How to Become a Technical Panel Official for U.S. Figure Skating

There are four different technical panel certifications available through U.S. Figure Skating:

1. Technical Controller
2. Technical Specialist
3. Data Operator
4. Video Replay Operator

For a description of each position, see the U.S. Figure Skating Rulebook, Rules 1250, 1260, 1270 and 1280.

Technical Controllers and Technical Specialists can be certified in up to four disciplines: (1) singles, (2) pairs, (3) dance and (4) synchronized skating.

Data Operators and Video Replay Operators can be certified in up to two disciplines: (1) singles/pairs/dance and (2) synchronized skating.

How to become certified as a Technical Controller:

The only way to become certified as a technical controller for U.S. Figure Skating is to attend a National Technical Panel Seminar and pass the exam consisting of a written portion and a practical portion. The application for each seminar doubles as the application for initial certification. Seminars are typically held each spring. For information on any currently scheduled seminars, please visit the Technical Panel Officials page online. If no seminars are scheduled, please check back later.

In order to test for an appointment at a seminar, the candidate must meet the following minimum criteria:

- Must be at least 21 years of age;
- Must be a U.S. Figure Skating judge of the rank of regional competition level or above in the discipline in which the candidate would like to serve;
- Must have the highest technical knowledge of the skating discipline in which the candidate would like to serve;
- Must be able to take directions and work well in a team environment;
- Must adhere to the ethics policy established by the Technical Panel Committee.

If you are interested in becoming a technical controller and meet the qualifications listed above, submit an application to test at a National Technical Panel Seminar. If no seminars are scheduled, continue to check the U.S. Figure Skating website until a seminar is scheduled, and follow the instructions on how to apply.
How to Become a Technical Panel Official for U.S. Figure Skating

How to become certified as a Technical Specialist:
The only way to become certified as a technical specialist for U.S. Figure Skating is to attend a National Technical Panel Seminar and pass the exam consisting of a written portion and a practical portion. The application for each seminar doubles as the application for initial certification. Seminars are typically held each spring. For information on any currently scheduled seminars, please visit the Technical Panel Officials page online. If no seminars are scheduled, please check back later.

In order to test for an appointment at a seminar, the candidate must meet the following minimum criteria:

- Must be at least 21 years of age;
- Must be either:
  1. A former senior or junior competition at a sectional championship in the discipline in which the candidate would like to serve or, for singles only, a former senior competitor at a regional championship in a singles event;
  2. The coach/coaches responsible for 50 percent or more of three such competitors’ training described in (1) above;
  3. A sectional-level competition judge in the discipline in which the candidate would like to serve;
- Must have the highest technical knowledge of the skating discipline in which the candidate would like to serve;
- Must be able to take directions and work well in a team environment;
- Must adhere to the ethics policy established by the Technical Panel Committee.

If you are interested in becoming a technical specialist and meet the qualifications listed above, submit an application to test at a National Technical Panel Seminar. If no seminars are scheduled, continue to check the U.S. Figure Skating website until a seminar is scheduled, and follow the instructions on how to apply.
How to Become a Technical Panel Official for U.S. Figure Skating

How to become certified as a Data Operator:
The only way to become certified as a data operator for U.S. Figure Skating is to attend a National Technical Panel Seminar and pass the exam consisting of a written portion and a practical portion. The application for each seminar doubles as the application for initial certification. Seminars are typically held each spring. For information on any seminars currently scheduled, please visit the Technical Panel Officials page online. If no seminars are currently scheduled, please check back later.

In order to test for an appointment at a seminar, the candidate must meet the following minimum criteria:
- Must be at least 21 years of age;
- Must have a high degree of technical knowledge of the skating discipline in which the candidate would like to serve;
- Must have good computer skills and be familiar with the data entries corresponding to the called elements;
- Must be able to take directions and work well in a team environment;
- Must adhere to the ethics policy established by the Technical Panel Committee.

If you are interested in becoming a data operator and meet the qualifications listed above, submit an application to test at a National Technical Panel Seminar. If no seminars are scheduled, continue to check the U.S. Figure Skating website until a seminar is scheduled and follow the instructions on how to apply.
How to Become a Technical Panel Official for U.S. Figure Skating

How to become certified as a Video Replay Operator:

There are two ways to become certified as a video replay operator for U.S. Figure Skating.

1. Attend a National Technical Panel Seminar and become certified as a technical controller, technical specialist or data operator as explained above. Any candidate who receives an appointment as a controller, specialist or data operator automatically receives a video replay operator appointment at the same level.

2. Per rule TPCR 4.04 (I), in the event the chief referee at a nonqualifying competition determines that there is a need for additional video operators, a short training session will be conducted on site. The training will be assigned to a certified video operator. Upon successful completion, the candidate will be approved to act as a video operator only at the specified competition. The candidate may apply to the Technical Panel Committee for official certification as a video operator following the competition using the Video Appointment Application.

In order to test for an appointment at a seminar, the candidate must meet the following minimum criteria:

- Must be at least 21 years of age;
- Must have a high degree of technical knowledge of the skating discipline in which the candidate would like to serve;
- Must have good computer skills and be familiar with the skating elements of the skating discipline in which the candidate serves;
- Must be able to take directions and work well in a team environment;
- Must adhere to the ethics policy established by the Technical Panel Committee.