



2021-2022
HIGH SCHOOL SKATING
HANDBOOK

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INTRODUCTION: GENERAL INFORMATION

A. OVERVIEW

Welcome to the 2021-22 High School Skating season!

High school competitions are run as sanctioned U.S. Figure Skating non qualifying competitions per Rule 1021 in the U.S. Figure Skating Rulebook.

High School 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.

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.

B. DATES

The high school skating season runs from September through April. The National Cyber Challenge Cup is offered each year.

C. ELIGIBILITY & TEAM FORMATION

1. 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.
2. 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 school students.
3. A minimum of two (2) skaters are required to form a team. Skaters do not have to be at the same test level.
4. Athletes may compete either for the high school they are attending, or 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 single team.
 - NOTE: Competitors may not represent more than ONE high school team per season.
5. If combined teams are not from the same school district, the following rules apply: All skaters from the combined schools must be allowed to skate on the team. Combined teams not adhering to these guidelines will be disqualified.
6. Home-schooled students may join a school team.
7. Team members may include both ladies and men.

D. SCHOOL AFFILIATED CLUB (SAC) MEMBERSHIPS

All High School Teams participating in high school competitions must register with U.S. Figure Skating by filling out the [School Affiliated Club \(SAC\) Membership and Team Registration Form](#) and paying required annual membership dues prior to their first competition. Teams are required to submit a copy of their SAC application or SAC Certificate for proof of membership with their competition application.

SACs are required to have a designated SafeSport contact listed on their registration. The designated

SafeSport contact must be over 18 years old and must complete the SafeSport training; they do not need to be a member of U.S. Figure Skating. Instructions on completing SafeSport training can be found [here](#).

SECTION 1: GENERAL COMPETITION RULES

For the upcoming season, both LOCs and teams should review U.S. Figure Skating's *Considerations for Competitions and Events* document regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

A. ENTRIES AND ENTRY FEES

1. A skater will not be allowed to participate unless they have a signed Skater Entry Form on file with the LOC.
2. Entry fees **MUST** accompany entry form(s). Schools/teams are required to submit one collective check payable as determined by the LOC.
 - Applications not submitted with the correct funds will be returned and **NOT** accepted.
 - Checks returned for any reason will carry a handling charge and payment of this fee will be required before the team is allowed to participate in practice ice or events.
3. No skaters may be added after the competitions' deadline, except with special permission of the registrar and the chief referee of the competition.
4. The LOC reserves the right to limit the number of entries, eliminate events due to insufficient entries and combine or divide groups as necessary.
5. Men's and ladies' events in singles free skating will be separate events, but men and ladies may compete in the same event in solo dance. Well-balanced junior and senior events may be combined with the standard free skate events, at the discretion of the referee, and only in the event of a single entry in one of the categories.
6. If entry fees revenue exceeds competition expenses, profits may go into the host team's account for future team support or scholarship intention.

B. REGISTRATION

Teams are required to submit their SAC number with their competition registration.

SafeSport signage must be posted at registration and on locker room doors; Click [here](#) for U.S. Figure Skating Room Signage Package (inclusive of locker room policy).

A competition will not be canceled unless there is a state of Emergency declared in the area where the rink is located, even if school districts of participating teams have closed or cancelled events. Points will be awarded based on teams participating.

C. TEST LEVEL

Skaters must register to compete at their level or can skate up a maximum of two levels for all events as of the competition entry deadline. Note: It is permissible for an athlete to enter the free skate at different levels if skating up qualifies them for both.

Team maneuvers: Athletes may skate up to two levels, but they may not compete on a team at a lower level than the highest Free skate test they have passed.

D. REFUND POLICY

Entry fees will not be refunded after the entry deadline, unless no competition exists or the event is canceled. There will be no refunds for medical withdrawals. The online processing fees are not refundable. In the event that events are cancelled, the LOC will refund the appropriate entry fees in the manner specified within the competition announcement.

E. LIABILITY

U.S. Figure Skating, the host figure skating club, high school team and hosting ice arena will not accept any responsibility for injury or damage sustained by participants in the high school skating competition. This is in accordance with Rule 1600 of the official U.S. Figure Skating Rulebook.

F. SCHEDULE

Competitors may be scheduled on any day or time for the announced dates of the competition. Notification of competition and practice ice times will be available by email and online. A school will be allowed to indicate on its competition entry that a specific day conflicts with religious observation. This will be communicated to the Chief Referee for consideration when building the competition schedule. The request for consideration must be for the entire school (not individual skaters) and cannot be guaranteed. The no-refund policy will still apply if a skater cannot be accommodated.

Host clubs reserve the right to eliminate events, if necessary, to accommodate the amount of ice time available.

G. 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 of 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:

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

H. 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.

I. GROUP SIZE

No group will consist of more than 8 skaters. If more than 8 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 8 skaters.

J. START ORDERS

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

K. WARMUP GROUP SIZE AND TIME

Warm-up groups for events will be posted at the start of the competition but are subject to change up to 15 minutes prior to the start of an event, due to withdraws.

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 warmup will consist of a one-minute stroking warmup for all skaters on the ice at the start of the event. Warmups for each team maneuver category in team maneuvers will be one-minute in length.

L. MUSIC

Vocal music is allowed for free skate and free dance. It is highly recommended the host clubs use an electronic music upload system. Skaters are responsible for having a backup CD available rink side during their event. Only one track should be on the file or CD and it must start at the beginning.

Host clubs may use EntryEeze for a nominal fee per skater (www.entryeeze.com) to manage music uploads or they may use the following instructions for uploading music electronically. The chief accountant will provide the host club with a starting order approximately six days prior to the start of the competition so downloaded music can be placed in order. Alternatively, Google Forms can be used for electronic music upload. Instructions are available below.

M. JUDGING SYSTEM

The 6.0 judging system will be used for all events. Majority judging system will be used. For team maneuvers and artistic freeskate events, judges will give one mark per team.

N. AWARDS

Medals will be awarded to places 1 – 3 in each event. Medals/ribbons for 4th and 5th place are at the discretion of the LOC. Team awards that account for overall total points earned by a team in individual events are at the discretion of the LOC.

O. OFFICIAL NOTICES

An official bulletin board will be maintained at the competition arena. It is the responsibility of each competitor, parent, team and coach to check the bulletin board frequently for any schedule changes and/or additional information. Skaters are requested to arrive 45 minutes prior to the scheduled time of their event. A tentative schedule of events will be posted prior to the competition.

P. INFORMATION REGARDING COACHES

U.S. Figure Skating Rule MR 5.11 Coach Compliance

To be granted access to work within U.S. Figure Skating sanctioned activities, each coach must complete the following requirements on an annual basis by July 1 of each new season:

- A. Must be a current full member of U.S. Figure Skating - either through a member club or as an individual member.
- B. If 18 years of age or older, must submit the proper payment of \$20.00 through the U.S. Figure Skating Members Only website, and submit information for and successfully pass a background check.
- C. Must complete the SafeSport Training available through www.usfsaonline.org
- D. Must complete the Continuing Education Requirements (CERs) for the 2018-19 Competition Season
- E. Must submit proof of current general liability insurance with limits of \$1 million per occurrence/\$5 million aggregate.

The local organizing committee/club will have a list of compliant coaches (maintained and updated frequently by U.S. Figure Skating) who are cleared for a credential at the competition.

- Coaches will need to check in at the arena event Registration Table and show a government-issued photo I.D. to receive a credential.
- If a coach cannot provide a photo I.D. and is not on the list or cannot produce the necessary documents, he or she will not be allowed a credential – NO EXCEPTIONS

WILL BE MADE. We strongly urge all coaches to have their Coach Registration cards and other relevant certifications with them.

- Skating events without compliance is an ethics violation which is reported to U.S. Figure Skating and PSA.

Non-credentialed coaches will not be permitted in the designated coaching area, at rink side during events including practice sessions. This is absolutely a rule we must abide by for the safety of our skaters through US Figure Skating and SafeSport rules.

Q. CHANGING ROOM AND TEAM ROOM POLICY

At each competition, changing rooms will be required which are separate from the team rooms. **Changing rooms** are for just that – changing. Locker rooms used as changing room should be labelled by gender. No photography is allowed in the changing rooms.

Locker rooms and changing areas at U.S. Figure Skating competitive events are for athletes only, will be labeled about specific use and where identified will be gender specific. Please review the Locker Room and Changing Area Policy and the SafeSport Handbook (both found on the [U.S. Figure Skating SafeSport](#) page).

Team rooms are shared spaces and must have signage prohibiting changing.

R. GENERAL TEAM REMINDERS

1. Team banners are encouraged!
2. Some ice arenas have rules regarding outside food. Please check with the ice arena before bringing in food for your team. No food is allowed in the locker rooms.
3. Unsportsmanlike conduct & foul language will not be tolerated at any competition and is grounds for disqualification.
4. A skater may not accept prize money in any amount or merchandise having a value greater than \$25 for any skating competition.

SECTION 3: EVENTS OFFERED:

Events offered within the High School Competitions may include the following:

<u>Team maneuvers:</u>	Low team, Intermediate team, and High team maneuvers.
<u>Excel Free Skate:</u>	Beginner, high beginner, pre-preliminary, preliminary, pre-juvenile, juvenile, intermediate, novice, junior, senior
<u>Compulsory:</u>	no-test, pre-preliminary, preliminary, pre-juvenile
<u>Showcase:</u>	Light entertainment, dramatic entertainment, interpretive, duets, artistic
<u>Solo dance:</u>	Preliminary, juvenile, intermediate, novice, junior, senior, gold, international
<u>Artistic Free Skate:</u>	Beginner, high beginner, pre-preliminary, preliminary, pre-juvenile, juvenile, intermediate, novice, junior, senior

Requirements for each level can be found by clicking the links above.

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.

	7 OR MORE SKATERS	6 SKATERS	5 SKATERS	4 SKATERS	3 SKATERS	2 SKATERS	1 SKATER
1st	7 points	6 points	5 points	4 points	3 points	2 points	<u>2 points</u>
2nd	6 points	5 points	4 points	3 points	2 points	1 point	
3rd	5 points	4 points	3 points	2 points	1 point		
4th	4 points	3 points	2 points	1 point			
5th	3 points	2 points	1 point				
6th	2 points	1 point					
7th & lower	1 point						

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 6 ½ points (7 points for first plus the 6 points for second)

Withdrawals:

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

SECTION 7: CONTACT INFORMATION

National Vice Chair, School Programs, U.S. Figure Skating Programs & New Program Development Committee

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