



Showcase Handbook

2024-2025 Season

v4.0
09.19.24

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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 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. Results will be used to verify skaters eligibility for the National Showcase competition. Chief Accountants / LOC: For all non-qualifying competitions that include showcase events - the competition results must be sent to:

- ShowcaseUSFS@gmail.com
- cmallory@usfigureskating.org

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/Trios, entries must be according to the age and level of the highest test skater. Both skaters must have completed the 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, 2024 to May 31, 2025 using the Component Judging System. Events 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 skater(s) 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; **or**,
2. Competed in 2024 National Showcase competition and placed in the top 4 of their event.

Levels lower than Preliminary and Adult Bronze are not eligible to compete in National Showcase. Qualification must occur in the Emotional Performance, Choreographic Artistry, Lyrical Pop, Character Performance, or Comedic Impressions categories. Skaters must qualify in each event if they intend to compete at Showcase Nationals in multiple events. Skaters do not need to qualify based on level, provided it's **Preliminary or higher**. Once qualified, the skater(s) may then compete in elective events (duets/trios, theme-event, inflatable, mini production, production ensemble).

****Events must be judged using CJS, in order to qualify for National Showcase. If a competition uses 6.0 or non-USFS judges, the event will not count as a qualifying event. No exceptions will be given.**

The deadline to satisfy minimum test pre-requisites, competition qualification and entry registration is June 1.

C. JUDGING AND MARKING:

Non-qualifying competitions must use the Component Judging System (CJS), on paper or mini-system, in order to qualify skaters for the National Showcase Competition. Three Program Components – marked on a scale of 0.25 to 10.

1. Artistic Appeal with Innovation & Creativity (factor 40%)

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?

2. Performance & Projection: Universe, Musicality and Feeling (factor 35%)

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. Showcase Skating Skills (factor 25%)

Showcase skating is the way an athlete uses their skating and physical ability to convey their act on the ice surface. It must show 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.

Range of Marks	Theatrical Skating Description
0.25 to 0.75	Beginning / Starting
1.0 to 1.75	Emerging / Learning
2.0 to 2.75	Developing / Progressing
3.0 to 3.75	Confident / Competent
4.0 to 4.75	Secure / Strengthening
5.0 to 5.75	Average
6.0 to 6.75	Above Average
7.0 to 7.75	Good
8.0 to 8.75	Very Good
9.0 to 9.75	Outstanding
10.0	Excellent

Deduction or No Higher Than (NHT)	Deduction/NHT Description	Applied by:
0.25	Program Time Violation – per every 10 sec. over max time	Referee
NHT 8.75	Obvious Fall / Error	Judge
2.50	Not According to Requirements*	Majority of R + J

*The Not According to Requirements deduction may not be taken in the theme event, and in events where solo events are combined and categories are mixed together (e.g. Emotional combined with Character and Lyrical Pop).

D. INDIVIDUAL SHOWCASE EVENTS:

Singles: Skaters may enter events for which they qualify by test level and non-qualifying competition participation. Skaters cannot skate in different levels of the same event or competition (for example, an Emotional Performance junior level skater would not be allowed to skate Emotional Performance Junior and Senior level events at the same competition). **Electives:** Each skater (competitor) may only enter one duet/trio, one mini-production ensemble, one production ensemble, and one inflatable.

1. **Emotional Performance:** Programs should portray a story, expressing conflict, resolution, and/or depth of emotion. The skater should provoke an emotional response from 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. Emphasis should be on developing movement on the ice, using the entire body to express innovative ideas and choreographic processes and gestures. Levels: Juvenile through Senior Elite/Pro-Am and Adult Masters.
 - Lip synching is not permitted.
 - Props and Scenery are not permitted.
 - Technical Limitations: ½ rotation and unlisted jumps, 1 full spin, additional spins < 3 revs.
 - Costuming: should be 1 color, so as not overpower the performance. Crystals/Deco may complement fabric with similar or a different color.
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, or 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 the audience and entertaining through skating movements, gestures, and physical actions deemed comedic.
 - Lip synching is permitted
 - Props and Scenery are permitted
 - No Technical Limitations

E. ELECTIVE SHOWCASE EVENTS:

Duets/Trios: Theatrical performances by two or three competitors. Skaters may enter only one duet/trio, one mini-production ensemble, and one production ensemble each. Programs are performed under spotlights. When entering events, the skater with the higher technical achievement shall prevail as the level for the duet/trio to enter.

- Lip synching is permitted
- Props and Scenery are permitted
- Skaters must qualify in an individual event to participate in this category.

Mini Production Ensembles: Theatrical performances by four to eight competitors. Programs are performed under full arena lighting.

- Lip synching is permitted
- Props and Scenery are permitted
- Team members do not have to qualify in an individual event to participate in this category.

Production Ensembles: Theatrical performances by nine or more competitors. Programs are performed under full arena lighting.

- Lip synching is permitted
- Props and Scenery are permitted
- Team members do not have to qualify in an individual event to participate in this category.

Inflatables: This is an open-level event with a theatrical performance by one, two, or three skaters wearing a partial-body or full-body inflatable costume. Programs are performed under full arena lighting (for safety reasons). All open inflatable programs are allowed a 1:30 maximum program time. Inflatable costumes that impersonate humans (e.g., sumo wrestlers) are not permitted.

- Lip synching is permitted
- Props and Scenery are not permitted
- Skaters must qualify in an individual event to participate in this category.

Theme Event: Skaters will be able to enter this themed event according to their level, with a program featuring a song by, sung by, written by, performed by, or a cover version of a song from MOTOWN (2024-2025 season).

The theme event should mimic a parade of champion event where all program types are represented. Programs should be choreographed as an Emotional, Character, Comedic, Choreographic-Artistry, or Lyrical Pop program. Since this event is mixed with different styles of programs, the Not According to Requirements will not apply.

- Lip synching is permitted
- Props and Scenery are permitted
- Skaters must qualify in an individual event to participate in this category.

F. WARM-UP TIMES:

Singles, duets/trios, theme, inflatables, 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.

G. PROGRAMS + TIMING:

Please be mindful of how your choices may impact fellow members when considering costuming, music, and choreography. Some choices may be harmful and/or offensive to others if they appropriate or mock a culture or faith, promote a stereotype, or attempt to shame any identity dimension.

U.S. Figure Skating commits in policy, principle, and practice to maintain a non-discriminatory approach on and off the ice for all members. We are actively working to develop equitable practices and policies that promote safety and foster an authentic sense of belonging for all involved, in all areas of our sport. We believe that #SkatingIsForEveryone.

All programs must begin on the ice in view of the audience. The timing of the program will begin with the first movement of any skater or team member. 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 starts, the team must take a stationary position on the ice, and one skater must give a hand signal that the team is ready.

Singles Events: If a skater begins the mood/scene while being introduced by the announcer, or skating to their starting spot, the skater must stand still and pause in place, as their signal to begin music and program timing. In order for a program to end, a skater must stop skating in view of the audience/officials or exit behind the curtain to complete the timing of their program.

H. SCENERY / PROPS RULES:

General:

- The inclusion of scenery and/or props is optional and not mandatory.
- Wearable inflatable costumes are only permitted in the Inflatables event.
- All props and scenery must be portable by humans. 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 placed on the ice 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 or duets/trio 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.

Illegal or Prohibited Props:

- Scenery may not exceed 7'6" in height
- Guns/Firearms (real or fake), gun/firearm noise effects, propulsion, and projectile devices will NOT be permitted. This includes items such as bows, slingshots, canons, and other items that may be considered similar weapons.
- Trampolines and additional apparatus that 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 participants/audience members could result in disqualification from the event/competition.

I. 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 competitors' clothing must be dignified and appropriate for artistic competition. It may be theatrical in design and reflect the chosen music.
- Costume rules for Singles/Pairs/Dance/Synchro/TOI programs do not apply to showcase skating.
- Wearable Inflatable costumes are only permitted in the Inflatable event. In the event a skater performs with a wearable inflatable costume in any event, besides the inflatables category, the skater/team will be disqualified by the event referee.

J. GROUP SIZES AND FINAL ROUNDS:

- Maximum sizes of initial rounds will be at the judgement of the Chief Referee. 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.

K. ADULT SECTIONALS & ADULT 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.

L. SPECIAL OLYMPICS & 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 may be performed 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, and Production Ensemble.
- Unified Partners (individuals without intellectual disabilities) train and compete as teammates alongside Special Olympics athletes on a Unified Sports Team. For the Unified Partner Event for Showcase, the Unified Partner will perform a program alongside and in conjunction with the Unified Sports Team member. The team can execute the program using pairs, ice dance, and/or skating duets. The program will be judged on the creativity the team demonstrates skating together to create a memorable performance.
- **Adaptive/Unified Production Ensemble** has the same requirements as Theatre on Ice. This event is to provide another opportunity for these teams to perform in front of a Theatrical Skating audience.
 - Test Requirements: All team members must have passed any Special Olympics, Therapeutic Skating or have mastered any Special Olympics level except for four skaters who must be enrolled in a Special Olympics or Therapeutic Skating class.
 - May have up to one mentor on the ice per skater on the team.
 - Mentors must be listed on the Special Olympics/Therapeutic Skating Production Ensemble rosters .
 - In determining number of skaters on a team only Special Olympic/ Therapeutic Skaters are counted in the total.
 - Note that there is no program minimum length, programs may not exceed 3:30 maximum.
 - Props may be used (including walkers for skaters if needed).
 - Scenery is allowed.
 - Costumes may be worn.
 - Must be members of U.S. Figure Skating or a registered Learn to Skate USA member.
 - Must have a minimum of 9 skaters, and no maximum number of skaters.
 - There are no age requirements nor restrictions.

M. CLUB NAME AND PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS:

- National Showcase will not collect nor announce program descriptions as part of the event.
- Club Names will not be announced during events.

N. INTERPRETIVE EVENTS:

- Interpretive (will not be part of Showcase Nationals in 2025): 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 the event. Furniture (such as folding chairs) is not allowed.
- 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. One garment bag, no longer than 42" is permitted for wearable costumes.
- The music will be played twice during a warm-up on full ice. Props may not be brought out during warm-up. After the warm-up, all skaters, except the first, will go back to the room with no music being played. The first skater will hear the music 1 more time behind the curtain (or off the ice when no warm-up space is given) while the ice remains empty. Skaters will be brought to the ice when the previous skater finishes. All competitors in an event will interpret the same music. All costumes and props are to be taken to the ice only when the skater is called to perform. Props may not be pre-positioned on the performance surface.
- 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). 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.
- All interpretive levels are allowed a program of up to 1:30 maximum.

O. EVENT LEVEL REQUIREMENTS

Skaters must compete at the level for which they qualify. Duets/Trios must compete at the highest test level of the 2-3 skaters, and members of a duet/trio must meet at least the minimum test pre-requisite for Preliminary Free Skating or Adult Bronze Level. **Skating Up is based on each specific Competition Announcement and is only permitted in Preliminary and higher events for National Showcase (i.e. skaters in Pre-Preliminary may not skate up into Preliminary at National Showcase. Non-qualifying competitions may determine their own skate-up policy.)**

Singles + Duets/Trios

Event	Minimum requirements*	Age	Time
Aspire 4 + Pre-Preliminary <i>Note: these levels do not qualify for National Showcase</i>	Must have at least passed Free Skating, Dance test (solo or partnered standard track), or Skating Skills level below. n/a (For National Showcase, skaters may not skate up to Preliminary)	No minimum age (max age 17)	1:20 max
Preliminary	Preliminary Singles, 1 Preliminary Pattern Dance, Preliminary Skating Skills	No minimum age (max age 17)	1:30 max
Pre-Juvenile	Pre--Bronze Singles, 1 Pre-Bronze Pattern Dance, Pre-Bronze Skating Skills	No minimum age (max age 17)	1:30 max
Juvenile	Bronze Singles, Bronze Free Dance, 1 Bronze Pattern Dance, Bronze Skating Skills	Under 13	2:00 max
Open Juvenile	Bronze Singles Bronze Free Dance, 1 Bronze Pattern Dance, Bronze Skating Skills	13 - 17	2:00 max
Intermediate	Pre-Silver Singles, Pre-Silver Free Dance, 1 Pre-Silver Pattern Dance, or Pre-Silver Skating Skills	17 and under	2:10 max
Young Adult	Preliminary Singles, Pre-Bronze Free Dance, 1-Preliminary Pattern Dance, or Preliminary Skating Skills	17 - 20	2:10 max
Novice	Silver Singles, Silver Free Dance, 1- Silver Pattern Dance, or Silver Skating Skills	18 and under	2:10 max
Junior	Pre-Gold Singles, Pre-Gold Free Dance, 1-Pre-Gold Pattern Dance, or Pre-Gold Skating Skills	21 and under	2:40 max
Senior	Gold Singles, Gold Free Dance, 1-Pre-Gold Pattern Dance, or Pre-Gold Skating Skills	No Age Restriction	2:40 max
Senior Elite / ProAm [^]	Pre-Gold Singles, Pre-Gold Free Dance, 1-Pre-Gold Pattern Dance, or Pre-Gold Skating Skills	Over 18	2:40 max

[^] Event level for professional/show-level caliber and experienced skaters. Also intended for skaters ready to move up from Junior + Senior levels.

Adult Singles + Duets/Trios

Event	Must meet requirements* Must have passed: Free Skating or Dance test (standard, adult, or 50+/masters track)	Must not have passed: Free Skate, Figure, or Dance Test (standard, adult, 21+ or 50+/masters track)	Age	Time
Adult Pre-Bronze <i>Note: this level does not qualify for National Showcase</i>	Free Skate/Singles Adult Pre-Bronze Pre-Preliminary	Free Skate/Singles Adult Bronze Preliminary Solo Free Dance Bronze (f/k/a Juvenile)	21 and older	1:40 max
Adult Bronze	Free Skate/Singles Adult Bronze Preliminary Solo or Partnered Pattern Dance Pre-Bronze Solo Free Dance Bronze (f/k/a Juvenile)	Free Skate/Singles Adult Silver Pre-Bronze (f/k/a Pre-Juvenile) Solo Free Dance Pre-Silver (f/k/a Intermediate) Figures 3rd Figure (prior to 10/1/1977)	21 and older	1:40 max
Adult Silver	Free Skate/Singles Adult Silver Pre-Bronze (f/k/a Pre-Juvenile) Bronze (f/k/a Juvenile) (prior to 10/1/94) Solo or Partnered Pattern Dance Bronze Solo Free Dance Pre-Silver (f/k/a Intermediate) Figures 3rd Figure (prior to 10/1/1977)	Free Skate/Singles Adult Gold Bronze (f/k/a Juvenile) (on/after 10/1/94) Solo Free Dance Silver (f/k/a Novice) Figures 4th Figure (prior to 10/1/1977)	21 and older	1:40 max
Adult Gold	Free Skate/Singles Adult Gold Bronze (f/k/a Juvenile) Solo or Partnered Pattern Dance Pre-Silver Solo Free Dance Silver (f/k/a Novice) Figures 3rd Figure (prior to 10/1/1977)	Free Skate/Singles Adult Intermediate Pre-Silver (f/k/a Intermediate) (on/after 10/1/91) Figures 5th Figure (prior to 10/1/1977)	21 and older	1:40 max
Masters	Free Skate/Singles Adult Intermediate Pre-Silver (f/k/a Intermediate) Solo or Partnered Pattern Dance Silver Solo Free Dance Pre-Gold (f/k/a Junior) Figures 3rd Figure (Prior to 10/1/1977) 8th Figure (10/1/77 - 9/30/79)	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. For additional information on entering multiple showcase events at the U.S. Adult Championships, see Rule 2405(B). 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 of Showcase. For all other competitions (including the nonqualifying competition held in conjunction with the adult sectional championships) 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 Bronze <i>Note: this level does not participate in National Showcase</i>	No Minimum Test Requirements (may be a blend of Compete USA and USFS skaters)	Open	2:30 max
Mini Production Silver	One Preliminary/Adult Bronze test is required for National Showcase; only 1 member may have passed a Pre-Silver Standard or Adult Silver level test (inclusive of singles, dance, skating skills, etc.), and no higher.	Open	2:30 max
Mini Production Gold	One Pre-Silver /Adult Gold test minimum required for National Showcase, no limit on highest test passed. One member may have passed a Bronze/Adult Silver test, but not lower.	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* Special Olympics, Adaptive, Skate United	Age	Time
Showcase Level 1 Open	Badges 1 – 5	13- 17	1:30 max
Showcase Level 2 Open	Badge 6 - 9 (Special Olympic) Badge 6 - 10 (Adaptive)	13 - 17	1:30 max
Showcase Level 3 Open	Badge 10-12	13 - 17	1:30 max
Showcase Level 4 Open	Badge 11/Skate United Pre-Preliminary FS, SS Preliminary Pattern Dance Adaptive Pre-Bronze SS and FS	No Minimum Age Max Age 17	2:30 max

Special Olympic & Adaptive Skating: Adult/Masters Showcase

Event	Must meet requirements* Special Olympic or Adaptive	Age	Time
Showcase Level 1 Open	Badges 1 - 5	18 and up	1:30 max
Showcase Level 2 Open	Badge 6 - 9 (Special Olympic) Badge 6 - 10 (Adaptive)	18 and up	1:30 max
Showcase Level 3 Open	Badge 10-12	18 and up	1:30 max
Showcase Level 4 Open	Badge 11/Skate United Pre-Preliminary FS, SS Preliminary Pattern Dance Adaptive Pre-Bronze SS and FS	18 and up	2:30 max

Special Olympic & Adaptive Skating: Unified Partners Showcase

Event	Must meet requirements* Special Olympic or Adaptive	Age	Time
Open	The partner of the Unified/Adaptive Skater must be a USFS Member Adaptive Skaters must have a physical or intellectual disability that requires a unified partner to assist them on the ice	1 partner must be a Skate United or Adaptive Skater Max age 17	1:30 max
Adult/Masters Open	The partner of the Unified/Adaptive Skater must be a USFS Member Adaptive Skaters must have a physical or intellectual disability that requires a unified partner to assist them on the ice	Both Partners 18 and up	1:30 max

Special Olympic & Adaptive Duet/Trio

Event	Must meet requirements* Special Olympic or Adaptive	Age	Time
Open	This event will consist of 2 or 3 skaters (and their respective Unified partner)	1 partner must be a Skate Unified or Adaptive Skater Max age 17	1:30 max

Special Olympic & Adaptive Production Ensemble

Open	Program and Requirements are detailed in section L of this document. No age restrictions	1 partner must be a Skate Unified or Adaptive Skater Max age 17	3:30 max
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Range of Marks	Theatrical Skating Description
0.25 to 0.75	Beginning / Starting
1.0 to 1.75	Emerging / Learning
2.0 to 2.75	Developing / Progressing
3.0 to 3.75	Confident / Competent
4.0 to 4.75	Secure / Strengthening
5.0 to 5.75	Average
6.0 to 6.75	Above Average
7.0 to 7.75	Good
8.0 to 8.75	Very Good
9.0 to 9.75	Outstanding
10.0	Excellent

1. **Artistic Appeal with Innovation & Creativity** (factor 40%)

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?

2. **Performance & Projection: Universe, Musicality and Feeling** (factor 35%)

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. **Showcase Skating Skills** (factor 25%)

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.

Emotional Performance: Programs should portray a story, expressing conflict, resolution, and/or depth of emotion. The skater should provoke an emotional response from 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.

Choreographic Artistry: Programs will have music without spoken words or lyrics. Emphasis should be on developing movement on the ice, using the entire body to express innovative ideas and choreographic processes and gestures. Levels: Juvenile through Senior Elite/Pro-Am and Adult Masters.

- Lip synching is not permitted. Props and Scenery are not permitted.
- Technical Limitations: ½ rotation and unlisted jumps, 1 full spin, additional spins < 3 revs.
- Costuming: should be 1 color, so as not overpower the performance. Crystals/Deco may complement fabric with similar or a different color.

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

Character Performance: Skaters will impersonate a character, original or adapted, on the ice. Performances as a character from a movie, musical, book, original idea, or original adaptation are all welcome here.

- Lip synching is required, Props and Scenery are permitted, No Technical Limitation.

Comedic Impressions: A humorous performance intentionally designed to achieve continuous/multiple chuckles, laughs, or audible rises from viewers. Performance is projected outward towards the audience and entertaining through skating movements, gestures, and physical actions deemed comedic.

- Lip synching is permitted, Props and Scenery are permitted, No Technical Limitations

Frequently Asked Questions

Q1 – I am in a duet with another skater, and they aren't competing in any other events except for the duet/trio. Can they enter National Showcase?

A1 – In the past we've provided exceptions for these skaters, but starting in 2025 we will no longer accept skaters who have not qualified in the solo events (Emotional (E), Lyrical Pop (LP), Choreo Artistry (CA), Character (CH), Comedic(CO)).

Q2 – I skated in National Showcase last year. Does that qualify me for National Showcase this year?

A2 – Skating in National Showcase does not qualify you for the next year. You only qualify if you placed in the top 4 of your event, and only in the event you placed. SO for instance if you skated Lyrical Pop, and placed 3rd...you qualify for the next year in LP. And if you skated Emotional and placed 10th, you do not qualify in Emotional. You must re-qualify for this year in events that did not place in the top 4.

Q3 – If I qualified in the Theme Event this year, does that qualify me for the Theme Event at National Showcase?

A3 – No, unfortunately, you must still qualify in at least one of the solo events (LP, CA, CH, CO, E) in order to skate in any of the elective events....such as Theme Event.

Q4 – If there is a member or members of my Production Team that did not enter or qualify the solo events, can they still skate?

A4 – This is the only event (Production Ensemble) that we will permit non-qualified skaters to enter. It is expected that many of the skaters on the team will be participating in National Showcase in the solo events. However, we understand there may be members of the team who have not qualified in solo events. We understand the challenge placed on forming a team, and we also hope those skaters see the rest of the events and get hooked on Showcase and will join us in the following season as a solo event skater.

Q5 – I don't understand how the parade of champions works. Can you explain it?

A5 – Sure, the winner of all the events get entered into a “best in show” or “parade of champions” event at the end of the week at National Showcase. Some competitions throughout the country also elect to form their own event of similar nature. No skater is able to perform more than 2 programs, so if they qualify in 3 or more, the accountant or a referee will reach out to the skater or coach and verify which programs they elect to skate. Then in the event(s) that were not selected, we move to the 2nd place skater and inform them that they have qualified for the parade. Sometimes these skaters have qualified in more than 2 events, and the same logic applies...moving down the list until all “winners” have been selected. In 2024 we added 6 more skaters to the parades, 2 from each level, earning the highest score across all events. Those skaters were also invited to perform those events at the parade of champions, and if they also resulted in qualifying in more than 2 events, we moved down the list of performances depending on what they chose to perform. It was a bit complicated – but we think it was a fair approach to gathering the best of the best for an amazing event.

Q6 – Can I use the same type of music found in the Theme event for my Emotional or Character Program?

A6 – It's best not to double-dip and use a theme for the theme event, in an individual event. There are plenty of smart song choices to be made across all of your programs. Please do not choose a theme event song for your individual event.

Q7 – I only want to skate in the inflatable event this year. How can I do that?

A7 – The only way you can enter the inflatable event, is if you have qualified in an individual event (Emotional, Character, Choreo Artistry, Lyrical Pop, Comedic) before June 1st. You are no longer able to enter this event without qualifying in an individual event.

Q8 – If my skater is a Basic 6 skater, can they qualify now, and then work on testing until June 1st to qualify for the level they want to skate at National Showcase?

A8 – Unfortunately no. Compete USA levels and competitions do not qualify skaters for National Showcase. Skaters must qualify starting at the Preliminary level or higher. Any levels less than Preliminary do not qualify for National Showcase.

Q9 – If my skater is a Pre-Preliminary skater, but skates up at the local non-qualifying competition at Preliminary, will they qualify for National Showcase?

A9 – Yes, they will qualify for the event, provided they MEET the minimum test requirements by the June 1st entry deadline for National Showcase.