

# 2025–2026 Showcase

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) & Clarifications

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### **Q1 – I am in a duet with another skater, and they aren't competing in any other events except for the duet/trio. Can they enter National Showcase?**

A1 – In the past, we've provided exceptions for these skaters, but starting in 2025, we will no longer accept skaters who have not qualified in the solo events (Emotional (EP), Lyrical Pop (LP), Choreographic Artist (CA), Character (CH), Comedic (CO)).

### **Q2 – I skated in National Showcase last year. Does that qualify me for National Showcase this year?**

A2 – Skating in National Showcase does not qualify you for the next year. You only qualify if you placed in the top 4 of your event, and only in the event you placed. For instance, if you skated Lyrical Pop and placed 3<sup>rd</sup> (in Final Round or event, if no final round) and you meet the minimum score for your level, you qualify for the next year in Lyrical Pop. If you also skated Emotional and placed 10<sup>th</sup>, you do not qualify in Emotional. You must re-qualify for this year in events that did not place in the top 4.

### **Q3 – If I qualified in the Theme Event this year, does that qualify me for the Theme Event at National Showcase?**

A3 – No, unfortunately, you must still qualify in at least one of the solo events (LP, CA, CH, CO, EP) in order to skate in any of the elective events, such as the Theme Event.

### **Q4 – If there are members of my Production Team who did not enter or qualify for the solo events, can they still skate?**

A4 – The Mini Production and Production Ensembles are the only events that we will permit non-qualified skaters to enter. It is expected that many of the skaters on the team will be participating in National Showcase in the solo events. However, we understand there may be members of the team who have not qualified in solo events. We understand the challenge of forming a team, and we also hope those skaters see the rest of the events and get hooked on Showcase, and will join us in the following season as a solo event skater.

### **Q5 – I don't understand how the parade of champions works. Can you explain it?**

A5 – Sure, the winners of all the events are entered into a "best in show" or "parade of champions" event at the end of the week at National Showcase. Some competitions throughout the country also elect to form their own event of a similar nature. No skater can perform more than 2 programs. If a skater qualifies for 3 or more, the accountant or a referee will contact them or their coach to confirm which programs they will skate. Then, in the event(s) that were not selected, we move to the 2<sup>nd</sup> place skater and inform them that they have qualified for the parade. Sometimes these skaters have qualified in more than 2

events, and the same logic applies...moving down the list until all “winners” have been selected. In 2024, we added 6 more skaters to the parades, 2 from each level, earning the highest score across all events. Those skaters were also invited to perform those events at the parade of champions, and if they also qualified in more than 2 events, we moved down the list of performances depending on what they chose to perform. It was a bit complicated – but we think it was a fair approach to gathering the best of the best for an amazing event.

**Q6 – Can I use the same type of music found in the Theme event for my Emotional or Character Program?**

A6 – It's best not to double-dip and use a theme song for an individual event. There are plenty of smart song choices to be made across all your programs.

**Q7 – I only want to skate in the inflatable event this year. How can I do that?**

A7 – The only way you can enter the inflatable event is if you have qualified in an individual event (Emotional, Character, Choreographic Artistry, Lyrical Pop, Comedic) before June 1<sup>st</sup>. You are no longer able to enter this event without qualifying in an individual event.

**Q8 – If my skater is a Basic 6 skater, can they qualify now, and then work on testing until June 1<sup>st</sup> to qualify for the level they want to skate at National Showcase?**

A8 – Unfortunately, no. Compete USA levels and competitions do not qualify skaters for National Showcase. Skaters must qualify starting at the Preliminary level or higher. Any levels less than Preliminary do not qualify for National Showcase.

**Q9 – If my skater is a Pre-Preliminary skater, but skates up at the local non-qualifying competition at Preliminary, will they qualify for National Showcase?**

A9 – Yes, they will qualify for the event, provided they MEET the minimum test and minimum score requirements by the June 1<sup>st</sup> entry deadline for National Showcase.

**Q10 - If my club wants to improve on our showcase events at our local club competition, what can we do that won't break our budget?**

A10 - There are many different solutions to help. One is to stop using full ice for warm-ups and create a warm-up space behind a curtain. There are different things you can use in place of a traditional curtain:

- 1) Portable Clothing Racks - You can purchase multiple portable clothing racks and then zip tie them together, and put a curtain on each one. [Click Here](#)
- 2) Medical Patient Room Dividers are a bit less DIY, as they come with a curtain or built-in barrier. You would still need to order multiples and attach them to each other using zip ties or Velcro straps, and they should be a dark color (preferably black). [Click here](#)
- 3) Room Divider - portable room dividers fold up and come in varying sizes. [Click Here](#)

**Q11 - We don't have much space to have those big spotlights at our rink. What other options do we have to move from full-house lights to spotlights during practices and competitions?**

A11 - There are options now that use LED lights and plug into a 110-volt outlet, rather than the large 220-volt plugs often found on those old, large spotlights. Here is what was used recently at the 2025 National Showcase. These lights can be plugged into standard outlets or extension cords and fit into the stands.

- LED Followspot 1205T [Click Here](#) (Instruction Manual [here](#))

**Q12 – How were the minimum scores calculated, and why do they increase in 2026-2027?**

A12 - Historical data was pulled from Showcase events from March 2021 to June 2025 for all levels. Combined events were excluded (events grouped by event category (LP, EP, CP, CO, CA), by level (Pre-Sr, Adults), or both). High, low, and average scores were calculated by level. We started with scores at or (1-3 points) below the average. Scores will be reviewed and updated annually.

The 2025-2026 season allows skaters time to focus on improving their scores overall. As we move toward a series for National Showcase, the minimum score will increase slightly in the 2026-2027 season. As well, additional training opportunities are being finalized and will be provided to all officials to ensure consistency in judging.

**Q13 – For Preliminary and Pre-Juvenile levels, is there a place for skaters under 10 to compete in Showcase events?**

A13 - In any nonqualifying competition with Showcase events, skaters under 10 competing at the Preliminary or Pre-Juvenile levels may participate in those events. If the skater does not turn 10 by June 1, 2026, they are not eligible to compete in the National Showcase event, regardless of whether the minimum score is met.

**Q14 – What jump elements are allowed? Are there any limits to jump combinations or jump sequences?**

A14 – Any jump that receives value in a free skate will be counted as a jump in Showcase. For example, at the Pre-Preliminary, Preliminary, and all adult levels, a waltz jump is considered a jump and will be counted as such in Showcase events.

Jump combinations and sequences are limited to a maximum of three (3) jumps per combination or sequence. Each jump combination or sequence is counted as one jump element.

**Q15 – Please clarify when the Not According to Requirements deduction is taken.**

The table below identifies when the Not According to Requirements (NAR) deduction can be taken.

Requirement	Char. Perf.	Choreo. Artistry	Comedic Impress.	Emot. Perf.	Lyrical Pop
More than 2 Jumps, Jump Sequences, or Jump Combinations*	X	X	X	X	X
Lip syncing is required, but not demonstrated for the majority of the program	X				
Lip syncing is not permitted, but is demonstrated throughout the program		X		X	X
Props are used, but not permitted**		X			X

\* For Pre-Preliminary, Preliminary, and all Adult levels, a waltz jump is counted as a jump.

\*\* See Handbook for the definition of props and costumes.

The majority of the panel (judges and referees) must take the deduction before it is assessed. If any judge or referee takes the deduction, the protocol will indicate which judges did so. The referee deduction is only reflected in the total number of officials who took it (as shown in the sample protocol below).

024 Pre-Preliminary Lyrical Pop / Showcase													Total Seg Score	Total Elm Score	Total Comp Score	Ded
Place	Name	Nation										=	+	+	-	
4												12.36	0.00	15.36	3.00	
#	Executed Elements	I	Base Value	GOE	J1	J2	J3	J4	J5	J6	J7	J8	J9	Panel Scores		
		Total BV: 0.00												Total elm. score: 0.00		
Program Components				Factor												
Artistic Appeal				2.40	2.50	2.00	3.75	3.00	2.00					2.50		
Performance				2.10	2.50	2.75	3.75	2.75	2.25					2.67		
Skating Skills				1.50	2.25	2.75	2.25	3.00	2.50					2.50		
General Component Factor:				1.0										Total factored comp. score: 15.36		
Deductions														-3.00		
Not According to Requirements:				-2.50	Time Violation:				-0.50							
Majority deductions					J1	J2	J3	J4	J5	J6	J7	J8	J9	REF		
Not According to Requirements (4 of 6)					1.00	1.00			1.00					18.00		