

**2019-2020 Season Review**

**Hello WWFSC Members!**

There are plenty of adjectives that could describe the season we had. We started off with a very welcoming Welcome Back Day, we hosted several special clinics and our annual competition, skaters displayed their talents at our Holiday Show and we were well on our way to planning another ice show. Then, the world experienced a catastrophic pandemic. YET – the heart of our club continues to beat. We have been getting together for Zoom workouts, continuing to work on stated goals to improve processes and are even having a talent show at the end of the week. We are fortunate to have so many passionate and committed members volunteering their time and talents to support our skaters and club. We started out the year with the mission of creating and fostering an environment of unity, empowerment and growth. We feel really confident that we did just that! Here’s a recap of the 2019-2020 season:

***One of our goals was to* *fo*rm a *Skaters Advisory Committee*** to provide a forum for our skaters to share input on club activities and business. We launched this committee at the Welcome Back event and Karen Rupert volunteered to be the representative from the Board. We have skaters of all ages participating. One of their projects was to create posters for visiting clubs that skated at our November competition. Karen communicates with the committee by text and is considering using other options. We will always secure approval from parents and guardians. We plan on creating a brief survey for the skaters to get their ideas, suggestions and answer questions concerning the next season.

**Club Process and Procedures**

We completed an analysis last year and prioritized items to develop, update and organize. We are focusing on sharing information on our website <https://wwfsc.org/> and our Facebook page @wwfsclub so people can be connected and informed. We purchased a one-year subscription to iCoachSkating that offers thousands of figure skating tips in video format covering nearly every aspect of “how to figure skate”. This valuable resource is open to all Wayne-Westland coaching staff who are members of the Club. We know it is important to invest in our coaching team and support them. This is a worthwhile investment for our coaches and our skaters. We also recently purchased a business Zoom account and hope that members will consider participating in board meetings from the convenience of their nearest electronic device.

We want to be able to use technology to support our processes such as being able to complete forms and submit payments on-line versus paper copies. Our first attempt at this is the membership form. We would like to extend this to other areas of club business such as ice show, competition and testing registrations. We haven’t hosted a test session in many years and planned on one for April. This is a great way to support our skaters in evaluating their skills, is a way to be collaborative with other clubs hosting tests that we use, and is also how we can earn some revenue for our club. It’s time to embrace the benefits of technology in order to streamline our club business and be more efficient. We don’t have anyone on the Board with these types of skills and are considering hiring an IT consultant to assist us.

We started using Google Docs as our primary platform for creating and sharing documents. This allows for the Board to collectively have access and provide input on assignments. We are creating a library of our forms, a calendar of due dates and assignments as well as a list of account log-ins and passwords. We want to ensure that the information need to run the club is always organized and available.

***Another goal was to offer special clinics***to provide skaters opportunities to strengthen an develop skills. This was accomplished through several clinics that were held the last Monday of each month. Tess Kuehne worked with several coaches to teach the classes. Skater’s pay for their ice time and the class cost $5.00. A special shout-out to Sharon Mattioli to creating the flyers for each month. We had several skaters from the Garden City, Ann Arbor and Artic Edge who were regular attenders. We hope to continue with collaborative opportunities with other clubs to expand the diversity of classes we can offer and strengthen partnerships with them.

**September**

* Welcome Back Day – Tess and the Board greeted skaters and distributed giveaways. Each skater was given a free session of ice time. We compiled packets of information that outlined important dates and worked with a distributor to offer Club Spirit Wear.

**October**

* Hosted our Spectacular Skills Seminar that included on ice instruction for basic drills, body awareness and artistic development. We also added 30 minute of off-ice training that focused on goal setting, building self-confidence and mental prep.

**November**

* Saturday, November 16th was our annual Winterfest Competition. This competition does not happen without all the volunteers and their skills. It was a very long day, but we had a lot of participation and earned a revenue of $5,710.40. This revenue helps support club activities such as the Ice Show which typically cost several thousand dollars to produce each year.
* Skates-Giving Skills Seminar took place on November 25th. The focus was on Power Skating Drills. It’s so great to see skaters of all ages on the ice learning together.

**December**

* The Grinch was in the house! That is, he was the musical inspiration for our group number at our annual Holiday Show. We opened the event to all and had several Learn to Skate students join in. Skaters that were interested in a solo for the Ice Show were able to use their Holiday number as their tryout. We had mixed reviews on if this was the best way to schedule tryouts and are happy to consider other options. We also had Karma Coffee Kitchen cater a meal after the show. The hot chocolate and cookie decorating were big hits!

**January**

* Ice Show Solos were awarded. This year we took a different approach by offering tiered solos based on the elements the skater could complete. Each soloist was given an award certificate with constructive feedback from the three judges about their tryout. We want to continue to encourage our skaters by reinforcing their strengths and offering suggestions for skill development. It was nice to meet with them individually to have this conversation.
* Our special clinic for the month was Jumpin January with a focus on landings, check out positions, air and arm positions, jump sequences and combination jumps. Students are divided up by skill levels in order to provide appropriate teaching techniques.

**February**

* Footwork February was in session. The clinic focused on exercises to develop rhythm, knee action, bilateral movement, edge quality, balance and continuous flow. Yes! Skating requires a wide range of skills and abilities! It’s not easy.

**M**arch

* We were looking forward to our March Madness class that featured an instructor from our local dance academy to offer some ballet moves. That was cancelled due to the rink closure. Definitely something that can be offered once we can come together again.

WOW! We certainly had an incredible year. WWFSC is working with the USFS Guidelines, MMIA, and the state to safely use the arena as a response to COVID-19. Our plan is to continue this positive momentum for next season. We always welcome your feedback, ideas, suggestions and questions. This Club only works because we have dedicated volunteers and skaters. We are all responsible for contributing to the culture of our Club. The hope is that we all want our skaters, our families and our community to feel welcomed, supported and encouraged. We want to create a wonderful place for us to spend time together, celebrate our accomplishments and focus on offering our skaters opportunities to pursue this sport, strengthen their skills and enjoy their time on the ice.

Be well. Stay safe. Looking forward to see you back at the rink.

WWFSC Board