

Scripting 201 – Optional Skills

Once you learn to script the compulsory skills you can begin to learn the symbols for optional level skills. You will find that the optional script symbols build off of the compulsory level skills and variations of a skill, adding a turn or twist to a skill, are as simple as adding additional small shorthand symbols as seen below.

Back Salto 1/1



Tuck Jump 1/1

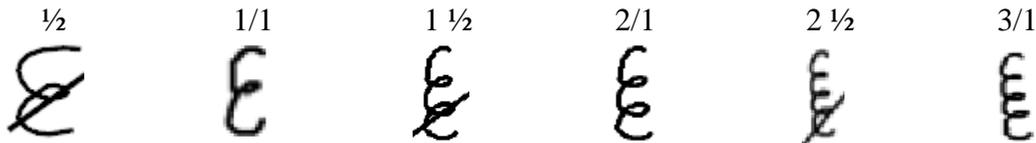


Twisting shorthand symbols for both front and back saltos is the same. Once you script your front or back salto symbol you simply add on an additional “twist” shorthand symbol to the end of the salto symbol.

Each full twist in a skill is represented by a loop in the symbol. A half twist is scripted with a full twist script symbol with a “slash mark” made through the loop, cutting the full twist in half.

Complete full twists with an additional half twist, like a 1 ½, is represented by scripting the next highest twist, 2/1, and then scripting a “slash mark” through the lower loop. See examples of the twisting script symbols below.

Twisting Shorthand



Turning shorthand symbols are placed above the scripted symbol of the skill being performed in a routine. Partial to completely scripted circles with or without “slash marks” represent the number of turns in a skill being performed.

A quarter to a full turn is represented by a circle broken down into parts. A quarter turn is scripted using a half circle with a “slash mark” made through it. A half turn is scripted using half a circle, a ¾ turn is scripted using a circle that is ¾ quarters closed and a full turn is scripted using a completely closed circle.

Each additional half turn performed is represented by a “slash mark” made through a completely closed circle. See examples of the twisting script symbols below.

Turning Shorthand

$\frac{1}{4}$


$\frac{1}{2}$


$\frac{3}{4}$


$\frac{1}{1}$


$1\frac{1}{2}$


$\frac{2}{1}$


$2\frac{1}{2}$


$\frac{3}{1}$


I have found that practice judging to videos of Elite competitions or College meets can be helpful to learn new symbols because the routines are generally very clean and you can recognize the skills easily. Plus you don't have to worry about writing deductions as if you were in a real judging situation.

I suggest you script as many routines as possible so that when you are in a real life situation the symbols come naturally and you can then add your deductions.

Our athletes practice to be as perfect as possible and as judges we must do the same to be as proficient and professional as possible.