U.S. Figure Skating
2017 National Showcase
Guidelines
Nonqualifying Competition Showcase Guidelines

2016-2017 Season

Melissa Bowman
National Vice Chair for Showcase
patinage.tx@gmail.com

Karissa Woienski
U.S. Figure Skating
Manager, Figure Skating Programs
kwoienski@usfigureskating.org

Last updated 1/24/2017
When showcase is included in a sanctioned non-qualifying competition, no additional sanction is required as long as the events are included in the original official application. However, the guidelines for showcase events must be followed in order for the skaters to qualify for National Showcase.

A. **OFFICIALS FOR SHOWCASE EVENTS:**

Officials will be selected by the Local Organizing Committee from the current list of U.S. Figure Skating officials. Non-Official judges may only be used if the competition is granted a “Special Competition Sanction”.

**Chief Accountants / LOC:** For all non-qualifying showcase competitions (or those competitions that include showcase, interpretive, light entertainment, dramatic entertainment, artistic or ensemble events) the competition results must be sent by the chief accountant to:

- Melissa Bowman, *National Vice Chair for Showcase*, at patinage.tx@gmail.com

AND

- Karissa Woienski, U.S. Figure Skating, *Manager, Figure Skating Programs* at kwoienski@usfigureskating.org

The method for submission will be electronically or by mail to individuals named above. These results will be used to verify the eligible skaters to the National Showcase competition.

B. **ELIGIBILITY TO COMPETE AND NATIONAL SHOWCASE:**

1. Required age and test qualifications must be in effect at the date entries are closed. Subsequent changes will not affect eligibility (*with the exception of Adult Championships and Adult Sectionals*). Skaters representing another governing body must meet that body’s closest possible equivalent to the specified U.S. Figure Skating test requirement. The referee’s decision will be final. For Duets, entries must be according to the age and level of the highest test skater. Both skaters must have completed test minimum pre-requisites.

2. Placement Pre-Requisite: Singles competitors, Preliminary through Senior, Adult Bronze through Adult Masters, may compete at National Showcase, if they placed first, second, third or fourth (1) in a contested nonqualifying showcase/theatrical/interpretive skating event held in the United States from the close of entries for National Showcase in the current skating year back to the close of entries for National Showcase in the preceding year; or (2) in the immediately preceding National Showcase. Lower levels are not eligible to compete in National Showcase. Competitors who have entered a competition subsequently cancelled for lack of other entries may substitute a testimonial letter from the chair or the registrar to get a bye to National Showcase.

*Invitations will no longer be sent to skaters as they have in the past.*
3. National Showcase is scheduled, annually, each August. The deadline to satisfy test pre-requisites, placement pre-requisites, and to enter is July 13.

C. JUDGING AND MARKING:
1. Performances will be judged from an entertainment standpoint, for theatrical and artistic qualities.
2. Technical skating skills and difficulty will not be rewarded as such; however, skating must be the major element of the performance and be of sufficient quality to support the selected theatrical elements.
3. Unintended falls, poorly executed skating elements and obvious losses of control will negatively affect the competitor’s/team’s marks.
4. Jump difficulty is not rewarded in showcase; therefore jumps, if choreographed, should be performed with style, flow and confidence.
5. Theatrical elements evaluated will include are but not limited to:
   a) Reflection of the musicality as it pertains to the concept of the program
   b) Projection
   c) Energy
   d) Timing
   e) Acting
   f) Skating skills that relate to the music
   g) Age appropriateness to skater
   h) Use of props and scenery
   i) Interaction (Duets and Ensembles only)
   j) Note: Prolonged pauses to express lyrics are discouraged
6. The 6.0 judging system will be used. One mark will be awarded by each judge for each performance. **No technical skating mark will be awarded.**
7. Deductions will apply for negligence relating to: costumes, props, program times. If there is more than one infraction, each will be deducted from the single mark.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deduction</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-0.1</td>
<td>Hair or accessory falls to ice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-1.0</td>
<td>Prohibited size or type of prop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-0.1</td>
<td>For each 10 seconds over maximum time</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

D. COSTUMES:
1. Costuming and make-up for showcase/theatrical/interpretive skating programs should enhance the feeling created by the performance, and reflect the meaning of the story or theme.
2. Costume rules for competition free skate programs do not apply for
showcase/theatrical/interpretive skating. Ornaments and hair accessories must be secure.

3. No bobby pins, feathers, hair accessories, or anything else that may fall to the ice and be
hazardous to the skaters are allowed. A 0.1 deduction will be taken.

4. Figure skating blades must be used, no hockey or other blades. The blades must be sharpened to
produce a flat to concave cross section without change to the width of the blade as measured
between the two edges. However, a slight tapering or narrowing of the cross section of the blade
is permitted.

E. RULES OF EVENTS:

Skaters may enter any or all singles events for which they are qualified by test level. Skaters
cannot skate in different levels of the same event (example: event-Light Entertainment Level
Junior skater would not be allowed to skate Light Entertainment Junior and Senior).

**Singles events are as follows:**

1. **Dramatic Entertainment:** Programs should express intense emotional connection and
investment in the music, choreography and theme concept through related skating movements,
gestures and physical actions. The entire gamut of emotions may be expressed including intense
joy and/or introspectiveness. **Props and Scenery ARE permitted.**

2. **Light Entertainment:** Programs should express a carefree concept or storyline designed to uplift
and entertain the audience through related skating movements, gestures and physical actions.
**Props and Scenery ARE permitted.**

3. **Interpretive:** The program will be a performance choreographed by the competitor,
unaccompanied and unassisted, to music that is supplied by the LOC. Programs should
incorporate various elements of expressive movement and skating moves, to enhance the skater’s
interpretation of the music, rather than technical elements. The music will be played continuously
during a 30-minute off ice session in a room. The room will be attended only by the adult
monitor assigned to play the music, and the competing skaters. The music will be played twice
during a warm-up on full ice. **After the warm up skaters will go back to the room, with no
music being played.** Skaters will be brought to the ice when the previous skater finishes. All
competitors in an event will interpret the same music. Props are permitted but must be brought
into the room prior to listening to the music, and be taken to the ice only when the skater is called
to perform. Props may not be pre-positioned on the performance surface.

**Duet & Ensemble events are as follows:**

4. **Duets:** are theatrical performances by any two competitors. Props and Scenery ARE permitted.
Skaters may enter only one duet, one mini production ensemble and one production ensemble
each.

5. **Mini Production Ensembles:** are theatrical performances by three to seven
competitors. Props and Scenery ARE permitted. Programs are performed under full arena lighting. Skaters may enter only one duet, one mini production ensemble and one production ensemble each.

6. **Production Ensembles:** are theatrical performances by eight or more competitors. NOTE: Skaters may enter only one duet, one mini production ensemble and one production ensemble each. Props and Scenery ARE permitted. Programs are performed under full arena lighting.

F. **WARM-UP TIMES:**

Interpretive events will warm up for four minutes on performance ice under full house lighting. Warm-up groups for interpretive will not exceed 10 skaters. No props are allowed on the ice during warm up.

Singles, duets, mini-production and production ensembles will warm up for a minimum of three minutes backstage when curtains and spotlights are used.

G. **PERFORMANCE TIMES:**

1. **Interpretive:**
   a. Pre-juvenile and below: 1:00 max
   b. Juvenile thru novice: 1:30 max
   c. Junior and senior: 1:30 max
   d. Teen and young adult: 1:30 max
   e. All adult events: 1:30 max

2. **Light and Dramatic Entertainment:**
   a. Beginner, High Beginner, No Test, Pre-Preliminary (these levels do not qualify for National Showcase): 1:30 max
   b. Preliminary and pre-juvenile: 1:40 max
   c. Juvenile thru novice: 2:10 max
   d. Junior and senior: 2:40 max
   e. Teen and Young adult: 2:10 max
   f. All Adult Events: 1:40 max

3. **Ensembles:**
   a. Duets: Same as for Light and Dramatic Entertainment (entries according to the level of the higher test skater)
   b. Mini Production ensembles: 3:10 max
   c. Production ensembles FS: 6:15 max

H. **TIMING:**

Timing of the program will begin with the first purposeful movement of any competitor or member of a team. For performances that are over the time allotment, standard time deductions will apply as per U.S. Figure Skating’s current rulebook. Timing will cease when the last skater comes to a complete stop.
I. **SCENERY / PROPS RULES:**

1. Props and scenery must be placed and removed:
   - Unaided, by the **singles and duets** competitors within one minute total on and off.
   - Unaided, by the **ensemble teams** within two minutes maximum for setup and two minutes maximum for removal. Anyone not skating is not allowed to step on the ice.

2. General:
   - The inclusion of scenery and/or props is not mandatory.
   - All scenery will be portable and not require any mechanical means for transportation (i.e. forklift, etc.). Its movement will be the responsibility of the skater or teams.
   - A mandatory deduction of 1.0 may be applied by each judge as instructed by the referee for the following violations:
     - Scenery may not exceed 7’6” in height
     - For insurance reasons no propulsion devices will be permitted. This includes items such as cannons and trampolines. Apparatus such as these, which could be used to assist skaters with jumping into the air, are NOT permitted.
     - The use of smoke, fire, dry ice, liquids, live animals, feathers, bubble machines or any substance that may harm the ice surface and/or skaters is not permitted.
     - No projectiles.
     - All props must be under the control of the skater; for example, remotely controlled images or objects.
     - No mirrors or glass of any kind is allowed on the ice.
     - People may not be used as props.
   - For ensemble set ups (2:00 max): An announcement will be made after 1 minute has elapsed. Another announcement will be made when 30 seconds are remaining. At the 2-minute mark, an announcement is made that set up time is over. Set-up must be complete and skaters must be in their starting position before the 2-minute announcement is made. A 0.1 deduction will be taken for every 10 seconds over.
   - There will be no countdown of timing announced for Single skaters or Duets.
   - If a competitor has any doubt concerning the safety of his/her performance, the Chief Referee should be consulted.

3. Scenery Break Down (Ensembles):
   At the completion of the performance, and after the team has taken their bows, teams will be permitted two minutes to remove all scenery/props. When removing the scenery/props from the ice the skaters may not step off the ice until all scenery is removed.

   A 0.1 deduction will be assessed by the referee against each judges’ mark for each ten seconds in excess of the time allowed.

**SPECIFICS:**

A. There is no minimum time requirement for any event program.
B. Events will not be segregated by gender.
C. There will be a 0.1 deduction for each 10 seconds in excess of the maximum
performance time.
D. There will be a 0.1 deduction for each 10 seconds in excess of the maximum prop placement
E. There will be a 0.1 deduction for each 10 seconds in excess of the maximum prop break down
   time.
F. Timing starts with the first purposeful motion of the body and ends when motion stops.
G. Spotlights and curtains are not required for showcase events at nonqualifying competitions.

**GROUP SIZES AND FINAL ROUNDS:**
Maximum sizes of initial rounds will be 18 contestants. In adult events, groups larger than 18
participants will be split by age. Final rounds may be held at the discretion of the referee and the
local organizing committee.
**EVENT LEVELS, AGES, TEST REQUIREMENTS AND PERFORMANCE TIMING**

Except for Adult events, skaters must compete at the highest level for which they qualify.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Must meet requirements*</th>
<th>Must not have passed Free Skate or Dance Test (solo or partnered) Test</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preliminary</td>
<td>Preliminary Free Skate</td>
<td>Pre Juvenile Free Skate OR Juvenile Free Dance</td>
<td>No minimum age (max age 20)</td>
<td>1:40 max</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre Juvenile</td>
<td>Pre Juvenile Free Skate</td>
<td>Juvenile Free Skate OR Juvenile Free Dance</td>
<td>No minimum age (max age 20)</td>
<td>1:40 max</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juvenile</td>
<td>Juvenile Free Skate OR</td>
<td>Intermediate Free Skate OR Intermediate Free Dance</td>
<td>13 and under</td>
<td>2:10 max</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Juvenile Free Dance</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teen</td>
<td>Juvenile Free Skate OR</td>
<td>Intermediate Free Skate OR Intermediate Free Dance</td>
<td>14-17</td>
<td>2:10 max</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Juvenile Free Dance</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate</td>
<td>Intermediate Free Skate</td>
<td>Novice Free Skate OR Novice Free Dance</td>
<td>17 and under</td>
<td>2:10 max</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>OR Intermediate Free Dance</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young Adult</td>
<td>Juvenile Free Skate OR</td>
<td>Novice Free Skate OR Novice Free Dance</td>
<td>18-20</td>
<td>2:10 max</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Juvenile Free Dance</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Novice</td>
<td>Novice Free Skate OR</td>
<td>Junior Free Skate OR Junior Free Dance</td>
<td>2:10 max</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Novice Free Dance</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior</td>
<td>Junior Free Skate OR</td>
<td>Senior Free Skate OR Senior Free Dance</td>
<td>2:40 max</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Junior Free Dance</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>Senior Free Skate OR</td>
<td></td>
<td>2:40 max</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Senior Free Dance</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Event**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Must meet requirements*</th>
<th>Must not have passed Free Skate or Dance Test (solo or partnered: standard, adult, or masters track)</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult Bronze</td>
<td>Adult Bronze Free Skate Preliminary Free Skate OR Complete Pre-Bronze Dance Test** (prior to 4/30/17)</td>
<td>Adult Silver Free Skate Pre Juvenile Free Skate OR Adult Silver Free Dance Intermediate Free Dance Preliminary FD (prior to 9/2/2000) OR 3rd Figure (prior to 10/1/77) OR Any Pre-Silver Dance**</td>
<td>21 and older</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Singles or Duets (Duets must compete at the highest test level of the two skaters and both members of a duet must meet at least the minimum test pre-requisite for Preliminary Free Skating or Adult Bronze Level.)*

**Age**

- No minimum age (max age 20)
- 13 and under
- 14-17
- 17 and under
- 18-20
- 21 and older
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Adult Silver Free Skate</th>
<th>Adult Silver Free Dance</th>
<th>Preliminary FD (prior to 9/2/2000)</th>
<th>3rd Figure (prior to 10/1/77)</th>
<th>One Pre-Silver Dance**</th>
<th>Adult Silver Free Skate</th>
<th>Adult Gold Free Skate</th>
<th>Novice Free Dance</th>
<th>Bronze FD (prior to 9/2/2000)</th>
<th>4th Figure (prior to 10/1/77)</th>
<th>Any Pre-Gold Dance**</th>
<th>21 and older</th>
<th>1:40 max</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult Gold</td>
<td>Adult Gold Free Skate</td>
<td>Adult Gold Free Dance</td>
<td>3rd Figure (prior to 10/1/77)</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>One Pre-Gold Dance**</td>
<td>Intermediate FS (on/after 10/1/91)</td>
<td>Junior Free Dance</td>
<td>Silver FD (Prior to 9/2/2000)</td>
<td>5th Figure Test (prior to 10/1/77)</td>
<td>OR Complete Pre-Gold Dance Test**</td>
<td>21 and older</td>
<td>1:40 max</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masters</td>
<td>Intermediate Free Skate</td>
<td>Adult Gold Free Dance</td>
<td>Silver FD (Prior to 9/2/2000)</td>
<td>3rd Figure Test (prior to 10/1/77)</td>
<td>8th Figure Test (10/1/77-9/30/79)</td>
<td>Intermediate Free Skate</td>
<td>Adult Gold Free Dance</td>
<td>Novice Free Dance</td>
<td>Bronze FD (prior to 9/2/2000)</td>
<td>4th Figure (prior to 10/1/77)</td>
<td>OR Any Pre-Gold Dance**</td>
<td>21 and older</td>
<td>1:40 max</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Mini Production**
- Open

**Production**
- Open

3:10 max

6:15 max

*For the US Adult Championships and adult sectional championships, skaters must meet the test requirements for the level at which they want to compete; rules 2540-2552 apply; and the same level must be chosen for all showcase events at the competition (for example, a skater may not compete in Masters Dramatic Entertainment and Adult Gold Light Entertainment events at the same competition). For all other competitions, skaters must compete at their test level or one level higher, per the above chart. For Basic Skills levels and events, please refer to the U.S. Figure Skating Compete USA Competition Manual for Showcase event levels, elements, qualifications, program lengths and descriptions. For events offered, refer to the competition announcement.

**IMPORTANT- As of May 1, 2017, Pattern Dance Tests will no longer qualify adult athletes to compete in Showcase Events. Those who have passed the complete Pre-Bronze Dance Test prior to 4/30/17 will be grandfathered at the adult bronze showcase level. Athletes currently competing based on pattern dance tests will need to pass a qualifying free skate or free dance test (solo, partnered, standard, adult, or masters) to compete in showcase events above the adult bronze level after April 30, 2017.