



2023-24
HIGH SCHOOL SKATING
HANDBOOK

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SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

OVERVIEW

Welcome to the 2023-2024 High School Skating season!

High School Team Skating is a program run by the High School Skating Subcommittee under the Programs and New Program Development Committee of U.S. Figure Skating. The mission of this program is to support student athletes in their high school development through their chosen sport of figure skating.

High school skaters may form teams to compete on behalf of their high school or area, per the eligibility and team formation rules listed in this handbook. High school skating competitions are run as sanctioned U.S. Figure Skating non-qualifying competitions per Rule 1021 in the U.S. Figure Skating Rulebook, and the requirements outlined in this handbook.

Athletes participating in these events are considered student-athletes. Their education is of the highest priority, and in all decision-making matters, the Programs & New Program Development Committee, and the local organizing committees (LOC) have a responsibility to minimize the days missed from school.

KEY SEASON DATES

Renewal season runs from October 1 through September 30. The official start of the 2023-24 season is October 1, 2023. Teams can start registration/renewal beginning September 1.

The high school skating program aligns with the traditional school year with many competitions taking place between October through April. However, high school skating competitions may take place at any point throughout the year, as allowed by state athletic association guidelines.

In addition to sanctioned non-qualifying high school skating competitions held around the country, the Programs & New Program Development Committee looks forward to facilitating the following competition opportunities, open to all registered high school skating teams during the 2023-24 season:

- 2024 Cyber Challenge: January 2024-April 2024
- The U.S. High School Sectional Finals: Tentatively April 6-7, 2024

More information regarding these events can be found on the High School Programs webpage on the Members Only website.

ELIGIBILITY & TEAM FORMATION

Athletes must be eligible members in good standing of U.S. Figure Skating or Learn to Skate USA® and may be members of the figure skating club of their choice or be individual members of U.S. Figure Skating.

All skaters must be enrolled as a full-time student as defined by the institution that they attend, grades 9-12, as per state guidelines. This includes both traditional and home-schooled students.

A minimum of two (2) skaters are required to form a team. Team members may include skaters of any gender. Skaters do not have to be at the same test level.

Athletes may compete either for the high school they are attending, or as a high school collaborative, defined as follows:

- Athletes from a single school, representing that school, OR
- Athletes representing two or more area high schools combining to form a team.

NOTE: Competitors may not represent more than ONE high school skating team at one time.

HIGH SCHOOL SKATING TEAM MEMBERSHIP

All High School Skating Teams participating in high school competitions must register with U.S. Figure Skating on the Members Only website. This will include creating a team roster to include all skaters on your team and paying the annual team dues of \$35, which are due and payable by October 1.

All teams must have at least one Team Manager who is 18 years or older, must have a current U.S. Figure Skating membership and be fully compliant. Team coaches are not required in order to form a team. However, if a team chooses to have a team coach, this person may also serve as the team manager.

For detailed instructions on how to create your team, please refer to the Guide to High School Team Registration (this guide and updated registration information will be published no later than September 1, 2023).

COMPLIANCE

All Team Managers assigned on Members Only must have a green lighted background check and completed SafeSport™ Training. Team Managers are required to be at least 18 years old and have a current U.S. Figure Skating membership.

Coaches assigned on Members Only must complete all applicable compliance requirements. Details regarding Coach compliance requirements can be found [HERE](#).

Teams that are comprised both of Minor Athletes and Adult Participants (skaters over the age of 18) are required to complete an extra step for compliance. Athletes who are 18 at the time of team registration or turn 18 in the middle of the season are deemed Mandatory Athletes. Mandatory Athletes must complete SafeSport™ training on or before their 18th birthday.

All skaters on the team roster are required to complete the mandatory waivers, medical registry, and emergency contact information.

SECTION 2: EVENTS OFFERED

Events offered within the High School Competitions are determined by the LOC and may include the following:

- Team Maneuvers (Beginner-High)
- Short Program (Juvenile-Senior)
- Excel Free Skate (High Beginner-Senior)
- Championship Free Skate (Junior and Senior)
- Solo Pattern Dance (Preliminary-International)
- Solo Free Dance (Juvenile-Senior)
- Showcase Events (No Test-Senior)
- Specialty Events (Beginner-Senior)

For the **Standard Event List and Program Requirements**, visit www.USFigureSkating.org and refer to the Program Requirements page under Skate > Compete.

SECTION 3: GENERAL COMPETITION RULES

The following section contains competition rules for high school skating competitions. Competitions should utilize the most current [standard non-qualifying announcement template](#) for all requirements at high school skating competitions, except where this document deviates from the requirements listed in that document.

TEST LEVEL ELIGIBILITY

Singles Excel and Well-Balanced Events:

- Skaters must meet at least the minimum singles test requirements for the event's level. A skater's singles test level may be higher than the minimum requirement.
 - Skate Up (If allowed at your competition): skaters may skate up one level higher than their highest singles test level allows.
- Skaters may not register for an event level lower than allowed by their competitive floor. An athlete's competitive floor is set by one of the following scenarios:
 - If an athlete has participated in the NQS series, the event level registered for in the most recent NQS series will become the lowest level they may compete at in any U.S. Figure Skating sanctioned event.
 - If an athlete has participated in the Excel Series, the event level registered for in the most recent Excel series will become the lowest level they may compete in any Excel event. For Well Balanced and Specialty events the skater will be permitted to register at one level lower than the "floor" set by their excel series entry.
- Skaters are not permitted to enter an Excel and a Well-Balanced event of the same type and same level (example: Juvenile Girls Free Skate and Juvenile Girls Excel Free Skate) at the same competition. However, they are permitted to enter an Excel and a Well-Balanced event of different types (example: Intermediate Women Short Program and Intermediate Women Excel Free Skate).
- If an athlete, coach, parent and/or guardian needs assistance with confirming their eligibility, email events@usfigureskating.org or refer to information sheet [HERE](#).

All other singles and partner events (such as Showcase and Solo Dance):

- Skaters must meet the minimum test requirements for the events level, but not exceed the maximum permissible test requirement.

Team Maneuver Events:

- Athletes may compete at their test level or any higher level, as described in the team maneuver event requirements.

TEAM ELIGIBILITY

All teams must be eligible, registered teams, as defined in Section 1 of this handbook.

Each team may enter a maximum of 30 starts per competition. Not all skaters on the team's roster must be assigned to an event. Unassigned skaters may be used for substitutions.

REGISTRATION & ENTRIES

Competition LOCs may use their preferred method of processing registration, which must be clearly outlined in the competition announcement. Competition announcement should specify:

- Registration process for the competition (online management software, etc.)
- Entry fees
- How entry fees will be collected
- Late entry policies
- How substitutions, additions, and changes to a team's roster will be handled

Entry fees will be determined at the discretion of the LOC. Suggested entry fees are as follows:

- Team Events: \$100 per team
- Individual Events: \$60 per event

The LOC should reserve the right to limit the number of entries, eliminate events due to insufficient entries, combine or divide groups as necessary, and eliminate events if necessary to accommodate the amount of available ice.

If entry fee revenue exceeds competition expenses, profits may go into the host team's account for future team support or scholarship intention.

LENGTH OF COMPETITION

If the number of entries exceeds the available ice time for the competition, the LOC chair, in conjunction with the chief referee and with approval from the national vice chair for High School Programs on the Program Development Committee and the chair of the Program Development will choose one or more of the following methods to reduce the length of the competition. The choice may be in any order:

- Eliminate the optional dance in the solo dance event.
- Reduce the number of starts per team.
- Eliminate ladies' events with only one entry. (Men's events will not be eliminated.)

RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PARTICIPATING TEAMS

It is each participating team's responsibility to review the competition schedule for accuracy within 72 hours of receipt and notify the competition chair of any errors.

GROUP SIZE

No group will consist of more than 12 skaters. If more than 12 skaters are entered into one level, the skaters will be split as evenly as possible into as many groups as necessary to keep each group no larger than 12 skaters.

START ORDERS

Start orders for all events will be by random draw and posted at the competition.

WARMUP GROUP SIZE AND TIME

All warm-up group sizes are at the discretion of the referee with skater safety being the primary concern. The warmup for events with a small number of entries may be combined without regard to gender.

Team Maneuvers: Team Maneuvers warmup will consist of a one-minute stroking warmup for all skaters on the ice at the start of the event. Warmups for each element will be 30 seconds in length.

JUDGING SYSTEM

Team Maneuvers will be judged using the 6.0 Judging System. For team maneuvers, judges will give one mark per team. All other events may use either 6.0 or the International Judging System (IJS). Competitions are encouraged to use the Components Judging System (CJS) for Showcase events.

AWARDS

Medals will be awarded to places 1st through 3rd in each event. Team trophies may be awarded for team maneuvers in lieu of individual medals. Medals or ribbons may be awarded for fourth place at the discretion of the LOC.

LOCKER ROOMS AND CHANGING AREAS

GENERAL LOCKER ROOMS:

Locker rooms and changing areas at U.S. Figure Skating competitive events are for athletes only, will be labeled with regard to specific use and where identified will be gender specific. An exception can be made for Minor Athletes under 11 years old that will allow for one parent of the same sex to assist their child immediately prior to and after their skating event(s). Please review the Locker Room and Changing Area Policy and the SkateSafe Handbook (both found on the [U.S. Figure Skating SkateSafe](#) page). Locker Room signage can also be found on the SkateSafe® page under "[Resources](#)".

TEAM LOCKER ROOMS:

The designated team Coach, Team Manager, one additional Team Service Personnel and athletes competing at the skating event are allowed in the Locker Rooms/Changing Area designated for their team. The Coach, Team Manager, and Team Service Personnel should remove themselves from the Locker Room while any Minor Athletes are actively changing or undressing. All Locker Rooms/Changing Areas will be monitored. If any concerns arise, immediately contact the Locker Room Monitor. If there are concerns regarding this policy, an athlete should change prior to

arriving at the competition. The use of any recording and photographic devices inside a Locker Room/Changing Area is strictly prohibited. Any violation of the Locker Room policy should be reported to U.S. Figure Skating using [this reporting form](#).

SECTION 4: AWARDING OF THE INDIVIDUAL/TEAM POINTS:

Individual Points:

Points are awarded to all skaters who compete. Championship Junior and Senior, and International Dance events earn two additional points per placement.

# of Skaters	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
1 st	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	10	8	6	6	6
2 nd	11	10	10	10	10	10	10	8	6	4	4	
3 rd	10	9	8	8	8	8	8	6	4	2		
4 th	9	8	7	6	6	6	6	4	2			
5 th	8	7	6	5	4	4	4	2				
6 th	7	6	5	4	3	2	2					
7 th	6	5	4	3	2	1						
8 th	5	4	3	2	1							
9 th	4	3	2	1								
10 th	3	2	1									
11 th	2	1										
12 th	1											

Ties:

In the case of a tie, skaters will share available points. For example, competitors tied for 1st place in a group of ten will each earn 11 points (12 points for first plus the 10 points for second)

Withdrawals:

The number of athletes in an event will be based on competitors who actually skate at the competition.

SECTION 5: CONTACT INFORMATION

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