

Showcase Handbook

2025-2026 Season

V1.2
11.28.25

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A separate sanction for showcase events is not required when the showcase is included as part of a sanctioned non-qualifying competition, as long as the events are included in the official application. The non-qualifying competition showcase guidelines must govern showcase events for the skaters to qualify for the National Showcase competition.

A. OFFICIALS FOR SHOWCASE EVENTS:

Officials will be selected by the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) and the Showcase National Vice Chair from the current list of U.S. Figure Skating officials. Judging panels will consist of an event referee and a minimum of 4 judges per the USFS Rulebook. Results will be used to verify skaters' eligibility for the National Showcase competition. For non-qualifying competitions, it is recommended to have a majority of the judges with a Showcase appointment. At National Showcase, the majority of the panel will hold a National Showcase appointment.

Chief Accountants / LOC: For all non-qualifying competitions that include showcase events, the competition results must be sent to:

- showcase@usfigureskating.org

B. COMPETITION ELIGIBILITY AND NATIONAL SHOWCASE:

Required age, test qualifications, and minimum scores (see table below) must be in effect at the date entries are closed. Subsequent changes will not affect eligibility. All U.S. Figure Skating members must be members in good standing. Skaters representing another governing body must meet that body's closest possible equivalent to the specified U.S. Figure Skating test requirement and have the minimum score for the event(s) entered. The referee's decision will be final.

Placement & Minimum Score Prerequisites: Singles competitors, Preliminary through Senior, Adult Bronze through Adult Gold, and Masters, may compete at National Showcase in an event where:

1. The skater placed in a contested or skated uncontested at a non-qualifying showcase skating event held in the United States from October 1, 2025, to May 31, 2026, using the Component Judging System, and met the minimum score requirement for the level in which they intend to compete at National Showcase. Events should not be combined to create a contested event. **OR,**
2. The skater competed in the 2025 National Showcase competition and placed in the top 4 of their final round event (if one was held) or their event (if no final round was held), and their score from the 2025 National Showcase final event(s) meets the minimum score requirement.

Qualification must occur in the Character Performance, Choreographic Artistry, Comedic Impressions, Emotional Performance, and/or Lyrical Pop categories. Skaters must qualify in each event they intend to compete in at National Showcase.

Skaters **must** qualify based on level, provided it is at the event **and** minimum score level: **Preliminary and higher, or Adult Bronze or higher.**

Once qualified, the skater(s) may then compete in elective events (duets/trios, theme event, inflatables). Skaters may still be part of a Mini Production or Production Ensemble without skating in a solo or elective event, provided they meet the Preliminary or Adult Bronze level minimum test requirements.

****Events must be judged using CJS to qualify for National Showcase. If a competition uses 6.0 or non-USFS judges, the event will not count as a qualifying event. No exceptions will be given.**

The deadline to satisfy minimum test and minimum score prerequisites, competition qualification, and entry registration is June 1 (or the National Showcase competition close of entries, if different).

Minimum Score Requirements (Character Performance, Choreographic Artistry, Comedic Impressions, Emotional Performance, Lyrical Pop) - must be met for each category entered at National Showcase. The minimum score requirements are as follows:

Level	2025-26 NQ Competition Minimum Total Score	2026-27 NQ Competition Minimum Total Score (tentative)
Preliminary	15.5	17.0
Pre-Juvenile	18.5	20.0
Juvenile/Open Juvenile	20.0	22.0
Intermediate	21.0	24.0
Novice	24.0	28.0
Junior	25.0	30.0
Senior	26.0	32.0
Senior Elite-ProAm	25.0	30.0
Adult Bronze	15.0	17.0
Adult Silver	16.0	18.0
Adult Gold	17.5	19.5
Adult Masters	20.0	22.0
Young Adult	18.0	20.0

C. JUDGING AND MARKING:

Non-qualifying competitions must use the Component Judging System (CJS), on paper or using an IJS system, to qualify skaters for the National Showcase competition. CJS scoring will use the following Program Components marked on a scale of 0.25 to 10.

1. **Artistic Appeal with Innovation & Creativity (factor 40%)**

A performance is truly entertaining when it is in the eyes, ears, and hearts of the audience. It is a measure of how audience members remember the program, how they felt during the performance, their level of involvement during the program, what they take away from it, and how long after they will recall it. The meaning and feeling should be unique and personal. The question to be answered is: Will I remember what I have seen, and would I like to see it again?

2. **Performance & Projection: Universe, Musicality and Feeling (factor 35%)**

The physical, emotional, and artistic involvement of a skater, using their ability to create a universe. This performance has continuous development of the theme and universe from beginning to end while displaying their musicality skills. It is a measure of how skaters use the ice, music, and the space around them to project feeling and musical awareness into the subconscious of the audience.

3. **Showcase Skating Skills (factor 25%)**

Showcase skating is the way an athlete uses their skating and physical ability to convey their act on the ice surface. It must show quality to support the selected theatrical performance, and show abilities in the skating vernacular, such as balance, glide, acceleration, ice coverage, one-foot skating, etc. Technical elements often found in singles should not be directly rewarded except where they are directly integrated into the performance and advance the story/theme/concept.

Range of Marks	Theatrical Skating Description
0.25 to 0.75	Beginning / Starting
1.0 to 1.75	Emerging / Learning
2.0 to 2.75	Developing / Progressing
3.0 to 3.75	Capable / Expanding
4.0 to 4.75	Confident / Advancing
5.0 to 5.75	Secure / Competent
6.0 to 6.75	Proficient / Established
7.0 to 7.75	Accomplished / Good
8.0 to 8.75	Adept / Very Good
9.0 to 9.75	Expert / Excellent
10.0	Master / Outstanding

Deduction or No Higher Than (NHT)	Deduction/NHT Description	Applied by:
Deduction 0.25	Program Time Violation – per every 10 sec. over max time	Referee
Majority Deduction 2.50	Not According to Requirements*	Majority of R + J
No Higher Than 8.75	Obvious Fall / Error	Judge

*The *Not According to Requirements* deduction may not be taken in the theme event, nor in events where events are combined and categories are mixed together (e.g., Emotional combined with Character and Lyrical Pop).

D. INDIVIDUAL SHOWCASE EVENTS:

1. **Emotional Performance:**

Programs should portray a story, expressing conflict, resolution, and/or depth of emotion. The skater should provoke an emotional response from the audience through related skating movements, gestures, and choreographic processes. The entire spectrum of emotions should be considered when selecting the theme (e.g., love, loss, longing, fulfillment, happiness, melancholy, sadness, etc.).

- Lip synching is not permitted.
- Props and Scenery are permitted.
- **Technical Limitations: maximum of 2 jumps, jump combinations, or jump sequences**

2. **Choreographic Artistry:**

Programs will have music without spoken words or lyrics. Emphasis should be on developing movement on the ice, using the entire body to express innovative ideas, choreographic processes, and gestures, **not creating characters and themes**. Levels: Juvenile through Senior Elite/Pro-Am, and Masters. **Introductory (combined Prelim-PreJuv) and Adult Introductory (combined Adult Pre-Bronze through Adult Gold)**. **Introductory levels do not participate in National Showcase, but may be added to non-qualifying competition events.**

- Lip synching is not permitted.
- Props and Scenery are not permitted.
- Technical Limitations: ½ rotation only. Rotation in the air of more than 180 degrees is prohibited. Choreography may include 1 full spin, additional spins < 3 revs.
- Costuming: should be 1 color. Crystals/Deco **may only be clear or clear AB crystals; no costume or accessories permitted on or on top of the head.**

3. **Lyrical Pop:**

Skaters will perform to a vocal song with lyrics, allowing them to express themselves through the content and narrative of the music.

- Lip synching is not permitted
- Props and Scenery are not permitted
- **Technical Limitations: maximum of 2 jumps, jump combinations, or jump sequences**

4. **Character Performance:**

Skaters will impersonate a character, original or adapted, on the ice. Performances as a character from a movie, musical, book, original idea, or original adaptation are all welcome here.

- Lip synching is required
- Props and Scenery are permitted
- **Technical Limitations: maximum of 2 jumps, jump combinations, or jump sequences**

5. **Comedic Impressions:**

A humorous performance intentionally designed to achieve continuous/multiple chuckles, laughs, or audible rises from viewers. Performance is projected outward towards the audience and entertaining through skating movements, gestures, and physical actions deemed comedic.

- Lip synching is permitted
- Props and Scenery are permitted
- **Technical Limitations: maximum of 2 jumps, jump combinations, or jump sequences**

E. ELECTIVE SHOWCASE EVENTS:

1. Duets/Trios:

Theatrical performances by two or three competitors. Skaters may enter only one duet/trio, one mini-production ensemble, and one production ensemble each. Programs are performed under spotlights. When entering events, the skater with the higher technical achievement shall prevail as the level for the duet/trio to enter.

- Lip synching is permitted
- Props and Scenery are permitted
- Skaters must qualify in an individual event to participate in this category.

2. Mini Production Ensembles:

Theatrical performances by four to eight athletes. Programs are performed under full arena lighting.

- Lip synching is permitted
- Props and Scenery are permitted
- Team members do not have to qualify in an individual event to participate in this category.

3. Production Ensembles:

Theatrical performances by nine or more athletes. Programs are performed under full arena lighting.

- Lip synching is permitted
- Props and Scenery are permitted
- Team members do not have to qualify in an individual event to participate in this category.

4. Inflatables:

This is an open-level event with a theatrical performance by one to three skaters wearing a partial-body or full-body inflatable costume. Programs are performed under full arena lighting (for safety reasons). All open inflatable programs are allowed a 1:30 maximum program time. Inflatable costumes that impersonate humans (e.g., sumo wrestlers) are not permitted.

- Lip synching is permitted
- Props and Scenery are not permitted
- Skaters must qualify in an individual event to participate in this category.

5. Theme Event:

Skaters will be able to enter this themed event according to their level, with a program under the theme of: **DIVAS of the 80s and 90s (2025-2026 season)**. The selected music or sound environment must be a song released between 1/1/1980 and 12/31/1999 or an artist that was active with a song or album released in this time period. Skaters may use the original, re-release, or a cover of the song. A diva (regardless of gender) is considered a successful performer or personality who behaves as if they are very special or important.

- Lip synching is permitted
- Props and Scenery are permitted
- Skaters must qualify in an individual event to participate in this category.

The theme event should mimic a Parade of Champions event where all program types are represented. Programs should be choreographed as an Emotional, Character, Comedic, Choreographic-Artistry, or Lyrical Pop program. **Since this event is mixed with different styles of programs, the Not According to Requirements deduction will not apply.**

Singles: Skaters may enter events for which they qualify by test level and non-qualifying competition participation. Skaters cannot skate in different levels of the same event or competition (for example, an Emotional Performance Junior level skater would not be allowed to skate Emotional Performance Junior and Senior level events at the same competition).

Electives: Each skater (competitor) may only enter one duet/trio, one inflatable, one theme, one mini-production ensemble, and one production ensemble.

F. WARM-UP TIMES:

Singles, duets/trios, theme, inflatables, mini-production, and production ensembles may warm up for three minutes backstage when curtains and spotlights are used. It is the skater's/team's responsibility to check in with the ice monitor to know when their warm-up time starts. **If a skater misses their warm-up start time, no additional warm-up time will be given.**

G. PROGRAMS + TIMING:

Please be mindful of how your choices may impact fellow members when considering costuming, music, and choreography. Some choices may be **triggering**, harmful, and/or offensive to others, especially if they appropriate or mock a culture or faith, promote a stereotype, or attempt to shame any identity dimension.

U.S. Figure Skating commits in policy, principle, and practice to maintain a non-discriminatory approach on and off the ice for all members. We are actively working to develop equitable practices and policies that promote safety and foster an authentic sense of belonging for all involved, in all areas of our sport. We believe that #SkatingIsForEveryone.

All programs must begin on the ice in view of the audience, **or the skater must wave from behind the curtain to indicate their readiness.** The program timing will start at the first movement of any skater or team member. Timing will end when the skater(s) have come to a complete stop or crossed the line of the curtain/exit. For performances that are over the time allotment, a deduction for every 10 seconds in excess will be applied.

Production + Ensemble Events: Before the music starts, the team must take a stationary position on the ice, and one skater must give a hand signal that the team is ready.

Singles Events: If a skater begins the mood/scene while being introduced by the announcer, or skating to their starting spot, the skater must stand still and pause in place, as their signal to begin music and program timing. For a program to end, a skater must stop skating in view of the audience/officials or exit behind the curtain to complete the timing of their program.

H. SCENERY / PROPS / COSTUME:

General:

- The inclusion of scenery and/or props is optional and not mandatory.
- Wearable inflatable costumes are only permitted in the Inflatables event.

- All props and scenery must be portable by humans. Its movement while on the ice will be the responsibility of the skater or the team. The use of props and scenery should enhance the skater's performance.
- **Scenery** is defined as any nonpermanent two- or three-dimensional background or environmental element placed on the ice to suggest the historical period, locale, and mood of the program being performed.
- **Prop** is defined as a movable or portable object, distinct from the skater, scenery, and costumes; used in a production, and similar entertainments, to further the action or presented story.
- Props and scenery must be placed and removed **in front of the curtain**:
 - Unaided by the singles or duets/trio competitors within 30 seconds each, on and off.
 - Unaided by the ensemble teams within one minute maximum for setup and one minute maximum for removal. Persons not skating are not allowed to step on the ice.
- All props and scenery must be able to enter and exit the entrances from which skaters enter the ice. Extra accommodations for entry and exit from other locations to fit oversized props will not be allowed.

Illegal or Prohibited Props:

- Scenery may not exceed 7'6" in height to accommodate building and doorway restrictions. It may be higher if the building/arena can permit or accommodate the size.
- Guns/Firearms (real or fake), gun/firearm noise effects, propulsion, and projectile devices will NOT be permitted. This includes items such as bows, **swords**, slingshots, cannons, and other items that may be considered similar weapons.
- Trampolines and additional apparatus that could be used to assist skaters with jumping into the air are NOT permitted.
- The use of smoke, fire, dry ice, liquids, live animals, feathers, bubble machines, or any substance that may harm the ice surface and/or skaters is not permitted.
- No glass mirrors or glass of any kind are allowed on the ice.
- People may not be used as props.
- Dangerous props that may harm participants/audience members could result in disqualification from the event/competition.

I. COSTUMES:

- **Costume refers to the clothing and related accessories (e.g., hat, boa, hair ribbon) worn by skaters to visually represent their character within a program. Costumes help define a character's personality, background, and emotional state. If a skater takes off a piece of costuming and uses it to gesture or express a specific action, it can transition from a costume element to a prop. For example, if a hat, jacket, or tie is removed and used for a specific action within the program, it can also function as a prop.**
- Costuming and make-up for showcase skating programs should enhance the feeling created by the performance and reflect the meaning of the story, theme, or character portrayed on the ice.
- The competitors' clothing must be dignified and appropriate for artistic competition. It may be theatrical in design and reflect the chosen music.

- Costume rules for Singles/Pairs/Dance/Synchro/TOI programs do not apply to showcase skating.
- Wearable Inflatable costumes are only permitted in the Inflatables event. In the event a skater performs with a wearable inflatable costume in any event other than the inflatables category, the skater/team will be disqualified by the event referee.

J. GROUP SIZES AND FINAL ROUNDS:

- Maximum sizes of initial rounds will be at the discretion of the Chief Referee. All other groups will be divided randomly. Final rounds may be held at the discretion of the referee and the local organizing committee, when applicable.

K. ADULT SECTIONALS & ADULT CHAMPIONSHIPS:

- For adult competitors to qualify for National Showcase, at the nonqualifying competitions held in conjunction with Eastern, Midwestern, and Pacific Coast Adult Sectionals, events will not be separated by age level. Competition levels (Adult Bronze through Masters) and event categories (Emotional Performance, Lyrical Pop, Character Performance, Comedic Impressions, and Choreographic Artistry) will not be combined.
- U.S. Adult Figure Skating Championships, and the associated non-qualifying competition held with this event, is not a qualifying competition for National Showcase.

L. SPECIAL OLYMPICS & ADAPTIVE SKATING EVENTS:

- Adaptive skating is the umbrella heading for skaters with any type of disability. Under Adaptive Skating are the sub-groups Special Olympics and Skate United. The Special Olympics curriculum is for skaters with intellectual disabilities.
- Special Olympics USA provides USFS with the badge curriculum that can be found at specialolympics.org. Adaptive Skating badges 1-12 can be found in the Learn to Skate USA curriculum and are for skaters with strictly physical disabilities. If those skaters want to move beyond badge levels and test/compete, they will follow the "Skate United" track, still in development.
- Adaptive Skaters who compete in the Showcase Events will create and develop programs that mirror traditional show skating at their skating ability. It is less about the elements and more about the creativity and ingenuity of the program, and the skater(s) emoting human feelings and emotions. These programs may be performed under the traditional use of a spotlight, show curtain, and a rink that is 3/4 the normal size. In addition to the solo events, skaters can compete in Unified Partners, Mini Production, and Production Ensemble.
- Unified Partners (individuals without intellectual disabilities) train and compete as teammates alongside Special Olympics athletes on a Unified Sports Team. For the Unified Partner Event for Showcase, the Unified Partner will perform a program alongside and in conjunction with the Unified Sports Team member. The team can execute the program using pairs, ice dance, and/or skating duets. The program will be judged on the creativity the team demonstrates, skating together to create a memorable performance.

Adaptive/Unified Production Ensemble has the same requirements as Theatre on Ice. This event is to provide another opportunity for these teams to perform in front of a Theatrical Skating audience.

- Test Requirements: All team members must have passed any Special Olympics, Therapeutic Skating, or have mastered any Special Olympics level, except for four skaters who must be enrolled in a Special Olympics or Therapeutic Skating class.
- May have up to one mentor on the ice per skater on the team.
- Mentors must be listed on the Special Olympics/Therapeutic Skating Production Ensemble rosters.
- In determining the number of skaters on a team, only Special Olympic/ Therapeutic Skaters are counted in the total.
- Note that there is no program minimum length; programs may not exceed 3:30 maximum.
- Props may be used (including walkers for skaters if needed).
- Scenery is allowed.
- Costumes may be worn.
- Must be members of U.S. Figure Skating or a registered Learn to Skate USA member.
- Must have a minimum of 9 skaters, and no maximum number of skaters.
- There are no age requirements or restrictions.

M. CLUB NAME AND PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS:

- National Showcase will not collect or announce descriptions as part of the event.
- Club Names will not be announced during events.

N. INTERPRETIVE EVENTS:

Interpretive (will not be part of National Showcase): The program will be a performance choreographed by the competitor, unaccompanied and unassisted, to music that is supplied by the LOC.

Suggested event parameters for Non-Qualifying Competitions and LOC:

- **Option 1:** Approximately 15 minutes before the scheduled event time, competitors will gather where the music will be played continuously during a 10-minute off-ice session in a room. The room will be attended only by adult monitors assigned to play the music (in accordance with SkateSafe policies), and the competing skaters.
 - No additional items may be provided to the skater once the skater enters the gathering area where the music is heard. Cell phone and outside contact, once entering the room, is strictly prohibited and could result in a skater being withdrawn from the event.
 - Furniture (e.g., folding chair) is not allowed.
 - Props are permitted but must be brought into the room, using nothing larger than a carry-on luggage suitcase prior to listening to the music for the very first time.
 - One garment bag, no longer than 42" is permitted for wearable costumes; skater is required to bring and use their own portable changing room, in adherence with SkateSafe policy.

- The music will be played twice during a warm-up on full ice. Props may not be brought out during warm-up. After the warm-up, all skaters, except the first, will go back to the room with no music being played. The first skater will hear the music 1 more time behind the curtain (or off the ice when no warm-up space is given) while the ice remains empty. Skaters will be brought to the ice when the previous skater finishes. All competitors in an event will interpret the same music. All costumes and props are to be taken to the ice only when the skater is called to perform. Props may not be pre-positioned on the performance surface.
- **Option 2: Skaters will prepare for the event and step onto the warm-up in costume** and props in-hand, needed for performance. During the warm-up, skaters will hear the selection of music twice. Following the warm-up, all skaters except for the first skater will be escorted to a soundproof locker room or another area of the arena, with no access to changing costumes or props. The first skater will hear the music one more time and then be called to start. As each skater performs, the next skater in line will be allowed to hear the music for the third time, rinkside, facing away from the performing skater, before they are called to start. The listening skater will not be allowed to view the performing skater.
- Interpretive events will warm up for up to four minutes on performance ice under full house lighting, approximately the first 30 seconds without music, and then the music will be played twice in its entirety, followed promptly by clearing the ice. No props are allowed on the ice during warm-up. The first skater then hears the music played 1 time in the warm-up area behind the curtain (or off the ice when no warm-up space is given). Once the skater takes their starting position in front of the audience and judges, the subsequent skater is given the warm-up space. At no time may competitors watch the skater ahead of them.
- All interpretive levels are allowed a program of up to 1:30 maximum.

O. EVENT LEVEL REQUIREMENTS

Skaters must compete at the level for which they qualify. Duets/Trios must compete at the highest test level of the 2-3 skaters, and members of a duet/trio must meet at least the minimum test pre-requisite for Preliminary Free Skating or Adult Bronze Level. Skating Up is based on each specific Competition Announcement and is only permitted in Preliminary and higher events for National Showcase (i.e., skaters in Pre-Preliminary may not skate up into Preliminary at National Showcase. Non-qualifying competitions may determine their own skate-up policy). **Skaters must qualify for National Showcase in event level Preliminary / Adult Bronze or higher at non-qualifying competitions. Skating up into Preliminary or Adult Bronze from a lower level is not permitted for qualification purposes. Skaters competing in Senior Elite/Pro-Am may receive a bye from qualifying if performing in shows or professional skating contract positions.**

Singles + Duets/Trios

Event	Minimum requirements*	Age	Time
Aspire 4 + Pre-Preliminary <i>Note: these levels do not qualify for National Showcase</i>	n/a (For National Showcase, skaters may not skate up to Preliminary)	17 and under	1:20 max
Preliminary*	Preliminary Singles, 1 Pre-Bronze Pattern Dance, Pre-Bronze Skating Skills	10 - 17	1:30 max
Pre-Juvenile*	Pre-Bronze Singles, 1 Pre-Bronze Pattern Dance, Pre-Bronze Skating Skills	10 - 17	1:30 max
Juvenile	Bronze Singles, Bronze Free Dance, 1 Bronze Pattern Dance, Bronze Skating Skills	Under 13	2:00 max
Open Juvenile	Bronze Singles Bronze Free Dance, 1 Bronze Pattern Dance, Bronze Skating Skills	13 - 17	2:00 max
Intermediate	Pre-Silver Singles, Pre-Silver Free Dance, 1 Pre-Silver Pattern Dance, or Pre-Silver Skating Skills	17 and under	2:10 max
Young Adult	Preliminary Singles, Pre-Bronze Free Dance, 1-Preliminary Pattern Dance, or Preliminary Skating Skills	17 - 20	2:10 max
Novice	Silver Singles, Silver Free Dance, 1- Silver Pattern Dance, or Silver Skating Skills	18 and under	2:10 max
Junior	Pre-Gold Singles, Pre-Gold Free Dance, 1-Pre-Gold Pattern Dance, or Pre-Gold Skating Skills	21 and under	2:40 max
Senior	Gold Singles, Gold Free Dance, 1-Pre-Gold Pattern Dance, or Pre-Gold Skating Skills	No Age Restriction	2:40 max
Senior Elite / ProAm [^]	Pre-Gold Singles, Pre-Gold Free Dance, 1-Pre-Gold Pattern Dance, or Pre-Gold Skating Skills	Over 18	2:40 max

* Skaters under 9 may compete in nonqualifying competitions, but will not qualify for National Showcase

[^] Event level for professional/show-level caliber and experienced skaters. Also intended for skaters ready to move up from Junior + Senior levels.

Adult Singles + Duets/Trios

Event	Must meet requirements* Must have passed: Free Skating or Dance test (standard, adult, or 50+/masters track)	Must not have passed: Free Skate, Figure, or Dance Test (standard, adult, 21+ or 50+/masters track)	Age	Time
Adult Pre-Bronze <i>Note: this level does not qualify for National Showcase</i>	Free Skate/Singles Adult Pre-Bronze Pre-Preliminary	Free Skate/Singles Adult Bronze Preliminary Solo Free Dance Bronze (f/k/a Juvenile)	21 and older	1:40 max
Adult Bronze	Free Skate/Singles Adult Bronze Preliminary Solo or Partnered Pattern Dance Pre-Bronze Solo Free Dance Bronze (f/k/a Juvenile)	Free Skate/Singles Adult Silver Pre-Bronze (f/k/a Pre-Juvenile) Solo Free Dance Pre-Silver (f/k/a Intermediate) Figures 3rd Figure (prior to 10/1/1977)	21 and older	1:40 max
Adult Silver	Free Skate/Singles Adult Silver Pre-Bronze (f/k/a Pre-Juvenile) Bronze (f/k/a Juvenile) (prior to 10/1/94) Solo or Partnered Pattern Dance Bronze Solo Free Dance Pre-Silver (f/k/a Intermediate) Figures 3rd Figure (prior to 10/1/1977)	Free Skate/Singles Adult Gold Bronze (f/k/a Juvenile) (on/after 10/1/94) Solo Free Dance Silver (f/k/a Novice) Figures 4th Figure (prior to 10/1/1977)	21 and older	1:40 max
Adult Gold	Free Skate/Singles Adult Gold Bronze (f/k/a Juvenile) Solo or Partnered Pattern Dance Pre-Silver Solo Free Dance Silver (f/k/a Novice) Figures 3rd Figure (prior to 10/1/1977)	Free Skate/Singles Adult Intermediate Pre-Silver (f/k/a Intermediate) (on/after 10/1/91) Figures 5th Figure (prior to 10/1/1977)	21 and older	1:40 max
Masters	Free Skate/Singles Adult Intermediate Pre-Silver (f/k/a Intermediate) Solo or Partnered Pattern Dance Silver Solo Free Dance Pre-Gold (f/k/a Junior) Figures 3rd Figure (Prior to 10/1/1977) 8th Figure (10/1/77 - 9/30/79)	n/a	21 and older	2:10 max

* For the U.S. Adult Championships, skaters must meet the test requirements for the level at which they want to compete. Rules 2540-2552 apply. For additional information on entering multiple showcase events at the U.S. Adult Championships, see Rule 2405(B). Adult athletes wishing to be grandfathered into a higher level based on participation at the Adult Championships or National Showcase prior to 4/30/17 may make this request to the National Vice Chair of Showcase. All other competitions (including the nonqualifying competition held in conjunction with the adult sectional championships) must compete at their test level or one level higher, per the above chart. For Learn to Skate USA levels and events, please refer to the U.S. Figure Skating Compete USA Manual for Showcase event levels, elements, qualifications, program lengths, and descriptions. For events offered, refer to the competition announcement. **Adult Championships and the associated nonqualifying competition do not qualify skaters for National Showcase.**

Mini Production & Production Ensemble

Event	Must Meet Requirements	Age	Time
Mini Production Bronze <i>Note: this level does not participate in National Showcase</i>	No Minimum Test Requirements (may be a blend of Compete USA and USFS skaters)	Open	2:30 max
Mini Production Silver	Minimum of Preliminary FS, Adult Bronze FS, 1 Pre-Bronze Pattern Dance, or Pre-Bronze Skating Skills is required for National Showcase participation; only 1 member may have passed a Pre-Silver Standard or Adult Silver level test (inclusive of singles, dance, skating skills, etc.), and no higher.	Open	2:30 max
Mini Production Gold	One Pre-Silver/Adult Silver test at minimum required for National Showcase, and no limit on highest test passed. One member may have passed a Bronze/Adult Silver test, but not lower, additionally one member may be older than the stated age column.	18 and under	3:30 max
Mini Production Platinum	One Silver/Adult Gold test at minimum required for National Showcase, with no limit on the highest test passed. One member may have passed a Pre-Silver/Adult Silver test, but not lower. One member may be younger than the stated age column.	19 and older	4:00 max
Production Ensemble	Open Cast Levels (For National Showcase) Minimum of Preliminary FS, Adult Bronze FS, 1 Pre-Bronze Pattern Dance, or Pre-Bronze Skating Skills for all skaters	Open	4:30 max

Special Olympics & Adaptive Skating: Young Adult Showcase

Event	Must Meet Requirements* Special Olympics, Adaptive, Skate United	Age	Time
Showcase Level 1 Open	Badges 1 – 5	13- 17	1:30 max
Showcase Level 2 Open	Badge 6 - 9 (Special Olympics) Badge 6 - 10 (Adaptive)	13 - 17	1:30 max
Showcase Level 3 Open	Badge 10-12	13 - 17	1:30 max
Showcase Level 4 Open	Badge 11/Skate United Pre-Preliminary FS, SS Preliminary Pattern Dance Adaptive Pre-Bronze SS and FS	17 and under	2:30 max

Special Olympics & Adaptive Skating: Adult/Masters Showcase

Event	Must meet requirements* Special Olympics or Adaptive	Age	Time
Showcase Level 1 Open	Badges 1 - 5	18 and up	1:30 max
Showcase Level 2 Open	Badge 6 - 9 (Special Olympics) Badge 6 - 10 (Adaptive)	18 and up	1:30 max
Showcase Level 3 Open	Badge 10-12	18 and up	1:30 max
Showcase Level 4 Open	Badge 11/Skate United Pre-Preliminary FS, SS Preliminary Pattern Dance Adaptive Pre-Bronze SS and FS	18 and up	2:30 max

Special Olympics & Adaptive Skating: Unified Partners Showcase

Event	Must meet requirements* Special Olympics or Adaptive	Age	Time
Open	The partner of the Unified/Adaptive Skater must be a USFS Member Adaptive Skaters must have a physical or intellectual disability that requires a unified partner to assist them on the ice	1 partner must be a Skate United or Adaptive Skater Max age 17	1:30 max
Adult/Masters Open	The partner of the Unified/Adaptive Skater must be a USFS Member Adaptive Skaters must have a physical or intellectual disability that requires a unified partner to assist them on the ice	Both Partners 18 and up	1:30 max

Special Olympics & Adaptive Duet/Trio

Event	Must meet requirements* Special Olympics or Adaptive	Age	Time
Open	This event will consist of 2 or 3 skaters (and their respective Unified partner)	1 partner must be a Skate United or Adaptive Skater	1:30 max

Special Olympics & Adaptive Production Ensemble

Event	Must meet requirements* Special Olympics or Adaptive	Age	Time
Open	Program and Requirements are detailed in section L of this document. No age restrictions	1 partner must be a Skate United or Adaptive Skater	3:30 max

Appendix 1 - Judges One Page Summary

Range of Marks	Theatrical Skating Description
0.25 to 0.75	Beginning / Starting
1.0 to 1.75	Emerging / Learning
2.0 to 2.75	Developing / Progressing
3.0 to 3.75	Capable / Expanding
4.0 to 4.75	Confident / Advancing
5.0 to 5.75	Secure / Competent
6.0 to 6.75	Proficient / Established
7.0 to 7.75	Accomplished / Good
8.0 to 8.75	Adept / Very Good
9.0 to 9.75	Expert / Excellent
10.0	Master / Outstanding

1. **Artistic Appeal with Innovation & Creativity** (factor 40%)

A performance is truly entertaining when it is in the eyes, ears, and hearts of the audience. It is a measure of how audience members remember the program, how they felt during the performance, their level of involvement during the program, what they take away from it, and how long after they will recall it. The meaning and feeling should be unique and personal. The question to be answered is: Will I remember what I have seen, and would I like to see it again?

2. **Performance & Projection: Universe, Musicality and Feeling** (factor 35%)

The physical, emotional, and artistic involvement of a skater, using their ability to create a universe. This performance has continuous development of the theme and universe from beginning to end, while displaying their musicality skills. It is a measure of how skaters use the ice, music, and the space around them to project feeling and musical awareness into the subconscious of the audience.

3. **Showcase Skating Skills** (factor 25%)

Showcase skating is the way an athlete uses their skating and physical ability to convey their act on the ice surface. It must show a quality to support the selected theatrical performance, and show abilities in the skating vernacular, such as balance, glide, acceleration, ice coverage, one-foot skating, etc. Technical elements often found in singles should not be directly rewarded except where they are directly integrated into the performance and advance the story/theme/concept.

Deduction or No Higher Than (NHT)	Deduction/NHT Description	Applied by:
Deduction 0.25	Program Time Violation – per every 10 sec. over max time	Referee
Majority Deduction 2.50	Not According to Requirements*	Majority of R + J
No Higher Than 8.75	Obvious Fall / Error	Judge

*The *Not According to Requirements* deduction may not be taken in the theme event, nor in events where events are combined and categories are mixed together (e.g., Emotional combined with Character and Lyrical Pop).

Frequently Asked Questions & Clarifications

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 Artistry (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 3rd (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 10th, 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 2nd 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 1st. 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 1st 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 1st 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 are other options for us to move from full house lights to spotlights during practices and competitions?

A11 - *There are options out there now that use LED lights and operate on a 110-volt plug-in, rather than the large 220 plugs often found with those old, large spotlights. Here is what was used recently at the 2025 National Showcase. These lights can plug into standard outlets or extension cords and fit in 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 that were grouped either 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 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.

A15 - 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		

National Showcase History & Archives

Year	Site	Link	Starts (without parades)
2025	Rochester, MI	Results	1767
2024	San Jose, CA	Results	1409
2023	Norwood, MA	Results	1128
2022	Wesley Chapel, FL	Results	942
2021	Fort Collins, CO	Results	1000
2020	Showcase Extravaganza (Virtual)	Results	290
2019	Wenatchee, WA	Results	722
2018	Brighton, MI		736
2017	Santa Rosa, CA		840
2016	Strongsville, OH		754
2015	Brighton, MI		592
2014	Burbank, CA		689
2013	Hyannis, MA		473
2012	Escondido, CA		
2011	Strongsville, OH		706
2010	Hyannis, MA		
2009	Colorado Springs, CO		
2008	Rochester, MN		
2007	Fort Collins, CO		
2006	Oak Lawn, IL		
2005	Valencia, CA		
2004	Frisco, TX	Results	