



# Collegiate Figure Skating Info / Q&A Session

Organized by the LAFSC Junior Council



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# Collegiate Skating Opportunities

3 Different Types

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Intercollegiate Figure Skating

U.S. Collegiate Championships & Invitational

Collegiate Synchronized Skating

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Intercollegiate Figure Skating



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# Intercollegiate Figure Skating

# What is intercollegiate figure skating?



An opportunity to meet and befriend other skaters at your university



A fun, low-pressure way to continue competing while in college, alongside peers



A version of competition that is both individual and uniquely team-based.



Competitive track  
organized/managed by USFS

Considered a “club sport” by most schools

Funding varies from school to school

You represent your university instead of a figure skating club

# Who can participate?

Any full-time college student attending an institution with a USFS-registered collegiate team

- You can found a collegiate FSC if your university doesn't have one or reinstate a previously established one, no minimum member count required (can be just you)
- Resources for starting a collegiate team are on USFS website (it's pretty simple)

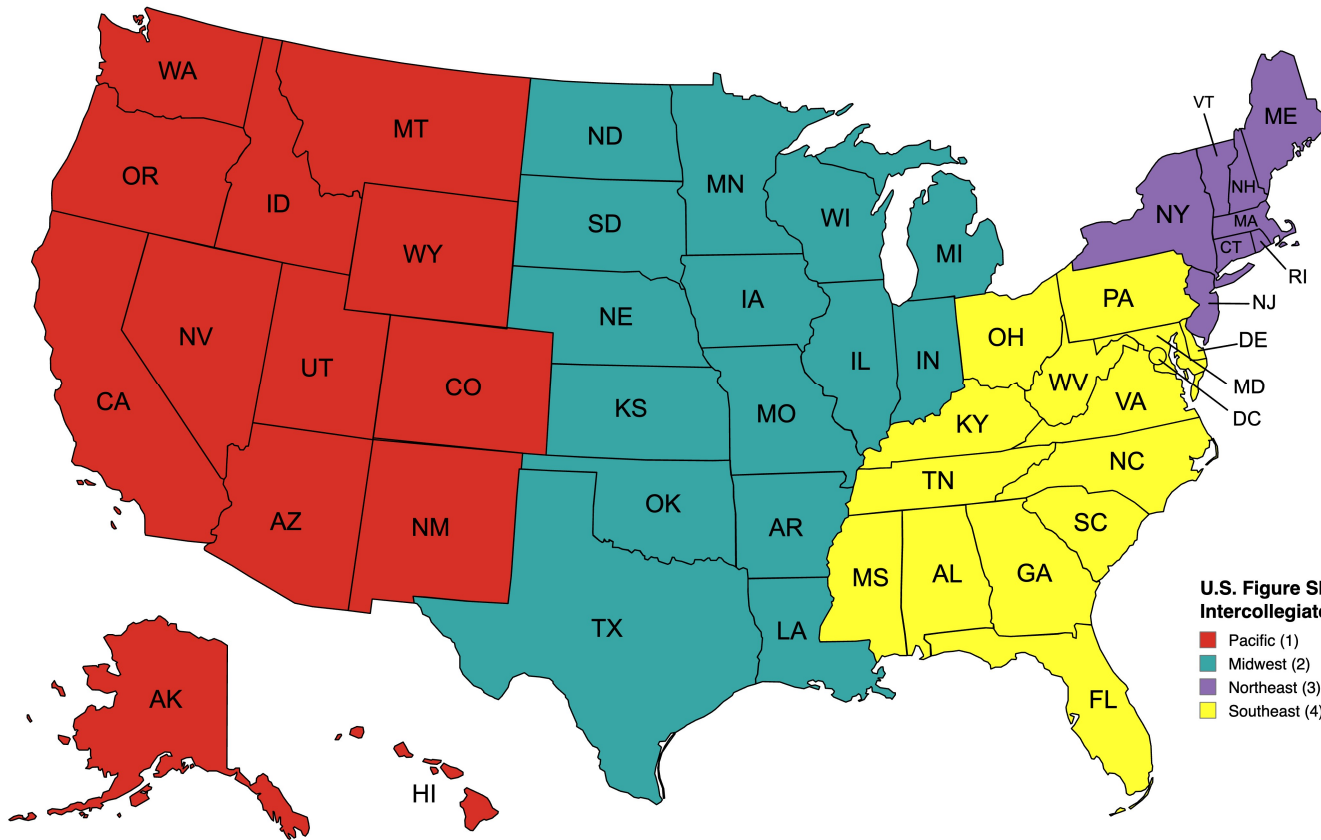
Both undergraduates and graduate students can compete

- Some universities have their own rules for grad students in undergrad clubs/club sports or requirements for club leadership to be undergrads, etc.

Additional requirements

- Active USFS membership: 4 year collegiate membership (67% discount) is available but **not** required (can keep/only have home club membership)

# Ok cool...but like how does this actually work?



The country is divided into four “conferences” (sections): Pacific Coast, Midwest, Northeast and Southeast.

The intercollegiate competitive season runs October - April:

- 3 competitions per conference
- Top 4 teams in each conference qualify for the National Intercollegiate Final in the Spring

The current map provided by USFS. May change for next season.

# How much experience do I need? What levels are offered?



Any level of skating experience is acceptable!

Program has competitors who just started skating in college, through current and former members of Team USA



Levels offered: Excel Free Skate (Aspire 3 – Senior), Short Program (Juvenile-Senior), Solo Free Dance (Juvenile-Senior), Solo Pattern Dance (Preliminary-International), Championship Free Skate (Junior-Senior), and Team Maneuvers (low, mid, high)



At the time of competition registration, skater must meet min but not exceed max test level and cannot compete in a level lower than the lowest level they competed at an NQS

Does participation disqualify me from competing in other skating programs, tracks or series?

**It does not!**

You can 100% still compete in any other skating program while competing in the intercollegiate series, including:

- National Qualifying Series
- Synchronized Skating
- Excel Series
- Solo Dance Series
- Theatre On Ice
- Showcase
- Adult Skating
- Etc.

# How are these events judged?

## **Intercollegiate competitions are very large**

- Each team is limited to a maximum of 30 starts (1 start per event entry)
- Competition must be confined (in most cases) to the weekend (2 days) so students don't miss classes

## **Current Judging System: 6.0**

- Older system that is quick, can be done on paper, and doesn't require tech specialists
- Each event is judged by an odd number of judges, winner is skater placed highest by majority of judges.
- two marks: one for technical merit and one for program presentation

# How does this differ from an individual competition? What is the team component?

## **Team Points**

- Each skater earns points for their team depending on how they place in their event (higher placement = more points)
- Championship Junior and Senior events and International Dance events yield more points (+2 points)

## **Team Maneuvers (low, mid, high)**

- Teams of 3-7 athletes representing each school get on the ice
  - 1 minute warmup, forward stroking only
- 7 elements are executed by team representatives (no more than 3 elements per skater)
  - Skaters performing the element (1 per school) get 30 seconds to warm up the element
- Representatives from each university go one by one, executing the element before the event moves to the next element
- Each team receives one mark (6.0), ranking their performance as a whole
- Winners of each team event typically receive a trophy (instead of a medal)

# Team Maneuvers Requirements 25-26

	AXEL TYPE	SOLO SPIN	DANCE ELEMENT	JUMP COMBO	COMBINATION SPIN	SOLO JUMP	STEP SEQUENCE
<b>LOW</b>	Single Axel OR Waltz-loop combo	Upright spin Optional free foot May change feet  NO fly, NO laybacks	Edge Element  One short edge element. Not to exceed seven seconds.	Waltz jump – Euler – Single flip  OR Waltz jump – Euler – Single Salchow	Combination spin with no change of foot and at least one change of position.  NO fly NO change of foot	Single 1. Loop 2. Salchow 3. Toe Loop  Number denotes competition number. NIF uses competition 1.	Utilizing full ice, pattern optional. Base mark on turn quality only.
<b>INTERMEDIATE</b>	Single Axel	Camel spin with change of foot  Forward to backward or backward to forward  FLY OK	Twizzle Sequence  No more than 3 steps are allowed between twizzles.	Double/Single or Double/Double  Order of jumps optional  NO jump sequence.	Combination spin with only one change of foot and at least one change of position  NO fly	Double 1. Toe Loop 2. Loop 3. Flip  immediately preceded by connecting steps  Number denotes competition number. NIF uses competition 1.	Utilizing full ice, pattern optional Base mark on turn quality only.
<b>HIGH</b>	Single, Double, or Triple Axel	Flying spin in one position  Position can be upright, camel, sit, layback  No change of foot or change of position.	Twizzle Sequence  Must have a different entry edge and different direction for the 2 twizzles.  No more than 3 steps are allowed between twizzles.	Double/Double, Triple/Double, OR Triple/Triple  Order of jumps optional  NO jump sequence.	Combination spin with only one change of foot and at least one change of position  NO fly	Double or Triple 1. Loop 2. Flip 3. Lutz  immediately preceded by connecting steps  Number denotes competition number. NIF uses competition 1.	Utilizing full ice, pattern optional. Base mark on turn quality only.

# U.S. Collegiate Championships & Invitational



# U.S. Collegiate Championships & Invitational

- Held every summer at a different location
  - Registration opens every year on May 15th and closes on June 15th.

This year: Jul. 17, 2025 - Jul. 19, 2026 in Richfield, Minnesota

- Same events offered during the school year (mostly)
- Functions as an individual competition but you still represent your school (instead of your FSC)
  - No team points
  - No team maneuvers event
- ANY college student who is an incoming full-time college student or was enrolled full time in the previous semester/quarter (including recently graduated students) can participate
  - Includes community college students and those whose schools do not have an established skating team!

# U.S. Collegiate Championships & Invitational

- Most events are judged in IJS

Combined events with monetary rewards/scholarships based on placement:

1. Senior Championship combined segments, men & women (IJS)
2. Junior Championship combined segments, men & women (IJS)

Awards from 2025 Collegiate Champs:

- Senior women's and men's champions: \$4,000
- Senior women's and men's silver medalists: \$2,000
- Senior women's and men's bronze medalists: \$1,000
- Junior women's and men's champions: \$1,000
- Junior women's and men's silver medalists: \$500

# Additional Rules

- Intercollegiate
  - Max 5 events per skater
    - One free skate, One short program, One team maneuver, Two solo pattern dances, OR one solo pattern dance and one solo free dance
  - Each team may have no more than five entries in any of the senior events, junior events, or gold/international pattern dance events, and no more than three entries in all other events
  - Team event counts as one start and is co-ed
- Collegiate Champs
  - competitors who pass a test after submitting an entry for the U.S. Collegiate Championships are still allowed to compete at their former level; for instance, if you entered the competition as a junior, but then tested your senior free skate prior to the start of the competition, you would still be eligible to compete as a junior
  - No qualifying rounds for any discipline, unlike NQS
  - technical rules have been modified to ease some of the technical requirements in a traditional well-balanced program. For instance, juniors are not required to perform a double Axel in the short program, and seniors are not required to perform a triple in the short program

# Questions?

- We will send this ppt to attendees after the meeting!
- Feel free to reach out if you want program requirements, test level requirements, intercollegiate handbook, or any other documents sent to you!

