

Welcome Coaches!

*The Integration of Coaches into U.S.
Figure Skating*



This slide deck covers:



- Background and Review of Coaches' Integration
- The Key Pillars of Coaches Integration approved at Governing Council 2023
- Roadmap Forward: Core Certification and Basics
- Step onto Coach I.C.E.
- Sneak Preview: Coach Profile and Coach Directory
- Timeline and Summary

Coaches are key to the growth, development, and continued success of our sport and need a voice.



... From the very first time a skater takes the ice...



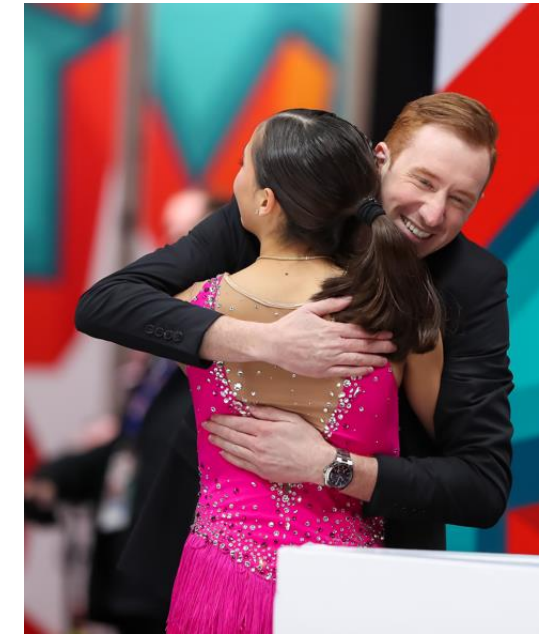
... to identifying as a figure skater...



... to developing a lifelong passion for skating...



... to striving to develop into an athlete...



... to looking to that supportive face when they step off the ice...



... to waiting anxiously for their marks...



... to sharing the joy of a great performance...

A coach is there. In the arena. For every skater – of every age, every level, every discipline. Everyday. Every step of the way.

What Did Coaching Look Like?



The responsibility for coaching programs, education and accountability for coach compliance has been divided between U.S. Figure Skating and the Professional Skaters Association (PSA).



Delivers a Ratings and Rankings program, the Continuing Education Requirements (CERs), and educational content and programming through virtual and in-person seminars.



Accountable to the USOPC and U.S. Center for SafeSport for the coach compliance requirements, delivery of SkateSafe education, delivery of coaches' liability insurance, the ethics and grievance processes as well as all programming connected to the USOPC, elite coaches, synchronized skating, Learn to Skate USA and coach education in conjunction with athlete programs.



Previous:

Two separate boards, staff, and volunteer leadership. Shared goals, members and interest in growing the sport.

What Was Missing?



Figure skating lacked a full path for coach certification, education and development across the spectrum, in all disciplines, that is connected to the development of athletes through the pipeline.

- ✓ An integrated system for coaches' involvement in athlete development, athlete experiences, rules, and governance within the sport.
- ✓ A connection to rinks, athletes, and parents for the verification and validation of coach credentials and accomplishments.
- ✓ One place where ALL coaches go to meet requirements and receive tools to support their professional education and development.
- ✓ An official Coach Certification, standardized and recognized by the National Governing Body (NGB).
- ✓ ***Coaches were underrepresented in leadership, decision-making, and involvement with athlete development and athlete experience.***



Everyone was working hard in the best interest of the sport, but neither organization is both responsible for the entire journey and development of coaches and accountable for the outcomes.

What Happened Next: The Design Team

Better Together. Sport First.



Leadership from PSA and U.S. Figure Skating worked together as part of a Design Team to put a comprehensive proposal for the 2023 U.S. Figure Skating Governing Council to integrate coach development, certification and education into U.S. Figure Skating.

Sam Auxier, President, U.S. Figure Skating
Becky Stump, President, Professional Skaters Association (PSA)
Amanda Evora, Vice President, U.S. Figure Skating
Tim Covington, 1st Vice President PSA
Heather Paige, U.S. Figure Skating Board Member
Christine Fowler Binder, PSA Board Member, Past PSA President
Phillip Diguglielmo, Chair, U.S. Figure Skating Coaches Committee, PSA Board Member
Kelley Morris Adair, PSA Past President

Kelly Vogtner, Senior Director, Strategic Initiatives
John Anderson, General Counsel
Justin Dillon, Director, High-Performance Development
Susi Wehrli McLaughlin, Senior Director, Membership
Heidi Thibert, PSA Senior Director, Coach Development (now U.S. Figure Skating)

Colin McManus, Chair, Athletes Advisory Committee
Kris Cutler, Chair, Strategic Planning Committee
Kadari Taylor-Watson, Director, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion



Better Together. Sport First.

Key Pillars of Coaches Integration

Approved at the 2023 Governing Council, to be phased in over the 2023-24 season. Items in red were Bylaw amendments.



1

U.S. Figure Skating required Coach Membership with certification and continuing education. (*“Coach I.C.E.”*)

2

An online system within Members Only to validate all coaches’ requirements and highlight accomplishments, available to U.S. Figure Skating members.

3

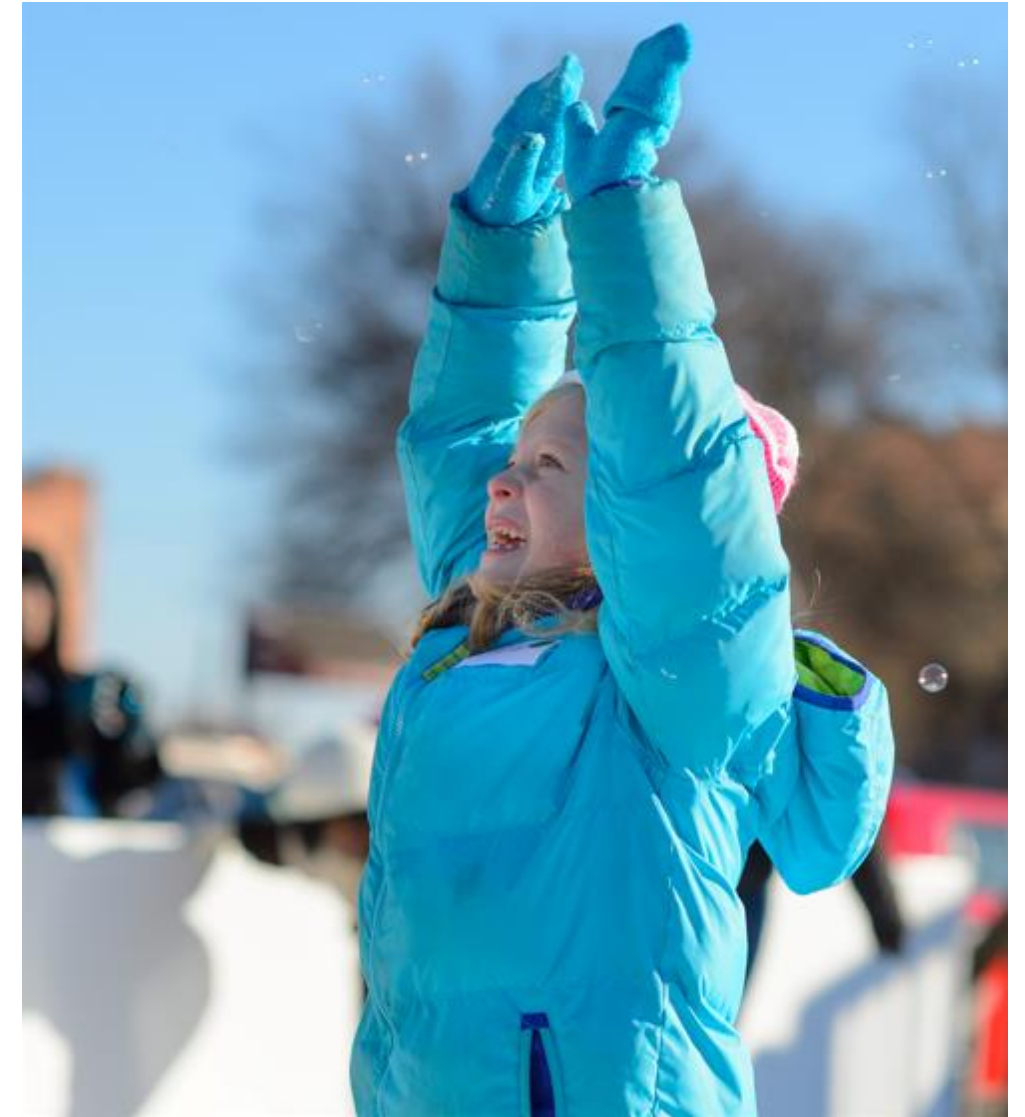
Governance and Voting Rights (Approved at GC).

4

A team at U.S. Figure Skating headquarters that delivers coach certification, development, and education.

5

Influence and connection to athlete development and athlete experiences.



“Today we are the shapers of the world of tomorrow.” – Walt Disney

U.S. Figure Skating Coaches Council



Chair	Tim Covington	1 st vice-president - PSA, singles, high-performance	Newburgh, New York	
Pacific Coast Vice Chair	Phillip DiGuglielmo	Singles, high performance, development, national technical specialist	San Francisco, California	
Midwest Vice Chair	Heather Paige	Synchronized skating, Team USA, synchronized skating director	Chicago, Illinois	<i>Athlete</i>
Eastern Vice Chair	Rebecca Stump	President - PSA, skating director, singles, Theatre on Ice, Showcase RVC	Boston, Massachusetts	
Skating Programs Vice Chair	Darlene Cain	Olympic, Team USA singles and pairs, Aspire, Excel, showcase	Dallas, Texas	
Developmental Vice Chair	Denise Williamson	Singles, developmental, collegiate, ISU technical specialist	Davidson, North Carolina	
High-Performance Vice Chair	Joel Dear	Ice Dance, Team USA, solo dance, collegiate	New York, New York	<i>Athlete</i>
	Scott Brown	Choreographer, singles, synchronized choreography, collegiate	Denver, Colorado	
	Alex Chang	Singles, skating director	Irvine, California	<i>Athlete</i>
	Carla DeGirolamo	Synchronized, Team USA, collegiate	Oxford, Ohio	<i>Athlete</i>
	Jeff DiGregorio	Team USA, singles, pairs, national technical specialist	Wilmington, Delaware	
	Tammy Gambill	Team USA, Olympic, singles	Colorado Springs, Colorado	
	Michelle Hong	Learn to Skate, Aspire, Excel, singles, collegiate, adult	San Francisco, California	
	Christy Krall	Olympic, singles, sports science	Colorado Springs, Colorado	<i>Athlete</i>
	Naomi Lang	Learn to Skate USA, Aspire, skating director, dance, solo dance, adult	Gilbert, Arizona	<i>Athlete</i>
	Matthew Lind	Learn to Skate USA, Aspire, Excel, high performance, singles, choreo.	Boston, Massachusetts	<i>Athlete</i>
	Drew Meekins	Pairs, singles, dance, high-performance	Colorado Springs Colorado	<i>Athlete</i>
	Patrick O'Neil	Learn to Skate USA, Aspire, singles, adult, sectional technical specialist	Palm Springs, California	
	Stephanie Roth	Learn to Skate USA, singles, collegiate, adult	Neptune City, New Jersey	<i>Athlete</i>
	Russ Scott	Learn to Skate USA, Aspire, Excel, high perf, pairs, singles, adult, TOI	Anaheim, California	
	Jill Stewart	Learn to Skate USA, Aspire, skating director, singles, synchro, showcase	Chesapeake, Virginia	
	Cindy Sullivan	Skating director, high performance, developmental, singles, collegiate	Westminster, Colorado	
	Nani Tanaka	Choreography, singles, developmental	Beaverton, Oregon	
	Mary Vaughn	Learn to Skate USA, Aspire, skating director, club officer	Louisville, Kentucky	
	Lindsey Weber	Learn to Skate USA, Aspire, Excel, singles, choreography, tech. specialist	Washington, Michigan	<i>Athlete</i>
	Megan Williams-Stewart	Learn to Skate USA, Aspire, skating director, singles, collegiate, adult	Wilmington, Delaware	<i>Athlete</i>
	Ikakia Young	Skating director, high perf, singles, dance, skating skill development	Oregon City, Oregon	<i>Athlete</i>

U.S. Figure Skating Coaches Council



- ✓ The Coaches Council reports to the U.S. Figure Skating Board of Directors and communicates regularly with other committees, especially those in the Athlete Services Section.
 - ✓ The Council reflects the broad experiences of the coaching and skating community, including Learn to Skate USA, developmental, qualifying, high-performance development, national and international, as well as all skating disciplines and programs.
-
- ✓ Act as a space to share ideas and knowledge and ideas from coach members of U.S. Figure Skating.
 - ✓ Serve as an advisory group and partners on strategies with appropriate U.S. Figure Skating staff departments delivering coach certification, development, and education.
 - ✓ Provide input into athlete development strategies and major decisions impacting athletes (i.e., NQS, qualifying pipeline, etc.)
 - ✓ Serve as delegates to the Governing Council, representing coaches (2025).
 - ✓ Support working groups for areas supporting coaches – i.e., mentoring, events, parents' education, education topics, written materials, professional standards, and awards programs.
 - ✓ Advise and facilitate coach representation on all U.S. Figure Skating Committees

“Inspiring Coaching Excellence!”



**Let's look at the Roadmap
for what happens in the
spring of 2024**



Step 1 – Core Certification - The Basics

“Inspiring Coaching Excellence!”



Beginning around mid-February 2024, in lieu of completing CERs as currently done, ALL current coaches will complete the new U.S. Figure Skating Coach Core Certification as a requirement for Coach Compliance in the 2024-25 Season.

- ✓ All coaches will be recognized as an official U.S. Figure Skating Certified Coach when they complete the certification course.
- ✓ The certification course will be an interactive, engaging online course with multiple sections and modules, tied to the U.S. Figure Skating values that cover the core fundamentals every U.S. Figure Skating Coach needs to know, including:
 - * Pathways and opportunities, Coach and Athlete Well-Being, Coaching Best Practices, Coaching Essential Fundamentals and General Technique Concepts.
- ✓ All coaches will take this **ONE** time in their career.



Step 2 – Join Coach I.C.E. “Inspiring Coaching Excellence!”



- ✓ After completing the Core Certification, coaches with a current U.S. Figure Skating membership then join **U.S. Figure Skating Coach I.C.E.**, which provides all the requirements, tools, and education opportunities for professional development.
- ✓ Being a current U.S. Figure Skating member AND joining Coach I.C.E. will be a requirement to coach at all sanctioned activities. (Opens June 1, 2024)



This will remain the pathway for any new coach: first take Core Certification, then join Coach I.C.E., etc...)

“Inspiring Coaching Excellence!”



Step onto Coach I.C.E.!



Model Accreditation Table for Coaches with Active PSA Ratings



After coaches holding an active PSA rating at any level complete the Core Certification and join U.S. Figure Skating Coach I.C.E., their active rating is transferred to U.S. Figure Skating Accredited Coach, at the following levels (in the discipline in which it was earned):

Current active PSA Registered Rating →

U.S. Figure Skating Level 1 Accredited Coach

Current active PSA Certified Rating →

U.S. Figure Skating Level 2 Accredited Coach

Current active PSA Senior Rating →

U.S. Figure Skating Senior Accredited Coach

Current active PSA Master Rating →

U.S. Figure Skating Master Accredited Coach



*Singles * Pairs * Ice Dance * Synchronized Skating * Skating Skills * Skating Director * Choreography * Learn to Skate USA * TOI * IJS Rules*

After July 1, 2024, to coach at sanctioned U.S. Figure Skating activities at any level, ALL Coaches must maintain an active U.S. Figure Skating Certification or Accreditation and join Coach I.C.E.



Certification = U.S. Figure Skating Core Certification course. Must be completed once by all coaches.



Accreditation = An official level that may be earned and is higher than Core Certification. (i.e., Level 1, Level 2, Senior, Master)

Keeping a certification or and accreditation active

- After completing the Core Certification, joining Coach I.C.E., (and potentially transferring a higher-level accreditation), all coaches must complete Continuing Education Units (CEUs) of their choice annually in order to maintain their active certification or accreditation.
- All CEU opportunities will be delivered through Coach I.C.E., as part of the member benefits or added opportunities.
- There will always be enough CEU options included to maintain activity at no additional cost and with no travel required; coaches will NOT have to pay for CERs in spring 2025, which is included in your Coach I.C.E. membership after July 2024.
- Generally, in-person workshops/seminars/events will have an additional charge and digital options will be included.
- Additional requirements including background check, SafeSport, insurance, waivers, etc., will be accessed and managed through your Coach I.C.E. portal on Members Only

Examples of CEU Options and Opportunities



Certification = U.S. Figure Skating Core Certification course. Must be completed once by all coaches.



Accreditation = An official level that may be earned is higher than core certification. (Level 1, Level 2, Senior, Master)

Examples of CEU CHOICES to keep your certification or accreditation active

- ✓ Attend an in-person U.S. Figure Skating Coach conference, seminar, or workshop
- ✓ Attend a “CoachConnect Live” program at a major event (*U.S. Championships, Skate America, U.S. SyS Champs, etc.*)
- ✓ Complete continuing education online eLearning modules via the *U.S. Figure Skating Coach* platform
- ✓ Attend online webinars or seminars
- ✓ Attend an online workshop, such as *Coaches College Plus*
- ✓ Earn a new appointment as a technical specialist or test judge.
- ✓ Participate in an official mentor program
- ✓ Complete a higher-level accreditation.

Concept: Coaches must be regularly, and actively engaged in learning and continuing education, but they choose the experience that best supports them in their coaching career and journey. CEUs replace CERs, but as a more flexible option. CEUs won't be restricted to specific online courses, coaches can use any of our education offerings to fulfill the annual CEUs. Digital/virtual/online options are included in the Coach I.C.E. Member fee. (i.e., Coaches will NOT pay for CERs in spring 2025).

Coming June 2024! Step onto “Coach I.C.E”

Sample *benefits*



Examples of In-person learning opportunities:

- National conference in conjunction with athlete and/or officials’ education (Starting with [Access to Excellence](#) May 15-18, 2024 – Colorado Springs, Colo.)
- Guided learning experiences at major events. (Coach Connect Live)
- Seminars in conjunction with athlete programs/events (i.e., National Development Camp, Jump on It!, etc.)
- Local seminars/workshops, stand-alone or in conjunction with Learn to Skate USA.
- Networking events and activities

Examples of Virtual and digital opportunities (included):

- Asynchronous eLearning courses with an assessment and certificate, tracked to your coach profile
- eLearning courses developed for officials with an assessment and certificate, tracked to your coach profile
- Webinars and seminars
- Office hours and virtual networking with other coaches and officials
- Virtual workshops for targeted disciplines, areas, specialties
- Video content
- Regular newsletters and text alerts for activities in the skating community
- Access to Coach Education through the USOPC

Coach I.C.E. Profile and Coach Directory

- Manage your coaching business via your Coach I.C.E. profile on Members Only.
- A directory will be produced for all active, certified or accredited Coach I.C.E. members that highlights your accomplishments and available for all U.S. Figure Skating members.

Mentor Programs

Merchandise

Discounts

Insurance

Accreditation Program

Articles, written materials

Social media group



Sneak Preview!

A look behind the scenes at the future Coach Profile and Directory



Coaches will manage their coach profile via Members Only, and input and select items to display on the U.S. Figure Skating Coach Directory.

The Coach Directory will be available to U.S. Figure Skating members and will output current, compliant, certified/accredited members of Coach I.C.E.

- An opportunity for ALL coaches to **equally** display facts about their coaching background and experience, with a space to include a coaching website for more information.
- Coaches may “turn on” and “turn off” any items they choose.
- U.S. Figure Skating members may search for coaches by state, discipline, specialty, accreditation level, etc.

Examples of Items Under Development (Subject to Change)

- Name, email, coaching website, home club, affiliated rink(s)
- Coaching Philosophy and Coaching Background
- Certification/accreditation level(s)
- Competitive Coaching Experience*
- Disciplines/specialties
- Additional relevant degree/certification
- Personal test and qualifying competition history
- Continuing education



** This replaces the content of the PSA Rankings, which recognize the highest levels of competition a coach has coached a skater in. Currently, rankings are obtained by submitting a form and paying a fee, and not publicly recognized. This will be included for all coaches, along with a standardized sheet of definitions.*

Get Ready to Step onto Coach I.C.E.!

What do I need to do when?



Starting **February 2024**, members log onto *Members Only*, and click “U.S. Figure Skating Coach” to complete the **U.S. Figure Skating Core Coach Certification**. Must be completed no later than June 30, 2024.



Starting **June 2024**: After you have completed step 1 and renewed your USFS membership via a club or individual, *join*, “*U.S. Figure Skating Coach I.C.E.*” via *Members Only*.



By **July 1, 2024** - From your new **Coach I.C.E.** profile complete any remaining coach compliance requirements, such as your background check, SafeSport training, insurance and waivers.



After July 1, 2024, From your Coach I.C.E. profile participate in any learning activities you wish, take courses, etc., these will count towards your CEUs that keep your certification/accreditation active.



Reminders:

1. PSA rated coaches: make sure your rating is active. *(A refresher course will be made available if its not).*
2. Check your USFS Member Profile and see if all your tests and qualifying competitions are recorded.
3. If they are not, email Karen Cover at: kcover@usfigureskating.org with the information and she will help get in on your profile.

Get Ready to Step onto Coach I.C.E.!

What do I need to do when?



Spring of 2024, preparing for the 2024 - 25 season.

Beginning Mid-February
Take the Core Certification,
when you would have done
your CERs (1-time \$):



Renew my regular USFS membership
through the club of my choice
between June 1-30.



Join Coach I.C.E, Between June 1-30,
after steps 1 & 2.



By July 1, Manage any compliance
requirements, such as background
check, waivers, insurance, etc.,
through my Coach I.C.E. profile



During the 2024-25 season, preparing for the 2025 - 26 season.

Participate in educational
opportunities, including CEUs,
according to your schedule; take a
Level 1 accreditation, etc.



Renew my regular USFS membership
through the club of my choice.



Renew Coach I.C.E.



- ✓ Coach directory appears.
- ✓ Active Ratings transfer.
- ✓ Open educational opportunities & benefits.



coaching@usfigureskating.org