

# Figure Skating Programs and Development

## FIGURE SKATING PIPELINE

**Learn to Skate USA Program** - Offers fun, challenging and rewarding fundamental and specialty badge curricula for skaters of all ages and abilities to develop and enhance their skating skills.

**Aspire Program or Introductory Membership** - Provides a solid foundation in figure skating through an affordable package program in a supportive group training environment. Aspire includes on and off ice group classes with supportive resources for success.

**U.S. Figure Skating Club, Individual or Collegiate Membership** - Joining a club or becoming an individual member directly with U.S. Figure Skating opens a variety of opportunities for skaters, including the ability to test and compete through the U.S. Figure Skating pipeline.

### TESTS

The test structure is the backbone of U.S. Figure Skating. Skaters advance to the next level by passing skill tests officiated by certified judges. Skaters test in moves in the field, free skating, pairs and ice dance. As a skater advances, the tests become more difficult. The highest achievement in each discipline is the gold/senior test.

Pre-preliminary

Preliminary

Pre-Juvenile

Juvenile

Intermediate

Novice

Junior

Senior

Adult Test Program\*

### NONQUALIFYING COMPETITIONS

Skaters of all ages can participate in nonqualifying competitions to earn awards and showcase skill mastery. Nonqualifying competitions are divided into two tracks: one is more recreational (Excel) and the other is more competitive in nature (well-balanced). In the Excel Series, skaters compete at certain nonqualifying competitions to earn an invitation to the Excel National Festival.

Compete USA

No Test/Beginner

Pre-preliminary

Preliminary

Pre-Juvenile

Juvenile/Open\*

Intermediate

Novice

Junior

Senior

Excel Series

Collegiate and Intercollegiate

Adult levels\*

### QUALIFYING COMPETITIONS

This is the pipeline for singles, pairs and ice dance teams to advance to the U.S. Championships, international competitions, World Championships and Olympic Winter Games. The top skaters advance in the juvenile to senior levels and compete for various titles based on age and test level.

Juvenile

Intermediate

Novice

*Skaters who place among the juvenile, intermediate and novice levels will be invited to the National High Performance Development Team, and the top novice skaters will be invited to skate at the U.S. Championships at the junior level.*

Junior

Senior

U.S. Collegiate Championships

U.S. Adult Championships\*

### SYNCHRONIZED SKATING

Synchronized Skating is a team sport in which eight to 20 skaters perform a program together. It is characterized by teamwork, speed, intricate formations and challenging step sequences. Synchronized skating has its own qualifying competition system, which leads to the U.S. Synchronized Championships, international competitions (junior/senior) and the World Junior and World Synchronized Skating Championships.

Snowplow Sam Synchro

Synchro Skills 1-3

*Snowplow Sam Synchro through preliminary are offered at Compete USA and U.S. Figure Skating nonqualifying competitions.*

Preliminary

Pre-Juvenile

Open Juvenile\*

Juvenile\*

Intermediate\*

Novice\*

Junior\*

Senior\*

Collegiate Events

Adult Events\*

\*These levels have age restrictions; refer to a current U.S. Figure Skating rulebook for more information.