



Instructions to Referees

Re: Allowance of delayed start or restart (Application of Interruption Deduction)

Updated November 1st, 2016

Skate Canada Referees are expected to familiarize themselves with ISU Special Regulations & Technical Rules - Allowance of delayed start or restart ([Rule 515 – Single & Pair Skating and Ice Dance](#); [Rule 965 – Synchronized Skating](#)), as well as the [Skate Canada Technical Communication](#) regarding the application of interruption deductions.

With respect to the practical applications these rules, please note the information below:

1. An Interruption is defined as the time elapsed between the moment a Skater stops performing the program until the moment he resumes performing the program. For every Interruption of more than ten (10) seconds, there shall be a deduction (per [CPC Judging System Section A-105 Determination and Publication of Results 1. V](#)).
2. A fall in and of itself should not be considered an interruption. There are times however that following a fall, a skater may be injured and therefore after the fall they are showing no attempt to perform. In this situation the Referee should begin timing for a possible interruption deduction.
3. **At any time in Skate Canada competitions (qualifying and non-qualifying) if the Referee feels there is a possible head injury or concern of concussion or if advised by medical, they should blow the whistle to signal to the Skater(s) to stop skating. The Referee will allow a break of up to three minutes for the Skater(s) to be assessed. In all domestic competition, if the Skater is able to continue no deduction will be applied.**
4. At competitions where video replay is available, a Referee may use video replay to verify the length of an interruption in a questionable situation.
5. At competitions where video replay is not in use, the Referee should time and apply interruption deductions based on their best judgment and understanding of the rules. In this situation, Referees are reminded to give the benefit of any doubt to the skater in a questionable situation.
6. At competitions where a volunteer timer is assigned to a panel, the Referee should request that they time the length of the program beginning with the first movement of the skater. They should not stop this timing unless instructed to do so by the Referee. In this situation, the Referee should have a separate stopwatch ready to time the length of any interruptions.
7. At competitions where there is no volunteer timer assigned to a panel, the Referee should have two stopwatches. One stopwatch can be used to time the length of the program beginning with

the movement of the skater. The second stopwatch can be ready to time the length of any interruptions.

8. The Referee should have a discussion with the music technicians and Video Replay Operators (if applicable) prior to each event. They should be instructed that they are not to stop the music or the video recording unless directed to do so by the Referee. In some situations, a music technician or Video Replay Operator may see a skater hurt and stop the music or video without consulting the Referee. Referees should explain the deduction situation and outline the importance of waiting for instructions before stopping the music or video.

We appreciate the efforts of all of our Referees in applying these deductions with their best judgment. Skate Canada will continue to communicate any further clarifications as they become available.