



# All About Clubs

**ASPIRE TO SUCCEED**

## WHY JOIN A FIGURE SKATING CLUB?

The U.S. Figure Skating introductory membership is your pathway into U.S. Figure Skating. This membership allows you to participate in all activities sponsored by the club (lessons, practice sessions, tests, competitions and performances). This discounted membership carries the same privileges as a full membership and allows you to join a club at an affordable rate.

Clubs provide a safe, well-structured environment and offers exciting programs and events for members. Club board members do this by creating strong relationships with the rink and coaches, communicating and educating its members about programs, schedules and other events and asking for constant feedback from its members.

The best way to be a part of U.S. Figure Skating is to be a member of an affiliated club. Figure skating clubs create a positive atmosphere for skaters to make friends and have fun while learning new skills. Becoming a member of a club includes a full membership in U.S. Figure Skating - the two go hand in hand.

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## WHEN IS IT TIME TO JOIN A CLUB?

When you're ready to take official U.S. Figure Skating tests or compete in competitions beyond Compete USA (higher than excel preliminary, excel pre-preliminary plus, well-balanced preliminary and adult bronze), you'll need a U.S. Figure Skating membership, and joining a club is the best place to start. The discounted introductory membership is only available through an affiliated club.

Compete USA is available to skaters in the Snowplow Sam through Free Skate levels in Learn to Skate USA. When it's time to move up beyond these levels, joining a club is a great way to get your start in U.S. Figure Skating.

Every club offers different membership packages and benefits, so take some time to "shop around" with different clubs in your area before settling on one.



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## WHAT ACTIVITIES DO SKATING CLUBS PROVIDE?

Some skating clubs hold monthly or weekly club sessions apart from regular freestyle sessions. This ice time is reserved exclusively for club members, and they can be practice sessions or can include seminars on different skating disciplines and programs, like moves in the field, synchronized skating, ice dance, Theatre On Ice, pairs, etc. Some clubs even include food, skating exhibitions and even on-ice games.

U.S. Figure Skating clubs also sanction ice shows, competitions, test sessions and more. There are additional opportunities within clubs for adult members to become figure skating judges as well as volunteers in other capacities.

## TEST SESSIONS

Some clubs host regular or annual test sessions to club members and other U.S. Figure Skating members. In order to take tests, you must be a full member of U.S. Figure Skating. If you take a test at your club, you may be given a discount on fees. Skaters may participate in other club-hosted test sessions if they're open skaters outside home club membership.

## VOLUNTEERING WITH A SKATING CLUB

Figure skating clubs are run by volunteers and being a part of the organization is a unique and exciting experience. Take the time to volunteer with your skating club. Through involvement, you'll learn more about skating and make new friendships.

## ASPIRE PROGRAM

The U.S. Figure Skating Aspire program is run by clubs for its members. As your child makes the transition from group lessons to U.S. Figure Skating, Aspire provides a cost-effective way to learn more about what it means to be a figure skater, a figure skating family and a member of the U.S. Figure Skating community. Each club runs its Aspire program in a customized format, with on-ice group classes, off-ice training and parent education included.

## EXPECTATIONS OF U.S. FIGURE SKATING MEMBER CLUBS

U.S. Figure Skating holds its clubs to the highest standards, ensuring each skater is having a safe and enjoyable skating experience.

1. Follow the mission set forth by U.S. Figure Skating
2. Operate like a small business
3. Maintain a safe environment for all members
4. Offer programs and events for the development of figure skating
5. Foster healthy relationships
6. Membership development, retention and education