

# GBSA – Officials Feedback Protocol

*Updated: 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024*

The Officials Commission would like to issue the following protocol and guidance for providing feedback following events and at training days. This document amalgamates the rules explained at the seminar in January 2024 and documents the procedure currently undertaken.

## Summary

The intention is to provide a fair and clear process to be followed. It is by no means meant to discourage any or all conversations between officials and coaches as these can and do promote confidence, transparency, approachability and goodwill. However, we want to make sure that where feedback is concerned, this is done through an official channel between the Dance /Figure/Free Teams and the Officials Commission. This will ensure there is fair access to feedback and the learnings can be made open to all where appropriate. Therefore, the protocol for providing feedback will be to contact the Head of your discipline in the first instance with your request, they will then liaise with the Officials Commission and any learnings for the athlete(s), the coaches and the officials will be distributed appropriately.

## Limitations

Please be mindful that during the season our officials have to adhere to the World Skate rules regarding critique and feedback, which we also adopt in GB, as well as those regarding the contacting of officials during an event. An official is not permitted to give feedback or critique an athlete if, within a 2 month period they will be on the panel of their event. We do not want anyone put in difficult situations and at all times want to avoid a conflict of interest arising. Even the appearance of one, actual or perceived, is damaging.

Please also refrain from questioning individual judges at events as it can result in disqualification of the skater involved. Any disputes are to go to the Event Manager who will relay the query to the Referee of the event and the WS protocol will be followed to resolve this. Under no circumstances should feedback be sought or requested by anyone, even the Heads Of, until the event is complete, so both Short and Long Programme or Style and Free Dance. Officials, including Commission members, are not permitted to discuss their scores with anyone until the completion of all parts of the event.

## Questioning a score given

As per the World Skate Rules, disputes relating to a score are only permitted if they relate to a mathematical or data input error. Appeals on the marks given or calls made by the technical panel are human error and to which appeals are not allowed. We can of course give structured feedback following events as to why a deduction was given or a score or level was achieved providing the protocol outlined is followed.

## Feedback following events

Following all GBSA events the Officials Commission will make an appropriate member of the team available to provide general and specific feedback to the Heads Of and/or their coaching and development team members. The mechanism for this will be by way of a zoom call, however, we may give permission for additional mechanisms such as survey or data collection to be used if they could assist. The general points discussed, positive and those for improvement will then be made available to all coaches by the Dance and/or Figure and Free team. Where possible a member of the Officials Commission will attend the feedback session to the coaches. Specific issues relating to individual athletes will be fed back separately to those it concerns through the Dance/Figure/Free Teams.



### **Requests for individual feedback**

We want a clear, open and transparent process so please do not approach or contact individual Officials and ask them to explain their score or give a critique following an event. Please direct all requests for feedback to the Head of Figures/Free or the Head of Dance in the first instance. The Heads Of will then liaise with the Officials Commission and a member of the Commission who is not restricted by the 2 month limitation will address the requests made during the feedback session.

### **Feedback at Seminars, Squads and Training Days**

We remain committed to having members of the Officials Commission available to provide guidance on rules and feedback at GBSA seminars and training days. Unless specific permission is sought, we are not able to provide feedback to individual club's training days unless it is a session open for all GB athletes/clubs to attend. If you would like any specific points covered by us during GBSA training days then please make a request to the Heads of your discipline and we would be more than happy to make sure they are covered.

**Kind Regards,  
Officials Commission**

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