

**LEARN TO SKATE USA - ASPIRE SYNCHRO (effective July 1, 2023)**

The Compete USA competition program is for Learn to Skate USA skaters who are interested in a first competition experience while taking the Synchro 1-4 badges to the next level. In order to safely practice and compete, it is strongly recommended that skaters have mastered the elements of the division in which they are competing (see program requirements).

Basic Requirements for Elements		
Block	Wheel	Circle
Must have a minimum of 3 lines	Must have at least 3 skaters in each spoke	Must have a minimum of 4 skaters

ASPIRE 1	One Circle Element	One Line Element	One Block Element	One Wheel Element	One Intersection Element	Additional Items for Aspire 1
2:10 max 5 Elements <b>Required Holds</b> None Any type of holds permitted 5-20 skaters 13 years of age and younger	Forward and backward skating permitted  Must contain a forward glide on an inside or outside edge on one or two feet  Change of rotational direction, change of configuration, and travel <b>not</b> permitted	Forward skating only  Change of axis and change of configuration <b>not</b> permitted	Forward skating only  Change of configuration and pivoting <b>not</b> permitted	Forward skating only  Change of rotational direction, change of configuration, and travel <b>not</b> permitted	Must be two lines facing each other  Forward skating through the point of intersection  Choice of: Upright two foot glide Upright one foot glide	Additional well-balanced SYS elements permitted.  Judges will evaluate first element type presented.  Elements higher than Basic 6 <b>not</b> permitted.  Some common elements above Basic 6 are mazurka, half flip, waltz jump, etc.

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<p><b>ASPIRE 2</b></p> <p>2:10 max</p> <p>5 Elements</p> <p><b>Required Holds</b> None</p> <p>Any type of holds permitted</p> <p>5-20 skaters</p> <p>16 years of age and younger</p>	<p><b>One Circle Element</b></p> <p>Forward and backward skating permitted</p> <p>Must contain a forward glide on an inside or outside edge on one foot</p> <p>Change of rotational direction, change of configuration, and travel <b>not</b> permitted</p>	<p><b>One Line Element</b></p> <p>Forward and backward skating permitted</p> <p>Change of axis and change of configuration <b>not</b> permitted</p>	<p><b>One Block Element</b></p> <p>Forward and backward skating permitted</p> <p>Change of configuration and pivoting <b>not</b> permitted</p>	<p><b>One Wheel Element</b></p> <p>Forward and backward skating permitted</p> <p>Change of rotational direction, change of configuration, and travel <b>not</b> permitted</p>	<p><b>One Intersection Element</b></p> <p>Must be two lines facing each other</p> <p>Forward skating through the point of intersection</p> <p>Choice of:</p> <p>Upright two foot glide</p> <p>Upright one foot glide</p>	<p><b>Additional Items for Aspire 2</b></p> <p>Additional well-balanced SYS elements permitted.</p> <p>Judges will evaluate first element type presented.</p> <p>Elements higher than Basic 6 <b>not</b> permitted.</p> <p>Some common elements above Basic 6 are mazurka, half flip, waltz jump, etc.</p>

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<p><b>ASPIRE 3</b></p> <p>2:10 max</p> <p>5 Elements</p> <p><b>Required Holds</b> 2 different holds shown by the whole team for any length of time</p> <p>Any type of holds permitted</p> <p>5-20 skaters</p> <p>17 years of age and younger</p>	<p><b>One Circle Element</b></p> <p>Forward and backward skating permitted</p> <p>Must contain a backward glide on an inside or outside edge on one foot</p> <p>May contain any of the below features*</p> <p>Choice of:</p> <p>Change of rotational direction</p> <p>Change of configuration</p> <p>Travel</p>	<p><b>One Line Element</b></p> <p>Forward and backward skating permitted</p> <p>May contain any of the below features*</p> <p>Choice of:</p> <p>Change of axis</p> <p>Change of configuration</p>	<p><b>One Block Element</b></p> <p>Forward and backward skating permitted</p> <p>May contain any of the below features*</p> <p>Choice of:</p> <p>Change of Configuration</p> <p>Pivoting</p>	<p><b>One Wheel Element</b></p> <p>Forward and backward skating permitted</p> <p>May contain any of the below features*</p> <p>Choice of:</p> <p>Change of rotational direction</p> <p>Change of configuration</p> <p>Travel</p>	<p><b>One Intersection Element</b></p> <p>Must be two lines facing each other</p> <p>Forward skating through the point of intersection</p> <p>Choice of:</p> <p>Upright two foot glide</p> <p>Upright one foot glide</p> <p>Forward lunge</p>	<p><b>Additional Items for Aspire 3</b></p> <p>Additional well-balanced SYS elements permitted.</p> <p>Judges will evaluate first element type presented.</p> <p><i>*Teams may attempt any number of the listed features. However, teams may also elect to not attempt any of the listed features.</i></p>
<p><b>ASPIRE 4</b></p> <p>2:10 max</p> <p>5 Elements</p> <p><b>Required Holds</b> 2 different holds shown by the whole team for any length of time</p> <p>Any type of holds permitted</p> <p>5-20 skaters</p> <p>17 years of age and younger</p>	<p><b>One Circle Element</b></p> <p>Forward and backward skating permitted</p> <p>Must contain at least one of the below features**</p> <p>Choice of:</p> <p>Change of rotational direction</p> <p>Change of configuration</p> <p>Travel</p>	<p><b>One Line Element</b></p> <p>Forward and backward skating permitted</p> <p>Must contain at least one of the below features**</p> <p>Choice of:</p> <p>Change of axis</p> <p>Change of configuration</p>	<p><b>One Block Element</b></p> <p>Forward and backward skating permitted</p> <p>Must contain at least one of the below features**</p> <p>Choice of:</p> <p>Change of Configuration</p> <p>Pivoting</p>	<p><b>One Wheel Element</b></p> <p>Backward skating only</p> <p>Must contain at least one of the below features**</p> <p>Choice of:</p> <p>Change of rotational direction</p> <p>Change of configuration</p> <p>Travel</p>	<p><b>One Intersection Element</b></p>	<p><b>Additional Items for Aspire 4</b></p> <p>Additional well-balanced SYS elements permitted.</p> <p>Judges will evaluate first element type presented.</p> <p><i>**Teams must attempt at least one of the listed features. However, teams may include more than one of the listed features.</i></p>

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<b>Judges' Deductions (Applies all Aspire Synchro Divisions)</b>	
<b>Description</b>	<b>Deduction</b>
Costume violation (see costume guidelines)	0.1 from the component mark
Costume failure	0.1 from the component mark
Program time violation every 5 seconds in excess (referee to inform judges)	0.1 from both marks for every 5 seconds in excess
Fall, 1 skater (each time)	0.1 from technical mark
Element not according to requirements	0.2 from technical mark
Omission of an element (not attempted)	0.6 from technical mark
Illegal element (see rulebook)	1.0 from both marks
Holds (incorrect number and not shown by the whole team)	0.2 from technical mark per missing hold

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#### **Eligibility Rules:**

- All skaters on the team must be either full U.S. Figure Skating members, Aspire members or members of the Learn to Skate USA program. All Aspire synchronized skating teams must be registered with U.S. Figure Skating and have a team number.
- Skaters competing in the Aspire 1 through Aspire 3 divisions may have passed the preliminary skating skills, freestyle and/or dance\* test, but no higher.
- Skaters competing in the Aspire 4 division may have passed the pre-bronze skating skills, freestyle and/or dance\* test, but no higher.
- The skater's test level is as of October 1, 2023.
- No skater may compete on multiple Aspire synchronized skating teams and/or cross skate to any of the U.S. Figure Skating competitive divisions.

*\*Skaters may pass two of the three required dance tests for the pre-bronze level and still be eligible to compete in Aspire 1-Aspire 3. Skaters may pass two of three required dance tests for the bronze level and still be eligible to compete in Aspire 4.*

#### **Age/Number of Skaters:**

- The ages for Learn to Skate USA synchronized skating teams are as of the preceding July 1st.
- Each team must have between 5-20 skaters. Teams may have a maximum of 4 alternates listed on their roster, in addition to the maximum number permitted on the ice for their respective divisions.

#### **Costume Rules/Illegal Elements:**

- Aspire synchronized skating teams should follow the costume rules outlined in the rulebook
- Illegal elements outlined in the rulebook apply to all Aspire Synchronized divisions.

#### **Compliance for Instructors/Coaches:**

- To be credentialed as a coach at a Compete USA event, individuals coaching a synchronized skating team are required to have:
  - Learn to Skate USA instructor membership OR U.S. Figure Skating full membership.
  - SafeSport™ Training completed (for coaches 18 years of age and older)
    - SafeSport™ Training is available through [www.usfsaonline.org](http://www.usfsaonline.org) for full members of U.S. Figure Skating (through Learn to Skate USA portal for instructors). There is no cost to this training.
  - Background check successfully passed (for coaches 18 years of age and older).
  - Learn to Skate USA Instructor Certification completed (for coaches under 18 years of age).
  - If you have questions about compliance, the U.S. Center for SafeSport™, or U.S. Figure Skating's SkateSafe® Program, contact [skatesafe@usfigurekating.org](mailto:skatesafe@usfigurekating.org).