



High School Figure Skating FAQ

What is High School Skating?

Similar to collegiate skating, the high school program offers skaters the opportunity to compete on a team for their high school. Several states host a high school series and a state final, and any high school team is eligible to enter the U.S. FIGURE SKATING National High School Cyber Challenges or Sectional High School Finals.

How do I start a high school skating team?

Teams are called School Affiliated Clubs (SAC). Two skaters are required to start a team; skaters can either represent a single school or a combination of several area schools. To form a SAC, we encourage students to get approval from their high school, then complete the [School Affiliate Clubs Application/Renewal Form](#) with U.S. Figure Skating and pay a \$31 fee.

How much does it cost to start a team?

The U.S. Figure Skating High School SAC Fee is \$31 to register. Additional fees for a team might include competition fees, practice ice time, optional coaching fees, travel, and team apparel.

Can we combine local high schools to form one team? Or must skaters compete only for their high school?

Athletes may compete either for the high school they are attending, or high school collaborative, defined as follows:

- Athletes from a single school, representing that school, OR
- Athletes representing two or more area high schools combining to form a single team.

NOTE: Competitors may not represent more than ONE high school team at the same time.



What skaters are eligible to compete on high school skating teams? Can home school skaters compete?

All skaters must be enrolled as a full-time student as defined by the institution that they attend, grades 9-12, as per state guidelines. This includes both traditional and home school students. Skaters must be eligible members in good standing of U.S. Figure Skating or Learn to Skate USA and may be members of the figure skating club of their choice or be individual members of U.S. Figure Skating.

Is there a minimum skate test required to compete at high school events?

Skaters may participate starting at the Learn to Skate Program Basic Level 3 through Senior Ladies.

When is the high school skating season?

Typically competitions will run October through April.

What events are offered at high school skating competitions?

Typically, events are offered in a variety of disciplines, including short program, free skate (excel 6.0 system), solo dance, compulsory, showcase, moves in the field, and team maneuvers.

Will I miss school to compete at these events?

Athletes participating in these events are student-athletes. Their education is of the highest priority, and in all decision-making matters, the Program & New Program Development Committee and the local organizing committees (LOC) have a responsibility to minimize the days missed from school.

When are competitions held? And how many are there each season?

The competitive season is October through April. The number of competitions vary by state.

Are there national virtual or in-person competition that I can participate in?

Yes. The National High School Cyber Challenge will be held January through March. New this year, High School Skating is exploring the opportunity to hold Sectional High School Finals, which are tentatively being scheduled for Spring 2023. More information will be



available soon regarding dates and host sites. All registered teams will be eligible to participate in these events.

Can I attend high school competitions in other states?

Yes.

NOTE: Some states run competition series that are limited to in-state teams. It is recommended to check competition announcements for specific eligibility requirements.

What states have a high school skating competition series?

To date there are competition series hosted in Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, Colorado, New England, and Ohio.

Can I host a nonqualifying high school skating competition?

Yes. You have two options: hosting an independent non-qualifying competition or adding high school-specific events onto an already existing non-qualifying competition. For more information, please contact Chloe Roberts (croberts@usfigureskating.org) or Waverly Huston (waverlyhuston@gmail.com).

How do I apply for a sanction for a high school skating competition?

If you are hosting, planning to host, or including HS events in a competition for the 2022-2023 season, please contact Chloe Roberts (croberts@usfigureskating.org) or Waverly Huston (waverlyhuston@gmail.com). In addition, you must submit a sanction through the normal sanction application process – outlined [here](#). Please remember to check “High School” under the “Program” heading when submitting your sanction.

What are the SkateSafe policies for high school skating competitions?

All High School Skating programs abide by U.S. Figure Skating’s SkateSafe Policies and Requirements. For more information visit the [SkateSafe](#) page.

I see there have been changes to the scoring system in the 2022-23 handbook. Does my competition need to use this new points system?

Yes, all High School Skating competitions should use the new scoring system as outlined in the 2022-23 High School Skating Handbook.



How do I run a team maneuvers event?

For information about Team Maneuvers event requirements and event facilitation, please refer to the [2022-23 HS Team Maneuver Requirements](#).

Is high school skating a varsity sport?

It can be with the recognition and support of the individual high school athletics program. For more information, contact your school district.

Can I compete on my local high school team and still compete at non-qualifying and qualifying U.S. Figure Skating competitions?

Yes.

What are the advantages to starting/being on a high school skating team?

- Build friendships - Experience a team approach to an individual sport
- Develop valuable leadership skills by managing and running aspects of the team - including working with your school administration, event and travel planning, recruiting members, etc.
- Continued involvement in skating
- Compete at affordable, fun events!

Does a team require a coach?

No. We encourage student athlete support and leadership within the team. A coach is optional and a team's decision.

Do high schools recognize the program - (Scholarships, Letterman Jacket, etc.)?

Sometimes. Contact your school or school district for more information.

U.S. Figure Skating also offers a Graduating Seniors Program that can support skater recognition within high school banquets or club acknowledgements; [click here](#) for more information.

What if I live in a state where there aren't many eligible skaters to be on a team?

Please contact Chloe Roberts (croberts@usfigureskating.org) to find the closest team to you and we will assist you in either starting a program in your area or find one closest for you to participate.