

46th Annual Northland Figure Skating Competition & Compete USA Competition



January 29 - February 1, 2026

Duluth, MN

Excel Series

Free Skating • Short Program • IJS
Compulsory • Spins • Jumps • Showcase
Team Compulsory

Hosted by the Duluth Figure Skating Club

www.northlandcompetition.com

Chief Referee: Jennifer Marker Johnson

Chief Technical Accountant: Carolyn Marker

Chief Accountant: Christine Hills

Music Coordinator: Tony Chaouch

Co-Chairs: Kalli Manion, Alyssa Reder-Judnick, Leanne Warren, Hali Johns

Email: northlandcompetition@gmail.com

ENTRY DEADLINE IS **DECEMBER 14, 2025 AT 11:59 PM ET**

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK AT [NORTHLAND COMPETITION](https://www.facebook.com/northlandcompetition)



The **46th Annual Northland Figure Skating Competition** 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.

SERIES INFORMATION:

Northland Figure Skating Competition has applied to be a 2026 Excel Series host.

Adult beginner, adult high beginner, adult pre-bronze and adult bronze program/free skate events that meet Adult Competition Series guidelines are offered at this competition. Adult Competition Series participants must submit a photo, scanned copy, email attachment or screenshot of the results sheet to adultcompetitionseries@gmail.com by the deadline published in the most recent [Adult Competition Series Handbook](#) to receive credit and series points.

II. ELIGIBILITY

ELIGIBILITY/TEST LEVEL:

- Skaters must meet at least the minimum singles test requirements for the event's level. A skater's singles test level may be higher than the minimum requirement.
 - o Skate Up: skaters may skate up one level higher than their minimum test requirement allows.
- Skaters may not register for an event level lower than allowed by their competitive floor. An athlete's competitive floor is set by one of the following scenarios:
 - o If an athlete has a paid EMS series application for the NQS series, the event level registered for in the most recent NQS will become the lowest level they may compete at in any U.S. Figure Skating sanctioned event.
 - o If an athlete has a paid EMS series application for the Excel Series, the event level registered for in the most recent Excel series will become the lowest level they may compete in any Excel event. For Well-Balanced and Specialty events the skater will be permitted to register at one level lower than the "floor" set by their excel series entry.
 - o If an athlete has never had a paid EMS series application in the NQS or Excel series, the athlete may select their level based on their goals and technical skills as long as the minimum test requirements are met. (Note: if an athlete has passed the pre-preliminary singles test, they are no longer eligible for No Test or lower levels).
- Skaters are not permitted to enter an Excel free skate and a Well-Balanced free skate event at the same competition (example: Juvenile Girls Free Skate and Juvenile Girls Excel Free Skate). However, they are permitted to enter an Excel and a Well-Balanced event of different types such as a short program (if stand-alone event option), specialty or showcase events (example: Intermediate Women Short Program and Intermediate Women Excel Free Skate).
- For more details about establishing event levels, refer to information sheet [HERE](#) or email events@usfigureskating.org.

Test Level: Competition level is the highest test passed as of the entry deadline; in the discipline the skater is entering OR the level of their EMS Series Application for the NQS or Excel Series which will determine the athlete's competitive floor level. Entrants may skate up one level above that for which they qualify, but they may not skate down in any event. (**Exception** - Juvenile/Open Juvenile skaters wishing to skate a short program may skate a Juvenile/Open Juvenile Freeskate and an Intermediate Short Program.)

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 (i.e., the lowest level they can compete at).

The competitive floor 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).

Example #1, if an athlete passed their junior free skate test in November and competed in the 2022-23 NQS as a Novice from July - September, they may register for either novice or junior in excel or well-balanced events. The novice level will remain their competitive floor until they complete an EMS Series Application at the junior level or higher for NQS or Excel.

Example #2, if an athlete passed their juvenile free skate but has not competed in NQS or Excel (i.e., they have not established a competitive floor), they have the option to compete pre-preliminary – intermediate (if skate up is permitted). While the options are wide, U.S. Figure Skating entrusts the coach to guide the athlete to select the appropriate level for the athlete based on their technical skillset.

Eligibility Notes:

1. The singles free skate test levels will remain as a minimum requirement to compete.
2. Athletes may not skate down in any event.
3. 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.

All other single events (adult):

- Skaters must meet the minimum test requirements for the events level, but not exceed the maximum permissible test requirement.

Age restrictions/requirements: Singles free skate events (well-balanced program) have the following requirements:

Juvenile: Girls – 12 years or younger; Boys – 13 years or younger Open

Juvenile: Girls – 13 years or older; Boys – 14 years or older Intermediate
must be under the age of 18

Adults must be 21 years or older

Skaters entering pre-juvenile and lower events will be divided as closely as possible by age should the number of entries warrant more than one group.

All age classes may be divided or combined depending on the number of entries and at the discretion of the chief referee and/or the competition committee.

EVENTS OFFERED:

- **U.S. Figure Skating Program Requirements:** usfigureskating.org --> Skate --> Compete --> [Program Requirements](#)
- **Compete USA Program Requirements:** learntoskateusa.com/competeusa
- **Skate United:** For any Skate United (S.U.) Athlete, please have them register for their appropriate level under the "standard" option. Once the registration is complete, the following form must be submitted to the competition chair via email at northlandcompetition@gmail.com
 - [Click here for the Skate United Athlete Form.](#)
- **Skating Accommodation Memorandum (S.A.M.):** Skaters using a S.A.M. must submit their S.A.M. to the competition chair via email at northlandcompetition@gmail.com
 - [Click here for more information about S.A.Ms.](#)

On the program requirements page linked above, competitions that fall within the date range beside the program requirements must use those requirements

SINGLES	JUDGING	1 st Event Price	2 nd Event Price
Aspire 1-4	6.0	\$215.00	\$40.00
Excel Free Skate (Pre-Preliminary)	6.0	\$215.00	\$40.00
Excel Free Skate (Juvenile – Senior, all PLUS Events)	IJS	\$215.00	\$40.00
Well Balanced Short Program	IJS	\$215.00	\$40.00
Well Balanced Free Skate (Pre-Preliminary – Senior)	IJS	\$215.00	\$40.00
Adult Free Skate (Adult Pre-Bronze)	6.0	\$215.00	\$40.00
Adult Free Skate (Adult Bronze – Master Jr/Sr)	IJS	\$215.00	\$40.00
Adult Beginner & High Beginner Free Skate	6.0	\$215.00	\$40.00
SPECIALTY	JUDGING	1 st Event Price	2 nd Event Price
Compulsory Moves Level 1-8	6.0	\$215.00	\$40.00
Jumps Level 1-9	6.0	\$215.00	\$40.00
Spins Level 1-6	6.0	\$215.00	\$40.00
SHOWCASE	JUDGING	1 st Event Price	2 nd Event Price
Lyrical Pop (Pre-Pre - Senior, Adult)	CJS	\$215.00	\$40.00
Character Performance	CJS	\$215.00	\$40.00
Emotional Performance	CJS	\$215.00	\$40.00
Comedic Impressions	CJS	\$215.00	\$40.00
Choreographic Artistry (Juvenile – Senior)	CJS	\$215.00	\$40.00
COMPETE USA EVENTS	JUDGING	1 st Event Price	2 nd Event Price
Snowplow Sam-Basic 6 Program w/ Music	6.0	\$145.00	\$30.00
Snowplow Sam – Basic 6 Elements	6.0	\$145.00	\$30.00
Compete USA - Showcase	6.0	\$145.00	\$30.00



U.S. Figure Skating Nonqualifying Competitions

EVENT: TEAM COMPULSORY

Teams should be comprised of 3-5 skaters and can be a combination of Ladies and Men. Each skater will do one required element. If there are not five skaters on a team, the skaters may do a maximum of two elements. The elements may be completed in any order but each element shall be allowed only one attempt. Additional elements are not allowed. No music allowed. One skater should perform at a time. Elements are skated on full ice. Referee will indicate when each team should commence but not the individual skaters. Judging done with one mark for each team.

When registering for the competition it is imperative that ONE member of the team register the entire team online. Team registration is separate from skaters' individual event(s). Every team will need a team name and team contact, that person will have access to the competition portal, including registration and payment of the entire team fee of \$100. **In addition, the person registering the team will need to enter each team member's name, date of birth, USFS number, home club, and test levels passed and submit via email to northlandcompetition@gmail.com.** This is a fun event and encourages team spirit among the clubs and the skaters.

Event	Five Required Elements (One to two minutes will be allotted for each team).
ASPIRE 1-4	1) One (1) foot forward upright spin ~ no change of direction (minimum 3 revolutions) 2) Moves in the Field ~ forward outside consecutive edges 3) Forward Spiral 4) One (1) foot forward upright spin to back spin, minimum 3 revolutions each foot 5) Combination of 2 single jumps ~ one must be a toe loop, no turn in between, no Axel allowed
Pre-Preliminary	1) Upright scratch spin (minimum 3 revolutions) 2) Moves in the Field – back outside consecutive edges 3) Forward outside spiral 4) Combination spin ~ Forward upright spin to back spin to forward upright spin. All spins on one (1) foot and at least 3 revolutions in each position. Minimum of 9 revolutions total. 5) Any combination of 2 single jumps ~ no turn in between, no Axel allowed.
Preliminary/Pre-Juvenile	1) Sit spin (minimum 5 revolutions) 2) Straight line or diagonal footwork sequence utilizing ½ the ice surface 3) Left forward inside spiral 4) Combination spin with at least one change of position and no change of foot. Minimum of 6 revolutions. No flying entries allowed. 5) Single/Single (Axel permitted) combination jump.
Juvenile/Intermediate	1) Camel spin (minimum 5 revolutions) 2) Straight line or diagonal footwork sequence utilizing the entire ice surface. 3) Spiral sequence (at least 2 spiral positions and at least one change of foot). 4) Combination spin with at least one change of position and only one change of foot. At least 2 revolutions in each position. Minimum 5 revolutions on each foot. 5) Double/Single or Double/Double combination jump.
Novice and Above	1) Flying spin (minimum 6 revolutions)-only one position and no change of foot. 2) Circular or serpentine footwork sequence using the entire ice surface. 3) Spiral sequence (minimum 3 spiral positions and at least one change of foot). 4) Combination spin with at least two changes of position and at least one change of foot. At least 2 revolutions in each position. Minimum 12 revolutions total. 5) Double/Double combination jump.

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 receives, investigates and addresses allegations of discrimination or harassment throughout its membership and the organization. Please refer to the [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 or email SkateSafe@USFigureSkating.org.

ATHLETE ASSISTANCE/ACCOMMODATIONS:

Should a skater with disabilities require any specific accommodations or assistance for their competitive event, please submit your approved S.A.M to the Competition Chair by the registration deadline at northlandcompetition@gmail.com

COMPLIANCE:

For full details about participant compliance requirements, refer to the U.S. Figure Skating SkateSafe® webpage: <https://www.usfigureskating.org/skatesafe#compliance>.

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.

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 two categories, Coach Compliance (includes choreographers) and Learn to Skate USA® Instructor Compliance. 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.

Coaches of foreign athletes: If you are a coach of a foreign athlete only, you are not subject to U.S. Figure Skating coach compliance and will only be asked to provide a letter of good standing for the federation your athlete represents.

III. REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Registration Deadline: 12/14/2025 at 11:59 PM ET

If late registrations are allowed, a \$40 fee will be assessed.

***Due to time constraints, individual events may close before the deadline, with restricted deadlines.**

ONLINE REGISTRATION VIA EMS (does not include SYS and TOI team registration):

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.

\$40 Late Fee

1. Go to 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.
3. Click EMS then "Competition Registration"
4. Choose "**46th ANNUAL NORTHLAND COMPETITION**" from the list of nonqualifying competitions.
 - a. If you need assistance completing your registration, contact productsupport@usfigureskating.org.

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.

TEST CREDIT: Skaters that meet the requirements for test credit may request their test credit forms at the registration desk or pre-purchase during registration through EMS. **Test Credit Forms must be requested prior to the event listed.** Forms must be picked up at the registration desk prior to the end of the competition. All test credit packets will incur a \$30.00 fee.

TEST SESSION: A test session will be held on Thursday, January 29, 2026. Registration can be completed at www.duluthfsc.org by **Thursday, January 8, 2026.**

MUSIC SUBMISSION/UPLOAD:

EMS MUSIC UPLOAD: Competitors participating in events with music are required to upload their music to EMS no later than **January 8, 2026 11:59pm ET**. After this date, skaters will be locked out of this feature and subject to a **\$40 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: DATE * January 8, 2026 11:59pm ET, LATE FEE: \$40

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

If you need assistance, email 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:

EMS PLANNED PROGRAM CONTENT (PPC) – Competitors participating in IJS events are required to submit PPC in EMS no later than **January 8, 2026 11:59pm ET**. After this date, skaters will be locked out of this feature in EMS and subject to a **\$35 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: DATE * January 8, 2026 11:59pm ET, LATE FEE: \$40

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

If you need assistance, email productsupport@usfigureskating.org

REFUND POLICY:

Entry fees will not be refunded after **December 14, 2025 AT 11:59 PM ET** unless no competition exists or the event is canceled. **There will be no refunds for medical withdrawals (injuries, COVID-19, flu, sickness etc.).** The online processing fees are not refundable. Checks returned for non-sufficient funds and contested credit card charges will be issued a \$40.00 fee. Payment of the fee will be required before the skater is allowed to participate in practice ice or events. Notification of competition and practice times will be available on EMS.

LIABILITY:

U.S. Figure Skating, Learn to Skate USA®, Duluth Figure Skating Club along with MARS Arena and Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center 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. Figure Skating Rulebook.

IV. COMPETITION DETAILS

FACILITIES: The competition will be held January 29 – February 1, 2026 at the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center (www.decc.org), 350 Harbor Drive, Duluth, MN 55802. The DECC is a two-rink facility with ice surfaces of 190' x 85'. There is a daily parking fee of \$10.00. Concession stands available on premise at various hours (Covid-19 guidelines pending). The nearby Canal Park area offers many different restaurants and is located within walking distance of the DECC. MARS Lakeview Arena (www.marsslakeview.com) is located at 1201 Rice Lake Road, Duluth, MN 55811. MARS arena has one ice surface of 200' x 85'.

SCHEDULE: Competitors may be scheduled on any day or time during the announced dates of the competition. Events may be scheduled starting midday on Thursday, January 29, 2026. The competition and practice ice schedule will be available after the close of entries. All participants will be notified via email once available. Please check the registration desk during the competition as well as the Official Bulletin Board in Paulucci Hall.

LOCKER ROOMS AND CHANGING AREAS: This event will be following the Locker Rooms and Changing Area policy included in the SkateSafe Handbook. Please click here to review the [Locker Rooms and Changing Area policy](#). More detailed information can be found in the [SkateSafe Handbook](#). It is advised to arrive to the rink 45 minutes prior to your scheduled event and be prepared to skate. Locker rooms and changing areas will not be available this competition. All athletes are expected to arrive at the arena ready (costumes, hair, make-up etc.). Athletes will be provided with an area to put skates on but changing will not be permitted in these spaces. Bathrooms are available throughout the facility.

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 the SkateSafe® Travel Policy and any exceptions can be found starting on page 12 of the [SkateSafe® Handbook](#).

OFFICIAL NOTICES: An official bulletin board will be maintained at Paulucci Hall near the registration desk. 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 prior to the competition.

PRACTICE ICE: Practice ice will be available for purchase via EMS. Additional practice ice information will be available on the www.duluthfsc.org website, EMS, and emails. Refunds will not be given for unused practice ice sessions.

ONSITE REGISTRATION: The registration desk is located in Paulucci Hall and will open one hour prior to the start of competition on Thursday, January 29th, and one hour prior to the first scheduled event on all other days and will remain open through the last event of the day. Skaters are required to check in at least one hour prior to their first event.

If you are participating in a role requiring compliance, please be sure to [download or print your compliance card](#) to verify your compliance status on-site, if requested. If you believe your compliance card does not accurately reflect your compliance status, please contact skatesafe@usfigureskating.org at least 2 business days prior to the competition for assistance.

PHOTOGRAPHY: An official photographer will be taking action shots of all skaters and events, as well as at awards. Your registration fee includes all photos, including awards, from one event of skaters' choice. Additional photos and/or events will be available to purchase.

VIDEOGRAPHY: Your entry fee includes a video of one event of skaters' choice. Additional videos and/or events will be available to purchase.

PHOTO/VIDEO: Live and on-demand streaming, and sales and distribution of U.S. Figure Skating sanctioned and approved events, programs, and activities that include the playback of music is strictly prohibited. This prohibition does not apply to the distribution of footage that does not include music. Questions about this can be directed to music@usfigureskating.org. **Note, [per U.S. Figure Skating policy](#), photographing and/or recording of anyone other than your own skater is strictly prohibited. Please refer to the Basic Ice Usage and Skater Etiquette Information document found in the Club Resource section of Member's Only.**

AWARDS: All award ceremonies will be off ice in Paulucci Hall shortly after the final results are posted online.

MERCHANDISE: A full store will be setup at the event, offering an additional variety of items for purchase. All pre-purchased items will be shipped directly to the customer address. Pre-Order here: <https://online-apparel.com/s/northland-competition/>

GOOD LUCK ANNOUNCEMENTS: Celebrate your skater or skaters with a good luck message. Your skater's picture will be on a continuous loop on the TV Displays in the registration area during this year's Northland Competition. Available to purchase until **Thursday, January 8, 2026.** [I WANT TO WISH MY SKATER GOOD LUCK](#)

CONTACT INFORMATION: northlandcompetition@gmail.com