

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.
- 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...



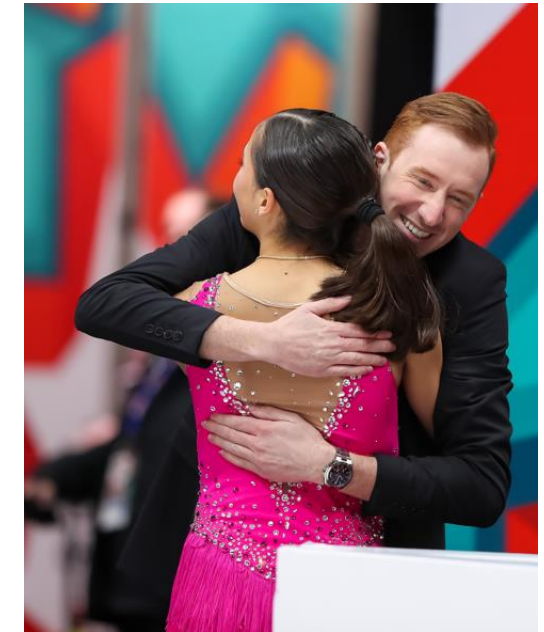
... to identifying as a figure skater...



... 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

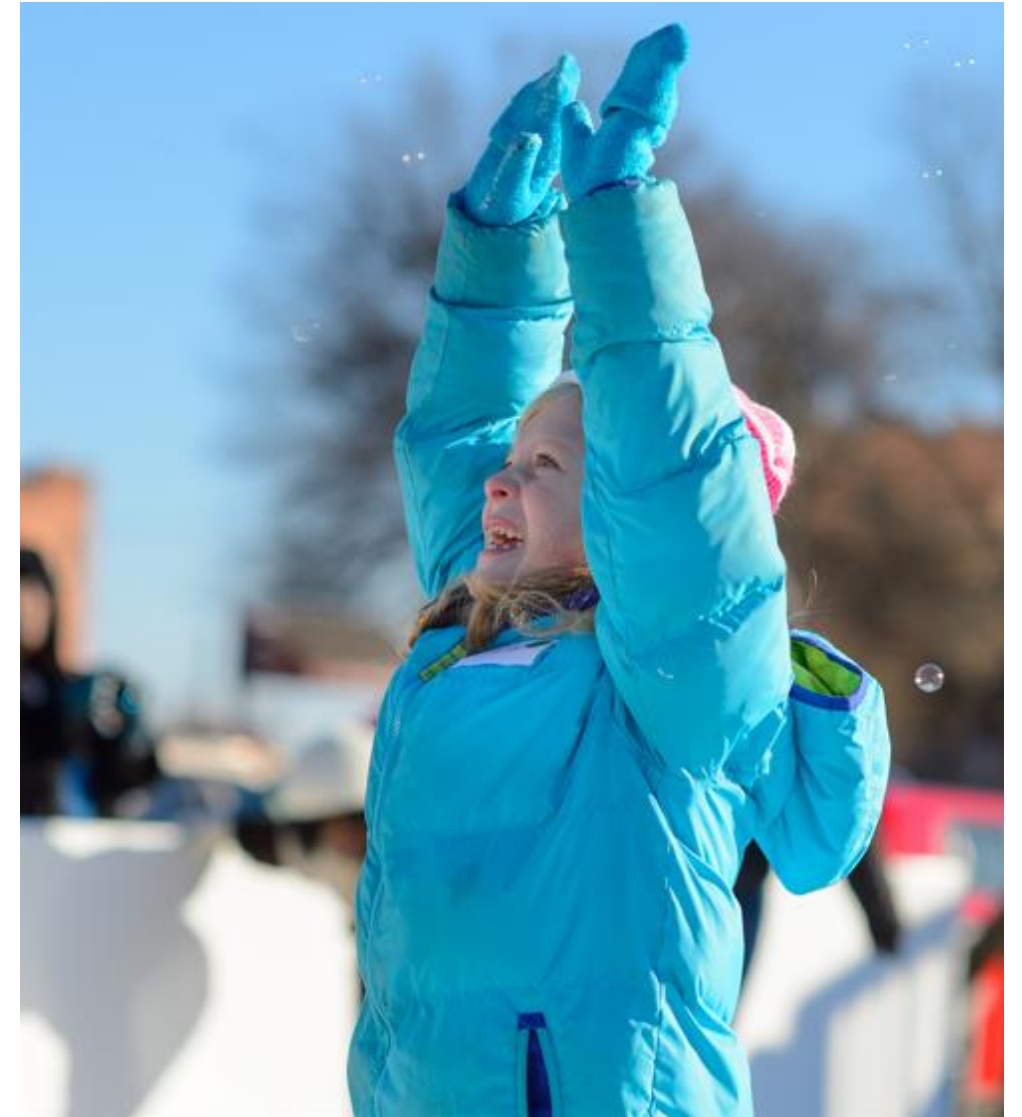
Governance and Voting Rights (Approved at GC).

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.
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- ✓ 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!”



Step 1 – Core Certification

“Inspiring Coaching Excellence!”



NOW AVAILABLE, instead of CERs, ALL current coaches must complete the U.S. Figure Skating Coach Core Certification. This is a once-in-a-career requirement.

- ✓ All coaches will be recognized as an official **U.S. Figure Skating Certified Coach** when they complete the certification course.
- ✓ The certification course is 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.



Go to [Members Only](#) and click on this button to start.

Step 2 – Join Coach I.C.E.

“Inspiring Coaching Excellence!”



After completing the Core Certification, coaches with a current U.S. Figure Skating membership will join *U.S. Figure Skating Coach I.C.E.* This provides all the requirements, tools, and education opportunities for professional development.

- ✓ 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; instead of PSA Membership)



“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 **

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 keep their certification/accreditation active by annually taking CEUs, included in their membership.
- All CEU opportunities will be delivered through Coach I.C.E., as part of the member benefits or added opportunities.
- There will always be CEU options included to keep your certification current 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. Your background check is included.

COACH I.C.E. BENEFITS



COACH EDUCATION

Provide affordable and individualized training opportunities for professional growth.

BENEFITS:

- Webinars and virtual workshops
- Asynchronous eLearning courses
- Access to national education event (Access to Excellence)
- Access to in-person coach workshops in conjunction with training camps
- Video platform with access to pre-recorded content and documentation



COACH DEVELOPMENT PATHWAY

Accreditation program that assures a measurable level of knowledge and expertise.

BENEFITS:

- Access to higher accreditation levels
- Mentoring and intensive learning at competitive events
- Access to CoachConnect Live at major events, such as U.S. Figure Skating Championships, including discounted tickets.



COACH IMPACT

Provide a voice and representation within U.S. Figure Skating.

BENEFITS:

- Ability to vote for and serve on the U.S. Figure Skating Coaches Council; coaches have coach delegate representation at Governing Council
- Access to Coaches Council leadership
- Opportunities to serve on committees



COACH INFORMATION

Relevant, real-time access to high impact resources.

BENEFITS:

- Coaches Studio - Access to discipline and technical experts who can answer questions and provide support
- Coaches Corner in SKATING magazine
- Access to Coaches newsletter and communications through email
- Coaches page on U.S. Figure Skating website



COACH RECOGNITION

Public acknowledgment and celebration of quality coaching and achievements.

BENEFITS:

- U.S. Figure Skating coach awards recognizing achievement and demonstrating U.S. Figure Skating values
- U.S. Figure Skating Coach I.C.E. member pin (1st time)
- U.S. Figure Skating Core Certified Coach patch (1st time)



COACH SUPPORT

Tools to promote and facilitate business growth

BENEFITS:

- Background check
- Access to coaches liability insurance
- Profile in a searchable coach directory, available to all U.S. Figure Skating members
- Discounts for online store and U.S. Figure Skating suppliers
- Promotion of coaching credentials
- Standards of professionalism

Examples of Options for Continuing Education within Coach I.C.E.:

- ✓ Complete continuing education online eLearning modules via the U.S. Figure Skating Coach platform
- ✓ Attend webinars, or watch the recordings.
- ✓ Attend an online workshop.
- ✓ Earn a new appointment as a technical specialist or test judge.
- ✓ Participate in an official mentor program.
- ✓ Participate in an in-person workshop, seminar or conference*

*In-person seminars will have an additional charge, all online education is included.

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.

The U.S. Figure Skating Coach Directory Will Include:



- 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 coaches need to do and when?



NOW! Log onto [Members Only](#), and click this icon
To complete the **U.S. Figure Skating Core Coach Certification**, by 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 it is 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.!



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

Beginning February 2024
Take the Coach Core
Certification, when you would
have done your CERs (1-time \$):



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



Join Coach I.C.E, beginning June 1,
after steps 1 & 2.



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

By July 1, Manage any compliance
requirements, such as background
check, waivers, insurance, etc.,
through your 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 your regular USFS
membership through the club of
your choice.



Renew Coach I.C.E.





coaching@usfigureskating.org