

When is a jump not a jump?

Speed, height and distance give way to rotations—often poorly done

When skaters weren't so busy rotating they used to bring audiences to their feet with speed, height and distance. The most obvious side-effect of triple jumping seems to be the complete abandonment of that style in favor of slow, too often low and cheated "jumplets" in which **everything** has been given up in search of rotations.

Slow motion over the ice punctuated by blurry hops from and to the toe pick doesn't lend either excitement or beauty. Coaches and judges are both complaining and each seems to expect the other to do something about the situation.

It evidently stems from the fact that coaches have to point to some sort of progress to keep students, and the parents can see jump revolutions but aren't to discriminating about details.

by
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Judges have a problem when such a scene is widespread: They cannot award last place to **everybody**.

However, Skating Standards Rules 1.324 and 1.327 are explicit in pointing out that jumps including two feet (except taps) are not to be credited. The Standards Rules also give credit for speed.

Jumps twirled off the toe into the air or twirled onto the toe are not up to standard. Neither are jumps landed in place with no runout afterward.

Jumps with a sharply hooked landing edge on a one foot circle are poor.

The rules point out that a weak triple jump is worth less than a good double and a **good** triple is only worth about a tenth or two over its double version. By extension, the same applies to the relationship between doubles and singles.

The requirements for a well-balanced program also support rewarding the well-

rounded skater over the human pogo stick; so does common sense!

That does not mean that a spiral is worth as much as a **good** triple jump, but it does mean that many of the slow, low, cheated-in-place hops masquerading as multi-revolution jumps should be marked as what they really are—**worthless**.

There is nothing wrong and much that is right in awarding placements to skaters based only on what they have done reasonably well, recognizing

little or no credit for what is done below standard or outright faked. Speed, height and distance are hallmarks of good jumps. They should be rewarded. Revolutions by themselves are no substitute. ■

Eleanor competed in singles, pairs and dance. She is a gold medalist (in dance), a world judge and recent Chair of the USFSA Judge's Committee.

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