



**US FIGURE
SKATING**[®]
2021 CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

PRESENTED BY



ATHLETE AND COACH HANDBOOK

OVERVIEW

The 2021 U.S. Figure Skating Championship Series presented by Toyota is scheduled to take place from Nov. 9 – Dec. 6, 2020, in eight locations, permitting athletes to compete at up to two competitions in the location of their choice. Like the U.S. Figure Skating National Qualifying Series, results from the Championship Series events will be uploaded to U.S. Figure Skating's Event Management System (EMS) following each event, resulting in sectional and national rankings for participants.

The series is open to all eligible members of U.S. Figure Skating, as outlined in this handbook, for the following events:

- Singles: juvenile, intermediate, novice, junior and senior
- Pairs: juvenile, intermediate, novice, junior and senior
- Ice dance: juvenile, intermediate, novice, junior and senior

**At this time, no additional events are being offered.*

BENEFITS TO ATHLETES AND COACHES:

- The series format provides the flexibility to make the choice best for YOU.
 - The eight host locations were carefully selected to provide as many athletes as possible with the option to compete close to home or within driving distance of their home training site. Athletes are not restricted to competing in their home club's region, so long-distance travel can be minimized as much as possible by participating in the event closest to your current location/training site.
 - Before registering, educate yourself on state and local public safety requirements and how your attendance at each event may affect your departure and return home. We understand that for some, it may mean participation at qualifying events is not feasible.
- Additional training time
- All skater/teams will compete all segments for their level. They will earn a total score used to create the series standings.

COMPETITION DETAILS

All events are sanctioned by U.S. Figure Skating and conducted according to the most current [U.S. Figure Skating Rulebook, 2020-21 edition](#). Changes and clarifications are posted on the U.S. Figure Skating website and in this handbook. Compliance with these rules as updated or amended is the responsibility of the participants. U.S. Figure Skating reserves the right to

incorporate revisions to the international judging system (IJS) made by the ISU for senior events and by U.S. Figure Skating to junior events and below.

CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES COMPETITIONS

To verify which Championship Series competitions still have entry availability, and are open during Limited Registration, click [here](#).

[Blaine, Minn. | Nov. 9-13, 2020 | Singles](#)

[Norwood, Mass. | Nov. 10-15, 2020 | Singles, Pairs](#)

[Spokane, Wash. | Nov. 10-15, 2020 | Singles](#)

[Alpharetta, Ga. | Nov. 17-20, 2020 | Singles](#)

[Fort Wayne, Ind. | Nov. 17-20, 2020 | Singles, Ice Dance](#)

[Henderson, Nev. | Nov. 24-28, 2020 | Singles, Pairs](#)

[Leesburg, Va. | Dec. 1-6, 2020 | Singles, Ice Dance](#)

[Frisco, Texas | Dec. 1-6, 2020 | Singles](#)

COMPETITION WEBSITES AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This handbook will serve as the competition announcement for all Championship Series competitions. The website www.usfigureskatingchampionshipseries.com will house all up-to-date information about the Championship Series and each competition. A tab for each competition on this website will contain competition-specific details, including travel accommodations, practice ice information, health and safety plans, etc. The website and [EMS Skater and Coach Portals](#) should be checked regularly for updates.

SCHEDULES

Tentative schedules will be posted on the event websites after registration has concluded and preliminary entry numbers are known (late September 2020).

ELIGIBILITY

The competitions are only open to competitors who meet the following eligibility requirements:

1. Are current members of U.S. Figure Skating for the 2020-21 season.

2. Membership eligibility requirements according to U.S. Figure Skating [Rule 2211](#).
3. Meet all age and test requirements pertaining to the event to be entered.
 - a. **Age must be as of Sept. 1.**
 - b. Test requirements for the 2020-21 Qualifying Season per [Technical Notification 250](#).
 - i. For this season only, skaters will be allowed to register at their current test level or up to two levels higher. [Rule 2424](#) will still apply.
 - ii. Current test level must be met as of Sept. 1.
 1. Exception:
 - a. Ice Dance teams who have the pre-requisite moves in the field and partnered pattern dance requirements (solo dance tests are not applicable) but not their free dance test may register for the appropriate level.
 - iii. As an exception to [Rule 4201](#), skaters who compete one level higher than their current test level may elect to submit their protocol from a U.S. Figure Skating sanctioned qualifying competition conducted under the IJS during the 2020-21 season, where they have met the minimum passing scores as defined in [Rule 4202](#).
 - iv. Skaters must have met the prerequisites for the test by the competition date and must have competed in the applicable event at the level they wish to pass.
4. Meet the citizen and residency requirements as stated in [Rules 2230-2243](#).
 - a. Non-Citizen: [Letter](#), CC-01 [Form](#)
 - b. Returning Citizen: [Letter](#), CC-02 [Form](#)
 - c. Foreign or released athletes residing in the U.S. who currently represent another ISU federation other than U.S. Figure Skating are not eligible to participate in the Championship Series or any designated Championship Series competition.
5. SafeSport athlete requirements:
 - a. Athletes age 18+ as of the competition start date who will be competing on a team (i.e., dance, pairs, synchro, shadow dance, Theatre, etc.) with at least one minor athlete must complete SafeSport training
 - b. Minor Athletes who turn 18 mid-season are encouraged to seek parental consent to take the online SafeSport training early to avoid disruptions in their ability to participate as the training is required upon turning 18. The athlete will not be SafeSport compliant until they have completed the training, and their Members Only portal reflects completion.

- c. Please email safesport@usfigureskating.org for instructions or questions regarding parental consent.

SKATER/TEAM LEVELS AVAILABLE

Skaters/teams will only be permitted to enter the series and each competition at ONE designated level for which they are eligible. (Ex. If you register for the series in Novice, you must compete only in Novice at all series competitions.) At this time, no additional events are being offered.

- Singles: juvenile, intermediate, novice, junior and senior
- Pairs: juvenile, intermediate, novice, junior and senior
- Ice dance: juvenile, intermediate, novice, junior and senior

SECTION DETERMINATION (SINGLES)

Athletes are automatically entered in one of the three sections (Eastern, Midwestern or Pacific Coast) for the Championship Series, based on their home club's location, or if an individual member, their home address. Athletes will remain in this section for their ranking and the duration of the Championship Series.

Pairs/dance team standings are based on national rank, not by section.

SERIES AND EVENT REGISTRATION

All athletes interested in participating in the qualifying season (including potential byes) **MUST** enter both the Championship Series **AND** at least one Championship Series competition within the designated registration windows. U.S. Figure Skating and the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) reserve the right to close registration to any competition at any time during the two registration windows when maximum entries are reached for each competition. No late entries to the Championship Series or individual competitions will be accepted.

Step 1: Enter the Championship Series

- Log onto [Members Only](#) and select Event Management System (EMS) followed by Series Information.
- **The deadline to register for inclusion in the series is Sept. 25. Late entries to the series will not be not accepted.**
- The application fee to participate in the Championship Series is \$25.00 (nonrefundable), paid at the time of entry.

- Athletes are NOT required to select their competitions at this point, only to register as an overall participant (as a singles athlete or pairs/ice dance team).
- Note: only ONE member of a pairs and/or ice dance team registers for the series and each competition.
- Athletes may only register for the series at ONE level.

Step 2: Register for a Championship Series Competition

CLOSED AS OF SEPT. 1: OPEN Registration

- ~~All competitions will be open for registration.~~
- ~~Registration fee \$225 + \$10 admin fee.~~
- ~~Singles skaters may register for ONE competition.~~
- ~~Pairs/dance teams may register for one or both competitions designated for their discipline.~~
 - ~~Pairs/dance teams intending on participating in more than one competition are strongly encouraged to register for both events during the open window to assist with preliminary scheduling.~~

LIMITED Registration: Sept. 7 – Sept. 25

- Competitions with remaining availability will be open for Limited Registration. To verify which Championship Series competitions still have entry availability, click [here](#). No additional late entries will be accepted for closed competitions or after the deadline of Sept. 25.
 - Note: all Championship Series reserve the right to close registration at any time prior to Sept. 25 if the entry threshold is met.
- Registration fee \$225 + \$10 admin fee.
- Singles:
 - May register for ONE additional competition (two total).
 - May register for TWO competitions, if you have not registered during OPEN registration (two total).
 - **IF YOU register for more than TWO competitions, your third registration will be withdrawn you will only be refunded \$225 (no \$10/admin or 3% processing fee). Additional registrations violate the series policies that all athletes/coaches are held accountable to.**
- Pairs/Dance:
 - May register for up to two pairs or dance competitions, if you have not registered during OPEN registration.

Online Registration via EMS

1. Log on to www.usfsaonline.org.
2. Select the Event Management System (EMS).
3. Choose COMPETITION REGISTRATION.
4. Click "LATE" under the competition of your choice.
 - a. Note: there are no late fees associated with this registration window.
 - b. If you need assistance completing your registration, contact productsupport@usfigureskating.org.

Note: all transactions in EMS are subject to a 3% processing fee.

Step 3: Manage EMS Skater and Coach Portal

- The EMS Skater and Coach Portals will be the primary hub of communication for all relevant competition information, guidelines and procedures!
- Music upload and planned program content (PPC)
 - All skaters entering the 2020-21 Qualifying Season are required to upload their competition music and submit their planned program content at least one week prior to competition start date (see [competition websites](#) for specific dates). All music and PPC submissions must be made via the EMS Skater Portal. Follow these links for directions: [music](#); [PPC](#).
 - Any skater who does not upload their music or PPC by the set deadline is subject to a late fee of \$25 for each.
 - Under no circumstances will skaters be allowed to turn in music or PPC on site.
 - Note: coaches cannot submit music or PPC through EMS on behalf of the skaters.
- All skaters attending a qualifying event are required to list any attending coaches in the "[My Coaches](#)" within EMS. By listing a coach in this portal, you allow a coach to receive their event credential and access to view your event schedule, your music and planned program submission status.
 - EMS Coach Resources: [My Competitions](#), [My Skaters](#), [Coach Schedule](#)

TECHNICAL CONDUCT OF SERIES AND EVENTS

CONDUCT OF COMPETITION

If more than 24 athletes enter an event (i.e. Novice Ladies) at a competition, skaters will be seeded per [Rule 2460](#) in the U.S. Figure Skating Rulebook. However, a chief referee may request permission from the Chair of Competitions to hold the event as one group. A skater added to an event due to unforeseen circumstances will be added to one of the groups (which group will be

at the discretion of the chief referee) up to 24 hours before the start of the first qualifying group in that event.

No reseeding or reassignments between groups will be made after the competitors are notified of their qualifying groups. If an event is divided into groups based on entries, no qualifying or final rounds will be held for any level.

If only one skater is entered in any event at a Championship Series competition, the skater has the following options: skate in the event as a single entry and receive a score for the Series, move entry to a Championship Series competition where event is being held and there is availability for skater or receive a refund for their entry.

All skaters/teams will compete in all segments as outlined below to earn a total score, which will create the series standings. For example: if there are more than 24 athletes in intermediate ladies, all skaters in group A will compete against each other in the short program, then again in the free skate for a total combined score, which is the athlete's total score for that competition.

SEGMENTS TO BE SKATED

SINGLES (Rules 6400 - 6450)	
Juvenile	Free skate ONLY
Intermediate-Senior	Short program and free skate
PAIRS (Rules 7400 - 7451)	
Juvenile and Intermediate	Free skate ONLY
Novice-Senior	Short program and free skate
ICE DANCE (Rules 8400 - 8452)	
Juvenile-Novice	Pattern dances (2) and free dance
Junior and Senior	Rhythm dance and free dance

SERIES STANDINGS

At the end of each Championship Series competition, all competition results will be uploaded to

EMS by the chief accountant as soon as possible following the competition's conclusion. Each skater's total score (see above) is transmitted to the [Series Standings](#). Only a skater's current highest total score is officially recorded. If a skater finishes a competition and beats their previous high score, the score will be updated. If a skater competes but does not beat their current high score, the previous score stands.

Athletes may compete a maximum of two times in the series, with only their highest score counting towards the series ranking and advancement.

The Championship Series standings will be available for viewing in [EMS](#). The standings will display a national rank for all disciplines. Singles events will also display a sectional ranking. To access the standings:

1. Log in to Members Only at www.usfsaonline.org.
2. Select the Event Management System (EMS).
3. Click "Series Information".
4. Choose "2021 U.S. Figure Skating Championship Series presented by Toyota".
5. Select "Standings".

WITHDRAWS

All withdraws are considered final. Refunds are not given for any reason. A skater may not re-enter even if the withdrawal occurs before the entry deadline. If you need to withdraw, you MUST send an email to events@usfigureskating.org with your name, U.S. Figure Skating membership number, event you entered (i.e., junior ladies) and the name of the competition from which you wish to withdraw.

BYES AND ADVANCEMENT

Approved bye and advancement criteria for the 2021 Qualifying Season can be found [here](#). Details on qualification to the National High Performance Development Team will be available in early November and posted on www.usfigureskating.org.

*All interested athletes (including potential and known byes) **MUST** enter both the Championship Series **AND** at least one Championship Series competition within the designated registration windows.*

HEALTH AND SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

U.S. Figure Skating is working with each local organizing committee (LOC) and facility partner on the development and implementation of a public health and safety plan in accordance with state and local regulations. Details for all attendees will be advanced via email and mandatory pre-competition Zoom calls will be conducted prior to competition start.

COACH INFORMATION

Any coach attending the competition must be included within a skater's competition registration or updated through their EMS Skater Portal via "[My Coaches](#)" **AT LEAST TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO THE COMPETITION START DATE.** Any coaches declared at the time of registration will be included in the skater's registration confirmation email. Note, there is no registration approval process within EMS as the data (membership and test level) is tied to the U.S. Figure Skating database. Noncompliant coaches will receive automated email reminders through the start of the competition.

EMS Coach Resources: [My Competitions](#), [My Skaters](#), [Coach Schedule](#)

Coach/Choreographer (domestic/non-foreign):

- Must be a current full member of U.S. Figure Skating either through a member club or as an individual member.
- If 18 years or older, must submit information for, proper payment of \$30 and successfully pass a background check. *
 - The background check will be valid for two seasons, the one in which it was completed plus one additional.
- If 18 years or older, must complete annual SafeSport Training. *
 - The training will be valid for 365 days from date of completion, and there is no cost for the training/certification.
- Must complete the Professional Coach/Choreographer Coaching Education Requirement (CER) through the [Professional Skaters Association \(PSA\)](#).
- Must submit proof of general liability insurance with limits of \$1 million per occurrence/ \$5 million aggregate.
- Must agree to the U.S. Figure Skating Code of Ethics. *
- Must complete three waivers: 1) Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Release and Indemnification Agreement; 2) Medical Consent; and 3) Name and Likeness Release and Consent Agreement. *
- Must be a full member of the [Professional Skaters Association \(PSA\)](#).

*Accessible via U.S. Figure Skating Members Only Website: www.usfsaonline.org the Person Icon next to your name or Account tab -> Member Profile -> Compliance.

LIABILITY

U.S. Figure Skating, the host club(s) and/or interclub association, the organizing committee and the ice arenas utilized for these events accept no responsibility for injury or damage sustained by any participant in these Championship Series events ([U.S. Figure Skating Rule 1600](#)).

CONTACTS

U.S. Figure Skating Events Department

Email: events@usfigureskating.org

Phone: (719) 635-5200

U.S. Figure Skating Product Support (EMS)

Email: productsupport@usfigureskating.org

Phone: (719) 635-5200

Competitions Committee

Kathleen Krieger, Chair

E-mail: KriegerRPh@msn.com

**FOR LIMITED REGISTRATION STATUS, COMPETITION
UPDATES, AND LOCAL DETAILS, VISIT:
WWW.USFIGURESKATINGCHAMPIONSHIPSERIES.COM**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Can I register for more than two Championship Series competitions?

A: Athletes in all disciplines are only permitted to register for two Championship Series competitions. EMS does not restrict registration for multiple Championship Series due to the reimagined structure of the qualifying season. However, it is a Series policy that all athletes and coaches are expected to abide by this requirement. Note: athletes registered for more than two events will be withdrawn and only refunded the base entry fee of \$225.

Q: Is there a wait list for Championship Series competitions with closed registrations?

A: There is no wait list for any of the Championship Series competitions.

Q: If I am a pre-preliminary singles skater, can I skate up to juvenile?

A: Under [Technical Notification 250](#), a skater may register up to two levels higher. If a pre-preliminary would like to skate up to juvenile, this means you must meet the testing requirements by Sept. 1 (preliminary moves in the field and preliminary free skate test). Note this applies to all levels and disciplines. [Rule 2424](#) will apply for the 2020-21 qualifying season.

Q: If my partner and I want to register for Novice Dance but are unable to take the Free Dance test prior to Sept. 1, can we register?

A: Yes, as an exception to the test eligibility, ice dance teams who have the pre-requisite moves in the field and partnered pattern dance requirements (solo dance tests are not applicable) but not their free dance test may register for the appropriate level.

Q: My partner and I have our juvenile moves in the field, are we eligible to register for Juvenile Pairs?

A: If both partners have juvenile moves in the field, the team is eligible to compete in Juvenile Pairs. Further, MITF is the baseline requirement for all pairs levels.

Q: Can I take a test at a level higher than the one I register for in the Championship Series?

A: No, as in years prior, skaters cannot test above the level they plan to compete. ([Rule 2424](#)).

Q: What do I do if I registered for the wrong level?

A: If registered for the incorrect level for the Championship Series Skater Application or any Championship Series competition registration(s), email productsupport@usfigureskating.org with member number and correct event level.

Q: Will chaperones be permitted?

A: At this time, one chaperone per entry will be permitted with restrictions. This is subject to change based on local and state requirements.

Q: Will spectators be allowed?

A: At this time, it is safe to assume no spectators will be allowed. However, if an operation and safety plan can include spectators, you will be made aware. Information will be posted on the [competition website](#).

Q: Will these events be live-streamed?

A: Yes, you can watch all events LIVE. Juvenile through novice events will be available to view free on the U.S. Figure Skating Fan Zone and junior/senior events via an NBC Universal streaming service – subscription required.

Q: Will nonqualifying competitions be held in conjunction?

A: There are currently no nonqualifying competitions held in conjunction. This will be revisited after Sept. 25, depending on qualifying entries.

Q: How will advancement work?

A: Like the U.S. Figure Skating National Qualifying Series, results from the Championship Series events will be uploaded to U.S. Figure Skating's Event Management System (EMS) following each event. Sectional and national rankings will be available for participants. Approved bye and advancement criteria for the 2021 Qualifying Season can be found [here](#). Details on qualification to the National High Performance Development Team will be available in early November and posted on www.usfigureskating.org.

Q: What is the COVID-19 testing protocol at these competitions?

A: There is an ongoing review with what the testing requirements could be in each of the eight competition areas. Details will be communicated in advance.

Q: What happens if a competition is canceled?

A: If a competition is canceled, there will be every effort made to allow for a different competitive opportunity (re-allocation of entry).

Q: Is there a possibility of these competitions going virtual?

A: At this time, we are looking at all options. After the close of entries, conditions may change.

Q: Will I be withdrawn if I cannot pass an on-site health questionnaire/temperature check (100.4)?

A: Yes; there will be NO exceptions.

Q: Is practice ice available for pre-purchase?

A: No. Practice ice will not be available for pre-purchase. The event schedule and final entries permitted at each competition will dictate options that will be available for purchase after the final schedule is released. Visit the [competition website](#) for more practice ice details.