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Diana S Cheng* (dcheng@towson.edu) and **John B Gonzalez**. *Figure skating scores reveal a cold hard truth: Relationships between artistic and technical scores in the 2018-19 season.*

After scoring transparency controversies were embarrassingly apparent at the 2002 Winter Olympic Games, the International Skating Union developed a numeric scoring system called the International Judging System to rate figure skating performances. Internationally competitive skaters and their coaches now formulate practices and performances with the intention of maximizing their earned scores. We examined scoring data from over 18,000 performances in 120 competitions during the last full season of figure skating, which was 2018-19. Our interpretations of this data show that imbalances within skating performances now exist due to skaters' maximizing their scores based on the judging system; and that the artistic (Program Component) and technical (Total Element) scores are highly correlated and directly related, even though this may not have been the intention when the scoring system was initially designed. (Received September 15, 2020)