



# International Freestyle Skaters Association

To all:  
IFSA Skaters  
IFSA Partners  
National Federations

Obj: Board Meeting, Freestyle sports – Analysis & Rules Headlines for 2009 Season.

Following the IFSA Board meeting held in Paris on the 18<sup>th</sup> October, the International Freestyle Skaters Association, in partnership with the FIRS, thanks to the comments, supports and suggestions of all countries, decided of changes for the season 2009.

In order to give a better overview of the many decisions taken throughout the board meeting this will be divided by categories. These are the main headlines. Some particular details will be given and publish in the next weeks.

## **High Jump:**

The development of the high jump is still going slow, the number of skaters taking part into this category, sadly, is not developing. Therefore, the IFSA decided to carry on proposing this Sport as an open sport for all the World Cup.

The High jump need resources to develop, the IFSA is making an appeal for contribution for any person interested to develop and to push High Jump as an official sports in the next year.

**The High Jump rules for 2009 remain the same.** However, as you will read below, the Athletics rules will be applied for all the jumps sports. That affects the number of Jump (back to 3 for each height) and the resolution of “ties”.

## **Free Jump:**

Free jump had a good progression over the last few years. More skaters are taking part to the events and more women are taking part as well. The performances did increase too.

The numbers of try used to be set to two until three skaters remains. However for 2009, following demands of different partners, **the athletics rules will be strictly applied**. It should help the public to understand the sport as they are used to athletics rules.

Therefore the changes are:

- Three consecutive failures, regardless of the height at which any of such failures occur, disqualify from further jumping except in the case of a tie for first place.
- The effect of this Rule is that an athlete may forego his second or third trial at a particular height (after failing first or second time) and still jump at a subsequent height.
- If an athlete foregoes a trial at a certain height, he may not make any subsequent trial at that height, except in the case of a tie for first place.



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- A skater, who unreasonably delays making a trial, renders him liable to have that trial disallowed and recorded as a failure. It is a matter for the Judges to decide, having regard to all the circumstances, what is an unreasonable delay. The official responsible shall indicate to the skater that all is ready for the trial to begin, and the period allowed for this trial shall commence from that moment. If skater subsequently decides not to attempt a trial, it shall be considered a failure once that period allowed for the trial has elapsed. For the High Jump the time shall begin when the crossbar has been adjusted according to the previous wishes of the athlete. No additional time will be allowed for further adjustment. If the time allowed elapses after an athlete has started his trial, that trial should not be disallowed.

The following times should not normally be exceeded:

<u>Number of skaters remaining</u>	<u>Free Jump</u>	<u>High Jump</u>
More than 3	1 min	1 min
2 or 3	1.5 min	2 min
1 skater	3 min	5 min

- Ties shall be resolved as follows:
  - (a) The athlete with the lowest number of jumps at the height at which the tie occurs shall be awarded the higher place.
  - (b) If the tie still remains, the athlete with the lowest total of failures throughout the competition up to and including the height last cleared shall be awarded the higher place.
  - (c) If the tie still remains:
    - (i) If it concerns the first place, the athletes tying shall have one jump at the next height after the height last cleared by the athletes tying, and if no decision is reached, the bar shall be raised if the tying athletes were successful, or lowered if not. 2cm by 2 cm. They shall then attempt one jump at each height until the tie is resolved. Athletes so tying must jump on each occasion when resolving the tie.
    - (ii) If it concerns any other place, the athletes shall be awarded the same place in the competition.
- In the meantime following the development in 2008 and after a comparison of the results the decision has been taking to raise the first bar for the male category. Therefore the new start height is now **110 cm for male**. This height is then followed by a 10 centimetres increase and then 5 by 5 until 3 skaters remain. Then the skaters shall choose their height in concentration one to each other. If no decision has been taken between the final athletes the lowest height requested will be placed.
- The first stick remains at 70 cm for the Women followed by one increase of 10 centimetres and then 5 by 5. The same rule apply in case of three skaters remain.



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## Speed Slalom:

The organization of the speed slalom area remains the same for 2009. Number of cone and length of the start will remain the same.

After analysis of the various propositions and in order to adjust the rules as per the different opinions the following decision have been taken:

- The repartition of the judges on the competition area will change. One of the table judges will now move as a first cone judge. Thanks to a camera and in a better visual position the first cone judge will decide or not of a penalty on the first cone or not. The runner judges will be able to concert the first cone judge in case of a doubt.
- The first cone judge can as well report any penalty or false start.
- A demand has been made around a rule for the space before the finish line. Various propositions came across the IFSA. However the decision has been taken to only clarify the rule and to make sure that before every event the skaters understand the rule. **The 20 cones must be slalom**, from the very first cone to the very last; only one trick is permitted throughout the run. The skater is allowed to touch the floor after the last cone and before the finish line.
- This very new and need to be understand by every skater. Following various request worldwide and in order to make sure that the penalty given to the skater is correct the decision has been taken that when the skater slalom on a one foot tricks, **the skater is not allowed to touch the floor with his other skate even for 0.02sc this will withdraw him from the run**. In case of a KO, the other skater will be declaring the winner of the run. In case of time trial the time of the skater will be registered as 100seconds.
- The rest of the rules remain the same.
- In term of event organisation, Time display is now compulsory in every event. (dedicated display, video screen, TV ...)
- The display of the penalties (small book with figures printed) is now compulsory thanks to members of the organisation; they will show the number of penalties for the runs has given by the runner judges.



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## **Freestyle Slalom:**

For the development of our sports, for its attractiveness its understanding from the public and the media, main decisions have been taken, thanks to our various partners, in order to built a new generation freestyle slalom.

The format of the freestyle slalom event now changed. The format is now has followed:

### **1 – Order List Best Trick**

The order of the skaters for the best trick is set at the discretion of the judge manager, there is no special order set.

In order to make the competitor list of the skater for their first freestyle run and in order to present them to the public and to the other skaters. The skater will have to perform a best trick; this best trick will be an only one trick performance in a maximum of 15 seconds.

The skater will have to announce its trick to the speaker and to the judges before performing. DJ's music will be publishing during this event.

The skater will be mark on General technical and general body control performance, by the four judges.

Thanks to this, the judge team will then determinate the order of the list of the First runs for all the skaters. The order is done in an increasing order, from the lowest to the highest mark.

### **2 – First run**

All the skaters will then have a first run.

This first run is set under the same format as the previous year. However the marking changed, you will be able to find the new criteria below.

During this first run, the skater's marks are given from each judge straight after the skater performance. If possible from the organisation, the IFSA, ask for the live publication of the ranking throughout the first run.

At the end of the first run, **the eight (8) best men and the six (6) best women are qualified for the second run.**

The non-qualified skaters will go through the Second Chance. Where two of them will finally be qualify for the finals.



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## **3- Second Chance**

This Second Chance is based on a best trick heat.

The non-qualified skaters will compete to obtain two places for the final (men and women).

The format is the same as in the Ranking Best trick.

All the non-qualified skaters will compete in order to perform their best trick. The order will be the inverse order from the qualification run.

The skater will have a one trick in a maximum of 15 second attempts to perform. It will be mark in the same way as the Ranking Best trick.

The mark of each skater will be publishing after each run.  
Then the best two will be able to compete into the final.

## **4 – Final run**

The skating order of the final run is in the reverse order of the Qualification run. Therefore the Second runner up and the first runner up will go first, the 8th, 7th, .... And so on.

The final run can be set at a various time. The IFSA, proposed to the organisation to set it at the best moment for the public and for the Medias. This is to increase the media view of our sport and its development.

For the final run, the results won't be publish straight after the runs as the judges have to review the best run in order to confirm the accuracy of the results.

If the podium is planned straight after the runs, the organisation have to leave at least 30 mins for the judges to review.



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## **Freestyle Slalom Criteria**

The freestyle slalom is not anymore set on four criteria, for the 2009 season the number of criteria is set to five as follow:

- *Technique*
- *Music / Choreography*
- *Body Control*
- *Penalties*
- *Interpretation*

### **1 - Technique**

The technical mark is set to define the technical capacity of the skaters.

In the last few years, the skaters set their runs focusing more & more on the technique, doing the maximum number of tricks to get the maximum of points. Moreover, about technique, the quantity of tricks was scoring more than the real difficulty. Due to that focus in technical marks, the quality, beauty and show of the run decrease drastically. Therefore in collaboration with our Partners the IFSA decided to change the structure of this mark.

Now, only the best 10 to 15 tricks and transition will be taken into account (the final number will be set in the next few days). Both Tricks and transition can be marked in this limited number of elements. The tricks and transition matrix will be reviewed and publish soon to be more in line with the actual activities.

The bonus tricks, moved now to the technical mark. As the style mark disappeared. Moreover that will avoid any risk of double count.

The speed mark, remain the same.

The global technical impression was obsolete, as it is used to push for a great number of technical tricks. Therefore it has been decided to remove it.



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## **2 - Music/Choreography**

This used to be a Small mark in the management mark. It used to be difficult for the judges to appreciate the music and arrangement with music, as they had to focus on the tricks management as well.

Now they will be able to focus for the entire run on the music and the capacity of the skaters to be on rhythm and tempo.

The Music judge will be entitle to measure the time of the run and to pass the final run time to the penalty judge.

## **3 - Body Control**

This mark used to be the style mark, however a wrong understanding of this marks created, error and misunderstanding from the skaters. Therefore we rename it to have it more in line to what it is.

The body control is how the skater control is body during is run. A good run will be a run with no blocs, no arm shaking, no disgrace and just smooth movement.

This mark is based on the top part of the skater, as this is where the repercussion of this disgrace is the more visible. Therefore the Body control judge won't focus on the tricks realised by the skater.

## **4 - Penalties**

The penalty mark takes more and more importance, as this is the more visible points for the public. The penalty for any fall remains the same; the matrix will be published in the next few days.

The mark of variety moved from management (which disappear) to penalty. As it is now judge as a penalty. In order to maximise the diversity of the run the skaters will still have to perform at least one trick of each family (jumping tricks, sitting tricks, Wheeling tricks, eagle, and spine).

Moreover **this mark is now a decreasing mark**, which means if the skater doesn't perform one of these families, he will have one point penalty. If the skater doesn't perform two families, he will have two points penalty ... if the skaters perform all the families he won't have any penalties.

The time penalty remains the same.



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## **5 - Interpretation**

This is a new mark, to follow the wishes of many countries and many skaters.

**This mark is based on the interpretation of the show that the skater did during his run.**

As this mark is subjective, and in order to give the best settlement of this mark. It will be judge by the four judges and the average of the four marks will give the final mark.

The average will be calculated by the Music judge and publish as a fifth mark.

**This is the main headlines of the changes for the mark, however the full details and the full information will be provide to all of you in the next few days on the IFSA Website.**

## **New open Sport: Jam**

Following a demand from some country, it has been decided that the Jam slalom is now becoming a new open sport of the IFSA. It is based on the same rules as the Freestyle Slalom plus an adjustment to mark the coordination of the team. On one final run only.

The application of this kind of event to a World cup is at the discretion of the organisation after approval of the IFSA.

The number of team to take part, can be limited at the discretion of the judge to respect the schedule of the official sport



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In the meantime, it has been decided that **the winner of the main nation event of every country worldwide is automatically qualified to world championship in the category where he perform in national.**

Therefore it is asked to the national federations and national partners, to let the IFSA knows, when and where there national event will take place as well as after the event who are the person qualified for the world championship.

A maximum of 6 will be accepted by country. (Men women, freestyle slalom, speed slalom, free jump)

If the National event takes place after the world championship, the country can choose to send their top skaters from the previous year.

All these information need to be sent to the IFSA as soon as possible. As soon as the national country set its event as a national event the IFSA will become official support of your event and therefore will help the country to develop this event with you at no cost.

If a skater is already qualified either via qualification from the previous world championship or through the national event procedure the next skater will be taken.

**Please keep looking at the IFSA Website to find the full update in the next few days.**