

2023 Q3 TEST CHAIR ROUNDTABLE

August 16, 2023



Q: How often do you find that you can't get a 3-judge panel of gold judges?

A: Moderately difficult. Singles and Skating Skills gold panels are easier to obtain than gold dance panels. This should get easier after January 1, 2024, with the change in judging structure.

Q: How do you handle test sessions when weekday ice is your only option?

A: Unfortunately, this is more common than not. Announce the tests early, so that the coach and athlete can be prepared to leave work/school early. Ensure that the judging panel is available for the weekday sessions.

Q: How do I create and publish test sessions on Entreeze?

A: Entryeze is a third-party registration platform that is not connected to U.S. Figure Skating. [Please](#) contact the company directly via their [website](#).

Q: I am not able to attend due to vacation, but wanted to know if you were going to discuss the new 14-day video date rule? It has been very hard for coaches and skaters to keep in that time frame and find a test session that has an opening to meet that date.

A: The 14-day video expiration date is listed in the 2023-24 Rulebook under Rule 4104. Coaches and athletes should be looking for test sessions prior to creating their video recording. This way they're aware of the test date which, per Rule 4104 B (2), is the video submission date.

Q: I am wondering about the dance tests. The lead and follow and how that works for solo dance. Thank you.

A: Prior to July 1, 2023, the Solo Dance tracks were based on the steps of the man and woman. After July 1, 2023, the tracks are no longer gender specific. Therefore, the athletes may choose either the Lead (formerly man's steps) or Follow (formerly woman's steps) track.

If an athlete is in the middle of a level (i.e., has completed 1 or 2 dances from the Pre-Bronze level prior to July 1) then they may choose to complete the level as EITHER Lead or Follow. If the athlete is ready to begin a new level (e.g., Bronze), then the athlete must choose either Lead or Follow and COMPLETE the level on that track. They may not mix tracks within a level. Once complete, they can choose either track for the next. See Rule 8218.

Q: Looking forward to learning some of the ins and outs of my new position!

A: There are many resources for Test Chairs. Members Only -> Testing -> Overview contains the links to these resources. Of course, there is also the Quarterly Round Table, or you can reach out to the Tests Committee with any questions at the following email: testscommittee@usfigureskating.org.

Q: My coaches have asked for a clarification about the 14-day window for video recording. Is it within 14 days of deadline for test submission or from when it is actually judged? They said they video and now must find a test that falls within the timeframe.

A: Per rule 4014 B (2), "...The submission deadline set by the test chair is the date of the test session. Videos must have been recorded within 14 days of the submission deadline." The recommendation from the Tests Committee is that the coach/athlete find a test session PRIOR to creating the video recording so that the video does not expire.

Q: New test chair looking for best practices for virtual, especially means of collecting and sharing video. So many ways to do it!

A: There are several different ways to collect videos and share them to judges. EntryEeze includes a feature for storing, sharing, and watching videos. Google Drive is another option, using a Google Form for submission of the Media Release, Affidavit, and the video.

Q: Please clearly define “candidate must clearly be identified”. Does that mean the video test must have a close-up video of the test candidate or will just have a verbal announcement or written identification?

A: Skating Skills, Singles and Solo Dance videos can announce the athlete either by voice or written on paper. A close-up video of the athlete is not necessary. Partnered dance videos should include a close-up video of the athlete announcing themselves so that the judging panel understands who the test candidate is and who the partner is.

Q: Question about reporting results of virtual tests to home club of skaters testing from other clubs— how do you do that? Do I set the test date for a virtual test — deadline to submit videos?

A1: When results are submitted, the system will generate an email to the test chair of non-home club members with the name, test taken, and results.

A2: As stated previously, the submission deadline is the test date.

Q: USFS is no longer sending test acknowledgments to skaters within 24-48 hours. I read it is now monthly. Can you share what message skaters are getting and when in the month? Thanks!

A: At the beginning of each month a list of skaters whose passing results were *received* the previous month will be generated and the emails sent. Those results submitted in July will be sent shortly, to coincide with the launch of the new online store, The Edge.

Q: Virtual testing within our sections/regions only? Our club feels this should be the rule.

Our club has scheduled test sessions on Saturdays and would love to have them be LIVE TEST SESSIONS this season.

A: Thank you for this comment. The virtual testing program is a living program and will evolve with feedback such as this and, of course, with the athletes as the first priority.

Q: With the uncoupling of singles and skating skills tests for competition, can you help me understand which tests they're allowed to take and still compete another level? For example, can they pass Gold singles and compete Intermediate Free skate for NQS?

A: That is a question that should be addressed to the events department at events@usfigureskating.org.

Q: How do we enter an invalid virtual test as a retry when entering scores?

A: Videos that are deemed invalid should be sent back to the coach/athlete. If they can resubmit within the allotted timeframe, then they should. If they cannot, it is up to the club whether to refund, or move to a later test session date. A retry result should only be submitted if the test was truly given retry scores by the judging panel.

Q: Rule 4607 - notify other clubs about a skater testing at our club, to include the judge's names and scores?

A: The Tests Committee and U.S. Figure Skating Headquarters will work out a solution to this question.

Q: Please explain the IJS protocol test credit. I am not a skater, so I don't know what that means.

A: IJS Test Credit is an option for the athlete to submit results from a skating competition to pass a skating test rather than participating in a test session. The athlete enters a competition at the level that they wish to test (e.g., Novice event for a Silver Test). If they meet the minimum score and the additional requirements listed in Rule 4200, they will pass the test. Note: IJS Test Credit may only be applied to levels Bronze and above.

Effective November 1: The athlete has 14 days to supply the documentation provided by the competition to their home club test chair (protocol sheet, final results signed by both the Technical Controller and the Referee, and test credit sheet). The home club test chair must then submit the results within 30 days of receipt of said paperwork.

Q: For virtual test sessions some trial judge forms don't auto calculate the score. Most recently we've had to edit the pdf and cross out the incorrect score and add the correct score. For trial judge forms could all scoring areas have editable option?

A: U.S. Figure Skating is working on ensuring that all trial judge forms are editable and calculate passing scores.

Q: How do pass/retry rates compare between virtual and in-person tests? What percentage of tests are now virtual? Does USFSA support the migration of more tests to virtual?

A: Current statistics show 46% of the tests to date are performed virtually with a passing rate of 87%. The pass rate for in-person tests is 86%. U.S. Figure Skating continues to support both virtual testing and in-person testing equally.

Q: Can there be multiple JIC's on a virtual test session to accommodate multiple trial judges?

A: Yes.

Q: I sometimes wait 10 or more days for the judges to return the test session papers, what do I do?

A: When reaching out to judges to ask if they will judge virtual tests, it is important to give them a date for when the results are due. For example, "Dear Judge, Sally Skater FSC is hosting a virtual test session on Sept 14, 2023. The video submission deadline is Sept 14, 2023. The results are due back to the test chair by 12:00pm on Sept 21, 2023. Would you be available to judge our test session?"

Q: Do you have to send trial judge papers to the entire panel for transparency, or just the JIC and mentor?

A: Just the JIC and mentor will suffice. In an in-person session the JIC would be the only person to sign the papers.

Q: Does U.S. Figure Skating monitor test fees for virtual tests?

A: No, we do not. The fees for the test sessions are at the discretion of the host club.