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**Motivate. Recognize. Develop. Inspire.**

The advancement structure below illustrates the opportunities for athletes that entered the 2021 U.S. Figure Skating Championship Series presented by Toyota, in Juvenile, Intermediate or Novice. These programs and competitive experiences lead to the National High Performance Development Team.

	Juvenile / Intermediate Singles Juvenile / Intermediate Pairs	Novice Singles Novice Pairs Juvenile – Novice Ice Dance	Notes
<b>January 2021</b>	<b>Virtual Celebration of Competitive Skating</b> All athletes are invited to participate in educational and inspirational virtual programming throughout the month of January. This will include discussion with Team USA, structured viewing of the 2021 Toyota U.S. Figure Skating Championships and logo gear.		Athletes may register for this program separately from the competitive portion below.
<b>February 2021</b>		<b>U.S. Figure Skating Championship Series – Virtual Competition</b>  Qualification for the National High Performance Development Team by video submission of a Free Skate or Free Dance.	<b>The following athletes qualify for the National High Performance Development Team:</b>  -Novice Ladies: Top 30 -Novice Men: Top 20 -Novice Ice Dance: Top 9 -Inter. Ice Dance: Top 9 -Juvenile Ice Dance: Top 9
<b>March 2021</b>	<b>U.S. Figure Skating Championship Series – Virtual Audition</b>  The juvenile and intermediate levels will be combined. Athletes will compete in a compulsory program event, subdivided by age group (as of Jan. 1, 2021). Athletes will submit a video for evaluation		<b>The following athletes qualify for the National High Performance Development Team:</b>  <b>Girls:</b> -10 and younger: Top 10 -11 – 13: Top 10 -14 and older: Top 10 <b>Boys:</b> -13 and under: Top 10 -14 and older: Top 10 <b>Pairs: Top 3</b>

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May 2021	National High Performance Development Team Camp –  Juvenile / Intermediate Singles	National High Performance Development Team Camp –  Novice Singles	All singles athletes that qualifying per the notes above, for the National High Performance Development Team, will be invited to the NHPDT Camp.  The camp is tentatively scheduled for May 15 -17, 2021 and will be either in-person or virtual. Information about the camp will be announced April 1, 2021
June 2021	National High Performance Development Team Camp –  Juvenile / Intermediate Pairs	National High Performance Development Team Camp –  Novice Pairs  Juvenile, Intermediate and Novice Ice Dance	Programming for Pairs and Dance will be incorporated into the annual U.S. Figure Skating Dance and Pairs Camp.  Information about these camps, and whether they are in-person or virtual will be announced in May 2021

## NOTES

**Levels:** Athletes previously registered for the in-person 2021 U.S. Figure Skating Championship Series are invited to participate. However, they are welcome to change levels, as long as they are test-eligible based on original rules of the 2021 Qualifying Season. Athletes may “skate up” two test levels but may not skate down. For example, in singles, athletes who have passed the preliminary – intermediate free skate tests and registered for the qualifying season (From Aug. 15 – Sep. 25) are welcome to enter Juvenile/Intermediate. Athletes that have passed juvenile – novice free skate may enter Novice. However, an athlete that has passed Novice may not skate down to Juvenile/Intermediate.

**Date, details, announcement, competition rules and registration:** A detailed announcement and information package that explains all program policies and rules, timeline for uploading and recording videos, entry fees, schedule for the Virtual Celebration of Competitive Skating, et., will be available by **December 21, 2020**. Registration will be between **December 21 – 31, 2020**.

Further, details regarding the National High Performance Development Team Camp will be available April 1, 2021. This will include whether the camp will be an in-person or virtual experience and if in-person, the location.

#### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:**

##### **Can I register for these events separately, or do I have to do everything that is offered for my level?**

Athletes may register for the Virtual Celebration of Competitive Skating and the competitive experiences / events separately; you may choose both, or either.

##### **Can I participate if I didn't register for the in-person U.S. Figure Skating Championship Series?**

No. Programming and competitive experiences are open only to those athletes that were registered for the re-imagined 2021 Qualifying Season from Aug. 15 – Sept. 25.

##### **Can I change levels?**

Yes! If you are test eligible, based on the original rules of the U.S. Figure Skating Championship Series. Athletes may “skate up” two test levels but may not skate down. Athletes are free to change levels if they prefer the competitive experiences for one level over another.

For example, a skater that has passed the juvenile free skate test may choose either juvenile/intermediate or novice; a skater that has passed novice free skate must skate novice.

##### **Is there an option to skate up to Junior?**

No. Junior events are not being offered as part of this program. Singles athletes, Novice and below, in the International Selection Pool (ISP) or Athlete High Performance Development Pool (AHPDP) have the option of skating up to junior to qualify for the 2021 Toyota U.S. Figure Skating Championships. More information is available [here](#).

##### **Can I enter two levels?**

No. Athletes must choose either juvenile/intermediate or novice in singles and pairs; juvenile, intermediate or novice in ice dance.

##### **In novice singles or pairs, or any ice dance level, will I compete two programs in the virtual competition?**

All athletes / teams will skate JUST their free skate / free dance in the virtual competition portion.

##### **What is a virtual competition / audition?**

Athletes will be given a window of time to record their program and upload it to a designated spot. Athletes must complete the program in one segment and have a proctor present to verify that it was done in its entirety in the appropriate window. A panel of officials receives the footage and assigns scores over a 2-3 week period. Athletes later receive a protocol and results.

**Why are juvenile and intermediate combined for the Virtual Audition?**

U.S. Figure Skating does not want this experience to interfere with an athlete's ability to plan for the next competitive season, and either "hold back" or feel they have to "move up" too quickly to prepare. Therefore, all juvenile and intermediate singles athletes will be combined in one group and perform and submit a condensed compulsory program.

Athletes will be subdivided into groups based on their age as of January 1, 2021 (except for pairs).

- Girls: Group A: 10 and under; Group B: 11 – 13; Group C: 14 and older
- Boys: Group A: 13 and under; Group B: 14 and older

The top 10 singles in each age group will be named to National High Performance Development Team; the Top 3 pairs teams will advance.

**What is the compulsory event?**

Singles athletes will perform a condensed program, of approximately one (1) minute; consisting of four elements: An Axel or double Axel, a jump combination, a spin of your choice and a transitional element. Pairs athletes will perform a similar compulsory program consisting of side-by-side jumps, a spin and an additional element demonstrating skating skills. Specific rules / details will be released by December 21, 2020 in the announcement.

**What is the timeline for registration and more details?**

Official announcements will be available by December 21, 2020 and the entry deadline will be December 31, 2020. The announcement will include:

- Schedule and activities for the Virtual Celebration of Competitive Skating
- Skating rules for the compulsory programs for the juvenile/intermediate singles and pairs National High Performance Development Team Audition
- Rules and timelines for uploading program entries for the virtual competition / audition