

SkateSafe Procedures for Event, Program and Activity Organizers

OVERVIEW:

This document outlines what steps event, program and activity organizers must take to pre-authorize event and activity access for all registered Participants and event personnel which will include, but is not limited to, volunteers, medical personnel, coaches, officials and athletes. In this document, organizers are defined as U.S. Figure Skating clubs, teams, organizations and Learn to Skate USA programs in their entirety or as a facilitator of the event, activity or program.

The following requirements must be adhered to at all U.S. Figure Skating sanctioned events, Compete USA approved events, U.S. Figure Skating and Learn to Skate USA programs and activities. It is the responsibility of each U.S. Figure Skating and Learn to Skate USA event, program and activity organizer to monitor and enforce the requirements set forth in this document.

U.S. Figure Skating and/or the U.S. Center for SafeSport may audit any U.S. Figure Skating event, program or activity at any time to verify compliance with the requirements within this document and other U.S. Figure Skating/Learn to Skate USA rules and policies. These random audits may occur either in person or through a digital request for event information.

Failure to abide by the requirements within this document may impact a club/program's (organizer) active status within U.S. Figure Skating or Learn to Skate USA. Disciplinary action for failure to abide by these requirements may include, but is not limited to, removing an organizer, club, or program's ability to host a U.S. Figure Skating, Compete USA or Learn to Skate USA event, program or activity in the future.

SECTION 1: COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS AND CREDENTIALING

Organizers must verify compliance for all individuals identified in a compliance group as outlined in the [U.S. Figure Skating SkateSafe Handbook](#) and [Rulebook](#). This includes identified compliance roles, such as coaches, instructors, and officials, along with other Adults who are determined to have regular contact with or authority over Minor Athletes. Regular contact is defined as ongoing interactions during a 12-month period wherein an Adult Participant is in a role of direct and active engagement with any Minor Athlete(s).

If a person is missing one or more compliance components, they are not permitted to participate in the role that requires compliance. This includes missing waivers, SafeSport™ Training, a U.S. Figure Skating approved background check, coach CERs (Continuing Education Requirements), Learn to Skate USA instructor course, etc.

If an organizer has questions about who requires compliance or how to verify compliance, they may contact skatesafe@usfigureskating.org.

The above compliance verification also applies to day-of or last-minute participants (including volunteers, coaches, etc.). Credentialing is strongly recommended for all events and activities.

SECTION 2: FIGURE SKATING BANNED AND SUSPENDED VERIFICATION

Organizers are required to ensure that no Participants or personnel for their event/activity are currently listed as being banned, suspended or ineligible on the [U.S. Figure Skating's banned/suspended list](#). This includes any walk-up registrations/volunteers.



Immediately before and throughout the event/activity/program, organizers must verify the final Participant and personnel lists for their event/activity/program against the [U.S. Figure Skating banned and suspended list](#) as it can be updated daily. Any person listed as being banned or suspended at the time of or during the event must be prohibited from participating in any capacity (i.e., coach, athlete, vendor, volunteer, etc.)

If you are using EMS for event management, banned/suspended Participants and personnel will be automatically prevented from registering with or checking into your event. Organizers using any other event management software will be required to manually verify that Participants and personnel are NOT listed on the banned/suspended list. This can be accomplished by searching [U.S. Figure Skating's banned/suspended list](#) for event participants and personnel who are members of U.S. Figure Skating and have had their ability to participate restricted or revoked.

In addition, all organizers may utilize the U.S. Center for SafeSport's [Centralized Disciplinary Database](#) to easily search for Participants and personnel who may be temporarily suspended, deemed as ineligible, or otherwise have had their ability to participate restricted by the U.S. Center for SafeSport or another National Governing Body (i.e., USA Hockey, US Speedskating, etc.)

Regardless of a person's sport affiliation(s), sanctions which impact a person's ability to participate per the Centralized Disciplinary Database apply to their participation in U.S. Figure Skating sanctioned events, Compete USA approved events, U.S. Figure Skating and Learn to Skate USA programs and activities.

SECTION 3: COMMUNICATION OF U.S. FIGURE SKATING SKATESAFE POLICIES AND REPORTING PROCEDURES

Prior to each event, through the registration process or some other form of electronic communication, all registered Participants and event personnel must receive a copy of U.S. Figure Skating's SkateSafe Handbook.

Further, organizers must communicate to all registered Participants and event personnel that they will be required to adhere to U.S. Figure Skating's SkateSafe Handbook, which includes mandatory reporting requirements, for the duration of the event. This information must be communicated *no earlier than 30 days prior to the event start date*.

An example of an email to registered Participants and event personnel can be found below:

Dear [Participant or personnel],

In preparation for the upcoming [insert event/program/activity name], please ensure that you are aware of and familiar with the policies within the [U.S. Figure Skating SkateSafe Handbook](#). All Participants and personnel are required to adhere to these policies for the duration of the event/activity/program. In addition, Adult Participants are required to be familiar with and adhere to the SkateSafe Travel Policy located within this document.

Any violations of these policies, along with allegations of abuse or misconduct, may be reported [directly to U.S. Figure Skating](#).

As a reminder, all Adult Participants of U.S. Figure Skating are mandatory reporters and must report sexual misconduct and child abuse to [the U.S. Center for SafeSport](#) and to local law enforcement.

If you registered for this event on behalf of a family or team member, we ask that you forward this message to them for review.

Please contact skatesafe@usfigureskating.org for more information.

Sincerely,

[Organizer]

Organizers at sanctioned events, activities and programs must have a process for communicating U.S. Figure Skating's SkateSafe Handbook (which includes reporting requirements and protocol) to day-of registrants and volunteers. This can be accomplished by instructing day-of registrants to scan a QR code leading to the handbook upon registration, or by using another method the organizer chooses that meets this requirement. A downloadable SkateSafe branded poster with a QR code leading to the SkateSafe Handbook and reporting form can be found [here](#).



Upon request by U.S. Figure Skating, organizers will be required to provide proof that this information was sent to event participants and personnel. For this reason, event organizers are encouraged to keep a record of this communication.

SECTION 4: ADHERENCE TO U.S. FIGURE SKATING SKATESAFE POLICIES

Organizers should proactively complete a risk assessment related to U.S. Figure Skating's SkateSafe Handbook policies and eliminate all areas of vulnerability or concern that may exist. This includes eliminating or restricting access to hallways, offices or other rooms that will not be monitored. Below is a list of areas to be assessed for risk. Please note that this is not intended to be an exhaustive list.

Areas of assessment:

One-on-One Interactions

- Check the venue for areas where one-on-one interactions could occur and determine how this could be eliminated (e.g., lock doors, post signs, put up stanchions to limit access).
- If there are rooms or hallways that are not being used or monitored, eliminate or restrict access.
- Actively monitor to ensure all interactions between Minor Athletes and unrelated Adult Participants are observable and interruptible and determine a method or point person to provide Two-Deep Leadership as needed.

Locker Rooms/Changing Areas

- Post the locker room policy outside of the locker room/changing area.
 - Printable locker room policies and signs can be found [here](#).
- Assign a SkateSafe compliant (requires U.S. Figure Skating approved background check and SafeSport™ Training) locker room monitor who will ensure regular and random monitoring of the locker room/changing area.

Electronic Communications

- Any electronic communication being sent to a Minor Athlete must include at least one of the following Adults:
 1. The Minor Athlete's parent or permanent legal guardian
 2. An Adult Immediate Family Member of the Minor Athlete
 3. Another Adult Participant (i.e., an Adult Athlete, Team Leader, Coach, Club Board Member)
- If a Minor Athlete initiates electronic communication without copying another Adult, the Adult must include one of the Adults listed above in their response.

SkateSafe Travel Policy

- Event Participants must adhere to the SkateSafe Travel Policy starting on page 12 of the [U.S. Figure Skating SkateSafe Handbook](#).

For more information about these procedures, please contact us at skatesafe@usfigureskating.org.



SECTION 5: CHECKLIST

Name of Event _____ Date of Event _____

Person(s) responsible for ensuring the event is compliant with the requirements herein:

Section 1: Compliance Requirements and Credentialing

- Run list of registered participants requiring compliance Date _____
- Verify participant compliance in EMS OR manually with the [Compliance Report](#) Date _____
- Run list of registered participants who are not compliant/cannot participate Date _____
- Create plan for day-of/last minute volunteers/participants (e.g., how to verify their compliance and banned/suspended status) Date _____
- Create plan to educate registration volunteers on verifying compliance and banned/suspended status Date _____
- Best practice: Notify registered participants who are not compliant prior to event Date _____
- Best practice: Plan for addressing non-compliance at check-in Date _____
- Best practice: Print credentials for event (withhold anyone who is not compliant) Date _____

Section 2: U.S. Figure Skating Banned and Suspended Verification

- 1st time: Compare personnel and registered participant list to [Banned/Suspended list](#) Date _____
- 2nd time: Compare personnel and registered participant list to [Banned/Suspended list](#) Date _____

Section 3: Communication of U.S. Figure Skating SkateSafe Policies and Reporting Procedures

- Share [SkateSafe Handbook](#) link in event announcement Date _____
- No more than 30 days prior to the event, send communication to personnel and participants including [SkateSafe Handbook](#) and required adherence to policies (a sample can be found in this document) Date _____
- Give access to and provide visibility of SkateSafe Handbook for walk-up participants (e.g., [SkateSafe flyer](#) – includes QR codes to the SkateSafe Handbook and reporting form) Date _____

Section 4: Adherence to U.S. Figure Skating SkateSafe Policies

- Walk through facility and perform SkateSafe Risk Assessment Date _____
- Plan to limit one-on-one interactions Date _____
- Plan for locker rooms Date _____
- Plan for electronic communication (i.e., Two-Deep Leadership) Date _____
- Plan for Travel Policy Date _____

Other Relevant Tasks

- _____ Date _____
- _____ Date _____
- _____ Date _____
- _____ Date _____

