



## **PARTICIPANT HANDBOOK**

**Section 1 | Series Requirements & Technical Information**

**Section 2 | Approved Competition Information**

**Section 3 | Frequently Asked Questions**

**Section 4 | Athlete Profiles (Click [HERE](#))**

**Bookmark this [link](#) and check back frequently for updates:**

**[https://www.usfigureskating.org/sites/default/files/media-files/NQS\\_announcement.pdf](https://www.usfigureskating.org/sites/default/files/media-files/NQS_announcement.pdf)**

# SECTION 1 | SERIES REQUIREMENTS & TECHNICAL INFORMATION

## NATIONAL QUALIFYING SERIES (NQS) SNAPSHOT

- Twenty (20) competitions have been designated as National Qualifying Series in Singles, Pairs, and Ice Dance – Juvenile through Senior from late July to early October. The competition list can be found [here](#) and details in Section 2.
- **NEW** FOR 2023-24, singles athletes may only register for and compete at a maximum of three (3) approved NQS competitions. Beginning May 15 at 12:00 p.m. ET, singles athletes may register for ONE (1) approved NQS competition via [EMS](#). Details on phased registration can be found in Section 1. Pairs and Ice Dance teams do not have a registration maximum.
- The EMS Series Application for NQS will open on July 5 to accommodate membership renewal and club changes. The application must be completed prior to the first day of the NQS competition for the score to count in the Series Standings and advancement opportunities.

## HISTORY & OVERVIEW

The U.S. Figure Skating National Qualifying Series (NQS) was approved by the 2018 Governing Council and implemented in the summer of 2019. The NQS is a series of competitions hosted individually by member clubs nationwide, in which athletes enter and earn a score. They will earn a placement in the individual competition they enter, an overall national ranking in their level and a regional and sectional ranking.

Beginning 2022-2023, nine stand-alone October qualifying competitions, Regional (singles) and Sectional (pairs and ice dance) Challenges were consolidated into the National Qualifying Series, allowing athletes to advance to the November Finals – Sectional Singles, U.S. Pairs and U.S. Ice Dance Finals – and culminating with the Toyota U.S. Figure Skating Championships and National High Performance Development Team Camp in January.

## CONFIRM COMPETITIVE LEVEL

**Meet all age requirements pertaining to the event to be entered by July 1, 2023**

## **Meet test requirements by the conclusion of the National Qualifying Series.**

Athletes/teams may complete qualifying registration for ONE level. Registration may be at the participants' current competitive floor (i.e. lowest level an athlete can compete at) or higher based on each athlete's goals and technical skill.

If skating higher, test information (from club test session, virtual test or IJS competition test credit) must be fully processed with U.S. Figure Skating and reflected in the athlete's profile no later than **October 8, 2023**. If minimum test eligibility is not met by this date, athletes/teams will NOT be permitted to advance to NQS Finals in November.

- **What is the competitive floor?**

An athlete's competitive floor is the lowest level an athlete can compete at and is dictated by a paid EMS Series Application from the previous season's National Qualifying Series (NQS) or National Excel Series (Excel). The introduction of the competitive floor allows singles athletes to accelerate their free skate tests and register for the event level most comparable to their technical skill set.

- If an athlete competes in both NQS and/or Excel at different levels, their NQS level may be ONE LEVEL lower than Excel. For example, if an athlete skates Junior Excel, they may skate Novice NQS.

- **I do not have a competitive floor, what should I do?**

Section 4 of this handbook includes NQS Athlete Profile data. This data is based on results from the 2022-23 competitive season and reflects the performance of an athlete set on a given day during the National Qualifying Series (NQS). Scores for the 2023-24 competitive season may fluctuate contingent on varied program requirements, rule changes and scale of values. This information should be reviewed individually with each athlete's coach(es) to assess annual goals and selection of the appropriate competitive level.

- **Can I change my level?**

Athletes/teams wishing to move up a level prior to the conclusion of NQS may request the change via email at [events@usfigureskating.org](mailto:events@usfigureskating.org). A mid-season change will VOID all previous Series Standings and advancement opportunities tied to the athlete/team's original level.

- Only ONE change request is permitted per entry AND athletes may only move UP; they are not permitted to change to a lower level after posting a score to the Series Standings.

- Singles athletes are allowed to register for a maximum of three total NQS competitions and this maximum is enforced if changing a level.
  - For example, if an athlete competes in two NQS competitions as a novice and wishes to move up to Junior, their third NQS competition registration must be updated to this level by request to the LOC, in addition to [events@usfigureskating.org](mailto:events@usfigureskating.org), for an opportunity to advance to the NQS Finals.

### **Meet the citizen and residency requirements as stated in Rules 2230-2243.**

Foreign or released athletes residing in the U.S. who currently represent another ISU federation other than U.S. Figure Skating may register and compete at an approved NQS competition. However, they are not eligible to complete the Series Application nor receive a score within the Series Standings.

- **Have you competed on behalf of another ISU federation (i.e. in international competition or their qualifying season) and are looking to return and/or compete within U.S. Figure Skating? Review the resources and requirements [here](#) for next steps.**

## **PHASED REGISTRATION | CHANGE FOR 2023-24 SEASON**

Competition registration will take place over three phases from May 15 – July 7.

Singles athletes are allowed to register for a maximum of three (3) total NQS competitions in the 2023-24 season and to advance, must register for and compete at least one (1) competition to post a score.

The maximum number of NQS competitions an athlete may register for will be limited per registration phase as outlined below. If at any time a singles athlete registers for more than what is permitted during the registration phase, subsequent registrations (based on EMS timestamp) are subject to withdrawal by U.S. Figure Skating.

Pairs and ice dance athletes, due to limited competitive opportunities, **DO NOT** have a NQS registration limit and may register for multiple competitions during any given phase.

Competition hosts (LOCs) reserve the right to close registration at any given time, during any NQS registration phase, based on their entry capacity. This allows the hosts to manage the number of participants in the competition and provide the best competitive experience. The entry capacity will not be published due to the variables with each location. Ultimately, the decision to close registration is at the full discretion of the host, and participants should be aware of this possibility when considering their competitive schedule and plan for multiple scenarios. However, if an NQS competition chooses, after July 7 the LOC may extend their registration deadline as needed, but this is not guaranteed.

PHASE	DATES	REGISTRATION(S) PERMITTED
One	May 15 – June 1	<u>Singles</u> : Max. 1 NQS competition (first competition only) <u>Pairs/Ice Dance</u> : no maximum enforced
Two	June 5 – June 20	<u>Singles</u> : Max. 2 NQS competitions in total (first and/or second competition) <u>Pairs/Ice Dance</u> : no maximum enforced
Three	June 26	<u>Singles</u> : Max. 3 NQS competitions in total (first, second, and/or third competition) <u>Pairs/Ice Dance</u> : no maximum enforced
	July 5	<a href="#">EMS Series Application OPENS</a> Requirement for Standings and Advancement to the NQS Finals

**Phase 1** will begin on May 15 where all approved NQS competitions will begin accepting registrations. Registration will remain open as long as space permits for each competition. Phase 1 registration will close for all NQS competitions (regardless of space) on June 1. During this phase, singles athletes are allowed to register for no more than ONE NQS competition. **If a singles athlete registers for more than one NQS competition by the close of Phase 1, all registrations beyond their first based on timestamp of registration will be automatically removed.**

**Phase 2** will take place from June 5 to June 20. Approved NQS competitions with available space will re-open registration. In this phase, single athletes are allowed to register for their first and/or second event (maximum of 2 total NQS competition registrations). **If an athlete registers for more than two NQS events by the close of Phase 2, all registrations beyond their first and second will be forfeited, based on the timestamp of their registration.**

**Phase 3** will begin on June 26, approved NQS competitions with available space will re-open to accept registrations. Single athletes are allowed to register for their first, second, and/or third event (maximum of 3 total NQS competition registrations). It is at the LOC's discretion to accept registrations until their entry maximum has been met. **If an athlete registers for more than three NQS events by the close of Phase 3 or any late registration timeline set by an NQS competition, all registrations beyond their first, second and third will be forfeited, based on the timestamp of their registration.**

#### Phased Registration Notes:

- Singles athletes may only register for and compete at a maximum of three approved NQS competitions, they may not register for additional events and simply not have the score count towards series standings.

- If a singles athlete withdraws from one of their three NQS competitions after a registration phase concludes, they are not eligible to register for an additional competition.
- If a NQS singles event has met their entry maximum and is no longer accepting registrations, the LOCs are permitted to accept pairs and/or ice dance entries. Interested teams must email the competition chair and chief referee (located in section 2 of this handbook) for details.
- Incomplete registrations are not valid forms of entry for approved NQS competitions. A competition registration is not valid unless payment has been processed and the athlete/team has access to the EMS Skater Portal.

## RENEW MEMBERSHIP

A current membership for the 2023-24 season is required to complete the EMS Series Application (membership must be fully processed with home club AND U.S. Figure Skating) and participate in approved NQS Competitions.

The application must be completed prior to the first day of the NQS competition for the score to count in the Series Standings and advancement opportunities. Singles athletes are automatically entered into one of the nine regions based on the location of their home club, or if an individual member, their home address. Pairs and ice dance teams are automatically entered into one of the three sections based on the location of the home club of the partner who completes registration, or if an individual member, their home address. Note: only one member of the team is required to complete the series application and approved competition registration.

All registrants are bound to their geographic designation at the time of entry and no changes are permitted. Club representation stays intact for the entirety of the season even if the athlete/team changes club.

## EMS SERIES APPLICATION

Beginning July 5, athletes/teams can complete their qualifying registration via the EMS Series Application. This was updated from May 1 to accommodate membership renewal and club changes.

Competition registration will be conducted in three tiers as outlined within this document.. For pairs and ice dance teams, only ONE member must complete the registration.

The Series Application is the key requirement for qualifying registration AND replaces regional/sectional registration traditionally from July 15 – September 1. All interested athletes (including potential and known byes) MUST complete this step prior to the start of their first approved NQS competition (first day of competition).

- Without a paid Series Application, NO scores will be posted to the Series Standings and thus athletes/teams cannot advance to the November Finals and/or U.S. Figure Skating Championships and National High Performance Development Team/Camp.
  - This applies equally to known byes; athletes who receive a bye MUST complete the Series Application regardless of status.
- If an athlete/team competes in an approved NQS competition prior to completing their Series Application, the scores will NOT count in the Series – no exceptions!
  - Skater A competes at Glacier Falls at the end of July but doesn't complete their Series Application until August, their scores do NOT count (and will not count AFTER the Series Application is complete).

*Online payment via credit card is the ONLY accepted form of payment for the Series Application. No cash, checks, or mail orders will be accepted by U.S. Figure Skating.*

## NATIONAL QUALIFYING SERIES (NQS) STANDINGS

The NQS Standings will be available for viewing in EMS. The standings will display a national and sectional rank for all disciplines. Singles events will also display a regional ranking.

To access the standings:

- Log in to Members Only at <https://m.usfigureskating.org>.
  - Select **EMS**.
- Click “Series Information.”
  - Choose “2023-24 National Qualifying Series.”
- Select “Standings.”

At the end of each approved NQS competition, all IJS competition results will be uploaded to EMS by the chief accountant as soon as possible following the event's conclusion. Each skater's total score is transmitted to the Standings. Only a skater's current highest total score is officially recorded. If a skater

finishes a competition and beats their previous high score, the score will be updated. If a skater competes but does not beat their current high score, the previous score stands.

An athlete/team will not appear on the NQS standings until they have earned a total score at an approved NQS competition for the level of their paid Series Application.

Please note, progression in the qualifying season (i.e., advancement to the November Finals) is tied to the **highest posted score** in the Series Standings, NOT from individual event placements at approved NQS competitions.

## **ATHLETE RECOGNITION**

Digital series certificates will be provided to all participants who post a score with their final ranking(s) and pins will be sent to the home club of each participant for local recognition, and if an individual member of U.S. Figure Skating to the athlete(s) home address:

- Top 25% nationally – gold pin
- Top 26-50% nationally – silver pin
- Remaining participants will receive a “competitor” pin

## **SINGLES AWARDS**

Regional Medals – awarded to top four highest scores per level, per region

Trophy – awarded to the gold medalist for each level, per region

## **PAIRS & ICE DANCE AWARDS**

Sectional Medals – awarded to top four highest scoring teams per level, per section

Trophies – awarded to the gold medalist team for each level, per section

National Qualifying Series medals and trophies will be presented in-person, onsite at the November Finals. If unable to attend the November Finals, awards will be sent to each recipient’s home address.

## **ADVANCEMENT TO NQS FINALS**

- 2024 Eastern Sectional Singles



- *October 31 – November 5*
- *Coral Springs, Florida*
- 2024 Pacific Coast Sectional Singles & U.S. Pairs Final
  - *November 7 – 12*
  - *Tacoma, Washington*
- 2024 Midwestern Sectional Singles & U.S. Ice Dance Final
  - *November 14-19*
  - *Bloomington, Minnesota*

Advancement information will be sent via email, outlining the EMS registration process and competition details in mid-October. Each qualifier will be required to complete registration and pay their entry fee within 72 hours of advancement email from U.S. Figure Skating Headquarters. If no response, spot will be forfeited, and alternate will be invited.

Singles: \$250/entry + \$10 administration fee

Pairs and Ice Dance: \$350/entry + \$10 administration fee

*Online payment via credit card is the ONLY accepted form of payment for the qualifying season. No cash, checks, or mail orders will be accepted by U.S. Figure Skating.*

## SINGLES

- **Juvenile – Novice: 24 skaters per level**
  - Top 4 overall scores from each region, next best 12 overall scores from the section
- **Junior – Senior: 18 skaters per level plus byes**
  - Top 4 overall scores from each region, next best 6 overall scores from the section

## PAIRS

- **Juvenile – Novice: 24 teams per level**
  - Top 4 overall scores from each section, next best 12 overall scores from nation
- **Junior – Senior: 18 teams per level plus byes**
  - Top 4 overall scores per section, next best 6 overall scores from nation

## ICE DANCE

- **Juvenile – Novice: 24 teams per level**
  - Top 4 overall scores from each section, next best 12 overall scores from nation
- **Junior – Senior: 18 teams per level plus byes**
  - Top 4 overall scores per section, next best 6 overall scores from nation

*Advancement information to the national high performance development team/camp & the 2024 Toyota U.S. Figure Skating Championships will be available in June 2023.*

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If there are large entries for National Qualifying Series (juvenile – senior) events, the referee may choose to break the event into two or more seeded groups per the U.S. Figure Skating Rulebook. Athletes will remain in the same groups for each applicable segment to post a total score for the Series. For example: if there are more than 30 athletes in intermediate women, all skaters in group A will compete against each other in the short program, then again in the free skate for a total combined score, which is the athlete's total score for that competition.

**There will be NO qualifying, consolation, or final rounds for NQS.**

Please note, there will be NO segment-only competitive events for NQS levels (i.e., intermediate men's short program, only intermediate men's combined).

No refunds are provided for the EMS Series Application Fee under any circumstances (medical withdraws included).

All withdrawals from approved NQS competitions are considered final after the respective registration phase deadline and refunds will not be permitted under any circumstances.

## Coach Compliance

Any coach attending the competition must be included within a skater's series application AND individual competition registration via EMS. Any coaches declared at the time of registration will be included in the skater's registration confirmation email and have access to the EMS Coach Portal. Note, there is no

registration approval process within EMS as the data (membership and test level) is tied to the U.S. Figure Skating database. Noncompliant coaches will receive automated email reminders through the start of the competition.

All National Qualifying Series coaches must meet the criteria below:

- ✓ Must be a current full member of U.S. Figure Skating either through a member club or as an individual member.
- ✓ If 18 years or older, must submit information for, proper payment of \$30 and successfully pass a background check.
  - The background check will be valid for two seasons, the one in which it was completed plus one additional.
- ✓ If 18 years or older, must complete annual SafeSport Training.
  - The training will be valid for 365 days from date of completion and there is no cost for the training/certification.
- ✓ Must complete the Professional Coach/Choreographer Coaching Education Requirement (CER) through the Professional Skaters Association (PSA).
- ✓ Must submit proof of general liability insurance with limits of \$1 million per occurrence/\$5 million aggregate.
- ✓ Must agree to the U.S. Figure Skating Code of Ethics.
- ✓ Must complete three waivers: 1) Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Release and Indemnification Agreement, 2) Medical Consent and 3) Name and Likeness Release and Consent Agreement.
- ✓ Must be a full member of the Professional Skaters Association (PSA).

## Liability

U.S. Figure Skating, the host club(s) and/or interclub association, the organizing committee and the ice arenas utilized for these events accept no responsibility for injury or damage sustained by any participant in these National Qualifying Series events (U.S. Figure Skating Rule 1600).

## QUALIFYING ATHLETE CHECKLIST

- CONFIRM COMPETITIVE LEVEL (AGE & TEST ELIGIBILITY)
- ESTABLISH REGISTRATION PLAN FOR NQS
- REGISTER FOR AN APPROVED NQS COMPETITION VIA EMS → MAY 15, 2023
- RENEW MEMBERSHIP FOR 2023 – 24 SEASON → JUNE 1, 2023

☑ COMPLETE EMS SERIES APPLICATION → JULY 5, 2023

## RESOURCE LIST

### U.S. Figure Skating Rulebook

- 2000s = Qualifying Competitions
  - See 2701 F & 2712 A for practice ice parameters

### Technical Notifications

#### Event Management System (EMS)

- Series Application
- Competition Registration
- Series Standings
- Skater Portal: My Coaches, Music, PPC
- Coach Portal: My Skaters, Coach Schedule

### Citizenship Eligibility

#### Program Requirements | Juvenile - Senior

## CONTACTS

### **U.S. Figure Skating Events Department**

Email: [events@usfigureskating.org](mailto:events@usfigureskating.org)

Phone: (719) 635-5200

### **U.S. Figure Skating Product Support (EMS)**

Email: [productsupport@usfigureskating.org](mailto:productsupport@usfigureskating.org)

Phone: (719) 635-5200

## SECTION 2 | APPROVED NQS COMPETITION INFORMATION



The competitions below have been approved for the 2023-2024 National Qualifying Series. All NQS competition registrations will be processed via the Event Management System (EMS).

Refer to EMS for additional information on entry fees, practice ice availability/pre-purchase, [music upload](#), [PPC submission](#) deadline(s) and if applicable, late fees. If you need assistance with EMS, email [productsupport@usfigureskating.org](mailto:productsupport@usfigureskating.org).

When accessing registration on May 15 and beyond, look for the “NQS” designation in the event name and the **series logo**. Note, nonqualifying competition registration (i.e. excel, showcase) will be offered separately and **WILL NOT** include Juvenile through Senior events for the NQS approved disciplines. Nonqualifying registration timelines and events offered are at the full discretion of the local organizing committee.

### NQS & SDS – DALLAS CLASSIC | JULY 15-17

#### [CHILDREN’S HEALTH STARCENTER](#) – PLANO, TEXAS

Approved Discipline: Juvenile – Senior Ice Dance

Registration Status: Open May 15

[EMS Portal](#) & [Competition Website](#)

Competition Chair(s): [Megan Toohey and Chellie Bowden](#)

Chief Referee: [Julia Rey](#)



- Entry Fees: \$325/team (Juvenile - Senior)
- Official practice ice (OPI) will be included with the registration fee.
  - Additional unofficial practice ice (UPI) may be pre-purchased via [EMS](#).
- This competition is also approved for the Solo Dance Series (SDS). Registration for NQS and SDS will all be managed through the same [EMS](#) portal.
- For additional event information, click [here](#).

## NQS - SUN VALLEY SUMMER CHAMPIONSHIPS | JULY 19-23

Sun Valley Skating Center – Sun Valley, Idaho

Approved Discipline: Juvenile – Senior Singles

Registration Status: Open May 15

[EMS Portal](#) & [Competition Website](#)

Competition Chair(s): [Kelsey Bates](#) and [Michele Goedde](#)

Chief Referee: [Jessica Gaynor](#)



- Entry Fees:
  - Singles – Juvenile: \$160, Intermediate – Senior: \$220
- Check the [competition website](#) for updates and to pre-order IJS test credit.

## NQS - SKATE DETROIT | JULY 19-22

[Detroit Skating Club](#) – Bloomfield Hills, Mich.

Approved Discipline: Juvenile – Senior Singles

Registration Status: Open May 15

[EMS Portal](#) & [Competition Website](#)

Competition Chair: [Jason Dungeon](#)

Chief Referee: [Rick Perez](#)



- Entry Fees:
  - Singles – Juvenile: \$165, Intermediate – Senior: \$220
- For additional information on the Skate Detroit nonqualifying competition, click [here](#).
  - Note: the nonqualifying competition will offer pairs that will NOT count for NQS standings.
- Practice ice information will be available at a later date.

## NQS - CHARLESTON OPEN | JULY 27-30

[Carolina Ice Palace](#) – North Charleston, S.C.

Approved Discipline: Juvenile – Senior Singles

Registration Status: Open May 15

[EMS Portal](#) & [Competition Website](#)

Competition Chairs: [Tiffany Tanner](#) and [Noelle Ghoram](#)

Chief Referee: [Richard Kern](#)



## NQS - CHARLESTON OPEN | JULY 27-30

- Entry Fees:
  - Singles – Juvenile: \$190, Intermediate – Senior: \$275
- Athletes interested in the nonqualifying competition can access information [here](#).
- Practice ice and event programs will be available for pre-purchase via [EMS](#).
- Merchandise pre-orders will be available soon!

## NQS - GLACIER FALLS SUMMER | JULY 27-30

[Anaheim ICE](#) – Anaheim, Calif.

Approved Disciplines: Juvenile – Senior Singles and Pairs

Registration Status: Open May 15

[EMS Portal](#) & [Competition Website](#)

Competition Chair: [gsummerclassic@gmail.com](mailto:gsummerclassic@gmail.com)

Chief Referee: [Lisa Erle](#)



- Entry Fees:
  - Singles – Juvenile: \$165, Intermediate – Senior: \$240
  - Pairs – Juvenile/Intermediate: \$165, Novice – Senior: \$240
- Details on the nonqualifying event will be available soon!

## NQS & SDS - LAKE PLACID ICE DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS | JULY 31- AUG. 2

[The Olympic Center](#) | Lake Placid, N.Y.

Approved Discipline: Juvenile – Senior Ice Dance

Registration Status: Open May 15

[EMS Portal](#) & [Competition Website](#)

Competition Chairs: [Mary-Elizabeth Wightman](#) and [Kathaleen Cutone](#)

Chief Referee: [Sue Keogh](#)



- Entry Fees: \$340/team (Juvenile – Senior)
- This competition is also approved for the Solo Dance Series (SDS). Registration for NQS and SDS will all be managed through the same [EMS](#) portal.
- Lake Placid will also host an international event for Junior and Senior teams. Athletes participating in the international may utilize their score for NQS standings. More information to come.



## NQS - SILICON VALLEY OPEN | AUG. 3-5

[Sharks Ice San Jose](#) – San Jose, Calif.

Approved Discipline: Ice Dance

Registration Status: **Open May 15**

[EMS Portal](#) & [Competition Website](#)

Competition Chair: [Wei Jing](#), Registrar: [Beth Bottos](#)

Chief Referee: [Kathleen Krieger](#)



- Entry Fees: \$295/team (Juvenile – Senior)
- This competition is also approved for the Solo Dance Series (SDS) and the 2023 U.S. Collegiate Championships & Invitational. Registration for NQS, SDS and Collegiates will be managed separately via EMS.
  - 2023 U.S. Collegiate Championship & Invitational registration will open on May 15, click [here](#) for additional information.
- [Official Hotels and Booking Links](#)
- Locker rooms and changing areas will NOT be available for this competition. All athletes are expected to arrive at the arena ready (costumes, hair, make-up etc.). Athletes will be provided with an area to put skates on but changing will not be permitted in these spaces or in rink restrooms.
- Practice ice will be available after registration closes for all three competitions via [EMS](#) (anticipated open: July 17).
- Music upload and PPC submission details can be found on [EMS](#). Please note, there is a late fee for each item if not provided by the deadline.
  - All fees including late fees, must be paid by 11:59 p.m. on July 28, 2023. If a skater has unpaid fees after that date, the LOC may withdraw the skater from all entered events. No refund will be available if the LOC withdraws a skater due to unpaid fees. No payments will be accepted at the competition.

## NQS - MINNESOTA L'ETOILE DU NORD CHALLENGE | AUG. 17-20

Bloomington Ice Garden – Bloomington, Minn.

Approved Discipline: Juvenile – Senior Singles

Registration Status: **Open May 15**

[EMS Portal](#) & [Competition Website](#)

Competition Chairs: [Julie Mattson Ostrow](#) and [Gay Ann Louiselle](#)

Chief Referee: [Lisa Anne Venne](#)





## NQS - MINNESOTA L'ETOILE DU NORD CHALLENGE | AUG. 17-20

- Entry Fees:
  - Singles – Juvenile: \$175, Intermediate – Senior: \$225
    - All entries will receive a complimentary event video and photos as a part of the skater's gift. Services will be provided by Perkins Media and athletes/parents are asked to bring a flash drive to download the video(s) onsite.
- This competition was previously known as the Minnesota State Figure Skating Championships.
- Practice ice will be available for purchase via [EMS](#). All sessions will be leveled (Low, Medium, High & Adult) and will be 20 minutes in length. Additional practice ice information will be available closer to the competition.
- Athletes interested in the nonqualifying competition can access information [here](#).

## NQS - BATTLE OF THE BLADES | AUG. 24-26

[SportONE Icehouse Parkview](#) – Fort Wayne, Ind.

Approved Disciplines: Juvenile – Senior Singles and Pairs

Registration Status: Open May 15

[EMS Portal](#) & [Competition Website](#)

Competition Chair: [Alena Lunin](#)

Chief Referee: [Gretchen Bonnie](#)



- Entry Fees:
  - Singles – Juvenile: \$175, Intermediate – Senior: \$235
  - Pairs – Juvenile/Intermediate: \$235, Novice – Senior: \$325
- Athletes interested in the nonqualifying competition can access information [here](#).
- Official Hotels and Booking Links:
  - [Holiday Inn Purdue – Fort Wayne](#) | \$139/night + tax
  - [Hyatt Place – Fort Wayne](#) | \$109/night + tax
  - [TownePlace by Marriott](#) | \$159/night + tax
- For additional information on the Fort Wayne community, click [here](#).
- **Pairs:** if NQS singles registration has met its entry maximum, email the Competition Chair and Chief Referee for next steps.

**NQS - SHERWOOD INVITATIONAL | AUG. 24-27**

[Sherwood Ice Arena](#) – Sherwood, Ore.

Approved Discipline: Juvenile – Senior Singles

Registration Status: **Open May 15**

[EMS Portal](#) & [Competition Website](#)

Competition Chairs: [Malia Geary](#) and [Kathy Bosworth](#)

Chief Referee: [Pine Kopka-Ross](#)



- Entry Fees:
  - Singles – Juvenile: \$175, Intermediate – Senior: \$265
- The nonqualifying competition will open registration on July 3, check the [competition website](#) for updates.

**NQS - ATLANTA OPEN | AUG. 25-27**

[The Cooler](#) – Alpharetta, Ga.

Approved Discipline: Juvenile – Senior Singles

Registration Status: **Open May 15**

[EMS Portal](#) & [Competition Website](#)

Competition Chair: [Lindsay McDaniel](#)

Chief Referee: [Rick Perez](#)



- Entry Fees:
  - Singles – Juvenile: \$190, Intermediate – Senior: \$290
    - All entries will receive a complimentary recording of their performances (if applicable, both segments) from Jeff Lancaster at Pro-Mix Sound & Video.
- The Susan Johnson Trophy: will be awarded to the singles intermediate level skater who achieves the highest free skate program component score. Awards ceremonies will be conducted promptly after the event has concluded.
- Practice ice will be available for pre-purchase via [EMS](#).

## NQS - GOLDEN WEST CHAMPIONSHIPS | SEPT. 1-3

[Great Park Ice](#) – Irvine, Calif.

Approved Disciplines: Juvenile – Senior Singles and Pairs

Registration Status: **Open May 15**

EMS Portal & [Competition Website](#)

Competition Chair: [Marina Nash](#), Registrar: [Helene Krasner](#)

Chief Referee: [Doug Williams](#)



- Entry Fees:
  - Singles – Juvenile: \$180, Intermediate – Senior: \$270
  - Pairs – Juvenile/Intermediate: \$200, Novice – Senior: \$285
- Competitive events will be held on Rinks 3 and 4, which are approximately 85' x 200, slightly rounded at the corners. The arena has restrooms, snack bar, pro shop, and free parking. There are restaurants within driving distance of the arena.
- Locker rooms will **NOT** be available at this competition – all athletes are expected to arrive at the arena ready and an area will be provided to put skates on (no changing permitted in this space).
- **Pairs:** if NQS singles registration has met its entry maximum, email the Competition Chair and Chief Referee for next steps.
- [Cynthia Slawter](#) will be the official photographer (action and awards) and [Coronado Video](#) will serve as the official videographer.
- Official Hotel & Booking Link – Deadline: August 10
  - [Doubletree by Hilton Irvine-Spectrum](#), \$159/night + tax
- The closest airport to Great Park Ice is [John Wayne \(SNA\)](#).

## NQS - SKATE HOUSTON | SEPT. 1-4

Sugar Land Ice & Sports Center – Sugar Land, Texas

Approved Discipline: Juvenile – Senior Singles

Registration Status: **Open May 15**

EMS Portal & [Competition Website](#)

Competition Chair: [competitions@texasgulfcoastfsc.org](mailto:competitions@texasgulfcoastfsc.org)

Chief Referee: [Kristen Belcourt](#)



- Entry Fees:
  - Singles – Juvenile: \$175, Intermediate – Senior: \$265

## NQS - SKATE HOUSTON | SEPT. 1-4



- [Pro-Mix Sound & Video](#) will serve as the official videographer and each athlete will receive a complimentary video with their entry fee. [Melanie Heaney](#) will be the official photographer. Additional information will be available closer to the event.
- Official Hotel and Booking Link – Deadline: August 11
  - [Courtyard by Marriott – Sugar Land/Lake Point](#) | \$112/night + tax

## NQS – THE 97<sup>TH</sup> MIDDLE ATLANTIC FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS | SEPT. 8-10

[Sky Rink at Chelsea Piers](#) – New York, N.Y.

Approved Disciplines: Juvenile – Senior Singles and Pairs

Registration Status: Open May 15

[EMS Portal](#) & [Competition Website](#)

Competition Chair: [Terri Levine](#)

Chief Referee: [Sue Keogh](#)



- Entry Fees:
  - Singles – Juvenile: \$250, Intermediate – Senior: \$325
  - Pairs – Juvenile/Intermediate: \$300, Novice – Senior: \$375
    - All entry fees will include high definition digital downloads for each segment (\$75 value) from Vision Photos AND a Middle Atlantics Competition T-Shirt (\$20 value). After the registration deadline, a link will be sent to select your size(s).
- The John Nicks Pairs Challenge will be held in conjunction for Junior and Senior teams. Athletes participating in the international may utilize their score for NQS standings. More information to come.
- **Pairs:** if NQS singles registration has met its entry maximum, email the Competition Chair and Chief Referee for next steps.
- The nonqualifying competition registration (non-NQS events) and practice ice will NOT be managed on EMS.

## NQS - SKATE ST. MORITZ | SEPT. 8-10

[Oakland Ice Center](#) – Oakland, Calif.

Approved Discipline: Juvenile – Senior Singles

Registration Status: Open May 15

[EMS Portal](#) & [Competition Website](#)

Competition Chairs: [Lisa Erle](#) and [Carol Mirenda](#)

Chief Referee: [Sheren Chiang](#)



- Entry Fees:
  - Singles – Juvenile: \$180, Intermediate – Senior: \$240
- Information on the nonqualifying competition will be available mid-June.
- Contingent on the number of entries, a limited number of unofficial practice ice (UPI) may be offered by the host club. IF offered, final details will be available via [EMS](#) shortly after the schedule is released.
  - Athletes may be able to find ice time on free skate or public sessions offered by the Oakland Ice Center. Check the rink's [website](#) for availability.

## NQS - CHALLENGE CUP | SEPT. 21-24

[Philadelphia Skating Club & Humane Society](#) – Ardmore, Penn

Approved Discipline: Juvenile - Senior Ice Dance

Registration Status: Open May 15

[EMS Portal](#) & [Competition Website](#)

Competition Chair: [Ann O'Keefe](#)

Chief Referee: [Sue Miller](#)



- Entry Fees:
  - Ice Dance - \$275/team
- Practice ice will not be sold via EMS for this competition. Updates will be available after the schedule has been published.
- Details on the nonqualifying competition will be available in the coming weeks.

## NQS - BROADMOOR FALL CLASSIC | SEPT. 21-24

Colorado Springs, Colo.

Approved Disciplines: Juvenile – Senior Singles and Pairs

Registration Status: **Open May 15**

[EMS Portal](#) & [Competition Website](#)

Competition Chair and Chief Referee: [Barbara Bradley](#)



- Entry Fee:
  - Singles – Juvenile: \$210, Intermediate – Senior: \$270
  - Pairs – Juvenile: \$210, Intermediate – Senior: \$270
- This competition is separate from the Broadmoor Open (June 2023).
  - For additional information on the summer competition, click [here](#).
- Unofficial practice ice (UPI) will be available for pre-purchase via [EMS](#).
- Official Hotel:
  - Doubletree Colorado Springs - \$239/night + tax
  - Call the hotel directly to book and reference the Broadmoor Skating Club.
    - Phone: (719)-576-8900
- **Pairs:** if NQS singles registration has met its entry maximum, email the Competition Chair and Chief Referee for next steps.

## NQS - TEXAS TROPHY | OCT. 4-6

[CHILDREN'S HEALTH STARCENTER](#) – PLANO, TEXAS

Approved Discipline: Juvenile – Senior Singles

Registration Status: **Open May 15**

[EMS Portal](#) & [Competition Website](#)

Competition Chair: [Chellie Bowden](#)

Chief Referee: [Barry Doren](#)



- Entry Fees:
  - Singles – Juvenile: \$200, Intermediate – Senior: \$300
- Official practice ice (OPI) in addition to performance footage will be included with the entry fee. Additional unofficial practice ice (UPI) may be pre-purchased via [EMS](#).
- Nonqualifying registration will be separate from NQS and open later, excel, showcase and adult events will be offered. For additional information, click [here](#).

## NQS - L.A. AUTUMN CLASSIC | OCT. 5-8

[Toyota Sports Performance Center](#) – El Segundo, Calif.

Approved Discipline: Juvenile - Senior Singles

Registration Status: **Open May 15**

[EMS Portal](#) & [Competition Website](#)

Competition Chair: [Kim Borzilleri](#)

Chief Referee: [Carla Golubski](#)



- Entry Fees:
  - Singles – Juvenile: \$170, Intermediate – Senior: \$260
- The L.A. Autumn Classic will also host an advanced Novice, Junior, and Senior international event for singles athletes. The international component will be invite-only and separate from the National Qualifying Series (NQS).
- Information regarding the nonqualifying event and NQS practice ice will be available later.

## NQS - BOSTON OPEN | OCT. 5-8

[The Skating Club of Boston](#) - Norwood, Mass.

Approved Disciplines: Juvenile – Senior Singles and Pairs

Registration Status: **Open May 15**

[EMS Portal](#) & [Competition Website](#)

Competition Chair: [Leslie Graham and Kelly Flaherty](#)

Chief Referee: [Allison Duarte](#)



- Entry Fees:
  - Singles – Juvenile: \$225, Intermediate – Senior: \$300
  - Pairs – Juvenile/Intermediate: \$275, Novice – Senior: \$350
    - Each skater's entry fee includes a digital download of each NQS segment.
- **Pairs:** if NQS singles registration has met its entry maximum, email the Competition Chair and Chief Referee for next steps.
- Information on the nonqualifying events and practice ice will be available soon.
- Unofficial practice ice (UPI) will be available via [EMS](#) for pre-purchase. After registering, check the [EMS Skater Portal](#) for details.



## SECTION 3 | FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### When are regionals?

For the 2023-24 qualifying season, regionals have been consolidated into the approved NQS competitions. The Series Application is the key requirement for qualifying registration AND replaces regional/sectional registration traditionally from July 15 – September 1. All interested athletes (including potential and known byes) MUST complete this step.

### Will there be any changes in the approved NQS competition list?

Approved NQS competitions and the designated disciplines are locked in as of May 1.

There will be no additional competitions. The competition list will be evaluated each year by the Competitions Committee.

### Can I register for more than three NQS competitions as a singles athlete?

No. To promote fair competition and equitable opportunities for advancement, singles athletes are restricted to three NQS competitions. Please note, there will be no opportunity for singles athletes to compete at additional competition and not receive a scores/series standing.

### Will nonqualifying competitions be held in conjunction with NQS?

Yes, each LOC may host a separate nonqualifying competition in conjunction with NQS. These events will be managed separately, to review registration timelines, events offered and announcements, click here.

### What levels are offered for the National Qualifying Series?

National Qualifying Series events are offered at juvenile, intermediate, novice, junior and senior for singles, pairs, and ice dance. Open juvenile is NOT included in NQS but athletes considering this level are invited to explore the Excel program.

### I have not renewed my membership for the 2023-24 season, what are my options?

Given the rolling registration phases, there is time for an athlete/team to renew membership AFTER July 1 and then complete the Series Application. For scores to count, the series application must be completed prior to the FIRST DAY of an athlete/team's preferred NQS event. Without a renewed membership, an athlete/team cannot complete the Series Application and without a paid Series Application, scores from an approved NQS competition will not count (no exceptions).



## Where can I find the Series Standings?

To access the standings:

- Log in to <https://m.usfigureskating.org>.
  - Not a member? Create a non-member account [here](#).
- Select **EMS**.
- Click “Series Information.”
  - Choose “2023-24 National Qualifying Series.”
- Select “Standings.”

After the conclusion of each approved NQS competition, the chief accountant will upload the scores to EMS. Please allow up to 48 hours of event closure for standings to update. Reminder: only the athlete/team’s highest score will be included on the series.

## I competed at an approved NQS competition, but I don’t see my scores on the Series Standings?

If a score is not listed from an approved NQS competition, review the following scenarios:

- Did you complete and pay for the [Series Application](#) prior to competing?
  - **Yes**, email [productsupport@usfigureskating.org](mailto:productsupport@usfigureskating.org) with member number, series level and competition name.
  - **No**, the score will not count as it is a requirement to complete the Series Application prior to competing at the approved NQS competition. There will be no exceptions!
- Is the score your highest for the Series?
  - Only an athlete/team’s highest total score will be reflected on the Series Standings.

## How can I verify if I (or my teammate) has completed the required Series Application?

Access [EMS](#) and select “Series Information” – if complete, you will see your event level and **Paid ✓**.

- **Need to update your level after payment?**
  - Email [events@usfigureskating.org](mailto:events@usfigureskating.org) for next steps. Note, after an athlete/team has posted a score to the Series Standings, they may only move up a level and may not move down.

## How will initial and/or final rounds work?

There will be NO initial/qualifying or final rounds.

If there are large entries for National Qualifying Series (juvenile – senior) events, the referee may choose to break the event into two or more seeded groups per the U.S. Figure Skating Rulebook.

- Athletes will remain in the same groups for each applicable segment.
- The total score from their group will apply to Series Standings, if they have a paid Series Application at this level.

### **If I competed at an approved NQS competition but did not complete my Series Application – do my scores count?**

NO. Only scores from approved NQS competitions after you complete and pay for your Series Application will count towards Series Standings. Further, the series application level and competition level must match!

### **I skated up at approved NQS competitions and I qualified for the NQS Finals, but I haven't passed my test yet. What happens?**

Appropriate tests must be passed by the conclusion of the National Qualifying Series to advance; however, athletes may use IJS protocol for test credit to meet this requirement, but it must be processed (i.e., submitted to U.S. Figure Skating through their home club) no later than October 8. It is the responsibility of the athlete and coach to ensure they are following the appropriate procedure and timelines.

- Athletes should ensure they understand the process for obtaining and submitting competition test credit from approved NQS competitions in advance of the event (review details in announcement).

### **Do alternates for the November Finals, U.S. Championships or NHPDT need to do anything?**

No action is required for alternates. If invited to the qualifying competition, alternates will be notified via email by U.S. Figure Skating. Alternates may be invited up to 72 hours prior to the first segment draw in their event.

### **I have the highest score in my level, in my region. How do I get my award?**

National Qualifying Series medals and trophies will be presented in-person, onsite at the NQS Finals. If unable to attend the November Finals, awards will be mailed to each recipient's home address.

### **I have formed a new partnership after paying for my Series Application, what are my options?**

If a team disbands after paying for the Series Application and a new team is formed, the new team must email [events@usfigureskating.org](mailto:events@usfigureskating.org) to request a change. Any team changes will VOID all previous Series Standings and advancement opportunities tied to the team's original application.

### **If an athlete is deciding between two levels for the competitive season, what is the best direction?**

If deciding between two levels for NQS, it would be best for the athlete to register for the lower of the two levels. This allows them to request a change to move up if they feel that they are ready to compete

at a higher level. It is important to note that athletes who change levels for NQS must compete at that new level within the registration maximum (three), and no additional events will be offered to accommodate the change.

Overall, the decision to register for a lower or higher level should be based on the athlete's individual abilities, goals, and level of readiness for competition. It's important to carefully consider all factors before making a final decision.

### **I want to change my level after paying for my Series Application.**

Athletes/teams wishing to move up a level prior to the conclusion of NQS may request the change via email at [events@usfigureskating.org](mailto:events@usfigureskating.org). A mid-season change will VOID all previous Series Standings and advancement opportunities tied to the athlete/team's original level. Only ONE change requested is permitted per entry.

### **I want to change my home club after paying for my Series Application.**

After completing the Series Application (available on July 5), athletes/teams are bound to their club for the entirety of the qualifying season. Club representation may NOT be changed at any time, under any circumstance.

### **Who will receive byes to the NQS Finals and/or U.S. Figure Skating Championships?**

Bye criteria will be published early June 1.

### **Can foreign athletes compete within the National Qualifying Series?**

Athletes/teams representing another ISU federation may compete AT National Qualifying Series approved competitions (as a nonqualifying entry) but may not complete the Series Application and/or post a score to the Series Standings.

If a foreign athlete or returning U.S. citizen, who has competed for another ISU federation, wishes to compete within the National Qualifying Series they must receive approval. Review the resources [here](#) for additional information.

### **What happens if an athlete qualifies in two disciplines and the team event is held in a different section?**

If an athlete qualifies for the NQS Finals in two disciplines, they may transfer their singles entry to the section the U.S. Ice Dance or U.S. Pairs Final is held or they may opt to compete at both events separately.

*Advancement information to the national high performance development team/camp & the 2024 Toyota U.S. Figure Skating Championships will be available in June 2023.*

## **SECTION 4 | NQS ATHLETE PROFILES**

Click [HERE](#) for NQS Athlete Profile Data.

This data is based on results from the 2022-23 competitive season and reflects the performance of an athlete set on a given day during the National Qualifying Series (NQS). Scores for the 2023-24 competitive season may fluctuate contingent on varied program requirements, rule changes and scale of values. This information should be reviewed individually with each athlete's coach(es) to assess annual goals and selection of the appropriate competitive level.