



Nonqualifying Competition Showcase Guidelines

2021-2022 Season

Daren Patterson

National Vice-Chair for Showcase

[ShowcaseUSFS@gmail.com](mailto>ShowcaseUSFS@gmail.com)

Karissa Woienski

U.S. Figure Skating

Manager, Figure Skating Programs

kwoienski@usfigureskating.org

A separate sanction for showcase events is not required when showcase is included as part of a sanctioned non-qualifying competition, as long as the events are included in the official application. The non-qualifying competition showcase guidelines must govern showcase events, in order for the skaters to qualify for the National Showcase competition.

A. OFFICIALS FOR SHOWCASE EVENTS:

Officials will be selected by the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) from the current list of U.S. Figure Skating officials.

Chief Accountants / LOC: For all non-qualifying competitions that include showcase events - the competition results must be sent to:

- National Vice Chair for Showcase, at [ShowcaseUSFS@gmail.com](mailto>ShowcaseUSFS@gmail.com)
- Karissa Woienski, U.S. Figure Skating, Manager, Figure Skating Programs at kwoienski@usfigureskating.org

Results will be used to verify skaters qualify for the National Showcase competition.

B. ELIGIBILITY TO COMPETE AND NATIONAL SHOWCASE:

Required age and test qualifications must be in effect at the date entries are closed. Subsequent changes will not affect eligibility (**with the exception of Adult Championships and Adult Sectionals**). All U.S. Figure Skating members must be members in good standing. Skaters representing another governing body must meet that body's closest possible equivalent to the specified U.S. Figure Skating test requirement. The referee's decision will be final. For Duets, entries must be according to the age and level of the highest test skater. Both skaters must have completed test minimum pre-requisites.

Placement Pre-Requisite: Singles competitors, Preliminary through Senior, Adult Bronze through Adult Gold and Masters, may compete at National Showcase in an event where: (1) They placed in a contested or skated uncontested at a non-qualifying showcase skating event held in the United States from June 1, 2021 to June 1, 2022; or (2) in the 2021 National Showcase competition. Levels lower than Preliminary and Adult Bronze are not eligible to compete in National Showcase. (3) Where only one competitor has entered an event of a non-qualifying competition, the Chief Referee may combine events to create a contested event if possible or create an uncontested event where such skaters will automatically qualify for National Showcase. When such events/levels are combined there will be no limit placed on the placement in the combined event to ensure that the competitors earn a spot to National Showcase.

Qualification must occur in the **Emotional (formerly Dramatic)** Performance, Choreographic Artistry, Lyrical Pop, Character Performance, Comedic Impressions categories. Skaters must qualify in each event, if they intend to compete at National Showcase in those events. **Skaters do not need to qualify based on event level.** Once qualified, the skater(s) may then compete in elective events (duets, interpretive). Mini Productions and Production Ensembles do not need to qualify.

The deadline to satisfy test pre-requisites, competition qualification, and entry for National Showcase is June 1.

JUDGING AND MARKING:

Non-qualifying competition LOCs may use the Component Judging System (CJS) electronically or through a paper reporting system. In the event that neither is available, then the 6.0 system may be used. Performances will be judged from an entertainment standpoint, for theatrical and artistic qualities.

Three Program Components – marked on a scale of 0.25 to 10.

1. Showcase Skating Skills

Showcase skating is the way an athlete uses their skating and physical ability to convey their act on the ice surface. It must show a quality to support the selected theatrical performance, and show abilities in the skating vernacular, such as balance, glide, acceleration, ice coverage, one-foot skating, etc. Technical elements often found in singles should not be directly rewarded except where they are directly integrated into the performance and advance the story/theme/concept.

2. Performance & Projection: Universe, Musicality and Feeling

The physical, emotional, and artistic involvement of a skater, using their ability to create a universe. This performance has continuous development of the theme and universe from beginning to end, while displaying their musicality skills. It is a measure of how skaters use the ice, music, and the space around them to project feeling and musical awareness into the subconscious of the audience.

3. Artistic Appeal with Innovation & Creativity

A performance is truly entertaining when it is in the eyes, ears, and hearts of the audience. It is a measure of how audience members remember the program, how they felt during the performance, their level of involvement during the program, what they take away from it, and how long after they will recall it. The meaning and feeling should be unique and personal. The question to be answered is: Will I remember what I have seen, and would I like to see it again?

The following factors would be applied: 1-25%, 2-35%, 3-40%

When the 6.0 system is used, only one mark incorporating the above 3 component characteristics will be awarded by each judge, for each performance. No technical skating mark will be awarded. Unintended falls, poorly executed skating elements and obvious losses of control will negatively affect the competitor's/team's marks. Technical Elements are not assigned value in Showcase. If a technical element is performed, it should be done within the guidance of the above 3 components.

Deduction	Description	Applied by:
-0.25	For each 10 seconds over maximum time	Referee
-0.5	Prop(s) Not Used	Judges + Referee (Majority)

C. **SHOWCASE EVENTS:**

Singles: Skaters may enter any or all events for which they are qualified by test level at non-qualifying competitions. Skaters cannot skate in different levels of the same event (example: an Emotional Performance junior level skater would not be allowed to skate Emotional Performance Junior and Senior level events at the same competition).

1. **Emotional (formerly Dramatic) Performance:** Programs should portray a story, expressing conflict, resolution and/or depth of emotion. Skater should provoke an emotional response with the audience - through related skating movements, gestures and choreographic processes. The entire spectrum of emotions should be considered **when selecting the theme** (e.g. love, loss, longing, fulfillment, happiness, melancholy, sadness, etc.).
 - Lip synching is not permitted.
 - Props and Scenery are permitted.
 - No Technical Limitations.
2. **Choreographic Artistry:** Programs will have music without spoken words or lyrics. Technical elements **(not required)** will be limited to no more than ½ rotation jumps, 1 full spin, additional spins with 3 or fewer revolutions. Emphasis should be on developing movement on the ice, using the entire body to express abstract ideas and choreographic processes and gestures. Open to Juvenile through Senior and **Adult Masters.**
 - Lip synching is not permitted.
 - Props and Scenery are not permitted.
 - Technical Limitations: ½ rotation jumps, 1 full spin, additional spins < 3 revs.
 - Costuming: simple, minimal adornment, no more than 1 color shade.
3. **Lyrical Pop:** Perform to your favorite song containing lyrics, without lip-synching.
 - Lip synching is not permitted
 - Props and Scenery are not permitted
 - No Technical Limitations
4. **Character Performance:** Skaters will impersonate a character, original or adapted, on the ice. Performances as a character from a movie, musical, book, original idea, original adaptation are all welcome here.
 - Lip synching is required
 - Props and Scenery are permitted
 - No Technical Limitations
5. **Comedic Impressions:** A humorous performance intentionally designed to achieve continuous/multiple chuckles, laughs, or audible rises from viewers. Performance is projected outward towards audience and entertaining through skating movements, gestures and physical actions deemed comedic.
 - Lip synching is permitted
 - Props and Scenery are permitted
 - No Technical Limitations

Elective Showcase Events:

Duets/Trios: are theatrical performances by any two or three competitors. Lip Synching, Props, and Scenery ARE permitted. Skaters may enter only one duet, one mini production ensemble and one production ensemble each. Programs are performed under spotlight. When entering events, the skater with the higher technical achievement shall prevail as the level for the duet to enter.

Interpretive: The program will be a performance choreographed by the competitor, unaccompanied and unassisted, to music that is supplied by the LOC. Approximately 1 hour before the scheduled event time, competitors will gather where the music will be played continuously during a 30-minute off ice session in a room. The room will be attended only by the adult monitors assigned to play the music, and the competing skaters. No additional items may be provided to the skater once the skater enters the gathering area where the music is heard. Cell phone and outside contact, once entering the room, is strictly prohibited and could result in a skater being withdrawn from event. Furniture (such as folding chairs) is not allowed.

The music will be played twice during a warm-up on full ice. **After the warm-up skaters will go back to the room, with no music being played.** Skaters will be brought to the ice when the previous skater finishes. All competitors in an event will interpret the same music. Props are permitted but must be brought into the room, using nothing larger than a carry-on luggage suitcase prior to listening to the music the very first time. All costumes and props are to be taken to the ice only when the skater is called to perform. Props may not be brought out during warm-up. Props may not be pre-positioned on the performance surface.

- **All interpretive levels are allowed a program of up to 1:30 maximum.**

Mini Production Ensembles: are theatrical performances by four to eight competitors. Lip Synching, props and scenery ARE permitted. Programs are performed under full arena lighting.

Production Ensembles: are theatrical performances by nine or more competitors. Lip Synching, props, and scenery ARE permitted. Programs are performed under full arena lighting.

NOTE: **Each skater (competitor) may only enter** one duet, one mini production ensemble and one production ensemble.

D. WARM-UP TIMES:

Interpretive events will warm up for up to four minutes on performance ice under full house lighting, approximately the first 30 seconds without music and then the music will be played twice in its entirety, followed promptly by clearing the ice. No props are allowed on the ice during warm up. The first skater then hears the music played 1 time in the warm-up area behind the curtain (or off the ice when no warm-up space is given). Then once the skater takes their starting position in front of the audience and

judges, the subsequent skater is given the warm-up space. At no time may competitors watch the skater ahead of them.

Singles, duets, mini-production and production ensembles may warm up for three minutes backstage when curtains and spotlights are used. It is the skater's/team's responsibility to check in with the ice monitor to know when their warm-up time starts.

E. TIMING:

All programs must begin on the ice in view of the audience. Timing of the program will begin with the first movement of any skater or member of a team. Timing shall end when the skater(s) have come to a complete stop or crossed the line of the curtain/exit. For performances that are over the time allotment, a deduction for every 10 seconds in excess will be applied.

Production + Ensemble Events: Before the music is started, the team must take a stationary position on the ice and one skater must give a hand signal that the team is ready. **In the event a singles skater begins the mood/scene while skating from behind the curtain, to their starting spot, the skater must stand still and pause in place, as their signal to begin music and program timing.**

F. SCENERY / PROPS RULES:

- General:
 - The inclusion of scenery and/or props is optional, and not mandatory.
 - All scenery must be portable by humans, and without mechanical means for transportation. Its movement while on the ice will be the responsibility of the skater or teams.
 - The use of props and scenery should add to the performance of the skater.
 - Scenery is defined as: any nonpermanent two- or three-dimensional background or environmental element that is placed on the stage so as to suggest the historical period, locale, and mood of the program being performed.
 - Prop is defined as: a moveable or portable object, distinct from the skater, scenery, costumes; used in a production, and similar entertainments, to further the action or presented story.
- Props and scenery must be placed and removed:
 - Unaided, by the singles and duets competitors within 30 seconds each, on and off.
 - Unaided, by the ensemble teams within one minute maximum for setup and one minute maximum for removal. Persons not skating are not allowed to step on the ice.
 - All props and scenery must be able to enter and exit the entrances from which skaters enter the ice. Extra accommodations for entry and exit from other locations to fit oversized props will not be allowed.
 - At the completion of the performance, and after the team has taken their bows, teams will be permitted one minute to remove all scenery/props from the front of the curtain.

- Illegal or Prohibited Props:
 - Scenery may not exceed 7'6" in height
 - For insurance reasons no propulsion or projectile devices will be permitted. This includes items such as cannons and trampolines. Apparatus such as these, which could be used to assist skaters with jumping into the air, are NOT permitted.
 - The use of smoke, fire, dry ice, liquids, live animals, feathers, bubble machines or any substance that may harm the ice surface and/or skaters is not permitted.
 - No glass mirrors or glass of any kind is allowed on the ice.
 - People may not be used as props.
 - Dangerous props that may harm participant/audience could result in disqualification from event/competition.
- There will be no countdown of timing announced for Singles, Duets, Ensemble or Production events.

G. COSTUMES:

- Costuming and make-up for showcase skating programs should enhance the feeling created by the performance and reflect the meaning of the story, theme, or character portrayed on the ice.
- The clothing of the competitors must be dignified and appropriate for artistic competition. The clothing may be theatrical in design and reflect the chosen music.
- Costume rules for Singles/Pairs/Dance/Synchro/TOI programs do not apply for showcase skating.

H. GROUP SIZES AND FINAL ROUNDS:

- Maximum sizes of initial rounds will be at the judgement of the Chief Referee. In adult events, groups will be split by age. *All other groups will be divided randomly.* Final rounds may be held at the discretion of the referee and the local organizing committee, when applicable.
- Final Rounds for National Showcase will be described in the National Showcase announcement.

I. Adult Sectional & Championships:

- At the U.S. Adult Figure Skating Championships and the nonqualifying competitions held in conjunction with Eastern, Midwestern and Pacific Coast Adult Sectionals, the Lyrical Pop/Character/Comedy event will be defined as a combination of the Lyrical Pop, Character Performance and Comedic Impressions events (as described in the National Showcase Guidelines). Due to this combination, lip syncing and props are optional.
- Choreographic Artistry will not be offered at the Adult Championships.

J. Special Olympic & Adaptive Skating Events:

- Adaptive skating is the umbrella heading for skaters with any type of disability. Under Adaptive skating are the sub-groups Special Olympics and Skate United. Special Olympics curriculum is for skaters with intellectual

disabilities.

- Special Olympics USA provides USFS with the badge curriculum that can be found at specialolympics.org. Adaptive Skating badges 1-12 can be found in the Learn to Skate USA curriculum and are for skaters with strictly physical disabilities. If those skaters want to move beyond badge levels and test/compete, they will follow the "Skate United" track, still in development.
- Adaptive Skaters who compete in the Showcase Events will create and develop programs that mirror traditional show skating at their skating ability. It is less about the elements and more about the creativity and ingenuity of the program, and the skater(s) emoting human feelings and emotions. These programs will be done under the traditional use of a spotlight, show curtain, and a rink that is 3/4 the normal size. In addition to the solo events, skaters can compete in Unified Partners and Mini Productions.
- Unified Partners (individuals without intellectual disabilities) train and compete as a teammate alongside Special Olympics athletes on a Unified Sports Team (either on a school based or community-based team). For the Unified Partner Event for Showcase the Unified Partner will do a program alongside and in conjunction with the Unified Sports Team member. The team can pull from pairs, ice dance, and/or skating duets to execute the program. The program will be judged on the creativity the team demonstrates skating together to create a memorable performance.
- Special Olympic & Adaptive Skating events may not use scenery.

K. Event Level Requirements

Except for Adult events, skaters must compete at the highest level for which they qualify. Duets must compete at the highest test level of the two skaters and both members of a duet must meet at least the minimum test pre-requisite for Preliminary Free Skating or Adult Bronze Level.

Singles + Interpretive + Duets/Trios

Event	Must meet requirements*	Must not have passed	Age	Time
Beginner, High Beginner, No Test*	n/a	Free Skate or Dance (solo or partnered) Test Pre-Preliminary Free Skate	No minimum age (max age 17)	1:20 max
Pre-Preliminary*	n/a	Preliminary Free Skate	No minimum age (max age 17)	1:20 max
Preliminary	Preliminary Free Skate	Pre Juvenile Free Skate, Juvenile Free Dance, OR Pre-Bronze Pattern Dance	No minimum age (max age 17)	1:30 max
Pre-Juvenile	Pre-Juvenile Free Skate	Juvenile Free Skate, Juvenile Free Dance, OR Pre-Bronze Pattern Dance	No minimum age (max age 17)	1:30 max
Juvenile	Juvenile Free Skate, Juvenile Free Dance, OR Preliminary Pattern Dance	Intermediate Free Skate, Intermediate Free Dance, OR Bronze Pattern Dance	Under 13	2:00 max
Open Juvenile	Juvenile Free Skate, Juvenile Free Dance, OR Preliminary Pattern Dance	Intermediate Free Skate, Intermediate Free Dance, OR Bronze Pattern Dance	13 - 17	2:00 max
Intermediate	Intermediate Free Skate, Intermediate Free Dance, OR Bronze Pattern Dance	Novice Free Skate, Novice Free Dance, OR Pre-Silver Pattern Dance	17 and under	2:10 max
Young Adult	Preliminary Free Skate, Juvenile Free Dance, OR Preliminary Pattern Dance	Novice Free Skate, Novice Free Dance, OR Pre-Silver Pattern Dance	18 - 20	2:10 max
Novice	Novice Free Skate, Novice Free Dance, OR Pre-Silver Pattern Dance	Junior Free Skate, Junior Free Dance, OR Silver Pattern Dance	No Age Restriction	2:10 max
Junior	Junior Free Skate, Junior Free Dance, OR Silver Pattern Dance	Senior Free Skate, Senior Free Dance, OR Gold Pattern Dance	No Age Restriction	2:30 max
Senior	Senior Free Skate, Senior Free Dance, OR Gold Pattern Dance	N/A	No Age Restriction	2:40 max

* Note: these levels do not qualify for National Showcase

Adult Singles + Interpretive + Duets/Trios

Event	Must meet requirements*	Must not have passed	Age	Time
Adult Pre-Bronze <i>Note: this level does not qualify for National Showcase</i>	Adult Pre-Bronze Free Skate Pre-Preliminary Free Skate	Free Skate, Figure or Dance Test (solo or partnered; standard, adult, or masters track)	21 and older	1:40 max
Adult Bronze	Adult Bronze Free Skate Adult Bronze Free Dance Preliminary Free Skate Juvenile Free Dance Pre-Bronze Pattern Dance	Adult Bronze Free Skate Adult Bronze Free Dance Preliminary Free Skate Juvenile Free Dance Bronze Pattern Dance	21 and older	1:40 max
Adult Silver	Adult Silver Free Skate Juvenile Free Skate (prior to 10/1/94) Pre-Juvenile Free Skate Adult Silver Free Dance Intermediate Free Dance (Prelim prior to 9/2/2000) 3 rd Figure (prior to 10/1/1977) Bronze Pattern Dance	Adult Silver Free Skate Pre-Juvenile Free Skate Adult Silver Free Dance Intermediate Free Dance (Prelim prior to 9/2/2000) Silver Pattern Dance 3 rd Figure (prior to 10/1/1977)	21 and older	1:40 max
Adult Gold	Adult Gold Free Skate Juvenile Free Skate Adult Gold Free Dance Novice Free Dance (Brz prior to 9/2/2000) 3 rd Figure (prior to 10/1/1977) Pre-Silver Pattern Dance	Adult Gold Free Skate Juvenile Free Skate (on/after 10/1/94) Adult Gold Free Dance Novice Free Dance (Brz prior to 9/2/2000) 4 th Figure (prior to 10/1/1977) Pre-Gold Pattern Dance	21 and older	1:40 max
Masters	Intermediate Free Skate Adult Gold Free Dance Junior Free Dance (Slv prior to 2000) 3 rd Figure (Prior to 10/1/1977) 8 th Figure (10/1/77-9/30/79) Silver Pattern Dance	n/a	21 and older	2:10 max

* For the U.S. Adult Championships, skaters must meet the test requirements for the level at which they want to compete, rules 2540-2552 apply, and the same level must be chosen for all showcase events at the competition (for example, a skater may not compete in Masters Emotional Performance and Adult Gold Lyrical Pop/Character/Comedy events at the same competition). Adult athletes wishing to be grandfathered into a higher level based on participation at the Adult Championships or National Showcase prior to 4/30/17 may make this request to the National Vice Chair for National Showcase. For all other competitions, including the nonqualifying competitions held in conjunction with the adult sectional championships, skaters must compete at their test level or one level higher, per the above chart. For Learn to Skate USA levels and events, please refer to the U.S. Figure Skating Compete USA Manual for Showcase event levels, elements, qualifications, program lengths and descriptions. For events offered, refer to the competition announcement.

Mini Production & Production Ensemble

Event	Must Meet Requirements	Age	Time
Mini Production Silver	One Preliminary/Adult Bronze test required for National Showcase, no members may have passed an Intermediate/Adult Silver test	Open	2:30 max
Mini Production Gold	One Intermediate/Adult Gold test required for National Showcase, no limit on highest test passed. One member may have passed a Juvenile/Adult Silver test, but no less.	Open	3:30 max
Production Ensemble	Open Cast Levels (For National Showcase, a minimum Preliminary/Adult Bronze test required for all skaters)	Open	4:30 max

Special Olympic & Adaptive Skating: Young Adult Showcase

Event	Must meet requirements*	Must not have passed <i>Special Olympic or Skate United</i>	Age	Time
Showcase Level 1 Open	Badges 1 - 5	Special Olympic Badge 6 or higher Skate United Adaptive 6 or higher	(Min age 13) (Max age 17)	1:30 max
Showcase Level 2 Open	Badge 6 - 9 (Special Olympic) Badge 6 - 10 (Skate United)	Special Olympic Badge 10 Skated United 11	(Min age 13) Max age 17)	1:30 max
Showcase Level 3 Open	Badge 10-12	Badge 12 and/or U.S. Figure Skating Adaptive MIF and U.S. Figure Skating Adaptive Free Skate Test	(Min age 13) Max age 17)	1:30 max
Showcase Level 4 Open	Badge 11 Pre-Preliminary FS, MIF Preliminary Pattern Dance Adaptive Pre-Bronze MIF and FS	N/A	No Minimum Age (Max Age 17)	2:30 max

Special Olympic & Adaptive Skating: Adult/Masters Showcase

Event	Must meet requirements* Special Olympic or Skate United	Must not have passed Special Olympic or Skate United	Age	Time
Showcase Level 1 Open	Badges 1 - 5	Special Olympic Badge 6 or higher Skate United Adaptive 6 or higher	(Min age 18) (No Max age)	1:30 max
Showcase Level 2 Open	Badge 6 - 9 (Special Olympic) Badge 6 - 10 (Skate United)	Special Olympic Badge 10 Skated United 11	(Min age 18) (No Max age)	1:30 max
Showcase Level 3 Open	Badge 10-12	Badge 12 and/or US Figure Skating Adaptive MIF and US Figure Skating Adaptive Free Skate Test	(Min age 18) (No Max age)	1:30 max
Showcase Level 4 Open	Badge 11 Pre-Preliminary FS, MIF Preliminary Pattern Dance Adaptive Pre-Bronze MIF and FS	N/A	(Min Age 18) (No Max age)	2:30 max

(Unified Partners Showcase follows on the next page)

Special Olympic & Adaptive Skating: Unified Partners Showcase

Event	Must meet requirements* Special Olympic or Skate United	Must not have passed Special Olympic or Skate United	Age	Time
Open	<p><i>The partner of the Unified/Adaptive Skater must be a USFS Member</i></p> <p><i>Skate United Skaters must have a physical or cognitive disability that requires a unified partner to assist them on the ice</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">None</p>	<p><i>1 partner must be a Skate United or Adaptive Skater</i> <i>(max age 17)</i></p>	<p>1:30 max</p>
Adult/Masters Open	<p><i>The partner of the Unified/Adaptive Skater must be a USFS Member</i></p> <p><i>Skate United Skaters must have a physical or cognitive disability that requires a unified partner to assist them on the ice</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">None</p>	<p>Both Partners (Min age 18)</p>	<p>1:30 max</p>