NATIONAL QUALIFYING SERIES
Identify. Develop. Promote.

NATIONAL QUALIFYING SERIES HIGHLIGHTS

- Consists of officially recognized nonqualifying competitions between June 1 – September 15
- Competitions follow standard conduct of competition, as outlined in rule 2460 (QR, with FS, CR with SP + FS = TS)
- Competitions feature a panel of officials with minimum level requirement, approved by U.S. Figure Skating
- Separate series for singles, pairs and dance; competitions choose which discipline(s) to apply for and host.
- Athletes enter the overall NQS directly with U.S. Figure Skating, via the Event Management System (EMS) by May 28th.
- Athletes may enter at their test level, one level higher OR both!
- Athletes and teams enter ANY number of competitions, in any location; only their highest TS in the final round counts.
- Running national and sectional rankings are published after each event through U.S. Figure Skating’s EMS.
- Rankings become official at the conclusion of the last event. Athletes earn a competitor certificate and pin.
- The top six singles athletes per section earn a “bye” to the Sectional Singles Final!

 Allows all athletes a “national ranking” for their own achievement
for school purposes, to challenge themselves and track their progress over the summer against other athletes their level. Allows the International Committee to track element markers and prepares skaters for the JGP / GP series.

Empowers coaches, athletes and parents
Coaches, parents and athletes develop a competition and training strategy around their strengths, training schedule, their budget and educational priorities.

Adds excitement and opportunities:
Results will be through the U.S. Figure Skating EMS and refreshed after each event. All athletes earn a competitor certificate and pin. Athletes in the top 25% will earn a gold pin, athletes in the top 50% a silver pin. Remaining earn a competitor pin.
STEP 1: Enter the National Qualifying Series

The entry deadline for the NQS is May 28, 2019. Late entries are not accepted.

- Enter the NQS by logging onto your account in Members Only and going to EMS – this will be available April 2019.
- The entry fee to participate is $25.00 per event.
- You DO NOT need to select your competitions, simply let us know you “want in!” to get your name on the list.
- You MAY enter more than one level.
- The entry fee is non-refundable.
- You DO need to skate in at least one event in order to receive a competitor certificate and pin.

No problem. Just enter the NQS, you select enter the competitions you want directly.

No problem. Enter at your current test level, AND one higher. You can be registered in two levels. However, you may not compete at two levels at the SAME competition.
STEP 2: Determine Your Level

- Athletes may skate at their current test level, or “skate up” one level.
- Athletes may also choose to complete two entries and compete in two separate levels, if they are test-eligible for both.
- Athletes may NOT, however, compete in two levels at the SAME competition (i.e., you can enter juvenile at competition #1, and intermediate at competition #2, but not both juvenile and intermediate at competition #1).
- Athletes entering two levels will receive two sectional/national rankings, two competitor certificates and two competitor pins, assuming they compete at least once in each level.

Notes:

By the conclusion of the NQS, the athlete must choose their level for the next phase of the official Qualifying Season (Regional Singles Challenge to Sectional Singles Final), be test-eligible and register by Sept. 1, to continue, as usual.

What if I rank 1st in Juvenile Girls in my section, and 10th in Intermediate Ladies and I want to go to sectionals?

Byes earned through the NQS do not carry between levels. You need to decide which level you want to compete for the qualifying season, and be test eligible by the entry deadline of Sept. 1st.

If you choose juvenile, you will be offered a bye to your Sectional Singles Final. If you want to move up to intermediate, you must pass the intermediate FS test, and your forfeit your bye, and must compete at the Regional Singles Challenge.
STEP 3: Determine Your Section

- Athletes are automatically entered into one of the three sections (Eastern, Midwestern or Pacific Coast) for the NQS, based on the location of their home club.
- Individual members’ section is based on their home address.
- Athletes remain in this section for the duration of the NQS, even if they change home clubs.

Notes:

Athletes will have an opportunity to change regions / sections prior to the next phase of the qualifying competition season (Regional Challenge / Sectional Final).

What if I move during the summer and want to switch sections? What if I earn a bye, can I take it to another section?

Athletes remain in the NQS in the section they registered for, regardless if they change home clubs. However, when you enter the next phase of the qualifying season, you can change at that point.

However, byes do not cross sections. If you earned a bye through the Pacific Coast section, that bye is for the Pacific Coast Sectional Final ONLY. If you choose to change clubs and the new club is located in a different section, you forfeit the bye and must start at the Regional Singles Challenge in your new region.
What if I miss the entry deadline for one of the competitions I want to enter?

Each NQS entry is handled by the host competition. Read the competition announcement for their policy on late entries. If late entries are not accepted, you will not be allowed to enter that competition.

There are no limits or restrictions on which events you can enter, so enter a different competition that has a later entry deadline.

Separately from registration for the NQS, athletes are responsible for registering for any competitions they want to enter.
All competitions will use the U.S. Figure Skating EMS entry system.
Athletes may choose as many or as few competitions as they desire.
The competitions can be located in any part of the country.
It is the responsibility of the athlete to enter each competition and follow any entry rules set by the host club.
Entering the NQS does not enter the athlete into any competitions.
STEP 5: Standings and Results

- After each NQS event has completed, the Total Score earned by each skater registered for the NQS is pulled by U.S. Figure Skating in the running standings, posted on EMS.
- Standings will be posted for each category (i.e., juvenile girls) by section and for the entire country.
- Only the skater’s highest Total Score will be counted. (For example, if a skater competes in competition #2, but has a higher TS in competition #1, their score from competition #1 remains.
- The placements of skaters at any NQS event are not relevant, only the TS earned by each athlete.

Skaters that compete but have not yet advanced out of a qualifying round are listed below running standings, as competitors. Skaters that have registered for the NQS, but haven’t competed yet, will not appear in the standings until they skate a competition.

Is there an advantage to doing one competition vs. another?
Not really. A skater’s placement in a competition doesn’t matter, just their score. The top 10 scores in the country may have been earned from the same event, or from 10 separate events.

Will there be skaters in my event that aren’t in the NQS?
Possibly. Any skater can enter any competition, regardless of whether or not they are registered for the NQS. This may even include skaters from foreign countries! The scores from skaters not in the NQS will simply be ignored in the standings.

Is there an advantage to doing lots of competitions?
Not really. Only your highest score counts, and you and your coach need to decide what strategy works for you. Some skaters will do better by competing a few times and training in between.
### 2020 National Qualifying Series Final Standings—Juvenile Girls

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skater Name</th>
<th>Home Club</th>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Highest Score</th>
<th>Sectional Rank</th>
<th>National Rank</th>
<th>Competition Earned</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Skater 1</td>
<td>SC of Phoenix</td>
<td>PC</td>
<td>59.08</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Broadmoor Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skater 2</td>
<td>Wilmington FSC</td>
<td>EAST</td>
<td>51.10</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Skate Milwaukee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skater 3</td>
<td>Columbus FSC</td>
<td>MW</td>
<td>49.75</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Glacier Falls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skater 4</td>
<td>Illinois Valley FSC</td>
<td>MW</td>
<td>49.50</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Broadmoor Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skater 5</td>
<td>Skating Club of NY</td>
<td>EAST</td>
<td>48.61</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Broadmoor Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skater 6</td>
<td>All Year FSC</td>
<td>PC</td>
<td>48.47</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Bluebonnet Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skater 7</td>
<td>DuPage FSC</td>
<td>MW</td>
<td>47.78</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Skate Milwaukee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skater 8</td>
<td>FSC of Park City</td>
<td>PC</td>
<td>45.91</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Vail Invitational</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skater 9</td>
<td>Skokie Valley SC</td>
<td>MW</td>
<td>45.38</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Skate Detroit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skater 10</td>
<td>Glenwood FSC</td>
<td>MW</td>
<td>45.30</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Skate Milwaukee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skater 11</td>
<td>Philadelphia SC &amp; HS</td>
<td>EAST</td>
<td>45.23</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Middle Atlantics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skater 12</td>
<td>DuPage FSC</td>
<td>MW</td>
<td>45.08</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Chicago Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skater 13</td>
<td>Memorial FSC of Houston</td>
<td>MW</td>
<td>44.94</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Skate Milwaukee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skater 14</td>
<td>Denver FSC</td>
<td>MW</td>
<td>44.47</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Skate Milwaukee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skater 15</td>
<td>Alaska Assoc of FS</td>
<td>PC</td>
<td>44.44</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Vail Invitational</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skater 16</td>
<td>Baltimore FSC</td>
<td>EAST</td>
<td>43.79</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Skate Wilmington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skater 17</td>
<td>Dallas FSC</td>
<td>MW</td>
<td>43.56</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Broadmoor Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skater 18</td>
<td>SC of Boston</td>
<td>EAST</td>
<td>42.99</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Skate Detroit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skater 19</td>
<td>Memorial FSC of Houston</td>
<td>MW</td>
<td>42.64</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Bluebonnet Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skater 20</td>
<td>All Year FSC</td>
<td>PC</td>
<td>42.56</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Glacier Falls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skater 21</td>
<td>Dallas FSC</td>
<td>MW</td>
<td>42.54</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Golden West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skater 22</td>
<td>Seattle SC</td>
<td>PC</td>
<td>42.47</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Golden West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skater 23</td>
<td>SC of Morris</td>
<td>EAST</td>
<td>41.63</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Atlanta West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skater 24</td>
<td>Louisville SA</td>
<td>MW</td>
<td>40.89</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Atlanta West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skater 25</td>
<td>Washington FSC</td>
<td>EAST</td>
<td>40.85</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Atlanta Open</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Example NQS Standings

- Each skaters highest score is recorded.
- Skaters are listed with their current rank in their section and nationwide.
- The list refreshes each time an NQS event happens.
- A skaters current highest score remains until they beat it at another competition.
STEP 6: Results / Conclusion of the NQS

After the last event in the NQS, on or around September 15th, the scores become final, with only one Total Score (the highest) per athlete counting. The following will be the official results of the series:

- There will be a National Ranking for each level, with all athletes that competed in at least one competition earning a certificate and a pin. Any athlete that did not earn a combined Total Score will receive the ranking of “competitor”.

- Athletes earning a Total Score in that is in the Top 6 of their assigned section, will be offered an automatic advancement (bye) to their Sectional Singles Final.

- Athletes that register for the NQS, but fail to skate in a competition will not receive a competitor pin or certificate.

What are the awards and titles for the NQS?

There is no official title for the top ranked skaters in the NQS. The top skater is NOT considered, “U.S. champion”. That title is reserved for the U.S. Figure Skating Championships.

Athletes receive the following awards:

- The top 50% receive a certificate with their national rank printed on it.
- The remaining skaters receive a “competitor” certificate.
  - The top 25% receive a gold pin.
  - The 26th – 50% receive a silver pin.
  - Remaining receive a competitor pin.
STEP 7: The NQS has ended, and the Qualifying Season Starts.

The NQS and the Qualifying Season are completely separate programs. All athletes, regardless of ranking, that wish to continue advancing through the qualifying season must enter the Qualifying Season by September 1. No exceptions.

- Athletes must have passed the appropriate test for the level they wish to enter by September 1.
- All singles athletes, not also competing in pairs or dance, must enter the region of their home club, by September 1.

How byes are handled:

The top six athletes in each section, in each category, that have also entered the qualifying season (Regional Singles Challenge) by September 1, are contacted via email and offered a bye to their Sectional Singles Final.

- They may choose to accept the bye, or may choose to compete at their regional.
- Regardless: They have secured their spot at their sectional.
- If the athlete chooses to compete at regionals, and finishes lower than 4th, he or she still advances to the Sectional Singles Final.
- If the athlete chooses to compete at regionals, and finishes in the top 4, the next highest placing skater without a bye also advances.
### NATIONAL QUALIFYING SERIES
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### ILLUSTRATION OF PIPELINE

Official qualifying season. **All** athletes must register for the qualifying season by Sept. 1st and be test/age eligible continue. NQS registration does not carry over.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>June - September</th>
<th>October</th>
<th>November</th>
<th>January</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Event</td>
<td>NQS</td>
<td>Regional Singles Challenge</td>
<td>Sectional Singles Final</td>
<td>U.S. Champs. Or National HPTDC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entry</td>
<td>Open entry</td>
<td>Open entry</td>
<td>6 from NQS + 12 from regional</td>
<td>Top 12 from sectional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advancement</td>
<td>Top 6 per section are offered a bye to Sectional Singles Final</td>
<td>Top 4 per region advance to Sectional Singles Final</td>
<td>Top 4 per sectional advance to U.S. Championships/ NHPDT</td>
<td>Athletes selected for international competitions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title / Result</td>
<td>National Ranking</td>
<td>Regional Champion</td>
<td>Sectional Champion</td>
<td>U.S. Champion / NHPDT participant</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Register by May 28th.
OVERVIEW OF COMPETITION RULES

All NQS events will be conducted in a standard format, to ensure consistency and fairness across competitions.

Events will be conducted in accordance with Rule 2460:

- Qualifying rounds will be held where there are more than 24 entries in one event. Groups are seeded.
- Four (4) skaters per group advance + the next 4 highest scores, see Rule 2460 of the Athlete Handbook for a chart.
- If held, the QR will consist of a free skate only, with the appropriate number of athletes advancing to the championship round.
- The championship rounds will consist of a combined SP and FS competition, resulting in a Total Score (intermediate – senior) or a championship free skate only Total Score (juvenile)
- When there are 24 or fewer entries, there is no qualifying round and all skaters are considered to be competing in the championship round.

Consolation Rounds

It is strongly recommended that NQS competitions hold consolation rounds for intermediate and higher.

This is an event for all skaters that didn’t make the championship round to compete their short program only.

The consolation round is for practice; scores are not considered for official NQS standings. Rules for consolation rounds are under the jurisdiction of the host competition.

Skating / Technical Rules:

The following events will be skated:

- Juvenile Girls & Boys / Rule 6450
- Intermediate Ladies & Men / Rule 6440
- Novice Ladies & Men / Rule 6430
- Junior Ladies & Men / Rule 6420
- Senior Ladies & Men / Rule 6410

Technical Information regarding the short program and well balanced free skate elements is posted here.

Events will be skated under the rules of the 2019-20 season.