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Also part of the:



**Registration Deadline:
Jan 31st 2025
www.lcscolumbus.org**

Competition website: <https://www.lcscolumbus.org/columbus-invitational>

Contact Information: Co-Chairs Taylor Burdekin & Lisa Hittle - sk8columbus@gmail.com

I. COMPETITION OVERVIEW

The 2025 Columbus Invitational will be conducted in accordance with the rules and regulations of U.S. Figure Skating, as set forth in the [current rulebook](#), and/or current Compete USA handbook as well as any pertinent updates that have been posted on the U.S. Figure Skating [website](#).

This competition is open to all eligible, restricted, reinstated or readmitted persons as defined by the Eligibility Rules.

Skaters must be a currently registered member of a U.S. Figure Skating member club, Learn to Skate USA® member, a collegiate club or who is an individual member in accordance with the current rulebook. For non-U.S. citizens, please refer to the [rulebook](#) for more information.

SERIES INFORMATION:

The 2025 Columbus Invitational competition is part of the 2025 U.S. Figure Skating Excel Series and the 2025 Indiana State Championship Series. Skaters must register to participate in the Excel Series prior to competition at designated competitions in order to have their points recorded and seen in standings. Information on the [2025 Excel Series can be found here](#).

This competition will be part of the 2025 Indiana Championship Series. The Indiana Championship Series is open to all Indiana Residents who are members of U.S. Figure Skating. More Information can be found on the [Indiana Council of Figure Skating Clubs' website here](#).

II. ELIGIBILITY

Singles: Excel and Well-Balanced Events:

- Skaters must meet at least the minimum singles test requirements for the event's level. A skater's singles test level may be higher than the minimum requirement.
 - Skate Up: skaters may skate up one level higher than their minimum test requirement allows.
- Skaters may not register for an event level lower than allowed by their competitive floor. An athlete's competitive floor is set by one of the following scenarios:
 - If an athlete has a paid EMS series application for the NQS series, the event level registered for in the most recent NQS will become the lowest level they may compete at in any U.S. Figure Skating sanctioned event.
 - If an athlete has a paid EMS series application for the Excel Series, the event level registered for in the most recent Excel series will become the lowest level they may compete in any Excel event. For Well-Balanced and Specialty events the skater will be permitted to register at one level lower than the "floor" set by their excel series entry.
 - If an athlete has never had a paid EMS series application in the NQS or Excel series, the athlete may select their level based on their goals and technical skills as long as the minimum test requirements are met.
- Skaters are not permitted to enter an Excel free skate and a Well-Balanced free skate event at the same competition (example: Juvenile Girls Free Skate and Juvenile Girls Excel Free Skate). However, they are permitted to enter an Excel and a Well-Balanced event of different types such as a short program (if stand-alone event option), specialty or showcase events (example: Intermediate Women Short Program and Intermediate Women Excel Free Skate).

- For more details about establishing event levels, refer to the information sheet [HERE](#) or email events@usfigureskating.org.

All other singles and partner events (such as Adults, Pairs, Ice Dance):

- Skaters must meet the minimum test requirements for the events level, but not exceed the maximum permissible test requirement.

EVENTS OFFERED:

[Program requirements for the events listed below can be found here: usfigureskating.org – Skate – Compete – Program Requirements](#)

- Compete USA Snowplow-Basic 6 Program will be held as full ice events.
- Compete USA Snowplow-Basic 6 Elements will be held in the program format.

Skate United: For any Skate United (S.U.) Athlete, please have them register for their appropriate level under the “standard” option. Once the registration is complete, the following form must be submitted to the competition chair via email at sk8columbus@gmail.com. [Click here for the Skate United Athlete Form.](#)

Skating Accommodation Memorandum (S.A.M.): Skaters using a S.A.M. must submit their S.A.M. to the competition chair via email at sk8columbus@gmail.com. [Click here for more information about S.A.Ms.](#)

SINGLES	JUDGING	1st Event Price	2nd Event Price
<u>Excel Free Skate (Pre-Preliminary-Senior)</u>	<u>IJS</u>	\$145	\$75
<u>Well Balanced Short Program (Juvenile-Senior)</u>	<u>IJS</u>	\$145	\$75
<u>Well Balanced Free Skate (Pre-Preliminary- Senior)</u>	<u>IJS</u>	\$145	\$75
<u>Aspire 1-4 Program w/ Music</u>	<u>6.0</u>	\$120	\$60
<u>Adult Free Skate (Adult Bronze– Master Jr/Sr)</u>	<u>IJS</u>	\$145	\$75
<u>Adult Free Skate (Adult Beginner – Pre-Bronze)</u>	<u>6.0</u>	\$120	\$60
ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT	JUDGING	1st Event Price	2nd Event Price
<u>Compulsory Moves (Levels 1-8)</u>	<u>6.0</u>	\$105	\$60
<u>Jumps Challenge (Levels 1-9)</u>	<u>6.0</u>	\$105	\$60
<u>Spins Challenge (Levels 1-6)</u>	<u>6.0</u>	\$105	\$60
SHOWCASE	JUDGING	1st Event Price	2nd Event Price
<u>Emotional Performance (Pre-preliminary – Senior, Adult)</u>	<u>CJS</u>	\$120	\$60
<u>Choreographic Artistry (Pre-Preliminary - Senior, Adult)</u>	<u>CJS</u>	\$120	\$60
<u>Lyrical Pop (Pre-Preliminary - Senior, Adult)</u>	<u>CJS</u>	\$120	\$60
<u>Character Performance (Pre-Preliminary - Senior, Adult)</u>	<u>CJS</u>	\$120	\$60
<u>Comedic Impressions (Pre-Preliminary- Senior, Adult)</u>	<u>CJS</u>	\$120	\$60
<u>Duets/Trios (Aspire 1 – Senior, Adult)</u>	<u>CJS</u>	\$120	\$60
<u>Theme Event</u>	<u>CJS</u>	\$120	\$60
<u>Inflatables</u>	<u>CJS</u>	\$120	\$60

COMPETE USA EVENTS	JUDGING	1st Event Price	2nd Event Price
Snowplow Sam-Basic 6 Program w/ Music	<u>6.0</u>	\$80	\$50
Adult 1-6 Program w/ Music	<u>6.0</u>	\$80	\$50
Snowplow Sam – Basic 6 Elements	<u>6.0</u>	\$80	\$50
Compete USA – Showcase (Snowplow-Aspire 4)	<u>6.0</u>	\$80	\$50

OUR COMMUNITY:

U.S. Figure Skating is dedicated to fostering a culture of belonging and community that is welcoming for all individuals. We are committed to championing diversity, equity and inclusion and understand its value in combating discrimination and challenging inequalities necessary to develop champions both on and off the ice. We are actively working toward developing equitable practices and policies that foster safety and empower all individuals to authentically pursue their unique path in all areas of our sport. We stand firmly on the belief that our members are the most important asset to our organization and that our differences are meaningful and strengthen our sport. We believe that skating is for everyone.

NON-DISCRIMINATION:

U.S. Figure Skating commits in policy, principle and practice to sustain a non-discriminatory approach on and off the ice for all members. We strive to provide equal opportunity for all despite their varied backgrounds, experiences and identities, and want all members to feel valued and respected at every level of organization. U.S. Figure Skating's SkateSafe® Program receives, investigates and addresses allegations of discrimination or harassment throughout its membership and the organization. Please refer to the [SkateSafe® Program Handbook](#) for further definition of harassment, discrimination and abuse.

By attending this event, all participants are willingly committing to upholding U.S. Figure Skating's Code of Ethics (*GR 1.01*) and Code of Conduct (*GR 1.02*), as detailed within the [U.S. Figure Skating Rulebook](#).

To report a concern of discrimination or harassment to U.S. Figure Skating, please visit www.USFigureSkating.org/SkateSafe or email SkateSafe@USFigureSkating.org.

ATHLETE ASSISTANCE/ACCOMMODATIONS:

Should a skater with disabilities require any specific accommodations or assistance for their competitive event, please submit your approved S.A.M to the Competition Chair by the registration deadline at sk8columbus@gmail.com.

COMPLIANCE:

For full details about participant compliance requirements, refer to the U.S. Figure Skating SkateSafe® webpage: <https://www.usfigureskating.org/skatesafe#compliance>.

COACHES

To be an eligible coach at a non-qualifying competition, coaches must meet the applicable compliance requirements and be verified by U.S. Figure Skating. Coach compliance falls into two categories, Coach Compliance (includes choreographers) and Learn to Skate USA® Instructor Compliance. Details regarding

compliance requirements can be found [HERE](#). All compliance requirements must be met at the time of check-in to access the competition, no exceptions.

Coaches of foreign athletes: If you are a coach of a foreign athlete only, you are not subject to U.S. Figure Skating coach compliance and will only be asked to provide a letter of good standing for the federation your athlete represents.

EMS Coach Resources:

- [My Competitions](#)
- [My Skaters](#)
- [Coach Schedule](#)

III. REGISTRATION INFORMATION

ONLINE REGISTRATION VIA EMS

Online registrations will be accepted via [EMS](#). Payment must be made at the time of registration by credit card only. Each transaction includes a 3% transaction fee.

Registration Deadline: 01/31/25 at 11:59pm ET

Late Registration Deadline: 02/07/25 at 11:59pm ET + \$50 Late Fee

*The host club reserves the right to close registration at any time if event capacity is met

1. Go to www.usfsaonline.org
2. Enter your U.S. Figure Skating or if Compete USA events are offered, your Learn to Skate USA® member number and password
 - a. If you need assistance with your member number and password, contact Member Services at memberservices@usfigureskating.org.
3. Click EMS then “Competition Registration”
4. Choose “2025 Columbus Invitational” from the list of non-qualifying competitions.
 - a. If you need assistance completing your registration, contact productsupport@usfigureskating.org.

PARTNERED EVENTS:

Only one partner will complete registration for the team. During the registration process, you will be asked to identify your partner and verify their test information. **The registered partner will be responsible for managing all aspects of the competition for the team including music/PPC upload, practice ice sales, etc.**

FOREIGN SKATERS:

Non-U.S. skaters intending to register for this competition must set up a non-member account prior to registering for the competition ([click here for HOW TO](#)). This can be done by choosing the “Non-Member? Create Account” option on the [Members Only](#) login page.

TEST CREDIT:

Skaters that meet the requirements for test credit may request their test credit forms at the registration desk or pre-purchase during registration through EMS. Test Credit Forms must be requested prior to the last IJS event of the competition. Forms must be picked up at the registration

desk prior to the end of the competition. All test credit packets will incur a \$25.00 fee.

MUSIC SUBMISSION/UPLOAD:

EMS MUSIC UPLOAD: Competitors participating in events with music are required to upload their music to EMS no later than **FEB. 16th 2025 11:59pm ET** . After this date, skaters will be locked out of this feature and subject to a **\$25 late fee**. The late fee will automatically be added to each skater's cart who doesn't meet this requirement by the deadline. Late fees will not be removed under any circumstances and must be paid prior to receiving the skater credential onsite.

MUSIC DEADLINE: DATE 02/16/2025 11:59pm ET

EMS SKATER MUSIC UPLOAD HOW TO: [CLICK HERE](#)

If you need assistance, email productsupport@usfigureskating.org

Competitors must also have available a backup copy of their competition music on a cell phone and it must be immediately available rinkside whenever the skater competes. If the phone does not have the standard round headset connector, an appropriate adapter, such as an Apple Lightning connector or Samsung USB-C adapter is required to be attached. The phone should be presented to the music person with the file ready to play, phone in airplane mode and volume turned to maximum.

PLANNED PROGRAM CONTENT (PPC) SUBMISSION/UPLOAD – FOR IJS EVENTS ONLY:

EMS PLANNED PROGRAM CONTENT (PPC) – Competitors participating in IJS events are required to submit PPC in EMS no later than **FEB. 16th 2025 11:59pm ET**. After this date, skaters will be locked out of this feature in EMS and subject to a **\$25 late fee**. The late fee will automatically be added to each skater's cart who doesn't meet this requirement by the deadline. Late fees will not be removed under any circumstances and must be paid prior to receiving the skater credential onsite.

PPC DEADLINE: 02/16/2025 11:59pm ET

EMS PPC UPLOAD HOW TO: [CLICK HERE](#)

If you need assistance, email productsupport@usfigureskating.org

REFUND POLICY

Entry fees will not be refunded unless no competition exists or the event is canceled. There will be no refunds for medical withdrawals. The online processing fees are not refundable.

LIABILITY:

U.S. Figure Skating, Learn to Skate USA, Lincoln Center Skate Club, and Hamilton Community Center & Ice Arena accept no responsibility for injury or damage sustained by any participant in this competition. This is in accordance with Rule 1600 of the official U.S. Figure Skating Rulebook.

IV. COMPETITION DETAILS

FACILITIES:

Hamilton Community Center and Ice Arena
2501 Lincoln Park Drive, Columbus IN 47201

[Rink Website](#)

Concessions available onsite, as well as food truck vendors throughout the competition.

LOCKER ROOMS AND CHANGING AREAS:

GENERAL LOCKER ROOM):

Locker rooms and changing areas at U.S. Figure Skating competitive events are for athletes only, will be labeled with regard to specific use and where identified will be gender specific. An exception can be made for athletes under 11 years old that will allow for one parent of the same sex to assist their child immediately prior to and after their skating event(s). Please review the Locker Room and Changing Area Policy in the [SkateSafe® Handbook](#).

U.S. Figure Skating Travel Policy:

All travel must strictly adhere to Two-Deep Leadership requirements. An Adult Participant cannot transport a Minor Athlete one-on-one and Two-Deep Leadership requirements must be adhered to at all times during In-Program travel, by transporting at least two minors or a second Adult Participant. An Adult Participant cannot share a hotel room or other sleeping arrangement with a Minor Athlete(s). Full details of the SkateSafe® Travel Policy and any exceptions can be found starting on page 12 of the [SkateSafe® Handbook](#).

OFFICIAL WEBSITE & UPDATES:

It is the responsibility of each competitor, parent and coach to check their EMS account and the [Competition Website](#) frequently for any schedule changes and/or additional information pertaining to the competition. Such announcements shall constitute sufficient notice to competitors, coaches, chaperones, and officials.

The 2025 Columbus Invitational will utilize a live results link provided by U.S. Figure Skating. The link will be sent to participants via email and also be posted on site the day of the competition.

SCHEDULE

Competitors may be scheduled on any day or time during the announced dates of the competition. The competition and practice ice schedule will be available after the close of entries. All participants will be notified via email once available.

PRACTICE ICE:

Unofficial Practice Ice (UPI) will be available for purchase online through the [EMS Skater Portal](#).

Pre-Purchase: Practice ice credits may be purchased after participants complete their event registration, via the EMS Competition Portal. Skaters who purchase credits during the pre-purchase period will be able to select sessions during the selection period, after the schedule has been completed and posted.

- [Click Here for a Pre-Purchase How-To Document](#)
- Open: Once registration is open
- Close: 02/12/24
- Maximum credits per registered event:
 - UPI - 1
- Cost per credit: \$20

Pre-Purchase Selection: After the close of entries and shortly after the competition schedule is published, skaters will receive an email with notice of the practice ice schedule and the date/time when pre-purchased credits can be scheduled via EMS.

- [Click Here for a Selection How-To Document](#)

Open Sales: Practice Ice sessions will be available after the schedule has been published. Skaters will be able to purchase open sessions available to them. Skaters will receive an email with notice of the date/time when Open Sales credits can be purchased via EMS.

- [Click Here for an Open Sales How-To Document](#)
- Cost per session: \$25

ONSITE CHECK-IN:

Check-in will be located in the entry hall of the rink lobby and will open 1 hour prior to the first scheduled event on all days of the competition.

AWARDS:

All skaters will receive an award immediately following the posting of the results for their event. All events will be final rounds. Medals will be awarded to first, second, and third places in each group. All other places will receive ribbons. Skaters receiving awards should appear dressed in their competition outfits and skates for the award ceremony.

Team Trophy:

A team trophy will be awarded to the club/rink earning the most combined points for all events excluding the host club. The following point system will be used: 1st place = 10 points, 2nd place = 7 points, 3rd place = 4 points, 4th place = 3 points, 5th place = 2 points, 6th place = 1 point.

PHOTO/VIDEO:

Live and on-demand streaming, and sales and distribution of U.S. Figure Skating sanctioned and approved events, programs, and activities that include the playback of music is strictly prohibited. This prohibition does not apply to the distribution of footage that does not include music. Questions about this can be directed to music@usfigureskating.org.

828 Studios will be providing professional video services. Every skater will receive an email with easy to follow directions, including a link, for each event in which they registered and participated. Videos of every registered event are included in the cost of registration. Performance videos will be shared without music.

TEST SESSION:

The Lincoln Center Skate Club will host a test session on Friday, March 7th, 2025. Skaters interested in testing should contact Lisa Hittle at president@lcsccolumbus.org

Host Hotel Information:

LCSC is excited to offer participants special pricing at Columbus' Hotel Indigo at a discounted block rate of \$152.00, as well as the Holiday Inn at \$149.99. Please see [the competition website](#) for reservation links and details.