



Sanction #33693

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**The Onyx Challenge Sanction #33693**

**August 18 & 19, 2023**

**Hosted by: Onyx-Suburban Skating Academy #4539**

**At: Suburban Ice Rochester - 52999 Dequindre Road, Rochester, MI 48307**

<https://onyxskatingacademy.com>

## **I. COMPETITION OVERVIEW**

The ONYX CHALLENGE will be conducted in accordance with the rules and regulations of U.S. Figure Skating, as set forth in the [current rulebook](#), and/or current Compete USA handbook as well as any pertinent updates that have been posted on the U.S. Figure Skating [website](#).

This competition is open to all eligible, restricted, reinstated or readmitted persons as defined by the Eligibility Rules.

Skaters must be a currently registered member of a U.S. Figure Skating member club, Learn to Skate USA member, a collegiate club or who is an individual member in accordance with the current rulebook. For non-U.S. citizens, please refer to the [rulebook](#) for more information.

## **II. ELIGIBILITY**

### **TEST LEVEL:**

As of December 1, 2022, singles athletes may opt to accelerate their test progression within U.S. Figure Skating and thus compete at level(s) best suited for their technical skillset. Athletes must still meet the minimum requirements for each level and additionally, if participating within the National Qualifying Series (NQS) or National Excel Series (Excel), they will establish a **competitive floor**.

The **competitive floor** is the lowest level an athlete can compete at and is determined only by the level selected through the EMS Series Application for NQS or Excel and is not uniquely tied to competition registration (regardless of series participation).

Eligibility Notes:

1. 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.
2. The singles free skate test levels will remain as a minimum requirement to compete.
3. Athletes may not skate down in any event.
4. This update does NOT apply to Adult, Showcase and Solo Dance.

If an athlete, coach, parent and/or guardian needs assistance with confirming their eligibility, email [events@usfigureskating.org](mailto:events@usfigureskating.org) or refer to information sheet [HERE](#).

**EVENTS OFFERED:**

[Program requirements for the events listed below can be found here:](#)  
[usfigureskating.org](https://usfigureskating.org) – Skate – Compete – Program Requirements

NOTE: Skaters may not enter an Excel and Well-Balanced free skate events at the same competition.

<b>SINGLES</b>	<b>JUDGING</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Event Price</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Event Price</b>
Excel Free Skate	IJS or 6.0	\$190 IJS \$145 6.0	\$90 \$65
Well Balanced Short Program	IJS	\$190 IJS	\$90
Well Balanced Free Skate	IJS or 6.0	\$190 IJS \$145 6.0	\$90 \$65
Adult Free Skate (Adult Silver – Master Jr/Sr)	IJS	\$190	\$90

Adult Free Skate (Adult Pre-Bronze – Bronze)	6.0	\$145	\$65
Adult Beginner & High Beginner Free Skate	6.0	\$145	\$65
<b>SPECIALTY</b>	<b>JUDGING</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Event Price</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Event Price</b>
Compulsory Moves (No Test–Senior)	6.0	\$80	\$45
Excel Compulsory Moves (Excel Beg–Excel Prelim.)	6.0	\$80	\$45
Jumps Challenge (Beginner–Senior)	6.0	\$80	\$45
Spins Challenge (Beginner–Senior)	6.0	\$80	\$45
<b>SHOWCASE</b>	<b>JUDGING</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Event Price</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Event Price</b>
Emotional Performance (No Test – Senior, Adult)	CJS	\$120	\$65
Choreographic Artistry (No Test - Senior, Adult)	CJS	\$120	\$65
Lyrical Pop (No Test - Senior, Adult)	CJS	\$120	\$65
Character Performance (No Test - Senior, Adult)	CJS	\$120	\$65
Comedic Impressions (No Test - Senior, Adult)	CJS	\$120	\$65
Duets/Trios (No Test – Senior, Adult)	CJS	\$120	\$65
<b>COMPETE USA EVENTS</b>	<b>JUDGING</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Event Price</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Event Price</b>
Snowplow Sam-Basic 6 Program w/ Music	6.0	\$75	\$45
Pre-Free Skate – Free Skate 1-6 Program w/ Music	6.0	\$75	\$45
Adult 1-6 Program w/ Music	6.0	\$75	\$45
Snowplow Sam – Basic 6 Elements (REFEREE DRIVEN)	6.0	\$75	\$45
Pre-Free Skate – Free Skate 1-6 Compulsory Moves	6.0	\$75	\$45
Adult 1-6, Beginner – Bronze Compulsory Moves	6.0	\$75	\$45

### **OUR COMMUNITY:**

U.S. Figure Skating is dedicated to fostering a culture of belonging and community that is welcoming for all individuals. We are committed to championing diversity, equity and inclusion and understand its value in combating discrimination and challenging inequalities necessary to develop champions both on and off the ice. We

are actively working toward developing equitable practices and policies that foster safety and empower all individuals to authentically pursue their unique path in all areas of our sport. We stand firmly on the belief that our members are the most important asset to our organization and that our differences are meaningful and strengthen our sport. We believe that skating is for everyone.

### **NON-DISCRIMINATION:**

U.S. Figure Skating commits in policy, principle and practice to sustain a non-discriminatory approach on and off the ice for all members. We strive to provide equal opportunity for all despite their varied backgrounds, experiences and identities, and want all members to feel valued and respected at every level of organization. U.S. Figure Skating's SkateSafe® Program received, investigates and addresses allegations of discrimination or harassment throughout its membership and the organization. Please refer to the most current [SkateSafe® Program Handbook](#) for further definition of harassment, discrimination and abuse.

By attending this event, all participants are willingly committing to upholding U.S. Figure Skating's Code of Ethics (*GR 1.01*) and Code of Conduct (*GR 1.02*), as detailed within the [U.S. Figure Skating Rulebook](#).

To report a concern of discrimination or harassment to U.S. Figure Skating, please visit [www.USFigureSkating.org/SkateSafe](http://www.USFigureSkating.org/SkateSafe) or email [SkateSafe@USFigureSkating.org](mailto:SkateSafe@USFigureSkating.org).

### **SKATESAFE COMPLIANCE:**

For full details about SkateSafe compliance at U.S. Figure Skating competitions, refer to the U.S. Figure Skating SkateSafe webpage: [www.usfigureskating.org/skatesafe](http://www.usfigureskating.org/skatesafe).

### **COACHES**

To be an eligible coach at a nonqualifying competition, coaches must meet the applicable compliance requirements and verified by U.S. Figure Skating. Coach compliance falls into three categories, Coach/Choreographer, Learn to Skate USA Instructor, or Foreign Coach/Choreographer. Details regarding compliance requirements can be found [HERE](#). All compliance requirements must be met at the time of check-in to access the competition, no exceptions.

With EMS, coaches must be included within a skater/team's registration or updated through their EMS Skater Portal via "[My Coaches](#)" or "Team Personnel." All coaches declared at the time of registration will be included on the registration confirmation email. Note: There is no registration approval process within EMS as the data (membership and

test level) is tied to the U.S. Figure Skating database. Non-compliant coaches will receive automated email reminders through the start of the competition.

EMS Coach Resources:

- [My Competitions](#)
- [My Skaters](#)
- [Coach Schedule](#)

**MANDATORY ATHLETES**

Athletes age 18+ as of the competition start date who will be competing on a team (i.e., synchro, ice dance, pairs, shadow dance, theatre, etc.) with at least one Minor Athlete must complete SafeSport™ Training. \*

Minor athletes who turn 18 mid-season are encouraged to seek parental consent to take the online SafeSport™ Training early to avoid any disruptions in their ability to participate as the training is required upon turning 18. The athlete will not be SkateSafe compliant until they have completed the training and their Members Only portal reflects completion. Please email [skatesafe@usfigureskating.org](mailto:skatesafe@usfigureskating.org) for instructions or questions regarding parental consent.

**III. REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

**ONLINE REGISTRATION VIA EMS:**

Online registrations will be accepted via [EMS](#). Payment must be made at the time of registration by credit card only. Each transaction includes a 3% transaction fee.

**Registration Deadline: 08/03/2023 at 11:59 ET**

**Late Registration Deadline: 08/07/2023 at 11:59 ET + \$25.00 Late Fee**

1. Go to [www.usfsaonline.org](http://www.usfsaonline.org)
2. Enter your U.S. Figure Skating or if Compete USA events are offered, your Learn to Skate USA member number and password
  - a. If you need assistance with your member number and password, contact Member Services at [memberservices@usfigureskating.org](mailto:memberservices@usfigureskating.org).
3. Click EMS then "Competition Registration"
4. Choose "**ONYX CHALLENGE**" from the list of nonqualifying competitions.

- a. If you need assistance completing your registration, contact [productsupport@usfigureskating.org](mailto:productsupport@usfigureskating.org).

### **PARTNERED EVENTS:**

Only one partner will complete registration for the team. During the registration process, you will be asked to identify your partner and verify their test information. **The registered partner will be responsible for managing all aspects of the competition for the team including music/PPC upload, practice ice sales, etc.**

### **FOREIGN SKATERS:**

Non-U.S. skaters intending to register for this competition must set up a non-member account prior to registering for the competition ([click here for HOW TO](#)). This can be done by choosing the "Non-Member? Create Account" option on the [Members Only](#) login page.

1. Go to <https://m.usfigureskating.org>.
2. Use your personal member number and password to login.
3. Click the **BLUE** "EMS Event Management System" button.

### **TEST CREDIT:**

Skaters are required to submit the necessary forms to the test chair of their club and follow the procedures put forth by the club for submission and payment. The test chair will enter the test in the skater's official record through the Members Only site. Individual members can submit their results through the Members Only site by going to the main menu, selecting "Account" and then selecting "Submit IJS Test Credit

\*\*NOTE: skaters may register for test credit via EMS.

### **MUSIC SUBMISSION/UPLOAD:**

EMS MUSIC UPLOAD: Competitors participating in events with music are required to upload their music to EMS no later than **08/10/2023 at 11:59 ET**. After this date, skaters will be locked out of this feature and subject to a **\$25.00 late fee**. The late fee will automatically be added to each skater's cart who doesn't meet this requirement by the deadline. Late fees will not be removed under any circumstances and must be paid prior to receiving the skater credential onsite.

**DEADLINE – 08/10/2023**

EMS SKATER MUSIC UPLOAD HOW TO: [CLICK HERE](#)

*If you need assistance, email [productsupport@usfigureskating.org](mailto:productsupport@usfigureskating.org)*

Competitors must also have available a backup copy of their competition music on a cell phone and it must be immediately available rink-side whenever the skater competes. If the phone does not have the standard round headset connector, an appropriate adapter, such as an Apple Lightning connector or Samsung USB-C adapter is required to be attached. The phone should be presented to the music person with the file ready to play, phone in airplane mode and volume turned to maximum.

### **PLANNED PROGRAM CONTENT (PPC) SUBMISSION/UPLOAD – FOR IJS EVENTS ONLY:**

Include instructions as to how attendees will provide your competition with their Planned Program Content (PPC). Include details about any online uploads including deadlines or where PPC is to be dropped off on-site. PPC Paper form, [click here](#).

EMS PLANNED PROGRAM CONTENT (PPC) – Competitors participating in IJS events are required to submit PPC in EMS no later than **08/10/2023 at 11:59 PM ET**. After this date, skaters will be locked out of this feature in EMS and subject to a **\$25.00 late fee**. The late fee will automatically be added to each skater's cart who doesn't meet this requirement by the deadline. Late fees will not be removed under any circumstances and must be paid prior to receiving the skater credential onsite.

**DEADLINE – 08/10/2023**

EMS PPC UPLOAD HOW TO: [CLICK HERE](#)

*If you need assistance, email [productsupport@usfigureskating.org](mailto:productsupport@usfigureskating.org)*

### **REFUND POLICY**

Entry fees will not be refunded after entry deadline unless no competition exists or the event is canceled. There will be no refunds for medical withdrawals. The online processing fees are non-refundable. Checks returned for non-sufficient funds and contested credit card charges will be issued a \$30 fee. Payment of the fee will be required before the skater is allowed to participate in practice ice or events.

### **LIABILITY:**

U.S. Figure Skating, Learn to Skate USA, Onyx-Suburban Skating Academy and Suburban Ice Rochester accept no responsibility for injury or damage sustained by any participant in this competition. This is in accordance with Rule 1600 of the official U.S.

#### **IV. COMPETITION DETAILS**

##### **FACILITIES:**

The competition will be held at Suburban Ice - Rochester, 52999 Dequindre Rd. Rochester, MI 48307, (248) 601-6699, <https://www.onyxicearena.com> There are three (3) surfaces measuring 200 ft. x 85 ft., 12 locker rooms (4 per surface), plenty of seating, huge lobby & convenient snack bar. The arena is located close to shops, restaurants and is 1 mile from downtown Rochester.

##### **LOCKER ROOMS AND CHANGING AREAS:**

###### **GENERAL LOCKER ROOMS:**

Locker rooms and changing areas at U.S. Figure Skating competitive events are for athletes only, will be labeled with regard to specific use and where identified will be gender specific. An exception can be made for athletes under 11 years old that will allow for one parent of the same sex to assist their child immediately prior to and after their skating event(s). Please review the Locker Room and Changing Area Policy and the SkateSafe Handbook (both found on the [U.S. Figure Skating SkateSafe](#) page).

##### **U.S. Figure Skating Travel Policy:**

All travel must strictly adhere to Two-Deep Leadership requirements. An Adult Participant cannot transport a Minor Athlete one-on-one and Two-Deep Leadership requirements must be adhered to at all times during In-Program travel, by transporting at least two minors or a second Adult Participant. An Adult Participant cannot share a hotel room or other sleeping arrangement with a Minor Athlete(s). Full details of the SkateSafe Travel Policy and any exceptions can be found starting on page 12 of the [SkateSafe Handbook](#).

##### **SCHEDULE**

Competitors may be scheduled on any day or time during the announced dates of the competition. The competition and practice ice schedule will be available after the close of entries. All participants will be notified via email once available.



**PRACTICE ICE:**

Pre-paid Practice Ice session slots at Suburban Ice Rochester will be available for purchase at a discounted rate of \$20 per 20 minutes, on a first come, first serve basis. The deadline for the pre-purchase rate of \$20 is 08/03/2023. Skaters will have 72 hours to reserve pre-paid practice ice following the release of the schedule. Afterwards, skaters may purchase additional practice ice online or at the event registration desk at the rate of \$25 per 20 minutes, if any practice ice slots are still available. Please note that music shall not be played during practice ice sessions. There is NO refund for practice ice sessions, even if not used.

**ONSITE CHECK-IN:**

Check-in will open on Friday August 18, 2023 - one hour prior to first event and/or practice ice. Registration will be located at entrance to the facility.

**AWARDS:**

All Basic Program and Basic Elements skaters will be awarded an Onyx Challenge medal. For all other events, Onyx Challenge medals will be awarded for 1st (gold), 2nd (silver), 3rd (bronze) and 4th (pewter) place finishers in each event. Results will be posted online. Award presentations will be suspended at this event. Awards can be picked-up following the online posting of each event's results.

**PHOTO/VIDEO:**

Spectators are allowed to take photos and/or video during the competition, and during awards ceremonies, from customary spectator vantage point, as long as they are not obstructing other spectators. For skater safety, however, flash photography and artificial lighting are NOT permitted. A professional videographer has been contracted to capture video of each event. A link to the video will be provided to each participant following the event via email.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

An official bulletin board will be maintained in the main lobby of Suburban Ice - Rochester. It is the responsibility of each competitor, parent and coach to check the bulletin board frequently for any schedule changes and/or additional information.

Skaters are requested to arrive 45 minutes prior to the scheduled time of their event. A tentative schedule of events will be posted online prior to the competition.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Competition website: [onyxskatingacademy.com](http://onyxskatingacademy.com)

For questions, please contact the following individuals:

Competition Chair:	Jen Daskas	<a href="mailto:jendaskas@aol.com">jendaskas@aol.com</a>	248-917-9544
Additional Contact:	Amanda Lavoie	<a href="mailto:All.lavoie@gmail.com">All.lavoie@gmail.com</a>	248-840-7636