



South African Figure Skating Association

COMMUNICATION S26-004

Section Program Requirements & CTES Score

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 E – SKILLS & SECTION PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS & CTES SCORES for the 2026/2027 season.

This Annexure serves as the primary reference document for:

- Program requirements applicable to each discipline and competition section;
- Links and references to the official Skills Levels Handbook;
- Links and references to the official Dance Pattern Handbook;
- Star Test program requirements;
- National Championships qualification CTES requirements applicable to Championship Stream sections.

All athletes, coaches, officials, technical specialists and competition organisers are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the contents of Annexure E and to ensure compliance with the requirements applicable to their discipline and section.

2. Section Program Requirements

Annexure E sets out the program content requirements for every competition section and discipline recognised by SAFSA.

These requirements include, where applicable:

- Short Program requirements;
- Free Program requirements;
- Pattern Dance requirements;
- Rhythm Dance requirements;
- Free Dance requirements;
- Synchronised Skating program requirements; and
- Any additional technical requirements applicable to a specific section.



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The Annexure provides the appropriate references and links to the official program requirements that competitors must follow when preparing their programs for competition and testing purposes.

3. Skills Levels and Dance Pattern References

To ensure consistency in the application of skills and testing standards across South Africa, Annexure E also contains references and links to the official:

- SAFSA Skills Levels Handbook; and
- SAFSA Dance Pattern Handbook.

These documents provide the detailed criteria, elements, standards and assessment requirements applicable to Skills Levels and Dance Pattern testing.

Athletes, coaches and test officials should consult these handbooks in conjunction with Annexure E when preparing for Skills Tests, Dance Tests and Star Tests.

4. Combined Technical Element Scores (CTES)

Annexure E also prescribes the Combined Technical Element Score (CTES) requirements applicable to Star Tests and Championship Stream National Championships qualification.

To successfully pass the applicable Star Test, an athlete must achieve the minimum CTES prescribed for the relevant discipline and section, in addition to satisfying all other applicable testing requirements.

The Star Test is a structured technical assessment and consists of:

Part A

- Short Program; or
- Pattern Dance/Rhythm Dance Program,

as applicable to the discipline and section.



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Part B

- Free Program.

Each part is evaluated based on the Technical Element Score (TES) achieved in the respective program.

The Combined Technical Element Score (CTES) is the sum of the TES achieved in Part A and Part B, after the deduction of any applicable technical deductions.

The CTES requirement is used for qualification, progression and recognition purposes in accordance with the relevant SAFSA Rules and Annexures.

5. National Championships Qualification CTES Requirements

For athletes competing in the Championship Stream, Annexure E specifies the minimum CTES requirements applicable to qualification for the South African National Championships.

Athletes seeking qualification for the National Championships must ensure that they satisfy the prescribed CTES requirements applicable to their discipline and section, together with all other eligibility requirements contained in the relevant SAFSA Rules and Annexures.

The CTES scores published in Annexure E form an important component of the Championship Stream qualification pathway and should be read together with the age, Skills Level, Dance Test and Star Test requirements published elsewhere within the SAFSA governance framework.



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6. Star Test Completion Requirements

A Star Test will only be regarded as successfully completed when an athlete has:

- Passed the prescribed Skills Test(s) applicable to the relevant level;
- Achieved the minimum CTES requirement prescribed for that level; and
- In the case of Solo Dance and Couple Dance, successfully completed the additional Dance Tests prescribed for that level.

No Star Test shall be recognised as having been passed unless all applicable requirements have been fully satisfied.

7. Interpretation of Program Requirements

Where Annexure E references or reproduces program requirements derived from the International Skating Union (ISU), members are reminded that such requirements may be updated periodically by the ISU.

In the event of any discrepancy, conflict or inconsistency between the provisions contained in ANNEXURE E – SKILLS & SECTION PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS & CTES SCORES and the current official ISU Communications, Technical Rules or Program Requirements, the applicable ISU requirements shall take precedence and supersede the provisions contained in Annexure E.

Athletes, coaches and officials are therefore encouraged to remain informed of any ISU updates that may affect program content or technical requirements during the season.

Regards,

South African Figure Skating Association (SAFSA)

ANNEXURE E – SKILLS & SECTION PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS & CTES SCORES

To successfully pass the applicable Star Test, an athlete must attain the minimum Combined Technical Element Score (CTES) prescribed below, in addition to meeting all other test requirements.

The Star Test is a structured technical assessment required for certain competition pathways and consists of two parts: Part A – the Short Program or Pattern/Rhythm Program, as applicable to the discipline and section; and Part B – the Free Program.

Each part of the Star Test is assessed on the basis of the Technical Element Score (TES) achieved in the respective program. The Combined Technical Element Score (CTES) is defined as the total of the TES from Part A and Part B, after the deduction of any applicable technical deductions, and is used for qualification and recognition purposes in accordance with the relevant SAFSA Rules and Annexures.

A Star Test shall be deemed successfully completed only when the athlete has:

- Passed the prescribed Skills Test(s) for the relevant level;
- Achieved the required minimum CTES; and
- In the case of Solo Dance and Couple Dance, successfully completed the required additional Dance Tests applicable to that level.

No Star Test shall be recorded as passed unless all the above requirements have been fully satisfied in accordance with these Regulations.

The following sections describe the program and test requirements as well as the Combined Technical Element Scores:

SKILLS TEST REQUIREMENTS**STAR PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS & CTES**

1. SKILLS TESTS REQUIREMENTS

Requirements – Skating Skills Tests

SKATING SKILLS LEVELS	TEST REQUIREMENTS
Level 1	As per the MOVES IN THE FIELD HANDBOOK on SAFSA Website https://safsa.org.za/governance-documents-forms/
Level 2	
Level 3	
Level 4	
Level 5	
Level 6	

Requirements – Dance Skills Test

PATTERN DANCE TESTS	DANCE TEST REQUIREMENTS
Pewter Dance	As per the SAFSA ICE DANCE HANDBOOK on SAFSA WEBSITE https://safsa.org.za/governance-documents-forms/
Bronze Dance	
Inter Silver Dance	
Silver	
Inter Gold Dance	
Gold Dance	

2. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS & CTES SCORES

SINGLES

SECTION	PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS	CTES
Juvenile (Men/Women)	See Appendix A - SAFSA MASTER DOCUMENT https://safsa.org.za/governance-documents-forms/	5.50
Basic Novice (Men/Women)		8.22
Intermediate Novice (Men/Women)		9.95
Advanced Novice Women		22.97
Advanced Novice Men		22.97
Junior Women		30.61
Junior Men		36.76
Senior Women		45.08
Senior Men		52.72

PAIRS

SECTION	PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS	CTES
Juvenile	See Appendix B - SAFSA MASTER DOCUMENT https://safsa.org.za/governance-documents-forms/	6.5
Basic Novice		8.6
Advanced Novice		15.3
Junior		30
Senior		50

SOLO DANCE

SECTION	PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS	CTES
Basic Novice	See Appendix C - SAFSA MASTER DOCUMENT https://safsa.org.za/governance-documents-forms/	8
Intermediate Novice		10
Advanced Novice		14
Junior		36
Senior		42

COUPLE DANCE

SECTION	PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS	CTES
Basic Novice	See Appendix D - SAFSA MASTER DOCUMENT https://safsa.org.za/governance-documents-forms/	8
Intermediate Novice		10
Advanced Novice		14
Junior		36
Senior		42

SYNCHRONISED SKATING

SECTION	PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS	CTES
Mixed Age	See Appendix E - SAFSA MASTER DOCUMENT https://safsa.org.za/governance-documents-forms/	15
Novice		12
Junior		30
Senior		40