

## 2025 SINGLES, PAIRS AND ICE DANCE QUALIFYING SEASON ATHLETE BYE & ADVANCEMENT CRITERIA

*All information is subject to change and based on current information and feasibility of live international competitions.*

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this document is to outline the approved criteria for which a registered competitor may receive a bye to the 2025 Sectional Singles Final, U.S. Pairs Final and U.S. Ice Dance Final, in addition to the 2025 U.S. Figure Skating Championships.

The following bye criteria and junior advancement rules were reviewed and approved by U.S. Figure Skating's International Committee, Competitions Committee, Athletes Advisory Committee (AAC) and U.S. Figure Skating's Board of Directors as required under U.S. Figure Skating rule 2511.

Per rule 2500, all athletes receiving a bye **are required to register for the 2024-25 National Qualifying Series prior to the close of the series on Oct. 6**. Failure to do so will result in the competitors(s) not being entered nor allowed to compete at the 2025 Sectional Singles Final, U.S. Pairs Final and U.S. Ice Dance Final and/or 2025 U.S. Figure Skating Championships for the current season. Additionally, all are highly encouraged to participate in the National Qualifying Series via an the [approved 2024-25 NQS competitions](#). If athletes receiving byes choose to compete, they will not lose their bye to the Sectionals Final, U.S. Ice Dance Final, U.S. Pairs Final, and/or 2025 U.S. Figure Skating Championships, regardless of score, nor displace an athlete who would have qualified if the said athlete had not competed (per rule 2472).

### **ADVANCEMENT TO SECTIONAL SINGLES FINAL, U.S. PAIRS FINAL AND/OR U.S. ICE DANCE FINAL**

For junior and senior events: Any member of the U.S. Figure Skating Team, defined in rule ICR 3.05, who has been assigned to and competes at minimum of one international assignment classified as an ISU Grand Prix, ISU Junior Grand Prix and or ISU Challenger Series event that is included in the list of approved competitions in this document.

#### **Additional competitors may qualify for the sectional singles final as outlined in Rule 2472:**

- Having won the U.S. Figure Skating Championships at the junior level, in the previous season, if competing at the junior level this season.
- Having won the sectional singles final at the senior level in the previous season.

### **ADVANCEMENT TO THE U.S. FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS**

#### **SENIOR SINGLES**

#### **Maximum of 18 available spots at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships**

- Athletes who placed in the top five in the same event at the 2024 U.S. Figure Skating Championships per rule 2501 (B) (1)
- Athletes selected to the 2024 U.S. Figure Skating World Team (not including alternates) in the same event per rule 2501 (B) (2)
- Athletes who have won a medal in the singles event at the most recent Olympic Winter Games (not

including the team event) per rule 2501 (B) (3)

- Athletes who qualify for the same event at the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final or the ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final (not including alternates; or as a member of the United States Figure Skating Team who meets the approved criteria per rule 2511) per rule 2501 (B) (2)
- Athletes who are assigned to and compete at three (3) international assignments classified as an ISU Grand Prix, ISU Junior Grand Prix and or ISU Challenger Series event
  - Refer to the approved list of international competitions within this document
- **The top two total combined scores from each section in the Sectional Singles Final**
  - **Plus, next-best scores nationwide until maximum is met**

## SENIOR PAIRS

### Maximum of 12 available spots at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships

- Teams that placed in the top five in the same event at the 2024 U.S. Figure Skating Championships per rule 2502 (B) (1)
- Teams selected to the 2024 U.S. Figure Skating World Team (not including alternates) in the same event per rule 2502 (B) (2)
- Teams that have won a medal in the pairs event at the most recent Olympic Winter Games (not including team event) per rule 2502 (B) (3)
- Teams that qualify for the same event at the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final or the ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final (not including alternates; or as a member of the United States Figure Skating Team who meets the approved criteria per rule 2511) per rule 2502 (B) (4)
- Teams that are assigned to and compete at three international assignments classified as a Grand Prix, Junior Grand Prix and or ISU Challenger Series event
  - Refer to the approved list of international competitions within this document
- **The next best placements at the U.S. Pairs Final until maximum is met**

## SENIOR ICE DANCE

### Maximum of 15 available spots at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships

- Teams that placed in the top five in the same event at the 2024 Toyota U.S. Figure Skating Championships per rule 2503 (B) (1)
- Teams selected to the 2024 U.S. Figure Skating World Team (not including alternates) in the same event per rule 2503 (B) (2)
- Teams that have won a medal in the ice dance event at the most recent Olympic Winter Games (not including team event) per rule 2503 (B) (3)
- Teams that qualify for the same event at the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final or the ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final (not including alternates; or as a member of the United States Figure Skating Team who meets the approved criteria per rule 2511) per rule 2503 (B) (4)
- Teams that are assigned to and compete at three international assignments classified as a Grand Prix, Junior Grand Prix and or ISU Challenger Series event
  - Refer to the approved list of international competitions within this document
- **The next best placements at the U.S. Ice Dance Final until maximum is met**

## JUNIOR SINGLES

### Maximum of 18 available spots (plus byes) at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships

- Athletes who qualify for the same event at the ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final (not including alternates) per rule 2501 (A) (3)
- Athletes who are assigned to and compete at three international assignments classified as a Junior Grand Prix and or ISU Challenger Series event
  - Refer to the approved list of international competitions within this document
- **The top four total combined junior scores from each section in the Sectional Singles Final**
- **The top two total combined novice scores each section in the Sectional Singles Final**

## **JUNIOR PAIRS**

### **Maximum of 8 available spots (plus byes) at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships**

- Teams that qualify for the same event at the ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final (not including alternates) per rule 2502 (A) (2)
- Teams that are assigned to and compete at three (3) international assignments classified as a Junior Grand Prix and or ISU Challenger Series event
  - Refer to the approved list of international competitions within this document
- **The top eight total combined junior scores from the nation in the U.S. Pairs Final**

## **JUNIOR ICE DANCE**

### **Maximum of 10 available spots (plus byes) at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships**

- Teams that qualify for the same event at the ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final (not including alternates) per rule 2503 (A) (2)
- Teams that are assigned to and compete at three international assignments classified as a Junior Grand Prix and or ISU Challenger Series event
  - Refer to the approved list of international competitions within this document
- **The top ten total combined junior scores from the nation in the U.S. Ice Dance Final**

## **NOVICE PAIRS**

### **Maximum of 4 available spots at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships**

- **The top four total combined novice scores from the nation in the U.S. Pairs Final**

## **NOVICE ICE DANCE**

### **Maximum of 5 available spots at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships**

- **The top five total combined novice scores from the nation in the U.S. Ice Dance Final**

## **Criteria Notes**

If the maximum spots allotted for byes are not met through the outlined criteria, additional competitors from the U.S. Figure Skating November Finals will be invited to fill the maximum available spots at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships for each level/discipline. Competitors from the November Finals will be selected

based on next-best total combined score(s) in the nation. This will apply equally to all disciplines in the junior and senior events.

If the number of athletes with three international assignments from the approved international competition list exceeds the number of available byes to the U.S. Figure Skating Championships, the athletes with three international assignments will be ranked and awarded byes in the following order until there are no byes available. The remaining athletes will compete in the U.S. Figure Skating November Finals to qualify for the U.S. Figure Skating Championships.

- Highest-to-lowest best total score in the approved list of international competitions for Grand Prix competitors
- Highest-to-lowest best total score in the approved list of international competitions for Junior Grand Prix competitors
- Highest-to-lowest best total score in the approved list of international competitions for other international competitors

### **Required Minimum Score**

The required minimum score for all athletes to compete at the 2025 U.S. Figure Skating Championships is under review for all disciplines and will be addressed in the fall of 2024.

### **Other Circumstances**

No medical byes will be granted for the U.S. Figure Skating Championships per rule 2513.

Only the athlete(s) in question may submit a petition to U.S. Figure Skating via the Events Department at [events@usfigureskating.org](mailto:events@usfigureskating.org). The headquarters liaison will share the appeal with the chairs of the Athletes Advisory, Competitions Committee and International Committee. The liaison will coordinate a review of and vote on the matter within 48 hours of receiving the appeal and communicate the results to the athlete(s).

A bye list will be available to all prior to the Sectional Singles Final, U.S. Pairs Final and U.S. Ice Dance Final in early November 2024 to finalize qualifying advancement numbers.

### **APPROVED COMPETITIONS IDENTIFIED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE APPLICABLE FOR 2024/25 BYES:**

#### **ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating**

ISU Junior Grand Prix France (Epinal)  
ISU Junior Grand Prix Latvia (Riga)  
ISU Junior Grand Prix Czech Republic (Ostrava)  
ISU Junior Grand Prix Thailand (Bangkok)  
ISU Junior Grand Prix Turkey (Istanbul)  
ISU Junior Grand Prix Poland (Gdańsk)  
ISU Junior Grand Prix Slovenia (Ljubljana)

#### **ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating**

Skate America  
Skate Canada International  
Grand Prix de France  
NHK Trophy  
Grand Prix Finland  
Cup of China

*\*Please refer to [ISU Website](#) for updated Grand Prix details*

## **ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final and ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final**

### **Challenger Series:**

Cranberry Cup (Singles Only)  
John Nicks Pairs Challenge (Pairs Only)  
Lombardia Trophy  
Nebelhorn Trophy  
Denis Ten Memorial Challenge  
Budapest Trophy  
Trophy Metropole Nice  
Nepela Memorial  
Tallinn Trophy  
Warsaw Cup

*Please note, participation at the following international competitions, Lake Placid Ice Dance Championships, John Nicks Pairs Challenge (Junior), Cranberry Cup (Junior), Shanghai Trophy, the Japan Open, and the Golden Spin of Zagreb **are not** approved competitions for bye criteria.*

*For all competitions only entries **assigned by the International Committee and fully funded by U.S. Figure Skating** count towards a bye. Participation in the Team USA non-funded international competition opportunities do not count as an assignment for a bye.*

### **Contact Information**

U.S. Figure Skating – [events@usfigureskating.org](mailto:events@usfigureskating.org)