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2025 Minnesota L'Étoile du Nord Challenge

(Formerly the Minnesota State FS Championships)

August 16 – 17, 2025

Sponsored by the Twin City Figure Skating Association

Hosted by the St Paul FSC

Coon Rapids Ice Center, Coon Rapids, MN

Chief Referee: Lisa Anne Venne

Chief Scoring Official: Gay Ann Louiselle

Lead Scoring System Technician: Carolyn Marker

Chief Music Coordinator, Chip Rauth

Entry Deadline: July 19, 2025

## **I. COMPETITION OVERVIEW**

The 2025 Minnesota L'étoile du Nord Challenge will be conducted in accordance with the rules and regulations of U.S. Figure Skating, as set forth in the [current rulebook](#), as well as any pertinent updates that have been posted on the U.S. Figure Skating [website](#).

All 2025 Minnesota L'étoile du Nord Challenge events will be scored using the International Judging System (IJS).

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

Skaters must be a currently registered member of a U.S. Figure Skating member club, 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.

## **II. ELIGIBILITY**

This competition is open to all registered U.S. Figure Skating members in good standing who are residents of the state of Minnesota AND/OR a home club member of a Minnesota U.S. Figure Skating club as of July 1, 2025.

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

**Singles: Adults:**

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

**EVENTS OFFERED:**

U.S. Figure Skating Program Requirements: [usfigureskating.org](http://usfigureskating.org) --> [Skate](#) --> [Compete](#) --> [Program Requirements](#)

On the program requirements page linked above, competitions that fall within the date range beside the program requirements must use those requirements.

**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 [cmarker243@aol.com](mailto:cmarker243@aol.com).

- o [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 [cmarker243@aol.com](mailto:cmarker243@aol.com).

- o [Click here for more information about S.A.Ms.](#)

<b>SINGLES</b>	<b>JUDGING</b>	<b>Event Price</b>
Well Balanced Free Skate – Pre-Preliminary thru Juvenile / Open Juv	<i>IJS</i>	\$195
Combined: Short Program & Free Skate – Intermediate thru Senior	<i>IJS</i>	\$240
Adult Free Skate - Adult Pre-Bronze thru Master Jr/Sr	<i>IJS</i>	\$195

**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](http://www.USFigureSkating.org/SkateSafe) or email [SkateSafe@USFigureSkating.org](mailto:SkateSafe@USFigureSkating.org).

#### **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 nonqualifying competition, coaches must meet the applicable compliance requirements and 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.

If a coach cannot provide a photo ID and is not the list or cannot produce the necessary documents, he or she will not be allowed a credential. There can be no exceptions to this policy.

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.

Only ONE (1) coach credential will be issued per skater.

### **III. REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

#### **ENTRIES:**

Fees are \$195.00 for single events and \$240.00 for Combined Intermediate thru Senior Short Program & Free Skate events. Online registration through EntryEeze is required and payment must be made via a secured credit card transaction serviced by EntryEeze. Upon receipt of your online registration, emails will be sent to the skater's coach to verify the accuracy of the entry and to the skater's home club to certify that the skater is in good standing with the club. Coaches and clubs are required to confirm the accuracy of the information the skater has provided on EntryEeze. As part of the entry fee, skaters will receive complimentary photos of their free skate event.

Registration will open on July 3, 2025 and will close at 11:59 pm CDT on July 19, 2025. Late registrations are NOT allowed.

**TEST CREDIT:**

Test credit is NOT being offered at this competition.

**MUSIC SUBMISSION/UPLOAD:**

For this competition, **online submission is the ONLY acceptable method for submitting program music**. After you have paid for your events, the system will prompt you to upload your music for each event. If your music is not available at that time, you can logout of your account and return later to upload your music by going to the “Competition” tab and then selecting “My Music.” Please be sure you are uploading the correct music for the correct event segment. Be careful not to mix up your short program and your free skate!

**All music must be uploaded no later than 11:59 pm CDT on August 6, 2025.** After this date skaters will be locked out of this feature and subject to a **\$30 late fee per segment**. Late fees will not be removed under any circumstances and must be paid prior to receiving skater credentials onsite.

The uploaded program music MUST conform to the following specifications:

- Programs per file: One (1) – Only one piece of competition program music (e.g. short program, free skate) per file is allowed.
- File Format: EntryEeze will accept ONLY mp3 format files.
- Bit Rate: 192 kbps is requested (bit rates between 128 and 320 kbps will be accepted).
- Maximum leader: The Chief Music Coordinator requests that there be NO leader. The leader is the silence between the start of the track and the actual start of the program music.
- Maximum trailer: The Chief Music Coordinator requests that there be NO trailer. The trailer is the silence between the end of the program music and the end of the actual track.

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. The phone must have an appropriate adapter, such as an Apple Lightning connector or Samsung USB-C adapter 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**

The International Judging System (IJS) will be used for all 2025 Minnesota L'étoile du Nord Challenge events. All competitors skating in these events must submit the planned program content (PPC) form online via EntryEeze. Submission of PPCs is required by USFS rule #3054.

**All PPCs must be uploaded no later than 11:59 pm CDT on August 6, 2025.** After this date skaters will be locked out of this feature and subject to a **\$30 late fee per segment**. Late fees will not be removed under any circumstances and must be paid prior to receiving skater credentials onsite.

#### **REFUND POLICY**

Entry fees will not be refunded after entry deadline unless no competition exists or the event is canceled. There will be no refunds for medical withdrawals. Online processing fees are not refundable. Contested credit card charges will be charged a \$25.00 fee. Payment of the fee will be required before the skater is allowed to participate in practice ice or events.

#### **LIABILITY:**

U.S. Figure Skating, Learn to Skate USA®, Twin City Figure Skating Association, St Paul FSC and Coon Rapids 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:**

Coon Rapids Ice Center

11000 Crooked Lake Blvd NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55433

<https://www.coonrapidsicecenter.com>

Rink is standard NHL size of 200' x 85'

Note there is a concession stand as well as vending machines.

#### **LOCKER ROOMS AND CHANGING AREAS:**

Locker rooms and changing areas **will not** be available at this competition. All athletes are expected to arrive at the arena ready (costumes, hair, make-up etc.). Athletes will be provided with an area to put skates on but changing will not be permitted in these spaces.

#### **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:**

An official bulletin board will be located at the main entrance to the rink. It is the responsibility of each competitor, parent and coach to check the bulletin board frequently for any schedule changes and/or additional information pertaining to the competition.

## **SCHEDULE**

Competitors may be scheduled on any day or time during the announced dates of the competition. . All competitors are expected to arrive at the rink **at least 45 minutes** prior to the start of their event(s) **as an event may start up to 20 minutes ahead of its scheduled time.** 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:**

Official practice ice is not included in the entry fee. Practice ice will be available for purchase via Entryeze. All sessions will be leveled (Low, Medium, High & Adult) and will be 20 minutes in length. Additional practice ice information will be available via Entryeze and emails. Refunds will not be given for unused practice ice sessions.

## **ONSITE CHECK-IN:**

Check-in will open two hours prior to the start of practice ice and/or events each day beginning on Friday, August 15<sup>th</sup> and for each competition day thereafter. The registration desk is located at the main entrance to the Coon Rapids Ice Center.

*Skaters who have not uploaded their music and/or PPC form will not be allowed to register for the competition until those items have been received and all late fees paid.*

**If you are participating in a role requiring compliance, please be sure to [download or print your compliance card](#) to verify your compliance status on-site, if requested. If you believe your compliance card does not accurately reflect your compliance status, please contact [skatesafe@usfigureskating.org](mailto:skatesafe@usfigureskating.org) at least 2 business days prior to the competition for assistance.**

## **AWARDS:**

Medals will be awarded to the top 4 competitors in each event. Combined short program and free skate events will have medals awarded after the completion of the free skate segment. Awards can be picked up at the awards table once results have been officially posted on the Live Results Leaderboard as **FINAL** for the event.

The Minnesota State Champion title will be awarded for all levels. The award will be given to the highest scoring eligible skater at the annual recognition event in September. In addition in order to earn the title of Minnesota State Champion for the Juvenile thru Senior levels and the Adult Gold, Silver, Master Intermediate/Novice and Master Junior/Senior levels the competitor must earn the minimum required test scores (TES, PCS and TSS) for their free skate program. Beginning in 2024 a skater may be the Minnesota State Champion only once at each level except for Senior and Master Junior/Senior levels where they may be the state champion twice.

**NEW:** Team trophies will be awarded to the Twin City Figure Skating Association member clubs earning the most points in their respective division. Points are awarded for free skate events only. Depending on the number of members (as published in the USFS Governing Council Delegate Report) clubs will be placed in either the Gold Division which consists of clubs who

have 80 or more members or in the Silver Division which consists of clubs who have less than 80 members.

Points will be awarded as follows:

1st Place – 5 points

2nd Place – 4 points

3rd Place – 3 points

4th Place – 2 points

5th Place & below – 1 point

**PHOTO/VIDEO:**

Photography and video will be provided by Perkins Media. Free skate event photos are being provided for free as a skater gift. Video for all events and photos for short program events can be purchased at a discounted rate. Please bring a flash drive to download any video(s) at the competition.

**HOTELS:**

The official's hotel for the event is the Holiday Inn Express & Suites, 9333 Springbrook Drive NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55433, 877-859-5095. The hotel is approximately 10 minutes from the rink.

A group rate has been secured for competitors at the Best Western Plus at the National Sports Center, 10580 Baltimore St NE, Blaine, MN 55449, 877-764-2409. Use the code Twin Cities Figure Skating when making your reservation. Reservations must be made by July 14<sup>th</sup> to get the group rate.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Competition email: [tcfsacompetition@gmail.com](mailto:tcfsacompetition@gmail.com)

For specific questions, please contact the following individuals:

Competition Chair:	Carolyn Marker	<a href="mailto:cmarker243@aol.com">cmarker243@aol.com</a>	612-270-0451
Chief Referee:	Lisa Anne Venne	<a href="mailto:lvennemp@gmail.com">lvennemp@gmail.com</a>	763-229-2181
Practice Ice Chair:	Carolyn Marker	<a href="mailto:cmarker243@aol.com">cmarker243@aol.com</a>	612-270-0451
Volunteer Co-Ordinator	Jason Klapste	<a href="mailto:jklapste@gmail.com">jklapste@gmail.com</a>	612-619-1574