

Clubs Matter

January 2007 National Skating Month

It's great to skate! Sign up now. A special "open house kit" has been designed to assist you in attracting potential new skaters and families to your local skating program. Through a series of organized on- and off-ice activities, you can provide a fun-filled day at the rink. Join forces with your local Basic Skills Program or host it yourself. Look on the National Skating Month web page for ideas and reports from last year's promotion. It's easy, fun and – best of all – free! Your club may receive one FREE National Skating Month promotional kit, but supplies are limited, and an application must be completed and sent to U.S. Figure Skating Headquarters before your NSM supplies will be sent. To find the application, please go to:



<http://www.usfigureskating.org/Clubs.asp?id=234>. The deadline is Nov. 1.

Customized Eight-Foot Rink Dasher Board For Sale!

U.S. Figure Skating is happy to offer all of our member figure skating clubs and Basic Skills programs a customized eight-foot dasher board to proudly display rink side at your home facility. It's brought to you by AMI Graphics. The U.S. Figure Skating discounted price, which includes shipping, is only \$115 per board. You can personalize the top line with your club name (see above). Dashmax is an ultra-durable dasher product that is easy to install and is guaranteed for the entire year. You can download the order form here:



<http://www.usfigureskating.org/content/dasherboardorderform.pdf>.

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Young skaters are excited for the start of National Skating Month.

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 membership drive, and in the process generate a some publicity for your club, please write a short article (include pictures if possible) and send to Susi Wehrli at swehrli@usfigureskating.org. We will post responses to initiate a new forum for our clubs to share ideas with one another.

Member Services – Kathy Dreves, Director

Recently, we were asked to run a report that would identify the number of households within our membership. In preparing this report and analyzing the data, it became clear that some of our members are being registered as a subsequent member without having a first family member registered. Refer to MR 5.08 of the U.S. Figure Skating Rulebook.

This rule has been in place since I've been at Headquarters, and that's 16 years. Until now, we have not had the capability with our database or reporting software to police this rule. Well, that's about to change.

Beginning in October, we will run a quarterly "audit" of your membership roster. At that time, you will be notified of any subsequent members who do not have a corresponding first family member. You will have until the end of the month to "upgrade" a subsequent member or register/renew the additional family member. (The upgrade function is being created for the online registration system.) At the end of the month, a fresh audit will be performed and your club will be billed for any outstanding issues.

With the release of the online registration system, we have opened up our database to you, our volunteers. In doing so, there are bound to be differences in the way the data is entered into the system. We are fully prepared for the clean up of records that will no doubt result from this new procedure. All in all, this will be beneficial to our clubs as well as the organization.

If you have questions, contact us at MemberServices@usfigureskating.org.

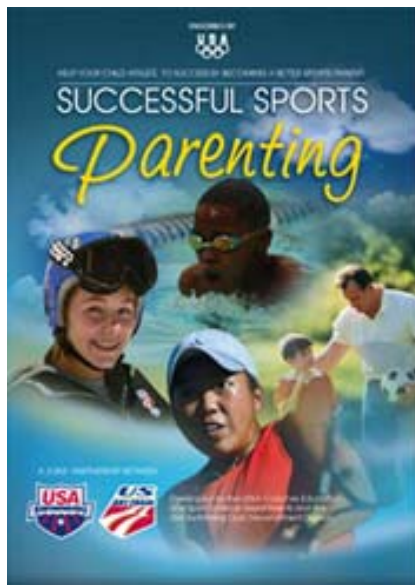
One other important reminder: always keep your club officer information up to date. More and more information is being sent via e-mail, so please keep your e-mail address current.

Club Toolbox

In this section we will list the items of "must haves" for your club.

This month we are promoting the USA Swimming/ U.S. Skiing Successful Sports Parenting CD-ROM. This CD was a joint collaboration to help parents, clubs and coaches develop better working relationships to enhance the parent-coach-club sports triangle. While not everything refers directly to figure skating parents, there is so much great information about helping children succeed in sports by becoming a more supportive and educated sport parent. Watch interviews with coaches, parents and athletes; learn from presentations; and download documents on every topic related to sport parenting. There is a section for clubs to learn how to engage parents in all aspects of club organization.

You can purchase a copy of "Successful Sports Parenting" for your club's next parent education session for \$35 from the U.S. Figure Skating ordering department by calling (719) 635-5200 x419.



Board Orientation Tips

Back in business... get your board members on board!

From Board Source

Prior to or at orientation, each new board member should receive a board manual that introduces him or her to the organization and the board. The following elements are found in most board manuals:

- History or mission of the organization (including membership statistics)
- Board member job descriptions
- Legal documents (bylaws, articles of incorporation)
- Budget, financial statements, last annual audit
- Roster of current board members
- Organization's strategic plan, major goals
- Overview of programs
- Information on committees, committee assignments and orientation
- Calendar of activities, board meetings, special events

Helpful Links

To find the calendar of test sessions in your area:

<http://www.usfigureskating.org/content/TestSessions.pdf>

New Parents page for beginning skating parents:

<http://www.usfigureskating.org/Programs.asp?id=306>

Download the 2006-2007 rulebook corrections:

<http://www.usfigureskating.org/content/2006-2007%20Rulebook%20Errata.pdf>