



Hi All –

The Wayne-Westland Figure Skating Club Board and Coaches welcomes you to our new season. We are happy to see many familiar faces and are excited to extend a warm welcome to skaters who are new to the club. We recognize that your participation is essential to creating and maintaining a positive and productive club. Our skaters, families, coaches, board, and arena staff function as a team, and each of us has unique gifts and talents. We appreciate you choosing to be a member and support our efforts.

Meet Your Board

July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026

Board Officers:

Shaun Taft, President –Term ends June 30, 2026

staft311@gmail.com

Rachael Alholinna-Kovacs, Vice President –Term ends June 30, 2026

xxrachxx77@gmail.com

Courtney Ozog, Secretary –Term ends June 30, 2027

courtney_ozog@hotmail.com

Rana Safah, Treasurer –Term ends June, 30 2027

ranaksafah@gmail.com

Board Members:

Tess Kuehne – Term ends June 30, 2026

Abby Sitarski – Terms ends June 30, 2027

Pam Larsen – Term ends June 30, 2028

Sharon Mattioli – Term ends June 30, 2028

Karen Carpentier– Term ends June 30, 2028

The Board has continued to improve on the process to effectively manage the club. We actually see progress after each meeting and are very active in setting and reaching goals. Here are a few items we are committed to:

- Adhering to budgets, forecasting expenses, and creating sustainable revenue streams such as virtual test sessions.
- Continuing to evaluate fundraising needs to ensure the club remains financially stable.
- Utilizing Google Drive to create, share, and store all club files.
- Exploring tools, trainings, and opportunities for the healthy development of our skaters
- Cross training board members and offering leadership roles to young adults to develop the next generation of club leaders.

We truly are committed to collaboration, open communication, transparency, and provide avenues for continuous feedback. All of your feedback is important to the forward momentum of the club.

Board Meetings are open to all members and are held on the 4th Tuesday of every month starting at 7:00pm. Meetings are held virtually via Zoom. Contact Shaun Taft if you would like to attend.

Important Dates

August 1 st	Mums fundraiser Starts
August 1 st	Better Made Chips Fundraiser Starts
September 4 th	Mike Modano Ice Arena Opens
September 10 th	Mum & BetterMade Snack Orders Due
September 24 th	Virtual General Board Meeting 7:00p
September 19 th	Mums Delivered to Arena
Mld/End October	Chips Delivered
November 1 st	All American Classic Competition
November 15 th	Solo Tryouts for Ice Show
December 12 th or 19 th	Holiday Show (exact date TBD)
December 12 th	Ice Show Registration Packet Available
January 16 th	Ice Show Registration Due
April 22 nd	Board Election
TBD	Ice Show
May	End of Season Party
June 10 th	Membership Due

We're a 501(c)(3) organization now! What does that mean?

We're excited to share that over the summer, our club officially became a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization! This new status allows us to receive tax-deductible donations, which will help reduce expenses and taxes on future purchases. It also opens the door for us to apply for grants and participate in vendor events—giving skaters the opportunity to raise funds for the club and/or their personal accounts.

With this change, however, comes a new approach to fundraising. To support the club's continued growth and stability, we encourage all members to participate in our fundraisers in any way they can. Every bit of support helps, especially as we prepare for our largest annual expense: the ice show.

One important update is how fundraising profits will be used. At this time, all proceeds will go toward covering club expenses. If a fundraiser brings in substantial profit or is designated specifically for skaters, we may be able to distribute funds toward individual skater accounts to help with ice show costs. If that happens, the funds will be split equally among all skaters.

If a skater would like to organize their own individual fundraiser to cover personal expenses such as travel, competitions, or ice show fees, please contact Rana Safah first. All funds must go through the club before being reimbursed to the skater. Receipts will be required for reimbursement in case of an IRS audit.

We appreciate your patience as we navigate this exciting new chapter. Your feedback is always welcome as we continue to improve and grow together!

Fundraiser Opportunities for the 2025-2026 Season

The philosophy around fundraising is the board always wants to ensure that we have sufficient funds to operate the ice show and cover monthly business expenses. To do that, we need to have a couple of fundraisers to ensure we are maintaining a stable financial position. Our fundraising committee has been working hard to ensure that we have several opportunities available to earn funds throughout the season to help support these expenses. We try to provide opportunities for goods that are easier to sell and/or are items individuals tend to purchase like chips, pizza, and seasonal plants. We are always open to ideas and suggestions from our members.

As you may or may not know, operating the club is similar to running a small business. There are certain recurring expenses that are needed to remain in compliance with USFS. These expenses include liability insurance, membership fees to the governing council, hosting our

website, and subscriptions to coaching resources. The annual ice show alone costs upwards of \$20,000 to produce with almost half of the costs for ice rental. In order to have the lighting and spotlights the way we do, that costs upwards of \$4,000. Other expenses include director and coaching fees, costumes, and props/decorations. Payments received from ice show registrations typically cover the ice rental fees. Revenue from ticket and lobby sales help close the gap between income and expenses. It's not uncommon to operate at a loss regarding the ice show. Over the last few years, we have been very strategic in our spending and have significantly reduced our losses. The 2025 show we had a loss of about \$2,600, which is still within our loss limit that we are comfortable with, but we aim to break even as much as possible, even when competing with rising costs of expenses.

Currently these are the fundraisers we will be doing (with a few still TBD with details, but we are expecting to be good to go for). We are hoping to be able to add more opportunities this year with our new 501c3 status, but as of this moment don't have extras planned out. When/if we add more, notifications will be sent out via email and posted on our Facebook page. If you have any fundraising suggestions/ideas, please reach out to Pam Larsen.

- Mum Fundraiser- Sell Schwartz's Mums – Start Early August, orders Due Sept 10th. Delivery September 19th.
- Better Made Chips- Start taking orders Early August, orders Due Sept. 10th. Delivery Mid/End October (before halloween).
- Sell Schwartz's Wreaths and Poinsettias (if selected by Schwartz)- Start selling at the End of September through Mid-October for delivery before Thanksgiving/November.
- Holiday show gift card basket raffle/ lotto wreath- Start collecting Early- Mid December. Will raffle off at the Holiday show. (Also looking at selling 50/50 tickets at the show)
- Little Caesars Pizza kits start selling at the beginning of January-February online. Sale runs for 1 month.
- Schwartz's \$25 Gift card fundraiser (if selected by Schwartz)- Start selling beginning March with delivery mid April before Greenhouse opens & Mother's Day.
- Collect donation items for Ice Show Raffle- Start date will start when Ice show practices begin, with a due date of one week prior to the show.

* Fundraisers are subject to change based on availability. Also the start, end, and delivery dates of each fundraiser are subject to change based on availability. For the most current and up-to-date information on fundraisers (current or starting soon) please keep an eye out on your weekly update emails. Current fundraisers will also be posted on our website.

We're also excited to share a great opportunity to support our club and raise funds this year by volunteering at the **2026 Midwestern Synchronized Skating Competition**. Volunteers are needed in a variety of roles, and in return, our club will earn money based on the total number of hours worked.

A big thank you to **Shaun and Tess**, who have generously stepped up as subcommittee chairs for the **Volunteering** and **Procurement** committees. They've already begun logging hours on our behalf!

In the next couple of weeks, we'll be sending out a flyer to gauge initial interest from those willing to donate their time. The more people who get involved, the more we can raise for our club—so we hope you'll consider joining us! For more information on the competition, please check out the link:

<https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.usfigureskating.org/event/2026-midwestern-synchronized-skating-sectional-championships&sa=D&source=docs&ust=1756709661389318&usg=AOvVaw2uJ8E9BEw4NvZ7mdNKohgi>

Stay Connected

- Club Website <https://wwfsc.org/>
- Facebook @wwfscclub
- Instagram @wwfsc.org

Freestyle Schedule*

Monday 4 - 6:20pm

Tuesday 4 - 5:50pm

Wednesday 4 - 5:50pm

Thursday 4 - 5:50pm

Friday 4 to 5:50pm, & 7 - 7:50pm

Saturday 8am to 9:50am

Sunday Noon to 1:20pm

*Schedule to change at the end of October due to high school hockey - meaning freestyle would begin at 5pm. Check the club website or your weekly update to verify times.

Freestyle Drop-In Rates:

50 minute full session = \$14 Westland residents / \$15 non-Westland residents

25 minute half session = \$8 Westland residents / \$8.50 non-Westland residents

Monthly punch cards will return this season as well, same policy - one card per individual skater, expires monthly - any unused punches will not transfer to the following month.

September cards will be for 8 full sessions / 16 half sessions, you can mix 'n match however you'd like until you've used up the 8 hours!

Same procedure as last year, sign in and pay/punch at concessions BEFORE getting on the ice, PLEASE and THANK YOU!!!!

<u>Volunteer Needs</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Mandatory Hours</u>	<u>Required Hours</u>
• Competition	Shaun Taft	Yes	4-5 hours
• Monthly To-Do	Sharon Mattioli	No	
• Holiday Show	Tess Kuehne	No	
• Board Committees	Rachael Alholinna-Kovacs	No	
• Ice Show	Rachael Alholinna-Kovacs	Yes	6 hours

Volunteer Descriptions

Competition – Saturday, November 1st TIME – Approximately 8:00a.m to 5:00p.m.

The All American Classic is the club's largest fundraiser and helps offset ice show expenses.

Jobs include competition check-in desk, ice monitor, results poster, runner (if needed), awards, hospitality, set-up, tear-down. Shaun Taft and Abby Sitarski are the Competition Committee and will be posting positions, descriptions, and time slots using Signup Genius by October 4, 2025.

Each family is required to complete a minimum of 4-5 hours of volunteer work, which is mandatory. **You will incur a charge of \$100 per family if this requirement is not met.**

Please feel free to reach out to them should you have any questions.

Holiday Show –

This show is fairly low key, compared to the Ice Show, and is a way for our skaters to celebrate the holiday season and showcase their skills in front of an audience. We typically ask skaters and attendees to make a donation to support a local non-profit. In the past, we have supported Wayne-Westland Schools with hygiene items, collected socks and underwear for families living in a local shelter, and collected food for a pantry. Feel free to connect with Tess Kuehne if you have any ideas for the donation, would like to help decorate the lobby, and have suggestions for lobby sales.

Board Committees – Each Season July 1 – June 30th

Our club is composed of approximately 30 families with about 25 active skaters. Many of those on our board volunteer for a variety of duties and are often spread quite thin. We can always use more help. You don't need to be a board member to participate in a committee or be the point-person for it. The following committees are needed to efficiently manage club business: Competition, Ice Show, Membership, Media, Skater's Advisory, Fundraising, and Nomination. Some committees, such as Membership and Nomination Committee have one yearly project.

Others, such as Fundraising and Media are on-going. This year we are looking at adding an Entertainment Committee, which would help take care of coordinating our Welcome Back Event, Holiday show party, End of Season Event, etc. If you have an interest in learning how you might be able to assist or would like more information, please contact Rachael Alholinna-Kovacs.

Ice Show A member of each skater's family must volunteer for an ice show staff position. Around 6 hours minimum are required per family and MANDATORY participation in set-up and tear-down, one of which must be a show/performance night. **You will incur a charge of \$100 per family if this requirement is not met. This tends to be the equivalent of 2-3 time slots/jobs.** An ice show volunteer sign-up will be posted online in the spring, detail and a link will be provided via email. SkateSafe certification is required for many of the volunteer positions. More information about SkateSafe requirements will be provided in a separate volunteer sign-up email. Since we always struggle with show date volunteers, one of the required time slots is to be on a show/performance day. Those volunteering on a show night will receive free admission to one of the other performances. Skater Ice Show Requirements will be posted and shared by the beginning of October.

The Board understands that we have busy lives, and our availability is limited. We are always open to discussing reasonable accommodation and making arrangements that are flexible to meet unique needs. Some events, such as the competition and ice show, require volunteers to be on-site to ensure the events run smoothly. We are a small club, but we have many dedicated members who keep this club functioning and make it possible to host shows, events, and training for our skaters. We need all members to show up, take part, and share their time in order to function. Please feel free to reach out to the contact person for the activity if you need accommodation.

Looking forward to a wonderful season.

WWFSC Board of Directors

Mingo says "Sk8Gr8!"

