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This document describes the process by which interested practitioners can progress from their first day of involvement to their desired level of service. Many medical practitioners join U.S. Figure Skating’s medical volunteer program with the ultimate goal of serving on a medical team at the Olympic Games. While this may be the goal for some, U.S. Figure Skating’s medical volunteer program offers a variety of service level options.

Getting Started: The Sports Medicine & Science National Network
The foundation and entry level of U.S. Figure Skating’s medical volunteer program is the Sports Medicine & Science National Network. The Sports Medicine & Science National Network is a multi-disciplinary directory of sports medicine and sports science specialists who have experience working with figure skaters and other competitive athletes. The primary goal of the National Network is to enable figure skating coaches, athletes and parents to access experienced medical and science professionals and practitioners in their home state. Requests from coaches and parents looking for someone to work with or treat their skaters are common, and many National Network participants are recommended by coaches, skaters or other Network participants.

The National Network provides medical practitioners with opportunities to become progressively involved with U.S. Figure Skating in the area of travel medical teams. The first step is to Join the Network!

National Network Eligibility Criteria:
1. Knowledge of the medical and scientific issues associated with sports and individual athletes, preferably figure skating and figure skaters.
2. Applicable national and state license and certification.
3. Two years post-certification/licensure experience.
4. No felony or Health Care fraud convictions, actions or sanctions or discipline on clinical privileges or employment as the result of sexual abuse/harassment or substance abuse, or limitations, restrictions or disciplinary sanctions against own medical licenses or DEA or CDS certificates.
5. Preferred: Current member in good standing of U.S. Figure Skating.
6. Preferred: Current member in good standing of relevant National professional organization.

Applications to join the Sports Medicine & Science National Network are available in the ABOUT US section of www.usfigureskating.org under the “Volunteers” tab.
Getting Promoted: Team USA

It is the goal of U.S. Figure Skating to send the best teams possible to all international competitions in which U.S. Figure Skating is a participant. This goal pertains to officials, including volunteer medical staff, as much as it does to athletes. U.S. Figure Skating selects medical volunteer (licensed physicians, certified athletic trainers and licensed physical therapists) to provide health care services to athletes, coaches and officials who travel on behalf of U.S. Figure Skating to international competitions. This pool of medical volunteers is called the Team USA Network and it is from this pool of volunteers that referrals for USOC-sponsored competitions, including the Olympic Winter Games and World University Games are made.

Team USA Network volunteers demonstrate a strong background in sports medicine and the ability to deal with injuries and illnesses in high-stress team situations while adhering to the restrictions of anti-doping criteria. They are comfortable working in a 24/7 team environment, traveling internationally, being at an ice rink for long hours and supporting the needs of athletes of all ages and levels of international experience. Team USA Network volunteers view the health and well-being of Team USA as their top priority.

Team USA Network Eligibility Criteria:
Medical volunteers who meet the criteria listed below are eligible to apply for promotion to the Team USA Network. These criteria detail eligibility requirements only and do not guarantee acceptance. Please refer to Team USA Application and Promotion Process and Team USA Progressions for additional progression information.

General (all volunteers)
1. Must be a United States citizen.
2. Must hold a valid and current passport.
3. Must be a member in good standing of the Sports Medicine & Science National Network.
4. Must be a current member in good standing of U.S. Figure Skating.
5. Must have experience treating sports-related injuries and knowledge of the medical issues associated with figure skating and/or synchronized skating.
6. Must hold a valid and current state license (may be waived for Athletic Trainers residing in states where state licensure is not required).
7. Must have a minimum of five years of ongoing professional experience post certification or licensure.
8. Must have current First Aid certification.
9. Must have never been convicted of a felony or any Health Care fraud.
10. Must not have any actions or sanctions or discipline on clinical privileges or employment as the result of sexual abuse/harassment, or substance abuse.
11. Must not have any limitations, restrictions, or disciplinary sanctions against own medical licenses or DEA or CDS certificates.
12. Must meet additional discipline-specific eligibility criteria below.

Physicians – Additional Criteria:
1. Must currently be Board Certified.
2. Must have a current, valid DEA certificate.
3. Must have malpractice insurance without excessive malpractice claims.

Certified Athletic Trainers – Additional Criteria:
1. Must be certified by the National Athletic Trainers Association (NATA).

Licensed Physical Therapists – Additional Criteria:
1. No additional criteria.
Qualification Enhancements
The following experiences may be considered enhancements to any Team USA Network application:

- 200 documented hours of practical work in figure skating, preferably event coverage and/or professional experience as collegiate or professional team physician, trainer or therapist.
- Travel with another NGB (Includes letters of recommendation from NGB administrator, athletes and/or coaches documenting services provided and evaluations received).
- Documented completion of USOC Performance Services Medical Volunteer Program and provide, including dates and Levels (refer to USOC Performance Services Medical Volunteer Program).
- Completion of PSA’s annual basic rules, ethics and safety education course and/or other PSA education courses.
- Physicians only: Completion of American College of Sports Medicine Team Physician Course series and/or Certificate of Added Qualification in Sports Medicine.

Team USA Application and Promotion Process
Application and promotion to the Team USA Network is a 5-Step process.

Grandfather Clause: Volunteers who have successfully participated in the travel pool (formerly known as the Talent Pool; successful completion defined as having received positive evaluations) will be grandfathered into the Team USA Network.

- Step 1: Verify you meet all Team USA Network Eligibility Criteria.
- Step 2: Complete Team USA Medical Volunteer Application in full and submit electronically to U.S. Figure Skating. Applications are dated and considered in order of arrival. Be sure to include all applicable attachments. Incomplete applications will not be accepted. Applications are available in the ABOUT US section of www.usfigureskating.org under the “Volunteers” tab. Team USA applications are reviewed on an ongoing basis by 9-member progressions and scheduling review panel (see Medical Team Selection Procedure & Timeline, p7).
- Step 3: Attend a professional in-person interview at the next sports medicine & sport science event. Personal interview schedules will be established according to application date and notification of planned attendance.
- Step 4: Attend one or more U.S. Figure Skating team camps as a medical service provider or faculty member. Attendance at this type of camp is by invitation only, pending the outcome of your personal interview.
- Step 5: Receive notification from U.S. Figure Skating that you have been promoted to the Team USA Network. Promotion to the Team USA Network is highly selective. A limited number of applicants are promoted each year, and some years no new applicants are promoted.

Next Steps:
- Optional: Apply to USOC Medical Volunteer Program. Team USA volunteers who are interested in eventually providing coverage at an Olympic Games are strongly encouraged to submit an application to the USOC Performance Services Medical Volunteer Program, and follow a similar stepwise process of service with the USOC (refer to USOC Performance Services Medical Volunteer Program).
Team USA Network Progressions

Once promoted to the Team USA Network, medical volunteers are eligible for appointment to provide health care services to athletes, coaches and officials who travel on behalf of U.S. Figure Skating to international competitions according to the following progressions:

**USFS Level 1**  Spring International Competition, Junior Grand Prix and/or International Synchronized Skating Event (each event requires approximately one week of service with transportation, housing and meals provided by U.S. Figure Skating).

**USFS Level 2**  Senior B Skating Competition (each event requires approximately one week of service with transportation, housing and meals provided by U.S. Figure Skating).

**USFS Level 3**  Senior Grand Prix Skating Competition (each event requires approximately one week of service with transportation, housing and meals provided by U.S. Figure Skating).

**USFS Level 4**  Championship event including Junior Grand Prix Final, Senior Grand Prix Final, Four Continents Championships, World Junior Championships, World Championships or Synchronized World Championships (each event requires approximately ten days of service with transportation, housing and meals provided by U.S. Figure Skating).

**Important Progression and Selection Disclosures:**

- All assignments are by invitation only. See [U.S. Figure Skating Medical Team Selection Procedure and Timeline](#).
- All assignments are pending successful background and/or medical credential check.
- Volunteers may be invited to and may attend more than one event at each level.
- Due to a limited number of each type of event, volunteers may be selected for lower Level events even if they have successfully completed higher Level events.
- International assignments on an annual basis are not guaranteed.
- Progression to the next Level is not guaranteed.
- At each Level, athletes, coaches, officials and NGB staff evaluate medical volunteers on rapport with athletes/coaches, policy adherence, and interaction with sport and administrative officials. This helps assure successful completion (i.e. positive evaluation) and continuous selection of qualified and compatible medical teams. Negative evaluations may be grounds for dismissal either in part or entirely from the medical volunteer program.
- Successful completion of at least one international event assignment within a 5 yr period is required to retain promotion to the Team USA Network.
- **Mandatory Volunteer Disclosure:** It is agreed that if at any time while serving in the Team USA Network, criminal charges or disciplinary actions are filed against a medical volunteer by any organization, board, or licensing agency, the volunteer must notify U.S. Figure Skating immediately upon such charges or actions being filed. Guilty verdicts may be grounds for dismissal either in part or entirely from the medical volunteer program.
### U.S. Figure Skating Competition Medical Coverage

Each year, U.S. Figure Skating provides U.S. skaters with competition medical support according to the following guidelines:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Eligible for Physician Coverage</th>
<th>Eligible for ATC/PT Coverage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ISU Four Continents Championships</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Except events taking place in the U.S., Canada or any other country that the chair of the Sports Sciences and Medicine Committee deems as providing adequate medical coverage that does not warrant additional physician coverage.</td>
<td>Except when it takes place in the US or Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any Junior Grand Prix (JGP)</td>
<td>Yes, if JGP Final or team size ≥4</td>
<td>JGP Final only, if team size ≥4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Except events taking place in the U.S., Canada or any other country that the chair of the Sports Sciences and Medicine Committee deems as providing adequate medical coverage that does not warrant additional physician coverage.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any Grand Prix (GP)</td>
<td>Yes, if GP Final or team size is ≥4</td>
<td>GP Final only, if team size is ≥4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Except events taking place in the U.S., Canada or any other country that the chair of the Sports Sciences and Medicine Committee deems as providing adequate medical coverage that does not warrant additional physician coverage.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any international synchronized skating event outside of the U.S. and Canada in which at least one U.S. Team is participating.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISU World Junior Figure Skating Championships</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Except events taking place in the U.S., Canada or any other country that the chair of the Sports Sciences and Medicine Committee deems as providing adequate medical coverage that does not warrant additional physician coverage.</td>
<td>Except events taking place in the U.S., Canada or any other country that the chair of the Sports Sciences and Medicine Committee deems as providing adequate medical coverage that does not warrant additional physician coverage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISU World Figure Skating Championships</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Except events taking place in the U.S., Canada or any other country that the chair of the Sports Sciences and Medicine Committee deems as providing adequate medical coverage that does not warrant additional physician coverage.</td>
<td>Except events taking place in the U.S., Canada or any other country that the chair of the Sports Sciences and Medicine Committee deems as providing adequate medical coverage that does not warrant additional physician coverage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISU World Synchronized Team Skating Championships</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Except events taking place in the U.S., Canada or any other country that the chair of the Sports Sciences and Medicine Committee deems as providing adequate medical coverage that does not warrant additional physician coverage.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
U.S. Figure Skating Medical Team Selection Procedure and Timeline

**JUN – late**
U.S. Figure Skating completes event schedule for upcoming season.

**JUL – early**
Team USA medical volunteers receive competition interest/availability form for the upcoming season and return it to U.S. Figure Skating Director of Sports Sciences & Medicine. Those who express interest and availability are considered *eligible* for selection for the upcoming season.

**JUL – mid**
Director of Sports Sciences & Medicine compiles tentative Team USA schedule based on progressions, evaluations, interest/availability and special skills. Team USA schedule is reviewed by:

1. Chair of Sports Sciences & Medicine Committee, or a non-eligible experienced designee (Please refer to Conflict of Interest note below).
2. Vice Chair for Medical Services, or a non-eligible experienced designee (Please refer to Conflict of Interest note below).
3. National Vice Chair of Sports Science & Medicine for Synchronized Skating, or a non-eligible experienced designee (Please refer to Conflict of Interest note below).
4. Chair of International Committee, or an experienced designee.
5. Chair of Selections Committee, or an experienced designee.
6. One junior physician appointed by Vice Chair of Medical Services.
7. One junior physio appointed by Vice Chair of Medical Services.
8. Senior Director of Athlete High Performance
9. Director of Sports Sciences & Medicine

**JUL – late**
Invitation Packets mailed (Official invitation, Acceptance Form, Team Apparel) by Team USA Coordinator and acceptance forms returned to Team USA Coordinator.

**Ongoing**
Team USA Coordinator forwards event-specific information to medical teams (Medical Handbook, Medical Registry, etc). All subsequent communication is with Team USA Coordinator.

Refer to the Team USA Medical Handbook for additional information on actual team travel.

*Conflict of Interest:* Team USA medical volunteers who are *eligible* for the upcoming season and are also current members of any U.S. Figure Skating Committee are encouraged to declare a conflict of interest and excuse themselves from personally relevant medical team selection discussions.

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**Olympic Winter Games**

Complete progression through U.S. Figure Skating’s medical volunteer program includes a series of steps, but for those with Olympic goals, a series of steps with the U.S. Olympic Committee is also required. Each of these steps is described below, but first, it is critical that volunteers understand a very important point regarding Olympic Games medical team selections:

> **All United States Olympic Team medical personnel are selected and assigned by the United States Olympic Committee (USOC), not by the sport National Governing Body (NGB). Regardless of a practitioner’s status with an NGB, participation in the USOC Volunteer program is required for eligibility for Olympic selection.**

U.S. Figure Skating will forward to the USOC the names of all Team USA Network volunteers who meet the minimum eligibility standards below and have expressed interest in volunteering for an Olympic Games. All final decisions regarding U.S. Olympic Team medical personnel selection are at the sole discretion of the USOC.
Minimum Eligibility Standards for USOC Olympic Team Referral:

1. Medical service experience with U.S. Figure Skating at a minimum of one Championship/Level 4 event during the current quad (i.e. since the previous Olympic Games). Championship/Level 4 events include: Junior Grand Prix Final, Senior Grand Prix Final, Four Continents Championships, World Junior Championships or World Championships.

2. Member in good standing of U.S. Figure Skating Team USA Network.

3. Positive evaluation and rapport with elite athletes, coaches and U.S. Figure Skating staff.

4. Successful completion of 2-week USOC Volunteer Rotation and maintenance of high score in USOC Volunteer Tracking database. Note: This standard is also an eligibility criterion enforced by the USOC for all Olympic Team medical personnel.

In the event that several U.S. Figure Skating practitioners meet all eligibility standards above, all names will be reviewed and prioritized by the 9-member progressions and scheduling review panel, plus a small group of Team USA practitioners who have Olympic Games experience, then forwarded by the Executive Director to the USOC for recommended selection.

In the event that no U.S. Figure Skating practitioner meets standard #4 at the time of referral, all names of Team USA practitioners who already meet standards 1-3 will be reviewed and prioritized by the 9-member progressions and scheduling review panel, plus a small group of Team USA practitioners who have Olympic Games experience. The Executive Director will then petition the USOC to expedite the Volunteer Rotation applications of the top 2-3 physicians and top 2-3 physios.

All final decisions regarding US Olympic Team medical personnel selection are at the sole discretion of the USOC.

USOC Performance Services Medical Volunteer Program
Team USA High Performance Network volunteers who are interested in eventually providing coverage at an Olympic Games are strongly encouraged to submit an application to the USOC Performance Services Medical Volunteer Program, and follow their stepwise process of service with the USOC:

USOC Level 1
Two weeks (14 consecutive days or as otherwise noted in the NGB priority information) at one of the Olympic Training Centers (Colorado Springs, Colorado; Lake Placid, New York; or Chula Vista, California).

USOC Level 2
National/International appointment, by USOC invitation. (Examples: National NGB Championships, World Youth Games and other National USOC-endorsed Games and/or International USOC-endorsed Games. This requires 3 or more weeks of service with transportation and room & board provided by the USOC.) Coverage of U.S. Figure Skating international competitions may satisfy this requirement.

USOC Level 3
International Games Appointment, by USOC invitation. (Examples: Pan American Games, World University Summer or Winter Games, International NGB Championships, IF and other International USOC endorsed Games. This requires 3 or more weeks of service with transportation and room & board provided by the USOC.)

USOC Level 4
Olympic Games/Paralympic Games (Summer & Winter). (This requires 8 or more weeks of service with transportation and room & board provided by the USOC.)

As per USOC requirements, no volunteer can bypass any steps and there is no guarantee on progression to the next level. Process can take as long as 6 years to complete. At each USOC level, medical, administrative, athletes and NGB staffs evaluate the volunteers regarding medical skills, rapport with athletes/coaches, and adherence to policies of the USOC and its Sports Medicine Advisory Committee, and interaction with sport and administrative officials. This helps assure selection of a qualified and compatible medical team. USOC applications are available by calling (719) 866-4714.