RECOGNITION) sets out the procedures and criteria for recognising achievements attained through the SAFSA Skills Test, Dance Test and Star Test systems.

The purpose of these provisions is to ensure a consistent, transparent and uniform process for recognising members' achievements across all SAFSA disciplines and levels.

The Annexure outlines:

- The authority responsible for recognising successful test achievements;
- The procedures for issuing certificates, pins and medals;
- The criteria applicable to the awarding of recognition;
- The distinction between provincial and national recognition processes; and
- The manner in which achievements may be formally acknowledged by SAFSA and its Provincial Associations.

Recognition of Skills, Dance and Star Test achievements shall be administered in accordance with the requirements and procedures prescribed in Annexure D.

Regards,

South African Figure Skating Association (SAFSA)

ANNEXURE D – SECTION SKILLS & STAR TEST REQUIREMENTS (MEDAL & CERTIFICATE RECOGNITION)

This Annexure sets out the minimum eligibility requirements for participation and qualification in SAFSA-sanctioned competitions, including the South African Competitive Finals and the National Championships. For each discipline and section, it specifies the required Skills Levels, Dance Patterns or Dance Skills, and Star Test requirements, and, in the case of Synchronised Skating, the applicable team composition, including team and reserve limits.

The second part of this Annexure outlines the requirements for the awarding and recognition of Star Test medals and certificates. Compliance with these requirements, read together with the relevant SAFSA Rules and Annexures, is mandatory for eligibility to compete, qualify and receive recognition at the respective events.

1. COMPETITIVE STREAM REQUIREMENTS**Competitive Stream – Finals Qualification Requirements**

Athletes competing in the Competitive Stream are not required to complete a Star Test to qualify for entry into the South African Competitive Finals. Eligibility to compete in the Competitive Stream is determined solely by compliance with the Skills Level and/or Dance Skills requirements, as applicable to the discipline and section, and as set out in the tables below and the relevant Annexures.

Athletes in the Championship Stream who have not qualified for the South African National Championships may still be eligible to compete in the corresponding Competitive Stream age sections (for example, Under 11, Under 14, etc.), if they meet the applicable Competitive Stream eligibility requirements.

As there is no Star Test qualification requirement for the Competitive Stream, qualification for the South African Competitive Finals is based exclusively on the official SAFSA rankings published from time to time on the SAFSA website. The final qualification list for the Competitive Finals will be determined using the most recent rankings published following the conclusion of the final National Championships qualification event of the season.

Singles	Skills Levels	
Section	Minimum	Maximum
Bronze	No Level	No Level
Silver	1	2
Gold	2	3
Platinum	3	No Max
Competitive u11	1	No Max
Competitive u14	2	No Max
Competitive u16	2	No Max
Competitive u19	3	No Max
Competitive 19+	4	No Max
Adult Introductory Artistic	No Level	No Level
Adult Bronze Artistic	1	1
Adult Silver Artistic	1	2
Adult Gold Artistic	2	3
Adult Masters Artistic	2	None
Adult Introductory Technical	No Level	No Level
Adult Bronze Technical	1	1
Adult Silver Technical	1	2
Adult Gold Technical	2	3
Adult Masters Technical	2	None

Pairs	Skills Levels	
Section	Minimum	Maximum
Bronze	No Level	No Level
Silver	1	2
Gold	2	3
Platinum	3	No Max
Competitive u11	1	No Max
Competitive u14	2	No Max
Competitive u16	3	No Max
Competitive u19	4	No Max
Competitive 19+	4	No Max
Adult Introductory Artistic	No Level	No Level
Adult Silver Artistic (ISU Adult)	1	1
Adult Gold Artistic (ISU Intermediate)	1	2
Adult Masters Artistic (ISU Masters)	2	No Max
Adult Introductory Technical	No Level	No Level
Adult Silver Technical (ISU Adult)	1	1
Adult Gold Technical (ISU Intermediate)	1	2
Adult Masters Technical (ISU Masters)	2	No Max

Solo Dance	Skills Level		Dance Pattern Tests
Section	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum
Bronze	No Level	No Level	None
Silver	1	2	None
Gold	2	3	Pewter
Platinum	3	No Max	Pewter
Adult Introductory	No Level	No Level	None
Adult Bronze	1	1	None
Adult Silver	1	2	None
Adult Gold	2	3	Pewter
Adult Masters	2	None	Pewter

Couple Dance	Skills Level		Dance Pattern Tests
Section	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum
Bronze	No Level	No Level	None
Silver	1	2	None
Gold	2	3	Pewter
Platinum	3	No Max	Pewter
Adult Introductory	No Level	No Level	None
Adult Bronze	1	1	None
Adult Silver	1	2	None
Adult Gold	2	3	Pewter
Adult Masters	2	None	Pewter

Synchronised Skating	Skills Level		Team Composition		
Section	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum	Maximum Reserves
Bronze	No Level	No Level	9	16	4
Silver	1	No Max	9	16	4
Adult Introductory	No Level	No Level	9	16	4
Adult Team	1	No Max	9	16	4
Adult Masters	2	No Max	9	16	4

2. CHAMPIONSHIP STREAM

Championship Stream – National Championships Qualification Requirements

The Championship Stream is subject to stricter qualification criteria, particularly with regard to age eligibility and Star Test requirements, in order to qualify for entry into the National Championships. Athletes in the Championship Stream must meet the prescribed age limits and must have successfully completed the required Star Test for their discipline and section, in accordance with the relevant SAFSA Rules and Annexures. Compliance with these requirements is mandatory for National Championships consideration.

National Championships Entry Limits and Hosting Constraints

Notwithstanding compliance with age, skill and Star Test requirements, entry into the National Championships may be limited by the National Championships Local Organising Committee (LOC) due to practical constraints, including but not limited to available ice time, schedule capacity and logistical considerations necessary to stage a National Championship to the required standard.

In such instances, National Rankings and seasonal performance indicators shall play a key role in determining acceptance of entries within affected sections. Details of any entry limits and the criteria applied shall be communicated through the applicable SAFSA Communications for the skating season.

Singles Section	Skills Levels		Star Requirements
	Minimum	Maximum	
Juvenile	1	No Max	Pewter
Basic Novice	2	No Max	Bronze
Intermediate Novice	2	No Max	Inter Silver
Advanced Novice	3	No Max	Silver
Junior	4	No Max	Inter Gold
Senior	4	No Max	Gold

Pairs Section	Skills Levels		Star Requirements
	Minimum	Maximum	
Juvenile	1	No Max	Pewter Star
Basic Novice	2	No Max	Bronze Star
Advanced Novice	3	No Max	Silver Star
Junior	4	No Max	Inter-Gold Star
Senior	4	No Max	Gold Star

Solo Dance	Skills Level		Pattern Dance Level		Star Requirement
Section	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum	Bronze Star
Basic Novice	1	No Max	Pewter	None	Bronze Star
Intermediate Novice	2	No Max	Pewter & Bronze	None	Inter Silver Star
Advanced Novice	2	No Max	Pewter & Bronze	None	Silver Star
Junior	2	No Max	Pewter & Bronze	None	Inter Gold Star
Senior	2	No Max	Pewter & Bronze	None	Gold Star

Couple Dance	Skills Level		Pattern Dance Level		Star Requirement
Section	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum	Bronze Star
Basic Novice	1	No Max	Pewter	None	Bronze Star
Intermediate Novice	2	No Max	Pewter & Bronze	None	Inter Silver Star
Advanced Novice	2	No Max	Pewter & Bronze	None	Silver Star
Junior	2	No Max	Pewter & Bronze	None	Inter Gold Star
Senior	2	No Max	Pewter & Bronze	None	Gold Star

Synchronised	Skills Level		SAFSA Team Composition			Star Test Requirement
Section	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum	Maximum Reserves	
Mixed Age	2	No Max	9	16	4	Inter Silver Star
Novice	3	No Max	9	16	4	Silver Star
Junior	4	No Max	12	16	4	Inter Gold Star
Senior	4	No Max	12	16	4	Gold Star
Elite 12	4	No Max	12	12	4	Gold Star
Synchro 9	4	No Max	9	9	2	Gold Star

***Disclaimer: Senior Team Composition for International Events is a minimum of 12 skaters. For ISU Championship events, a minimum of 16.**

SKILLS & STARS MEDALS & CERTIFICATE RECOGNITION

The following sets out the procedures and criteria for the implementation of the Skills Test and Star Test recognition rules of the South African Figure Skating Association (SAFSA). It defines the manner in which successful completion of approved tests is acknowledged, the authority responsible for issuing certificates, pins, and medals, and the presentation thereof at provincial and national level. The purpose of this Annexure is to ensure consistent, transparent, and uniform recognition of members' achievements across all disciplines and levels in accordance with SAFSA regulations.

SKILLS TESTS

SKATING SKILLS LEVELS	RECOGNITION BY
Level 1	Province
Level 2	Province
Level 3	Province
Level 4	Province
Level 5	Province
Level 6	SAFSA

DANCE SKILLS	RECOGNITION BY
Pewter Pattern Dance Test	Province
Bronze Pattern Dance Test	Province
Inter-Silver Pattern Dance Test	Province
Silver Pattern Dance Test	Province
Inter-Gold Pattern Dance Test	Province
Gold Pattern Dance Test	SAFSA

STAR TESTS**SINGLES**

SECTION	STAR MEDAL	RECOGNITION BY
Juvenile	Pewter Star	Province
Basic Novice	Bronze Star	Province
Intermediate Novice	Inter Silver Star	Province
Advanced Novice	Silver Star	Province
Junior	Inter-Gold Star	Province
Senior	Gold Star	SAFSA

PAIRS

SECTION	STAR MEDAL	RECOGNITION BY
Juvenile	Pewter Star	Province
Basic Novice	Bronze Star	Province
Advanced Novice	Silver Star	Province
Junior	Inter-Gold Star	Province
Senior	Gold Star	SAFSA

SOLO DANCE

SECTION	STAR MEDAL	RECOGNITION BY
Basic Novice	Bronze Star	Province
Intermediate Novice	Inter Silver Star	Province
Advanced Novice	Silver Star	Province
Junior	Inter-Gold Star	Province
Senior	Gold Star	SAFSA

COUPLE DANCE

SECTION	STAR MEDAL	RECOGNITION BY
Basic Novice	Bronze Star	Province
Intermediate Novice	Inter Silver Star	Province
Advanced Novice	Silver Star	Province
Junior	Inter-Gold Star	Province
Senior	Gold Star	SAFSA

SYNCHRONISED SKATING

SECTION	STAR MEDAL	RECOGNITION BY
Mixed Age	Inter-Silver Star	Province
Novice	Silver Star	Province
Junior	Inter Gold Star	Province
Senior, Elite 12 & Synchro 9	Gold Star	SAFSA