

2026 Hiawathaland Open & Compete USA Competition



**Hosted by the
Rochester Figure Skating Club
October 9-11, 2026**

Chief Referee: Lee Gardner

Chief Scoring Official: Gay Ann Louiselle

Lead Scoring System Technician: Carolyn Marker

Music Coordinator: Michael Steskal

Chairs: Laura Eid, Katherine Kraemer

Events Offered:

- Excel Free Skate
- Championship Free Skate
- Championship Short Program
- Adult Free Skate
- Jumps Challenge
- Spins Challenge
- Free Dance
- Adult Free Dance
- Solo Pattern Dance
- Adult Solo Pattern Dance
- Showcase Events
 - Emotional Performance
 - Choreographic Artistry
 - Lyrical Pop
 - Character Performance
 - Comedic Impressions
 - Theme

Compete USA Events:

- Aspire 1-4 Program with Music
- Program with Music (Snowplow Sam → Basic 6)
- Aspire 1-4 Showcase (Character Performance & Lyrical Pop)
- Adult 1-6 Program with Music

Entry Deadline: Sunday, August 30, 2026, at 11:59pm CT

Rochester Figure Skating Club, 21 Elton Hills Drive NW, Rochester, MN

55901 Website: www.rochesterfsc.org

E-mail: hiawathaland@rochesterfsc.org

I. COMPETITION OVERVIEW

The Hiawathaland Open and Compete USA Competition will be conducted in accordance with the rules and regulations of U.S. Figure Skating, as set forth in the [current rulebook](#), and/or [current Compete USA handbook](#) as well as any pertinent updates that have been posted on the U.S. Figure Skating [website](#).

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

Skaters must be a currently registered member of a U.S. Figure Skating member club, Learn to Skate USA member, 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

Singles: Excel and 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.
 - 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:
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - 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.
- Skaters are not permitted to enter an Excel free skate and a Well-Balanced free skate event at the same competition (example: Juvenile Girls Free Skate and Juvenile Girls Excel Free Skate). However, they are permitted to enter an Excel and a Well-Balanced event of different types such as a short program (if stand-alone event option), specialty or showcase events (example: Intermediate Women Short Program and Intermediate Women Excel Free Skate).
- For more details about establishing event levels, email events@usfigureskating.org.

All other singles and partner events (such as Adults, Pairs, Ice Dance): - Skaters must meet the minimum test requirements for the events level, but not exceed the maximum permissible test requirement.

- **TEST LEVEL - IMPORTANT PLEASE READ!!** It is the coach/athlete/parent and/or guardians' responsibility to ensure the test level the skater has registered for is correct. If the skater has registered for the wrong level, please let the competition chair know and we can update any time prior to the close of registration. If after registration closes the skater is found to be registered for an event level, they do not qualify, and the skater may be unable to compete. Coaches and Clubs please take extra effort when reviewing skaters' tests levels this year when approving competition registrations in the EMS system. For more details about establishing event levels email events@usfigureskating.org.

EVENTS OFFERED:

- **U.S. Figure Skating Program Requirements:** usfigureskating.org --> [Skate](#) --> [Compete](#) --> [Program Requirements](#)
- **Compete USA Program Requirements:** learntoskateusa.com/competeusa ● **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 hiawathaland@rochesterfsc.org. [Click here for the Skate United Athlete Form](#). If you have questions about how to support Skate United Athletes at your competition, email events@usfigureskating.org.
- **Skating Accommodation Memorandum (S.A.M.):** Skaters using a S.A.M. must submit their S.A.M. to the competition chair via email hiawathaland@rochesterfsc.org. [Click here for more information about S.A.Ms](#). If you have questions about how to support skaters using S.A.Ms, email events@usfigureskating.org.

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

SINGLES	JUDGING	1 st Event Price	2 nd Event Price
Excel Free Skate	IJS	\$175.00	\$50.00
Championship Track Short Program (Juvenile-Senior)	IJS	\$175.00	\$50.00
Championship Track Free Skate (Pre-Preliminary - Senior)	IJS	\$175.00	\$50.00
Adult Free Skate	IJS	\$175.00	\$50.00
Adult Beginner & High Beginner Skate	CJS	\$175.00	\$50.00

ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT	JUDGING	1st Event Price	2nd Event Price
Jumps Challenge (Level 1 –4)	<i>CJS</i>	<i>\$175.00</i>	<i>\$50.00</i>
Jumps Challenge (Level 5-9)	<i>IJS</i>	<i>\$175.00</i>	<i>\$50.00</i>
Spins Challenge (Level 1 – 6)	<i>CJS</i>	<i>\$175.00</i>	<i>\$50.00</i>
Spins Challenge (Level 5-6)	<i>IJS</i>	<i>\$175.00</i>	<i>\$50.00</i>
Test Credit Sign Up (fee per test)	<i>IJS</i>	<i>\$40.00</i>	<i>\$40.00</i>
SHOWCASE (Preliminary – Senior Elite/ Pro Am, Adult)	JUDGING	1st Event Price	2nd Event Price
Emotional Performance	<i>CJS</i>	<i>\$175.00</i>	<i>\$50.00</i>
Choreographic Artistry (Juvenile- Senior + Adult Masters only)	<i>CJS</i>	<i>\$175.00</i>	<i>\$50.00</i>
Lyrical Pop	<i>CJS</i>	<i>\$175.00</i>	<i>\$50.00</i>
Character Performance	<i>CJS</i>	<i>\$175.00</i>	<i>\$50.00</i>
Comedic Impressions	<i>CJS</i>	<i>\$175.00</i>	<i>\$50.00</i>
Theme 26-27	<i>CJS</i>	<i>\$175.00</i>	<i>\$50.00</i>
DANCE (not participating in series)	JUDGING	1st Event Price	2nd Event Price
Solo Pattern Dance	<i>CJS</i>	<i>\$175.00</i>	<i>\$50.00</i>
Adult Solo Pattern Dance	<i>CJS</i>	<i>\$175.00</i>	<i>\$50.00</i>
Free Dance	<i>CJS</i>	<i>\$175.00</i>	<i>\$50.00</i>
Adult Free Dance	<i>CJS</i>	<i>\$175.00</i>	<i>\$50.00</i>
Compete USA	Judging	1st Event Price	2nd Event Price
Aspire 1-4 Program w/ Music	<i>CJS</i>	<i>\$125.00</i>	<i>\$50.00</i>
Aspire 1-4 Showcase (Character Performance & Lyrical Pop)	<i>CJS</i>	<i>\$125.00</i>	<i>\$50.00</i>
Snowplow Sam – Basic 6 Program with Music	<i>CJS</i>	<i>\$125.00</i>	<i>\$40.00</i>
Adult 1-6 Program w/ Music	<i>CJS</i>	<i>\$125.00</i>	<i>\$40.00</i>

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 received, investigates, and addresses allegations of discrimination or harassment throughout its membership and the organization. Please refer to the most current [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 or email SkateSafe@USFigureSkating.org.

ATHLETE ASSISTANCE/ACCOMMODATIONS:

Should a skater with disabilities require any specific accommodations or assistance for their competitive event, please submit your approved S.A.M to the Competition Chair by the registration deadline at hiawathaland@rochesterfsc.org.

SKATESAFE 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 in Members Only, click the blue "COACH" button. All compliance requirements must be met at the time of check-in to access the competition, no exceptions.

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.

III. REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Entries are only accepted online with secure credit card payment at the competition EMS registration site linked on the club's competition webpage www.rochesterfsc.org/hiawathaland (major credit cards). **Online entry must be COMPLETED by 11:59pm CT on Sunday, August 30, 2026.** When using the online registration, it is the skaters' and coaches' responsibility to verify that the skater has entered the correct event and level. No late entries, event changes or additions to entries will be allowed after the registration deadline of Sunday, August 30, 2025

No registrations will be accepted after Sunday, August 30, 2026 *There may be times when the registration date is extended, any extensions will be communicated via the EMS competition page. The host club also reserves the right to close registration at any time if the capacity is met.

LIST OF FEES:

- Open Registration Fee for First Event: \$175*
- Open Additional Events Fee: \$50 each
- Compete USA Registration Fee: \$125*
- Compete USA Additional Events Fee - Each Additional: \$40
- Practice Ice Fee at Registration \$18.00/session
- Practice Ice Fee at Competition \$20.00/session
- Test Credit Fee: \$40
- Late Music File Fee: \$25
- Late or Missing PPC Fee \$25
- An additional online processing fee of 3.8% will be added to each transaction.

*** Registration fees for individual entrants include one FREE set of event photos of your choice from Perkins Media, our selected photographer of the competition.**

ADD/CHANGE EVENT: Registered events can be changed, and new events can be added without penalty before 11:59pm on the entry deadline. Any event change request after this deadline of **11:59 pm CT on Sunday, August 30, 2026**, may NOT be accepted. If accepted, a change fee of \$50 will be charged. There will be **NO CHANGES** accepted after October 1, 2026, 11:59PM.

TEST CREDIT: Please review the [IJS Protocol for Test Credit](#) document. Skaters may purchase test credit at the time of competition registration via EMS. **No onsite requests will be accepted.** Submitting your test credit documents BEFORE the competition is required. Test Credit Fee is \$40.00. You may request and turn in your test credit forms by emailing hiawathaland@rochesterfsc.org.

CRITIQUES: No critiques will be offered at Hiawathaland Competition.

SINGLE SKATER CJS EVENTS: In the event there is only one skater registered for an event that is CJS they will be given the opportunity to still skate the program as an exhibition. If the skater chooses not to participate, the event will be canceled, and the skater will be refunded their registration fee.

SINGLE SKATER IJS/CJS EVENTS: In the event there is only one skater registered for an event that is IJS/CJS the event will still be held for protocol feedback.

MUSIC UPLOAD: All individual skaters must submit music electronically via EMS.

Competition music for all events that require music must be submitted electronically via EMS by the music deadline of **Sunday, September 27, 2026, at 11:59pm CT**. Skaters will not be able to register without their music uploaded. Any music file submitted through EMS after the deadline will incur a \$25 late fee.

All music uploads must be in .MP3 or M4a format.

Leaders and trailers (the silence or “dead space” before and after the actual start and end of the program music may not exceed two (2) seconds. We prefer that there be NO leaders or trailers at all. Excessive leaders and trailers may disrupt the playing of the music during competition.

If you need assistance, please reach out to your coach, EMS customer service or the competition chair.

Backup Music, competitors must also have available a backup copy of their competition music on a CD (standard CD-R format only), or cell phone and it must be immediately available rink side whenever the skater competes.

If the phone will be used as a backup and it does not have the standard round headset connector, an appropriate adapter, such as an Apple Lightning connector or Samsung USB-C adapter is required to be 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. Music submitted to EMS for the competition will be deleted after the competition is complete.

PPC SUBMISSION: All individual competitors skating in IJS events at Hiawathaland must submit their Planned Program Content (PPC) via their EMS competition account. Once you register for an event you will have the ability to enter your PPC. If you are having any trouble, please reach out to the competition chair. You are required to enter your PPC into EMS. If the PPC is not submitted prior to the deadline skaters are technically not registered for the competition. It is the responsibility of the coach/athlete to ensure the PPC is turned in prior to the deadline.

The deadline to submit PPC is **Sunday, September 27, 2026, at 11:59pm CT**. Failure to complete PPCs will result in a \$25 late fee per event. Also, skaters will not be allowed to officially register until the late fee is paid and the missing PPCs are received.

MUSIC DEADLINE: 9/27/2026 at 11:59pm CT

PPC DEADLINE: 9/27/2026 at 11:59pm CT

REFUND POLICY: As per USFS rule 3058, entry fees will not be refunded after the registration deadline unless no competition exists, or the event is canceled. There will be no refunds including no refunds for medical withdrawals.

LIABILITY: U.S. Figure Skating, Rochester Figure Skating Club and the Rochester Recreation Center 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: All competition events and practice ice will be held at,

**Rochester Recreation Center,
21 Elton Hills Dr. NW, Rochester, MN.**

[Website Link](#)

The arena has two ice surfaces, each 85'x 200'. There is no admission fee for the competition. There will be limited food available via vending machines during the event. Please bring your own food and beverages if you need them. There are multiple coffee shops and restaurants located near the rink. The temperature of the rink can vary day to day and while it is usually a comfortable rink for spectators we do recommend dressing in layers or bringing a jacket or blanket to stay warm.

READY ROOMS:

Locker rooms will not be available during Hiawathaland for changing. Skaters will be asked to come to the rink ready to compete and if a change is needed there are multiple restrooms available in the building. We will have an open area for skaters to put skates on and 4 "Ready Rooms" available in the hallway behind the South Rink. Changing is not permitted in the ready rooms. These ready rooms should be used for skaters to put skates on/off or have a quiet place to prepare for their event. Doors to these rooms will always remain open throughout the entire competition.

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 always adhered to 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 UPDATES AND NOTICES: An official bulletin board will be maintained in the Recreation Center lobby near registration. It is the responsibility of each competitor, parent, and coach to check the bulletin board frequently for any schedule changes and/or additional information. Skaters are requested to arrive 45 minutes prior to the scheduled time of their event. A tentative schedule of events will be posted prior to the competition.

SCHEDULE: Competitors may be scheduled on any day or time for the announced dates of the competition. The competition and practice ice schedule will be available after the close of entries.

All participants will be notified via email once available. Please also check the website for changes or corrections to this announcement. Events may run up to 30 minutes ahead of schedule at the discretion of the referee.

PRACTICE ICE: Practice ice will be available for purchase in your EMS portal once you complete your competition registration. It is suggested that you reserve your practice ice when you register so that you will have first choice of times once the schedule is posted online. When reserving practice ice sessions online during registration, you must indicate the number of sessions you want to reserve and pay for them at that time. Each skater will be allowed to reserve one session per event registered. Practice ice cost will be **\$18.00/session** if you pre order the sessions. After the schedule has been posted and those that reserved practice ice have had time to select their sessions, additional practice ice will be available for purchase at **\$20.00/session**. If available, remaining practice ice will be available for purchase at the registration desk during the competition for **\$20.00/session**. All sessions are 20 minutes. No music will be played during individual skater practice ice.

Notification of competition and practice ice times will not be available by phone, mail, or email. Skaters' and Coaches' schedules will be available via the web in the EMS competition portal. Please check back often.

ONSITE REGISTRATION/CHECK-IN DESK: The Registration/Check-In Desk will be located at the rink main entrance and open during all individual practice ice sessions and events. It typically opens at least 15 minutes before the first practice ice session each day. The Registration Desk is located at the east side main entrance to the Recreation Center. Please register promptly upon arrival. Registration will be your final confirmation of event(s) and competition time(s).

AWARDS:

Medals will be awarded to the top four skaters in each event. Participants not finishing in the top four will receive a participation award.

PHOTOGRAPHY: As stated in the "List of Fees" section, registration fees for individual registrants include one FREE event album of photos of your choice compliments of the Rochester Figure Skating Club. The photographer this year is Perkins Media, and they will post your choice of event photos in a Dropbox location for you to copy the files from. Additional photos will be available for purchase for most events.

PROHIBITION OF STREAMING AND RECORDING Live and on-demand streaming, and sales and distribution of U.S. Figure Skating sanctioned and approved events, programs, and activities that include the playback of music is strictly prohibited. This prohibition does not apply to the distribution of footage that does not include music. If you choose to share your videos with family members and friends directly or through social media platforms you should not include the music of the event. Use of music in this manner is not covered by U.S. Figure Skating's Performance License with ASCAP and BMI and is strictly prohibited. Questions or concerns regarding music at U.S. Figure Skating sanctioned and approved events, programs and activities may be directed to music@usfigureskating.org

Note, per U.S. Figure Skating policy, photographing and/or recording of anyone other than your own skater is strictly prohibited.

VENDORS: This year we are happy to have multiple vendors at Hiawathaland. Be sure to check them out in the Gym! A list of vendors attending will be posted on the EMS competition page.

FIRST AID: A First Aid Room will be located directly across from the skaters' entrance to the South Rink

SHOWCASE SKATING EVENTS: Please read information on the Showcase events and review the 2026 guidelines

Singles skaters of all ages and levels can participate in Showcase in the following categories:

- Emotional Performance
- Choreographic Artistry (Juvenile – Senior, Adult Masters only)
- Lyrical Pop
- Character Performance
- Comedic Impressions

Descriptions of each category and rules regarding props can be found in the Showcase Guidelines.

SOLO PATTERN DANCE **(Not part of series)**

Please read the technical portion of the handbook closely when creating programs for the 2026 season as there are some new rules that will be implemented this year. All new rules for 2026 will be underlined in all documents to outline what is new. Rules are highlighted in yellow so everyone will pay special attention to major rule changes that may have been added since the first publishing of this handbook. [CLICK HERE](#)

Important to Remember: All music for pattern dance will be Skater's Choice. See Skater's Choice rules on page 7. All pattern dances, except shadow, will include "Key Points" which will be part of attaining levels.

All pattern dances will use "Solo Series Dance Steps" for all competitors. All skaters will be using the same steps. Please refer to the pattern dance diagrams in Appendix A for the steps to be skated along with the number of sequences, tempo, Key Points, and time limits for Skater's Choice skating time following page 45.

[Solo Pattern Dance Table Link](#)

[Adult Solo Pattern Dance Table](#)



TWIN CITY FIGURE SKATING ASSOCIATION COMPETE USA SERIES

TCFSA COMPETE USA SERIES MISSION STATEMENT: The series aims to promote an introductory competitive experience for the beginning TCFSA member skaters, allowing them to develop U.S. Figure Skating basic skills in an enjoyable environment. The Twin City Figure Skating Association (TCFSA) Compete USA Competition Series is sponsored solely by TCFSA and is a U.S. Figure Skating-approved Basic Skills Series. Competition announcements and entry forms will be posted on the official website of each participating competition. COMPETE USA and ASPIRE skaters are automatically registered and will have the opportunity to compete at 12 different local TCFSA member competitions to earn points for a final standing. **Skaters MUST participate** in at least two competitions to be eligible for an award. Awards will be presented to the top three skaters with the highest point totals in each level at the end of the series. Skaters competing in more than five competitions will use their five highest placements. Point accumulation information will be available at www.tcfsa.org in the COMPETE USA section. A team trophy will be awarded to the TCFSA member club, accumulating the most points during the series season.

THE POINT SYSTEM: Each skater must be a member in good standing with TCFSA member club or COMPETE USA Program. Each Basic Skills program event, as well as the High Beginner and Beginner events, in each of the series competitions, will be eligible for points. The system for scoring points for the final standing will be as follows:

Place	Points
1	5
2	4
3	3
4	2

All competitors who place 5th or lower will be awarded one participation point. Per the U.S. Figure Skating Compete USA webpage, if there is only one skater in the group, he or she will be awarded three points. Also, should a skater move up a level during the competition series season, their points will follow them to the next level. They will also be rewarded with two bonus points for moving up to a different level one time during the series season and then one additional bonus point for moving up a second and third time, for a maximum of 4 points.

ELIGIBILITY and RULES FOR PARTICIPANTS: The TCFSA COMPETE USA series is open to all skaters who are current eligible members of either the Learn to Skate program or full members of U.S. Figure Skating through a TCFSA member club. Eligibility is based on the skill level as of the closing date of entries. All Snowplow Sam and Basic Skills skaters through Basic 6 must skate at their highest level and have NOT passed any US Figure Skating tests, including Skating Skills or dance tests. Males and females may be placed in the same group. The competitions in the series will be conducted under the rules set forth by the U.S. Figure Skating COMPETE USA and ASPIRE program. Skating levels included in the TCFSA series are Snowplow Sam, Basic 1 through Basic 6, and Aspire 1-4.

Source: <https://www.tcfsa.org/>