

Clubs Matter - Winter 2009

Happy Holidays!

*Wishing you a safe and fun skating season
From your friends
at U.S. Figure Skating*



Performance Sanction vs. Basic Skills Performance Approval

Performance Sanctions are issued by U.S. Figure Skating to protect the eligibility of its members. The rules of the Sanctions and Eligibility Committee govern all carnivals and exhibitions held by member clubs.

Each club has a U.S. Figure Skating Sanction Officer and alternate assigned to them each season, and it is their job to approve all performance sanctions submitted by member clubs. Each member club also may have someone designated as their club sanctions officer. The club sanction officer prepares performance sanctions and submits them to the U.S. Figure Skating Sanction Officer for approval.

With few exceptions, all carnivals, exhibitions, appearances or entertainment of any kind where U.S. Figure Skating eligible skaters participate must be sanctioned. Sanctions are required when any of the following conditions apply:

1. Admission is charged or admission is contingent upon a donation.
2. The sponsor or promoter is a recipient of some pecuniary benefit.
3. Skaters, other than those who are members of the host club, have been invited to participate.
4. Ineligible persons in skating have been invited to participate.
5. The performance is held at a location other than the principal skating headquarters of the host club.
6. The event is advertised or the public is invited to attend.
7. Skaters or synchronized skating teams exhibit at hockey games.



Basic Skills Performance Approvals allow full members to participate in U.S. Figure Skating Basic Skills approved skating performances, ice shows, exhibitions, carnivals without the need for a separate U.S. Figure Skating sanction. Restrictions on performance approvals are that they do not include the participation of U.S. Figure Skating member skaters who are or have been active U.S. Championship competitors at or above the novice level within the past two years unless participation has been permitted by U.S. Figure Skating approval by way of sanction, ESCA (Eligible Skater Compensation Agreement) or special permission is obtained. Filing fee for obtaining a Basic Skills performance approval is \$25.

Please familiarize yourself with all sanctioning rules by clicking here <http://www.usfigureskating.org/MemberServices.asp?id=248> and go to the section on Sanctions and Eligibility.

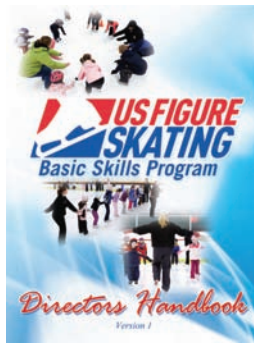
All forms of advertising, announcement, program or notice, including on the internet/web, of any sanctioned carnival or exhibition must state that the event is presented by the sponsoring club/program and sanctioned or approved by U.S. Figure Skating.

NEW Basic Skills Directors Handbook

U.S. Figure Skating is very pleased to offer a newly created handbook made specifically for our Basic Skills directors. This is a new resource that will hopefully make the role of a Basic Skills director a little easier. This handbook offers a wealth of information, ideas, resources and an appendix of important forms for running a successful Basic Skills Program.

The topics include:

- Management and Leadership
- Building Blocks of a Successful Program:
 - Strategic Planning
 - Establishing Policies
 - Working with your staff
 - Marketing and Promotion
 - Scheduling
- Working with customers
- Working with management
- Financial management
- Risk management
- Resources and Continuing Education
- FAQ's
- Tips from Colleagues



This handbook as well as many other resources are available free of charge on the Basic Skills Directors page that can be found on www.usfigureskating.org, click 'Programs', then 'Basic Skills'.

Upcoming Educational Opportunities

To find all registration information, go to www.usfigureskating.org and click "Clubs" or "Basic Skills."

2010 Club Education Seminars:

- Feb. 20 – Milwaukee, Wis.
- March 20 – Everett, Wash.
- April 17 - Charlotte, N.C.
- May 2 – Orange County, Calif.
- May 10-12 – Chicago, Ill., in conjunction with NARCE

2010 Basic Skills Workshops:

- Jan. 30 – Ogden, Utah
- March 6 – Northfield, Minn.
- April 18 – Pineville, N.C.
- April 22 – Wisconsin Dells, Wisc.
in conjunction with the WIAMA meeting
- May 10-12 – Chicago, Ill., in conjunction with NARCE

2010 National Skating Month – Record Breaking Year!

It is a record breaking year! Participation is at an all time high with 349 events registered. In March of 2002, U.S. Figure Skating unveiled National Skating Month with great success with 110 registered events. Since then our participation numbers have steadily increased.

2003	211
2004	245
2005	233
2006	298
2007	337
2008	287
2009	300
2010	349

and still counting...



During the celebration, participating rinks and figure skating clubs will host activities like open skating, free lessons and clinics, exhibitions by local talent, skating demonstrations, fun and games on ice, parent meetings, equipment re-sales, fundraising activities and viewing parties. Check out all of the events and summaries as they are posted on the National Skating Month homepage. Get on your skates and join in the fun.

New About U.S. Figure Skating Guidebooks are available free of charge! If you would like to order these guidebooks to hand out to your current and new members, please e-mail swehrli@usfigureskating.org with mailing address and desired quantity.



Feature Club/Program Story Ideas

Did your club recently hold a unique (and successful!) fundraiser? Is there a skater at your club who has overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles? Does one of your instructors have unconventional – but effective – teaching techniques? We want to hear about them. Send in your club-related story ideas, and maybe your club or program will appear in U.S. Figure Skating's new "Featured Club/Program" department. Contacts:

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