

## Clubs Matter

### NEW Collegiate Membership package available this year!

The Membership Committee has created a new four-year membership package called the "Collegiate Member" that goes into effect this coming membership year. This membership option is available through any U.S. Figure Skating member club, and the fee to register will be \$70 for four years. This represents a savings of \$90, or 56 percent, as the membership dues are currently \$40 per person per year (additional club fees may apply). This membership carries the same privileges as full membership, including a subscription to SKATING magazine, and testing and competition privileges.

A likely popular option will be for figure skating clubs or parents to gift this membership to graduating high school seniors so they will stay connected to both their home club and U.S. Figure Skating. Athletes will also be able to purchase this membership option through any U.S. Figure Skating member club.

You will be able to register all collegiate-aged skaters with this new category of membership after June 1. Please look for more detailed information about the Collegiate Membership package in the near future.

For information about Collegiate Skating programs, a list of colleges that offer skating programs, intercollegiate skating and the U.S. Collegiate Figure Skating Championships, go to <http://www.usfigureskating.org/Programs.asp?id=45>. or Contact Mary-Elizabeth Wightman at [mwightman@usfigureskating.org](mailto:mwightman@usfigureskating.org).



### Upcoming educational opportunities

**April 23 - WIAMA conference in Wisconsin Dells from 1:30-4:30 p.m.** – U.S. Figure Skating will host a meeting in conjunction with the upcoming annual WIAMA spring conference at the Kalahari Resort and Conference Center in Wisconsin Dells, Wis. The topics for discussion will include:

- Current U.S. Figure Skating membership trends
- Ideas to attract new skaters
- Programs to retain skaters
- Developing your own essential parent education plan
- What we can all do in preparation for the upcoming Olympic year

To register, please contact WIAMA, attention Nancy Hacker, at 920.362.1555, or e-mail Nancy at [randd3@tds.net](mailto:randd3@tds.net).

**April 29 – Club Education Seminar – last seminar of the year! Buffalo, N.Y. (prior to the Governing Council meeting) – 1:30- 8:30 p.m.** Go to <http://www.usfigureskating.org/Clubs.asp?id=233> to find the registration form. The registration fee includes all materials, lunch and afternoon break.

**April 30 – FREE seminars, roundtables and open forums** all day open to all delegates and guests – Buffalo, NY., at the Governing Council meeting from 10:30 a.m.–9:30 p.m.

**May 11-13 – NARCE in Chicago.** Consider sending your board members, club officers and skating directors to NARCE, the skating industry's premier event, held in Chicago on May 11-13. This 2 ½-day workshop will focus on teaching participants how to use the full array of U.S. Figure Skating programs to create a successful and financially viable figure skating program. Go to [www.narce.com](http://www.narce.com) for more information about NARCE, and be a part of this great conference for everyone in the skating industry.

### Important reminder

Many clubs have reported that adding **Test Track** events to their non-qualifying competitions has increased the number of registrants by more than 30 percent. The philosophy was to create a two-track structure for nonqualifying events at all U.S. Figure Skating sanctioned competitions, encouraging both recreational and competitive skaters to participate. The Test Track limits the difficulty of skating elements performed in each level by lining up the test structure requirements with the competition levels, giving test-level skaters a fair playing field to continue competing and testing according to their abilities.

Since this is still a new and developing event, please refer to the level description chart that can be found at <http://www.usfigureskating.org/Programs.asp?id=79>. Use this exactly as stated in your announcement. Also, familiarize yourself and the judging panel with the prescribed deductions for incorrect elements before these events. Consistency matters! Please send any and all feedback directly to [swehrli@usfigureskating.org](mailto:swehrli@usfigureskating.org) for improvements for the upcoming competitive season.

### April 2009

#### Share your great ideas!

If you would like to share a success story with other clubs about a specific program, fundraiser, scholarship award program, governance issues, or a membership drive and generate a little publicity for your club, please write a short article (include pictures if possible) and send to Susi at [swehrli@usfigureskating.org](mailto:swehrli@usfigureskating.org). We will post responses to initiate a new forum for our clubs to share ideas with one another.

#### New and improved Clubs section – just a click away!

The entire Clubs and Basic Skills sections of U.S. Figure Skating's web site have been completely overhauled with more information and improved accessibility.

Go to <http://www.usfigureskating.org/Clubs.asp> to check it out!

- ✓ New home page with more general information about clubs
- ✓ More Club Resources and Forms with descriptions
- ✓ Improved Risk Management section to handle all your insurance needs
- ✓ NEW Bridge Program section with helpful organizational ideas and lesson plans
- ✓ NEW Parent Information that links to the Parents section in the Programs area
- ✓ More complete information in the Basic Skills section, including tips on program organization, competition information, sample judges sheets, resources and ordering forms
- ✓ Enhanced Basic Skills program search tool, with the ability to search by state and program name
- ✓ All coaches and instructor information, including registration and CER requirements, can be found <http://www.usfigureskating.org/Athletes.asp?id=227>.

### Club's Guide to Hosting Camps and Clinics – new manual available online

We created a step by step procedural manual to help you get organized in hosting your next skating camp, clinic and seminar with tips on scheduling, staffing, timeline with checklist, budget, advertising, insurance and sample waivers. To download a copy, go to <http://www.usfigureskating.org/Clubs.asp?id=239> and scroll down to Camps, Clinics and Seminars.

