



# **U.S. Figure Skating Skate Forever Young Award Program**

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*Cara Scudner, Chair – Adult Skating Committee  
Casey Mallory, Figure Skating Programs Manager - U.S. Figure Skating*

***Award Design by:***  
Terryl Lee Allen and Stasia Buffenbarger



## **INTRODUCTION/RATIONALE**

U.S. Figure Skating Skate Forever Young Awards are medal-like awards given to competitors at the U.S. Adult Championships, the U.S. Synchronized Sectional Championships and the Adult Competition Series finalists who are 71 years of age and older. The purpose of the award is to encourage and honor adult figure skaters who have the passion and courage to skate competitively at ages that are rarely seen in competitive sports, let alone the U.S. Adult Championships and the U.S. Synchronized Sectional Championships.

The oldest age class at the U.S. Adult Championships is class V, which includes all competitors who are 66 years of age and older. The U.S. Adult Championships is one of a handful of competitions in the world that is able to offer events for these older skaters. Given the reality of aging bodies, class V skaters are not competitive unless they are skating against their peers. And even then, older class V skaters are at a disadvantage when judged against younger class V skaters. This program recognizes the older skaters in class V (71 years of age and older), based on their age and participation at the U.S. Adult Championships. The Adult Competition Series uses the same age categories as the U.S. Adult Championships.

Adult teams at the U.S. Synchronized Sectional Championships comprise competitors 21 and older (up to 4 team members may be 18-20 years old). Open adult teams at the U.S. Synchronized Sectional Championships must have majority of competitors 19 years of age or older. Masters and open masters teams at the U.S. Synchronized Sectional Championships comprise competitors 25 and older, with the majority being 30 or older. It is a true achievement for someone 71 or older to compete on an adult, open adult, masters or open masters team at the U.S. Synchronized Sectional Championships.

U.S. Figure Skating's Adult Skating Program defines the ultimate success in competitive adult figure skating as being physically able to skate competitively for a lifetime, and would like to offer incentives to competitive adult figure skaters to continue to compete at the most advanced ages. Being a competitor at 71 years of age and older is an accomplishment worthy of recognition beyond just final placements. These skaters inspire all of us. They are living examples of what a lifelong love of figure skating can be!

## **AWARD DESCRIPTION**

U.S. Figure Skating Skate Forever Young Awards are medal-like awards given to all competitors who are 71 and older for their participation at the U.S. Adult Championships, the U.S. Synchronized Sectional Championships and the Adult Competition Series final. Three levels of awards are available, based on age as of the close of entries for the U.S. Adult Championships and U.S. Adult Sectional Championship, and age as of the preceding July 1 for the U.S. Synchronized Sectional Championships.

Competitors at the U.S. Adult Championships, the U.S. Synchronized Sectional Championships and the Adult Competition Series will receive one Skate Forever Young Award, per event skated, as indicated below:

- 71 years to 75 years of age      Bronze Skate Forever Young Award
- 76 years to 80 years of age      Silver Skate Forever Young Award
- 81 years and older                  Gold Skate Forever Young Award

Skate Forever Young Awards will be presented at the medal ceremony for the event in which the recipient skated.