

Artistry in Motion

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Written in 1992 by PSA Master Rated Choreography and Style coach, Paula Wagener, the Artistry in Motion program has been rewritten to compliment the needs of the U.S. Figure Skating Basic Skills curriculum.

Artistry in Motion is a four badge level standardized choreography and style program to be used in conjunction with the Basic Skills Freeskate 1 level and above. The program is structured in a progressive manner, beginning with the top down- head, eye focus and upper body carriage cumulating in lower body extension and overall program choreography patterns and ice usage. It is a basic structure only, the beginning of the figure skaters artistic education. Coaches are encouraged to use their imagination and own sense of creativity when teaching AIM through use of their own choreography and interpretation of music.

There are specific requirements at each of the four levels including 4 spiral sequences, footwork patterns, rhythm exercises and upper body extension. The technical requirements must be mastered in order to pass into the next Artistry level. It is imperative that skaters use their skating skills including jumps and spins and every level when skating in this program. This is not an interpretive class, rather a creative class utilizing structure within expression. The end goal of the Artistry in Motion class is to help skaters incorporate style and artistry into their overall skating ability, therefore, the utilization of jumps, spins, footwork, field moves, stroking and connecting steps is mandatory.

Artistry in Motion is taught in a group format and may use partial or full ice surface. Music is required and a suggested list is included in the manual as well as a diagram of the correct upper body “port de bras” (ballet terminology for carriage of the arms). It is important to keep the class moving at all times and to give explanation while skating. Instructors are encouraged to skate with the students and to demonstrate when possible. This is an interactive class using the creativity and imagination of both skaters and instructors alike.

Artistry in Motion badge level 1 covers head focus and facial expression, basic head movements, rhythms and basic upper body carriage. Steps must be taught in conjunction with skating maneuvers.

Artistry in Motion badge level 2 focuses on Classical music and its relationship to figure skating choreography and basic movement. Body levels, dance terminology and basic integral movement is emphasized throughout this level. Mandatory spiral and footwork sequences are also introduced.

Artistry in Motion badge level 3 investigates jazz and contemporary music, program design and layout and begins to incorporate actual hands on student choreography and performance.

Artistry in Motion badge level 4 finishes with hands on, student program choreography and a review of all dance movement and terminology as well as musical terminology and incorporation of that music into figure skating choreography and style.

The information taught through Artistry in Motion curriculum are valuable life tools incorporating skating skills and techniques that will benefit athletes throughout their skating career. Skaters may use these tools to choreograph their own routines as well as develop themselves as total artists and athletes. The goal of Artistry in Motion is to encourage imagination through structure, interpretation through guidance and artistry through total skater development.