



Excel Competition Series Handbook

2021 Season

Excel Competition Series Dates

January 15 – May 16, 2021

Excel National Final & Festival Dates

June 11 – 13, 2021

Dear Skaters, Coaches and Parents,

On behalf of U.S. Figure Skating's Program Innovation Sub-Committee, we are thrilled to announce the 3rd season of the Excel Competition Series.

The purpose of the Excel Series is to offer young athletes an exciting and competitive environment that motivates them to focus on strengthening their program components and advancing their technical skills each season.

Excel Series events will be held at select non-qualifying competitions; a list of participating competitions will be posted in the fall of 2020. This list will be [available here](#).

The primary mission of this program is to inspire more of our young athletes to continue training and remain committed to participating in figure skating by providing them with events that allow them to showcase their strengths. Additionally, this program serves as an opportunity for grassroots skaters and coaches to familiarize themselves with the fundamentals of the International Judging System (IJS) through a phased approach which allows them to become proficient and confident with the IJS.

While it is disappointing that the 2020 Excel Series was cut short due to the coronavirus pandemic, we are looking forward to reigniting excitement in the new Excel program this season with a focus on providing a safe experience for our athletes, coaches and officials.

We hope that the Excel program continues to inspire athletes to work hard and challenge themselves to achieve new technical and program component goals each season. We wish all competitors a great experience this season – skate your best, have fun and enjoy the Series!

Sincerely,

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Additional links:

[Excel FS Requirements Chart](#)

[Singles Progression Chart](#)

[Excel Technical Handbook](#)

[2021 Excel Series Competitions Application](#) (deadline 8/31/2020)

2021 Excel Series Competitions List (coming soon)

[2021 Skater Registration Form](#) (coming soon)

General Information

Welcome to the 2021 Excel Series!

Excel Series events are U.S. Figure Skating non-qualifying competitions, as per Rule 3060 in the 2021 U.S. Figure Skating Rulebook.

Overview:

U.S. Figure Skating is pleased to announce the 2021 Excel Series. This is the third year of the program and is open to individual skaters within the Eastern, Midwestern and Pacific Coast Sections.

Excel Preliminary Plus, Pre-Juvenile Plus, Juvenile Plus, Intermediate Plus, Novice, Junior & Senior

Skaters competing in the above events:

- *The top six skaters in each section and the skaters with the next two highest scores nationally - regardless of section - for each event will earn an invitation to participate in the Excel Finalist Camp and Excel Series Final at the National Festival.*

Excel Beginner, High Beginner, Pre-Preliminary, Preliminary, Pre-Juvenile, Juvenile & Intermediate

Skaters competing in the above events:

- All skaters in the above list of events, who compete in at least two series competition will receive an *automatic invitation* to compete at the Excel Series Final at the National Festival.
- Will compete to earn special recognition at the National Festival and recognition in Skating Magazine based on their participation and placement within the Series.

Dates:

2021 Excel Series will run from January 15 to May 16, 2021 with the Excel Finalist Camp and Excel Series Final competition taking place at the Excel National Festival, June 11-13, 2021.

The Excel National Festival is an opportunity for singles skaters of all levels, Beginner through Senior, to participate and compete at a national event; the Excel Series Final and Finalist Camp are two components of the larger National Festival.

Events to be skated:

Free skate events for all Excel levels will be offered at each Excel Series competition, including: Excel Beginner, Excel High Beginner, Excel Pre-Preliminary, Excel Preliminary, Excel Preliminary Plus, Excel Pre-Juvenile, Excel Pre-Juvenile Plus, Excel Juvenile, Excel Juvenile Plus, Excel Intermediate, Excel Intermediate Plus, Excel Novice, Excel Junior, and Excel Senior.

Eligibility & Test Levels

Athletes must be eligible members in good standing of U.S. Figure Skating and may be members of the figure skating club of their choice. The skater's section for the duration of the Excel Series will be based upon the location of the skaters' home figure skating club or Learn to Skate USA program. If the skater is an individual member of U.S. Figure Skating, then the legal

residence of the individual member will determine the Section in which they will represent in the Excel Series. Skaters may not switch sections during the season even if their home club changes. All participants will be expected to abide by the Code of Ethics (GR 1.01) and the Code of Conduct (GR 1.02), as set forth in the 2021 U.S. Figure Skating Rulebook. Canadian skaters who are eligible members in good standing of U.S. Figure Skating may compete in the Series; section will be determined by section of their home U.S. Figure Skating club, or, in the case of individual members, section closest to their legal residence as per Rule 2410 in the U.S. Figure Skating Rulebook. Canadian skaters who are not members of U.S. Figure Skating may compete in an Excel levels at any competition offering Excel events, but may not enter the Series.

All skaters must either compete at their test level or one level above their highest US Figure Skating free skating test passed.

The determination of level will be based upon test level as of the 2021 Excel Series entry deadline of March 1, 2021, or when the skater submits their registration to be an Excel Series participant (whichever date is earlier).

If a skater plans to take a free skating test during the 2021 Excel Series season, they should start the season registered to compete one level above their current highest US Figure Skating free skating test passed in order to remain eligible to compete within the Series after passing their next free skating test.

For example, if a Pre-Preliminary tested skater plans to take their Preliminary test during the Series season, they should register for the series to compete in Excel Preliminary or Excel Preliminary Plus in order to remain eligible to compete in the Series after passing the Preliminary free skating test.

Skaters may not change or move up levels in the 2021 Excel Series once the registration deadline has passed. Exception: 2021 Excel Series skaters competing in levels Excel Beginner through Excel Pre-Juvenile may move up one level for the 2021 Excel Final, but they may not enter an Excel Plus event at the 2021 Excel Final.

Skaters must be under 22 years of age as of the registration deadline of March 1, 2021.

Exception: Skaters who were registered for the 2020 Excel Series must be under 23 years of age as of the registration deadline of March 1, 2021.

Any skater who was a Sectional Competitor in Singles or Pairs in the 2019-2020 season is not eligible to compete in the 2021 Excel Series (unless they competed in the Sectional event thru a fill-up rule.)

Previously, skaters who have competed at a Sectional Final (except by fill-up rule) are not eligible for the Excel Series; due to changes to the qualifying structure for the 2020-21 season, that requirement will be amended contingent on how qualifying competitions occur in the fall of 2020. This paragraph will be updated once a decision has been made.

Any skater who medaled at the 2019 Excel National Final in any Plus level event or Novice thru Senior must register and compete in the 2021 Excel Series at least one level above the level in which they competed during the 2019 Excel Series.

Series Registration:

Skaters interested in participating in the 2021 Excel Series will need to complete the online Excel Series registration form and pay a \$50.00 fee to U.S. Figure Skating by March 1, 2021, or prior to their first series competition – whichever is earlier. Additionally, skaters must register for the individual Series competitions they wish to enter. Each registered athlete may only compete in one level for the entire Series.

The online form to enter the Series will be [available here](#). The Series registration fee is non-refundable.

In order for skaters to earn points within the Series, they must be registered with U.S. Figure Skating as an Excel Series participant prior to competing in an Excel Series competition at which they plan to earn Series points.

Entry Fees:

All skaters must register for the individual Excel Series competitions within the Series separately through the LOC hosting each individual event. Excel Series event entry fees will be set by the LOC hosting the individual competition and will be listed within their announcement. Skaters are responsible for registering directly with each Excel Series competition they wish to compete in.

Music:

Music must be provided for events according to requirements in each competition's announcement.

Awards:

For participating Series competitions, awards (trophies, medals, or ribbons) will be at the discretion of the hosting organization and will be detailed in each competition's individual announcement.

Costumes:

The Excel Series will follow all costume rules and requirements as stated for singles events in the 2021 U.S. Figure Skating Rulebook. (Rules 6030-6035)

Judging System:

The IJS will be used for all Excel "PLUS" levels, **and** Juvenile through Senior levels at ALL Excel Series competitions. Please refer to the Excel Program Technical Handbook for IJS guidelines for Excel events found [here](#).

Choice of either IJS or 6.0 judging system is at the discretion of the LOC and will be specified in the announcement for the following Excel levels: Beginner, High Beginner, Pre-Preliminary, Preliminary, Pre-Juvenile levels.

Warm-up Groups

Warm-up groups are at the discretion of the chief referee, and skaters will be notified prior to the start of the event if there will be more than one warm up group.

****Group Size:**

EXCEL SERIES COMPETITIONS			
Excel Level	Judging System	Suggested Max Warm Up Size	Suggested Max Event Group Size
Beginner	6.0	12	6
High Beginner	6.0	12	6
Pre-Preliminary	6.0	12	6
Preliminary	6.0	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>
Preliminary Plus	IJS	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>
Pre-Juvenile	6.0	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>
Pre-Juvenile Plus	IJS	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>
Juvenile	<u>IJS</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>
Juvenile Plus	IJS	6	12
Intermediate	IJS	6	12
Intermediate Plus	IJS	6	12
Novice	IJS	6	12
Junior	IJS	6	12
Senior	IJS	6	12

***** Group sizes may be slightly smaller or larger at the discretion of the chief referee. If an IJS Excel event is split into separate groups, the chief referee is encouraged to keep the judging and technical panel as consistent as possible among the separate groups of a single event level.***

Awarding of Points

Points will be awarded by the U.S. Figure Skating Program Innovation Sub-committee as detailed below.

- Points will only be awarded to athletes who compete in the competition and are registered for the Series. No points will be awarded to an athlete who withdraws for any reason or is not registered as a participant in the Series by the entry deadline of the competition or by the March 1, 2021 Excel Series entry deadline, whichever is earlier.
- Skaters must participate in at least two Series competitions in order to have their points recognized. Skaters may enter any Series competition, anywhere in the country (they are not required to compete only in their section).

Excel Beginner, High Beginner, Pre-Preliminary, Preliminary, Pre-Juvenile:

For the above events, points will be awarded to skaters for competing in Series competitions as follows: 1st place, 8pts; 2nd place, 6pts; 3rd place, 4pts; 4th place, 3pts; 5th place and below, 2pts.

Excel Preliminary Plus, Pre-Juvenile Plus, Juvenile, Juvenile Plus, Intermediate, Intermediate Plus, Novice, Junior & Senior

Each skater's top two protocol scores earned at Series competitions will be added together to attain their final point total. For example, if a skater's top two scores were 26.01 and 23.24, that skater's final point total would be 49.25

Earning Series Awards and Invitations

Excel Preliminary Plus, Pre-Juvenile Plus, Juvenile Plus, Intermediate Plus, Novice, Junior & Senior:

- Skaters competing in the above Excel Series level events will compete to earn an invitation to compete in the Excel Series Final competition and Excel Finalists Camp, June 11-13, 2021.
- Skaters may compete in as many competitions during the Series season as they desire, however, only the skater's top two point finishes will be used towards their point total.
- Skaters must compete in at least two competitions in order to be eligible to advance to the Excel Series Final and Finalists Camp.
- Those skaters who finish in the top six (6) places within their section, based on the combined total of their two highest scores, will receive an invitation to advance to the Excel Series Final competition and Finalists Camp.
- *Additionally, the next top two skaters nationally - regardless of section - will earn an invitation to participate in the Excel Finalist Camp and Excel Series Final at the National Festival.*
- A variation of the fill-up rule may be used if fewer than six skaters qualify in any given section to receive invitations to the Excel Series Final or if a skater declines their invitation. This variation of the fill-up rule will be at the discretion of the Program Innovation Sub-Committee.

Excel Beginner, High Beginner, Pre-Preliminary, Preliminary, Pre-Juvenile, Juvenile, Intermediate:

- Skaters competing in at least two Excel Series competitions will receive an automatic invitation to compete in the Excel National Festival, June 11-13, 2021.
- Top points earners in each section will receive special recognition awards at the Excel National Festival.
- Skaters may compete in as many competitions during the Series season as they desire, however, only the points earned from a skater's top two finishes will be used to compute their point total.

Questions about the Excel Competition Series should go to the Excel Series email at ExcelSeries@usfigureskating.org .

LOC/Participating Competition Information

A list of the 2021 Excel Series competitions will be available on the Excel Series webpage.

Events:

- To be considered for inclusion in the 2021 Excel Series, your competition must fall between the dates of January 15, 2021 and May 16, 2021. Competitions that would like to be included in the Excel Series, must also complete the online Excel Series event application, [available here](#).
- Each selected 2021 Excel Series event will need to offer all levels of Excel events at their competition. Those levels are as follows:
 - Excel Beginner, Excel High Beginner, Excel Pre-Preliminary, Excel Preliminary, Excel Preliminary Plus, Excel Pre-Juvenile, Excel Pre-Juvenile Plus, Excel Juvenile, Excel Juvenile Plus, Excel Intermediate, Excel Intermediate Plus, Excel Novice, Excel Junior, and Excel Senior.
- LOC agrees to hold all events with one or more competitors registered and agrees *not* to combine event levels for Excel events with only one competitor.

Judging:

Each participating 2021 Excel Competition Series competition agrees to:

- Use the ISU judging system for all Excel "PLUS" levels (Preliminary Plus, Pre-Juvenile Plus, Juvenile Plus, Intermediate Plus), **and** Juvenile through Senior levels at their Excel Series competition. Please refer to the Excel Program Technical Handbook for IJS guidelines for Excel events.
- Choice of either the IJS or 6.0 judging system is at the discretion of the LOC and is to be specified in the competition announcement for the following Excel levels: Beginner, High Beginner, Pre-Preliminary, Preliminary, Pre-Juvenile levels.

Items Needed from Participating Series Competitions:

Thank you for participating in the 2021 Season of the Excel Series. We appreciate your willingness to add the Excel Series format into your non-qualifying event this season and appreciate your support of this new U.S. Figure Skating program.

- **As soon as possible:** Designate a Chief Referee and email the name of the Chief Referee to the Program Innovation Sub-Committee at ExcelSeries@usfigureskating.org.
- **Immediately following your event:** In order to help us calculate and post the point standings of the Excel Series participants, below is a list of the items we need for you to forward to us **immediately following the conclusion** of your competition (you can request these to be sent by your chief accountant). They need to be emailed to the Program Innovations Sub-Committee at: ExcelSeries@usfigureskating.org in electronic format for point calculation purposes. Failure to submit results within 24 hours of the completion of your event may disqualify your event from participation in future seasons of the Excel Series.
 - For levels run under 6.0: the event results sheets for all Excel events.
 - The complete IJS protocol for all Excel Plus events and Excel Juvenile through Senior.
 - Format needed for results submission:
 - Club Report from Forms Central.
 - Competition Survey Report (R4) from Hal2, found under the Competition Survey function, and the results summary (R4) from Hal2.