

U.S. Figure Skating's

National Showcase

2018-2019 Guidelines





Nonqualifying Competition Showcase Guidelines

2018-2019 Season

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When showcase is included in a sanctioned non-qualifying competition, no additional sanction is required as long as the events are included in the 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 (LOC) 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 competitions that include showcase, interpretive, light entertainment, dramatic entertainment, or ensemble events), the competition results must be sent by the chief accountant to:

- Lynn Bell, *National Vice Chair for Showcase*, at vlbteleco@AOL.com
- 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 skaters that qualify to compete at 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.

Placement Pre-Requisite: Singles competitors, Preliminary through Senior, Adult Bronze through Adult Masters, may compete at National Showcase in an event where they placed first, second, third or fourth (1) in a contested non-qualifying 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. (3) Where only one competitor has entered an event, the Chief Referee shall combine events to create a contested event. When such events are combined there will be no more than 4 competitors in the combined event to ensure that the competitors earn a spot to National Showcase. (4) Competitors who have entered a contested event subsequently cancelled due to withdrawals from the event may substitute a testimonial letter from the chair or the registrar to get a bye to National Showcase.

3. **National Showcase is scheduled, annually, each August. The deadline to satisfy test pre-requisites, placement pre-requisites, and to enter is July 1.**



C. JUDGING AND MARKING:

1. Performances will be judged from an entertainment standpoint, for theatrical and artistic qualities.
2. Unintended falls, poorly executed skating elements and obvious losses of control will negatively affect the competitor's/team's marks.
3. Technical difficulty is not rewarded in showcase. If a technically difficult element such as a jump or spin is performed, it should be done with style, flow, confidence and should support the selected theatrical elements.
4. All programs must begin on the ice in view of the audience.
5. Elements to be evaluated will include are but not limited to:
 - 1) Skating Skills: quality, security, cleanliness, variety, flow. Any technical elements performed should relate to the music/character and highlight aspects of the program; difficulty will not be rewarded.
 - 2) Utilization of space and time: good ice coverage and pattern should be attained; program highlights should be spread through the entire performance.
 - 3) Performance: projection, energy, carriage, emotional involvement, individuality, spatial awareness (duets and ensembles).
 - 4) Composition: concept of the program, originality, creativity, age appropriateness, use of props/scenery (if used, should be an integral part of program and enhance the theme), and costumes (should fit the concept of the program).
 - 5) Interpretation: timing, expression of music's character, interaction (duets and ensembles), use of nuances to enhance the music and set the mood/character of the program.

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.

| Deduction | Description |
|------------------|--|
| -0.1 | Hair or accessory unintentionally falls to ice. |
| -0.1 | For each 10 seconds over maximum time ¹ |
| -1.0 | Prohibited size or type of prop. |
| -1.0 | Wrong category entered. ie, a clearly dramatic program entered as light entertainment. |

¹ From: Singles – Who Is Responsible For Deductions – 6.0 Events (7/26/16)



8. For Ensemble Events: Before the music is started, the team must take a stationary position on the ice and one skater must give a hand signal that the team is ready.

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. The clothing of the competitors must be dignified and appropriate for athletic/artistic competition. The clothing may be theatrical in design and reflect the character of the music chosen. Clothing must not give the effect of excessive nudity inappropriate to the discipline.
3. Costume rules for competition free skate programs do not apply for showcase/theatrical/interpretive skating. Ornaments and hair accessories must be secure.
4. 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 if any item unintentionally falls on to the ice.

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. Dramatic programs should not be depressing. Even if the emotion is sadness, there should be an enlivened feeling given to the audience. **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 brought out during warm-up. Props may not be pre-positioned on the performance surface.
 - **All interpretive levels are allowed a program of 1:30 maximum.**



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. 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 to the score as per U.S. Figure Skating's current rulebook (Rule 6914 G.). Timing will cease when the last skater comes to a complete stop.

H. 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 one minute maximum for setup and one minute maximum for removal. Persons not skating are 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 (1:00 max): An announcement will be made after 30 seconds has elapsed. At the one 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 one 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.

3. Scenery Break Down (Ensembles):

At the completion of the performance, and after the team has taken their bows, teams will be permitted one minute 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.

I. INTERRUPTIONS:

If a competitor has any doubt concerning the safety of his/her performance, the Chief Referee should be consulted.

SPECIFICS:

- There is no minimum time requirement for any event program.
- Events will not be segregated by gender.
- There will be a 0.1 deduction for each 10 seconds in excess of the maximum performance time.
- There will be a 0.1 deduction for each 10 seconds in excess of the maximum prop placement
- There will be a 0.1 deduction for each 10 seconds in excess of the maximum prop break down time.
- There will be a 1.0 deduction when a program is entered in the wrong category. For example, a clearly dramatic program entered as light entertainment.
- Timing starts with the first purposeful motion of the body and ends when motion stops.
- 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. *All other groups will be divided randomly.* Final rounds may be held at the discretion of the referee and the local organizing committee.
- Final Rounds for National Showcase will be described in the National Showcase announcement.

A chart outlining event level requirements can be found on the following pages.



EVENT LEVELS, AGES, TEST REQUIREMENTS AND PERFORMANCE TIMING

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

| | Event | Must meet requirements* Must have passed Free Skating or Dance test (solo or partnered standard track) | Must not have passed Free Skate or Dance (solo or partnered) Test | Age | Time |
|--|---|---|--|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 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.) | Beginner, High Beginner, No Test* <i>Note: these levels do not qualify for National Showcase</i> | | Pre-Preliminary Free Skate | No minimum age (max age 20) | 1:30 max |
| | Pre-Preliminary* <i>Note: this level does not qualify for National Showcase</i> | | Preliminary Free Skate | No minimum age (max age 20) | 1:30 max |
| | Preliminary | Preliminary Free Skate | Pre Juvenile Free Skate OR Juvenile Free Dance | No minimum age (max age 20) | 1:40 max |
| | Pre Juvenile | Pre Juvenile Free Skate | Juvenile Free Skate OR Juvenile Free Dance | No minimum age (max age 20) | 1:40 max |
| | Juvenile | Juvenile Free Skate OR Juvenile Free Dance | Intermediate Free Skate OR Intermediate Free Dance | <u>Under 13</u> | 2:10 max |
| | Teen | Juvenile Free Skate OR Juvenile Free Dance | Intermediate Free Skate OR Intermediate Free Dance | <u>13-17</u> | 2:10 max |
| | Intermediate | Intermediate Free Skate OR Intermediate Free Dance | Novice Free Skate OR Novice Free Dance | 17 and under | 2:10 max |
| | Young Adult | Juvenile Free Skate OR Juvenile Free Dance | Novice Free Skate OR Novice Free Dance | 18-20 | 2:10 max |
| | Novice | Novice Free Skate OR Novice Free Dance | Junior Free Skate OR Junior Free Dance | No Age Restriction | 2:10 max |
| | Junior | Junior Free Skate OR Junior Free Dance | Senior Free Skate OR Senior Free Dance | | <u>2:30 max</u> |
| Senior | Senior Free Skate OR Senior Free Dance | | <u>2:30 max</u> | | |



| 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.) | Event | Must meet requirements* Must have passed Free Skate, Figure, or Dance Test (solo or partnered, standard, adult, or masters track) | Must not have passed Free Skate, Figure or Dance Test (solo or partnered; standard, adult, or masters track) | Age | Time |
|--|--|---|---|--------------|----------|
| | Adult Pre-Bronze <i>Note: this level does not qualify for National Showcase</i> | Adult Pre-Bronze Free Skate Pre-Preliminary Free Skate | Adult Bronze Free Skate Adult Bronze Free Dance Preliminary Free Skate Juvenile Free Dance OR Pre-Bronze Dance Test (prior to 4/30/17) | 21 and older | 1:40 max |
| | Adult Bronze | Adult Bronze Free Skate Adult Bronze Free Dance Preliminary Free Skate Juvenile Free Dance OR Pre-Bronze Dance Test (prior to 4/30/17) | Adult Silver Free Skate Pre-Juvenile Free Skate Adult Silver Free Dance Intermediate Free Dance Preliminary Free Dance (prior to 9/2/2000) OR 3rd Figure (prior to 10/1/77) | 21 and older | 1:40 max |
| | Adult Silver | Adult Silver Free Skate Juvenile Free Skate (prior to 10/1/94) Pre-Juvenile Free Skate Adult Silver Free Dance Intermediate Free Dance Preliminary Free Dance (prior to 9/2/2000) OR 3rd Figure (prior to 10/1/77) | Adult Gold Free Skate Juvenile Free Skate (On/after 10/1/94) Adult Gold Free Dance Novice Free Dance Bronze Free Dance (prior to 9/2/2000) OR 4th Figure (prior to 10/1/77) | 21 and older | 1:40 max |
| | Adult Gold | Adult Gold Free Skate Juvenile Free Skate Adult Gold Free Dance Novice Free Dance OR 3rd Figure (prior to 10/1/77) | Intermediate Free Skate (on/after 10/1/91) Junior Free Dance Silver Free Dance (Prior to 9/2/2000) OR 5th Figure Test (prior to 10/1/77) | 21 and older | 1:40 max |
| | Masters | Intermediate Free Skate Adult Gold Free Dance Junior Free Dance Silver FD (Prior to 9/2/2000) 3rd Figure Test (prior to 10/1/77) OR 8th Figure Test (10/1/77-9/30/79) | | 21 and older | 2:10 max |
| | Mini Production | Open | | Open | 3:10 max |
| Production | Open | | Open | 5:30 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). Adult athletes wishing to be grandfathered into a higher level based on participation at the Adult Championships or National Showcase prior to 4/30/17 may make this request to the National Vice Chair for National Showcase. For all other competitions, skaters must compete at their test level or one level higher, per the above chart. For Learn to Skate USA levels and events, please refer to the U.S. Figure Skating Compete USA Manual for Showcase event levels, elements, qualifications, program lengths and descriptions. For events offered, refer to the competition announcement.

