

My skater would like private lessons with a coach. How do I choose a coach for private lessons?

All SCFSC home club freestyle/LTS+ skaters must have a private coach to skate on club ice. Professional coaches are self-employed, are available for private lessons and are paid directly by the skater's family. You will hire the coach on your own, and determine the lesson schedule and length with your coach. Not all coaches may have student openings at a given time. Coaches may offer lessons various time limits. Consult with the professional coaches for more information. You will receive a separate bill for coaching fees. Before hiring a coach, discuss goals and expectations, as well as special interests of your skater with the prospective coach. Available time for teaching your child should also be asked of the coach. The parents and skater may wish to observe a club session.

Selecting a coach (or coaches – some skaters have more than one coach – possibly a primary coach, and secondary freestyle or dance coach) is an important decision as this is a relationship that can last for many years. Although, a decision to switch to a different coach happens and that is up to each family/skater. Make sure to communicate with your coaches your intentions.

The following are some tips, which can help your decision process in selecting a coach.

- Compatibility of professional with student skater and their parents
- Professional's actual skating ability (tested USFSA and/or ISIA skating level and prior competition experience)
- Professional's ability to inspire the skater to a commitment of excellence
- Professional's willingness to set goals with the skater and time frames for achieving them
- Professional's ability to communicate knowledge to skaters
- Professional's knowledge of choreography and/or willingness to solicit help in choreographing an excellent program for the skater
- Willingness of professional to enthusiastically recommend skater to train with another professional when original professional's expertise is exhausted

Click [here](#) for a listing of active coaches authorized by SCFSC.