



2023-2024 Competition Season Fact Sheet

U.S. Figure Skating made several changes to the rules regarding test level and competition for singles athletes at the 2022 U.S. Figure Skating Governing Council. Please review this resource sheet for resources and direct questions to events@usfigureskating.org.

Quick Facts:

- Singles free skate test levels will remain as a minimum requirement to compete.
 - *For example, a skater still must pass their juvenile free skate test to compete in juvenile or skate up to intermediate.*
- Completion of an EMS Series Application at a particular level in the [National Qualifying Series \(NQS\)](#) and/or the [Excel National Series](#) will set the athlete's "**competitive floor**" for future events. An athlete's competitive floor is the lowest level they can compete at and is only dictated by the paid EMS Series Application (this is NOT tied to individual competition registrations).
 - *Competitive Floor = lowest level an athlete can compete at.*
 - *If an athlete participates in BOTH Excel and NQS, their NQS level may be ONE lower than their Excel level. For example, if an athlete skates Junior Excel, they may skate Novice NQS.*

Eligibility Scenarios:

#1 – Athlete with a Competitive Floor

Highest Free Skate Test: Senior
Past Excel Series Application: N/A
Past NQS Application: Novice
Future NQS Application: Novice

In scenario #1, the athlete may compete at Novice and above. If this athlete wants to explore their range in the Spring/Summer, they have that option. They can opt to compete at one event as Junior and that will not impact their **competitive floor – regardless of series or EMS.**

#2 – Athlete with a Competitive Floor

Highest Free Skate Test: Junior
Past Excel Series Application: Junior
Past NQS Application: N/A
Future NQS Application: Novice

In scenario #2, the athlete may compete at Junior at Excel and opt to skate one level lower in NQS at Novice.

#3 – Athlete without a Competitive Floor

Highest Free Skate Test: Junior
2022 Excel Series Application: N/A
2022-2023 NQS Application: N/A

Scenario #3 is an extreme example but when the athlete registers for a non-qualifying competition that offers ALL singles events and skating up is permitted, they will see **Pre-Preliminary - Senior**. This is where level/score banding will play a large role in future seasons.

#4 – Athlete without a Competitive Floor

Highest Free Skate Test: Preliminary
2022 Excel Series Application: N/A

Scenario #4 has two options. The athlete can follow the traditional test structure/eligibility and compete at preliminary or along with their coach, review their options to compete at a higher level. Coaches are encouraged to review the well balanced program requirements, in addition to the [NQS Athlete Profile data](#) from the 2022-2023 season, which begins at juvenile, to make decisions based on the athlete's skills and performance levels with respect to goals for the season. Athletes have the option to try different levels in nonqualifying competitions and not have it impact their future competitive floor.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Can athletes still “skate up” and earn test credit for IJS protocol?

Yes. Athletes may still compete one level higher than their test level in a non-qualifying competition, and they may still apply to receive test credit from an IJS competition.

Which competitions set my “competitive floor” for future level?

The competitive floor is NOT set through individual competition registrations, regardless of series designation or registration platform (i.e. EMS). A singles athlete's minimum competition level is set by completing a EMS Series Application for NQS and/or Excel at a particular level. There is a single floor (i.e. one level) and it is transferable to both NQS and Excel. **Update as of March 8, if an athlete competes in BOTH series, their NQS level may be ONE LOWER than their Excel level.**

Does this impact the adult track or adult qualifying competitions?

No. The rules have not changed for adults. Adult athletes may not have achieved tests higher than their competition level.

How does this impact other disciplines and programs?

Pairs, ice dance, and synchronized maintain their current rules for competition eligibility. Additionally, there are NO changes planned for solo dance or showcase at this time.

How will athletes know what level to enter?

Athletes still must have passed the minimum test level. From there, it is the responsibility of the coach and the athlete to make strategic decisions based on the athlete's developmental goals, priorities, and skill level. For those intending to compete in the National Qualifying Series (NQS) with or without a competitive floor, you are encouraged to review the NQS Athlete Profile. This data is based on results from the 2022-23 competitive season and reflects the performance of an athlete set on a given day during the National Qualifying Series (NQS). Scores for the 2023-24 competitive season may fluctuate contingent on varied program requirements, rule changes and scale of values. This information should be reviewed individually with each athlete's coach(es) to assess annual goals and selection of the appropriate competitive level. Additional information with regard to NQS can be found through the QR code below.



U.S. FIGURE SKATING COMPETITION REQUIREMENTS CHART



Athletes may not have competed in a qualifying competition or the Excel Series at a higher level.

For specific rules, reference the current [U.S. Figure Skating Rulebook](#).

For test qualification deadlines for qualifying competitions, see the National Qualifying Series Athlete Handbook. Test qualifications for nonqualifying events must be met by the closing date of entries.

SINGLES QUALIFICATIONS

COMPETITIVE LEVEL	MINIMUM TEST QUALIFICATIONS
NO TEST	May not have passed any singles tests but may have passed skating skills tests without restriction.
PRE-PRELIMINARY	Pre-preliminary skating skills test or higher and pre-preliminary singles test or higher.
PRELIMINARY	Preliminary skating skills test or higher and preliminary singles test or higher.
PRE-JUVENILE	Pre-bronze skating skills test or higher and pre-bronze singles test or higher.
JUVENILE/OPEN JUVENILE	Bronze skating skills test or higher and bronze singles test or higher.
INTERMEDIATE	Pre-silver skating skills test or higher and the pre-silver singles test or higher.
NOVICE	Silver skating skills test or higher and silver singles test or higher.
JUNIOR	Pre-gold skating skills test or higher and pre-gold singles test or higher.
SENIOR	Gold skating skills test and gold singles test

PAIRS QUALIFICATIONS

COMPETITIVE LEVEL	MINIMUM TEST QUALIFICATIONS
JUVENILE	Both partners must have passed the bronze skating skills test or higher and the bronze pair test or higher.
INTERMEDIATE	Both partners must have passed the pre-silver skating skills test or higher and the pre-silver pair test or higher.
NOVICE	Both partners must have passed the silver skating skills test or higher and the silver pair test or higher.
JUNIOR	Both partners must have passed the pre-gold skating skills test or higher and the pre-gold pair test or higher.
SENIOR	Both partners must have passed the gold skating skills test and the gold pair test.

ICE DANCE QUALIFICATIONS

LEVEL	MINIMUM TEST QUALIFICATIONS
PRE-JUVENILE	Both partners must have passed the preliminary skating skills test or higher and two standard partnered preliminary dances or higher.
JUVENILE	Both partners must have passed the bronze skating skills test or higher, the standard partnered preliminary dance test or higher and the bronze partnered free dance test or higher.
INTERMEDIATE	Both partners must have passed the pre-silver skating skills test or higher, the standard partnered bronze dance test or higher and the pre-silver partnered free dance test or higher.
NOVICE	Both partners must have passed the silver skating skills test or higher, at least one standard partnered silver dance or higher and the silver partnered free dance test or higher.
JUNIOR	Both partners must have passed the pre-gold skating skills test or higher, at least two standard partnered pre-gold dances or higher and the pre-gold partnered free dance test or higher.
SENIOR	Both partners must have passed the gold skating skills test, the standard partnered gold dance test or higher and the gold partnered free dance test.

U.S. FIGURE SKATING COMPETITION REQUIREMENTS CHART



SYNCHRONIZED SKATING QUALIFICATIONS

LEVEL	MINIMUM TEST QUALIFICATIONS
PRELIMINARY	Preliminary skating skills or higher
PRE-JUVENILE	2023-24: Preliminary skating skills or higher 2024-25: Pre-bronze skating skills or higher
OPEN JUVENILE	None
JUVENILE	Bronze skating skills or higher
INTERMEDIATE	Pre-silver skating skills or higher
NOVICE	Silver skating skills or higher
JUNIOR	Pre-gold skating skills or higher
SENIOR ELITE 12	Gold skating skills or higher
SENIOR	Gold skating skills or higher
OPEN COLLEGIATE	None
COLLEGIATE	Bronze skating skills or higher
OPEN ADULT	None
ADULT	At least one of the following: (<i>standard or Skate United track</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preliminary skating skills or higher, or• Adult bronze skating skills or higher, or• Partnered preliminary pattern dance test or higher, or• Solo preliminary pattern dance test or higher, or• Preliminary figure or higher
OPEN MASTERS	None
MASTERS	None