



## 2023-2024 Competition Season Updates | Critical Information

U.S. Figure Skating made several changes to the rules regarding test level and competition for singles athletes at the 2022 U.S. Figure Skating Governing Council. Please review this resource sheet for resources and direct questions to [events@usfigureskating.org](mailto:events@usfigureskating.org).

### Webinar Recordings:

- [Athletes and Parents/Guardians](#)
- [Coaches](#)
- [Club Leadership, LOCs, & Officials](#)

### Quick Facts:

- Singles free skate test levels will remain as a minimum requirement to compete.
  - *For example, a skater still must pass their juvenile free skate test to compete in juvenile or skate up to intermediate.*
- Completion of an EMS Series Application at a particular level in the **National Qualifying Series (NQS) and/or the Excel National Series** will set the athlete's "**competitive floor**" for future events. An athlete's competitive floor is the lowest level they can compete at and is only dictated by the paid EMS Series Application (this is NOT tied to individual competition registrations).
  - *Competitive Floor = lowest level an athlete can compete at.*
    - *If an athlete has participated in both series at different levels, they may choose the lowest level for their floor.*

### Eligibility Scenarios:

#### Scenario #1 - Athlete with a Competitive Floor

Highest Free Skate Test: Senior  
Past Excel Series Application: N/A  
Past NQS Application: Novice  
Future NQS Application: Novice

In scenario #1, the athlete may compete at Novice and above. If this athlete wants to explore their range in the Spring/Summer, they have that option. They can opt to compete at one event as Junior and that will not impact their **competitive floor** - regardless of series or EMS.

#### Scenario #2 - Athlete without a Competitive Floor

Highest Free Skate Test: Junior  
2022 Excel Series Application: N/A  
2022-2023 NQS Application: N/A

Scenario #2 is an extreme example but when the athlete registers for a non-qualifying competition that offers ALL singles events and skating up is permitted, they will see **Pre-Preliminary - Senior**. This is where level/score banding will play a large role. More information will be available in Spring 2023 on this topic.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

### ***Can athletes still “skate up” and earn test credit for IJS protocol?***

**Yes.** Athletes may still compete one level higher than their test level in a non-qualifying competition, and they may still apply to receive test credit from competition in an IJS competition if the event is NOT an NQS event.

### ***Which competitions set my “competitive floor” for future level?***

The competitive floor is NOT set through individual competition registrations, regardless of series designation or registration platform (i.e. EMS). A singles athlete’s minimum competition level is set by completing a EMS Series Application for NQS and/or Excel at a particular level. There is a single floor (i.e. one level) and it is transferable to both NQS and Excel. Once this application is complete; an athlete may NOT move to a lower level.

### ***Does this impact the adult track or adult qualifying competitions?***

**No.** The rules have not changed for adults. Adult athletes may not have achieved tests higher than their competition level.

### ***How does this impact other disciplines and programs?***

Pairs, ice dance, and synchronized maintain their current rules for competition eligibility. Additionally, there are NO changes planned for solo dance, showcase or other specialty events at this time.

### ***How will athletes know what level to enter?***

Athletes still must have passed the minimum test level. From there, it is the responsibility of the coach and the athlete to make strategic decisions based on the athlete’s developmental goals, priorities, and skill level. U.S. Figure Skating will provide the guidelines for the 2023 National Qualifying Series within the Athlete Handbook (est. March 2023).