



International Seminar On Theater on Ice Toulouse, December 2-4, 2005

Participants :

- Spain : Jordi Vila, Natalia Vila, Patrick Capmartin
- The USA : Judith Edmunds, Nancy Fillebrown, John Mucko
- France : Stéphanie Barrier, Thierry Bontemps, Didier Brus, Nadège Frechinos, Françoise Guttin-Moine, Benoît Launay, Rodolphe Maréchal, Francis Mouque, Nathalie de Renty, Dominique Robert, Christine Sabbatini, Philippe Sauvageon, Marcel Taberlet, Filipowicz Iwona, Pary Angélique, Lener Belinda, Lefevre Sandy, Chambrin Aude

Technical BOI Committee : Bernard Carles, Christiane Detré, Serge Launay, Gérard Gautun (chairman, BOI and Synchronized Skating Technical Committee), Jean-Christophe Berlot, Etosse Gilles, Alloin-Isore Françoise, Derval Peggy, Arranda Marie Joseph

League Languedoc Roussillon, Toulouse TOI : Gérard Barthe, François Frechinos, Fourquet Annick Bernadette Clemente, Chasan Laurent, Gorgerin Laurence,

Excuses : l'Italie et la Slovaquie

1. Context and objectives of the 2nd International Seminar

The first international Seminar was held in Toulouse in September 2003, and allowed to define common international rules and judging criteria for Theater on Ice.

2 years later, the 2nd International Seminar had the following objectives :

- Review the rules elaborated together in 2003
- Prepare decisions to be made at the 3rd International Seminar to be held in Boston, USA, in October 2006
- Share experience on how to build a Choreographic Exercise, exchange best practices
- Identify how to make the sport develop further internationally.

2. International calendar

- In June every year, check together what the vacation dates are in each country, in order to optimize the dates set for international competitions.

Back to back international competitions (held one Saturday and the next) would allow for a US team to compete in both if organized around Spring Break (it may however be detrimental to French club participation, as they would not participate in both).

- US International TOI competition is organized on the last week-end of June, that is before air fare are too high and all hotels are booked. French Baccalauréat however

takes place at the same dates (and lasts until 1st week of July), which may cause the defection of some team members.

- Efforts to rationalize the European calendar are under way. Barcelona and Toulouse are ready to organize their competition alternatively each year, in order to promote qualitatively higher standard competitions.
- Target : extend the TOI season between mid February to end of May (June in the US). Providing the Choreographic Exercise elements 2 seasons ahead (see below) should help teams to devise their programs as early as May for the season to come.

International calendar :

March 11 – 12 : Moscow

March 25 : Coupe des Ducs de Savoie, Chambéry

April 1 : Asnières

April 8 : Griffé d'Argent, Argenteuil

April 22 : Nice

May 27 : Trophée de Catalogne, Barcelone

June 23 – 24 : International Theater on Ice, Cape Cod, USA. A coach seminar will be held in parallel, as well as an international School of Judging, which will certify international judges. French judges are welcome to participate.

October 12-15 : 3rd International Seminar in Boston. International “Rulebook” and Choreographic Exercise will be discussed in depth with the attendees. Several French coaches and judges have showed their interest to participate.

Note : Judy Edmunds will include all judges / choreographers who wish so into her Yahoo Group of information and discussion.

3. Choreographic Exercise

The “hands on” exercise done has allowed to realize that:

- Consistency between the 3 elements is key.
- The building up of a choreographic exercise starts by a somewhat “intellectual” process done by the choreographer (see notes distributed during the seminar), who starts by elaborating what kind of a link between the 3 elements he / she will transfer onto the ice.
- The difficulty is then to transfer the original idea onto the ice, given the set of skaters at hand.

The following decisions were made:

- The choice of the 3 elements (theme, choreographic process, movement) will be proposed two seasons in advance (e.g. in 2006 for season 2008)
- The same 3 elements will be valid for all categories (Adult, Senior, Junior, Novice) and all competitions
- Each country taking part in TOI competitions will propose one choice of consistent elements through the proper internal selection process.

- The International Coordination Committee will select one of the proposals. The proposal selected should hence not be a mix between the proposed choices, in order to avoid non-consistency between the 3 elements selected.
- Each proposal will include the name of the 3 elements and a precise definition for each
- The selection process will be tested in 2006 for the next 2 seasons
- Rules are otherwise left unchanged.

4. International Coordination Committee

An International Coordination Committee is formed, in order to facilitate the decision making process for the sport and within each country.

For instance, this Committee will work on such items as the selection process for the 3 elements of the next seasons Choreographic Exercise.

The Committee gathers one representative per country involved. It is started with Judy Edmunds (USA), Jordi Vila (Spain) and JC. Berlot (France).

Each one will have the proper relays in her / his country, in order to pass on information further ("clearing house").

5. Evolution of the International Rulebook

The following proposals are agreed upon. They will be included in the International Rulebook and each National Rules **for the 2006 – 2007 Season**, once validated by the proper national bodies.

Duration of programs :

- from 6 min +/- 30 sec to 6 min +/- 15 sec (for Senior and Junior)
- from 5 min +/- 30 sec to 5 min +/- 15 sec (for Novice)

Scenery : the maximum height of scenery is 2.3 m, or 7.67 feet

Curtain : the rule proposed by the US is adopted : a curtain must be used in any international competition. It may be placed along one end of the rink or across the middle of the ice surface. The exact placement of the curtain must be stated in the announcement with the curtain's dimensions and distance from the barriers.

Note : a 3m high, 20-30 meter long and clean curtain (e.g. of dark or dark blue color), extended from end to end of the rink, may enhance the "marketability" of TOI, as it will provide a proper background for TOI photos. The purchase of such a curtain could be shared amongst international competition organizers and carried from one event to the next.

Judging System : emphasis in the years to come will be put on the development of judges more than on testing the New Judging System and adapting it to TOI (the amount of investment required for the NJS is very high and the NJS still needs to be refined in its current status).

France will experiment a "hybrid" judging system in a parallel way, but this will not affect whatsoever any of the international competitions held in the country.

Categories : "*I can participate in TOI and not lose my identity*", an international competitor said. The development set for TOI should allow any skater of any position to state the same.

The proposed categories are presented in the table below.

- An “Adult” category is created internationally, as it already exists in the US. No team has been created in France or Spain yet, but potential may exist (e.g. in Barcelona). The category will be offered on an opportunistic basis.
- Senior and Junior categories appear to be consistent at an international level.
- International competition organizers will decide whether they offer Choreographic Exercise or not. For competitions which decide to include a choreographic exercise, it will be skated on an optional basis. Two separate rankings will then be calculated (for the Choreographic Exercise and for the “Free”).
- The US will test a “Juvenile” category during the next season, in order to allow younger skaters to compete in a category more suited to them. Results of the test will be discussed in Boston, in order to see if it may be officialized internationally.

At target, the Juvenile category may be consistent with the current “Jeunes Espoirs” category in France, if France lowers the age limit from 15 to 13.

- The “Novice” category in the US and the “Junior” category in France may need to be defined more precisely than they are now, with formal age or level limits, in order to be included in the proper gradation of categories.

Categories	Level	Age	Choreographic Exercise	Competitions where offered	Performance duration
Adult	- (F) 100 % some test (USA)	75 % > 21 yrs	Optional in all int’l competitions	Int’l TOI (USA) Int’l competitions if opportunities	6 +/- 15
Senior	100 % Preliminary (F) 50 % Interm. MIF (USA)	-	Optional in all int’l competitions, mandatory in French Nls (2 :30 +/- 10s)	All int’l competitions	6 +/- 15
Junior	- (F) 50 % Juvenile MIF (USA)	-	Optional in all int’l competitions, mandatory in French Nls (2 :30 +/- 10s)	All int’l competitions	6 +/- 15
Novice (USA)	-	- (USA)	Optional in all int’l competitions (2 :30 +/- 10s)	Novices or Jeunes Espoirs in all int’l competitions	5 +/- 15
Jeunes Espoirs (F)	< Preparatory	100 % <15 (F)	Optional in all int’l competitions (2 :30 +/- 10s)	Novices or Jeunes Espoirs in all int’l competitions	5 +/- 15
Juvenile (test in US only)	< 50 % Prelim. MIF	100 % < 13	-	Int’l TOI (USA)	4 +/- 15
Festival (F)	-	-	-	t.b.d.	6 +/- 15

6. National and international development of TOI : new ideas

“TOI will spread out through education” (Judy Edmunds).

- **Educational video** : G. Gautun proposes to launch the making of an educational video on TOI, by using existing or new material and editing it in the proper format. An editorial board will be formed with judges, coaches and choreographers to select the footing and prepare the comments. A similar job could be done in the US.
- **Education** (which will be 2006 motto in the US) :
 - Education of skaters could be done via a judging sheet given to each of them at start of the season, with a definition of judging criteria
 - Education of parents could be done via “parent schools” (with a registration fee of 5 \$!) to take them through the refereeing, accounting and judging processes. At start of the competition they will be given a judging sheet with the definition of criteria, and will trial judge in parallel to the actual judging panel, with a judge accompanying them. Such an experience has led to comments like “I will never criticize a judge any more”, and two new judge apprentices being trained.
 - Education of the audience could be made by including a blank judging sheet in the program.
 - After competition “critique” needs to be done in a more personal way than through a plenary assembly. The US suggest that it may be done by a judge discussing with a group of representatives for each team, which should include : team leader (to connect properly with the skaters themselves), captain, coach and choreographer.
- **Elaboration of a “charter”** to facilitate the venue of international teams to a given competition. ISU competition announcements are very complete and may be used as a starting point. Such a charter could include :
 - Rules : categories, choreographic exercise, organization of the rink (position of the curtain and judges, ...)
 - Logistics : opportunity to stay with local families, registration, contact persons, nearby hotels, travel agencies, transportation facilities
 - Financial support : what the organizer will provide (food, lodging, party, ...), potential sponsors, local committees for twin cities, etc.