



SOUTH AFRICAN FIGURE SKATING ASSOCIATION

RULES & REGULATIONS

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SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION AND GOVERNANCE

The Introduction and Governance section establishes the purpose, authority, and governing framework of the South African Figure Skating Association (SAFSA) Rules and Regulations. It defines the scope and applicability of the Rule Book, clarifies SAFSA's authority and its relationship with the International Skating Union (ISU), and sets out the hierarchy and interpretation of rules. This section provides the foundational context essential for the consistent, fair, and effective governance of figure skating in South Africa.

INTRODUCTION & GOVERNANCE

1. Purpose and Scope of the SAFSA Rule Book

- 1.1.1. The SAFSA Rule Book sets out the Rules, Regulations, and Governance Framework governing the sport of figure skating and related disciplines under the jurisdiction of the South African Figure Skating Association (SAFSA).
- 1.1.2. The purpose of this Rule Book is to:
 - 1.1.2.1. Promote the fair, safe, and orderly conduct of figure skating activities in South Africa;
 - 1.1.2.2. Ensure consistency, transparency, and integrity in testing, competitions, and administration;
 - 1.1.2.3. Provide clear guidance to skaters, coaches, officials, clubs, and organisers; and
 - 1.1.2.4. Align South African figure skating with International Skating Union (ISU) standards, where applicable.
- 1.1.3. This Rule Book governs all tests, competitions, events, and official activities organised, sanctioned, or recognised by SAFSA.

2. Authority of SAFSA and Relationship to ISU Rules

- 2.1.1. SAFSA is the national governing body for figure skating and related disciplines in South Africa and exercises authority in accordance with its Constitution and applicable national sports legislation.
- 2.1.2. SAFSA is a member of, and is affiliated to, the International Skating Union (ISU) and shall comply with all ISU Statutes, General Regulations, and Special Regulations, except where lawful national deviations are expressly permitted.
- 2.1.3. Where ISU Rules are applicable to SAFSA activities:
 - 2.1.3.1. ISU Rules shall apply directly, unless modified or supplemented by SAFSA Rules as permitted;
 - 2.1.3.2. Any permitted SAFSA deviation from ISU Rules shall be clearly identified and documented in this Rule Book or relevant Annexure.
- 2.1.4. In matters not expressly regulated by SAFSA, the relevant ISU Rules and Communications shall apply mutatis mutandis.

3. Applicability

- 3.1. These Rules are binding upon:
 - All SAFSA affiliated clubs;
 - All registered skaters, including recreational, competitive, and test skaters;
 - All coaches, instructors, and choreographers operating within SAFSA jurisdiction;
 - All judges, referees, technical specialists, data and video officials;
 - All competition organisers and event officials;
 - SAFSA Provincial Affiliate;
 - Any individual or body participating in, or benefiting from, SAFSA-sanctioned activities.
- 3.2. Compliance with these Rules is a condition of membership, participation, accreditation, and entry into any SAFSA test or competition.
- 3.3. Ignorance of the Rules shall not constitute a defence in disciplinary, eligibility, or protest proceedings.

4. Rule Hierarchy and Interpretation

- 4.1. In the event of conflict, the following rule hierarchy shall apply:
 - 4.1.1. ISU Statutes and Regulations
 - 4.1.2. SAFSA Constitution
 - 4.1.3. Most recent published SAFSA Communications
 - 4.1.4. SAFSA Rules and Regulations (including Annexures)
 - 4.1.5. Competition Announcements / Local Regulations
 - 4.1.6. Guidelines, Appendices, Policies, Procedures and Notices
- 4.2. Competition Announcements may supplement, but shall not contradict or override, SAFSA or ISU Rules unless expressly authorised.
- 4.3. Interpretation of these Rules rests with SAFSA.
- 4.4. Any ambiguity shall be interpreted in a manner that best upholds:
 - 4.4.1. Safety
 - 4.4.2. Fairness
 - 4.4.3. Sporting integrity
 - 4.4.4. Alignment with ISU principles

5. Definitions and Abbreviations

- 5.1. Unless otherwise defined, terms used in this Rule Book shall have the same meaning as those defined in the ISU Statutes and Regulations.
- 5.2. The following definitions apply throughout this Rule Book:
- 5.2.1. **“Age Eligibility”** means the eligibility of a skater to compete in a given category, determined by the age the skater has reached before **1 July preceding the skating season or competition**, in accordance with ISU Rule and applicable ISU Communications.
 - 5.2.2. **“Annexure”** means a document forming an integral and binding part of these Rules.
 - 5.2.3. **“Appendix”** means a document provided for guidance or information only and not forming part of the binding Regulations.
 - 5.2.4. **“Athlete”** means an individual skater, whether skating alone or as part of a couple, pair, or synchronised skating team.
 - 5.2.5. **“Competitor”** means an Athlete or Skating Unit entered into a SAFSA-sanctioned competition and subject to SAFSA Rules.
 - 5.2.6. **“Competition Announcement”** means published event-specific regulations issued by or on behalf of SAFSA.
 - 5.2.7. **“Couple”** means a Skating Unit consisting of two Athletes competing together as partners in Ice Dance.
 - 5.2.8. **“ISU”** means the International Skating Union.
 - 5.2.9. **“Member”** means any person or body admitted to SAFSA or a SAFSA-recognised Provincial Affiliate and subject to SAFSA Rules.
 - 5.2.10. **“Non-Championship Competition”** means any SAFSA-sanctioned competition that does not award national championship titles.
 - 5.2.11. **“Official”** means any judge, referee, technical official, data or video operator, or appointed SAFSA official.
 - 5.2.12. **“Pair”** means a Skating Unit consisting of two Athletes competing together, performing elements and programs prescribed for that discipline.
 - 5.2.13. **“Rule Book”** means the SAFSA Rules and Regulations, including all Annexures.
 - 5.2.14. **“SAFSA”** means the South African Figure Skating Association.
 - 5.2.15. **“SAFSA-Affiliated Club”** means a club affiliated directly to SAFSA or indirectly through a SAFSA-recognised Provincial Affiliate and operating under SAFSA authority.
 - 5.2.16. **“Singles”** means a skating discipline in which one Athlete competes individually, performing programs prescribed for single skaters.
 - 5.2.17. **“Solo”** means an Ice Dance skating category in which one Athlete competes individually, performing dance-based elements and program requirements without a partner.
 - 5.2.18. **“Skater”** means any individual registered with SAFSA who participates in testing or competition.

- 5.2.19. **“Skating Unit”** means two or more Athletes entering and competing together as a single entity, including but not limited to a Couple, Pair, or Synchronised Skating Team.
- 5.2.20. **“Synchronised Skating Team”** means a Skating Unit consisting of multiple Athletes who compete together as a team in Synchronised Skating, performing programs in accordance with prescribed team structures and rules.
- 5.2.21. **Abbreviations** used in this Rule Book shall include, but are not limited to:
- CTES – Combined Technical Element Score**
 - SP – Short Program**
 - FS – Free Skating**
 - FD – Free Dance**
 - RD – Rhythm Dance**
 - IJS – ISU Judging System**
 - ORS – ISU Online Registration System**