



**Skate Pittsburgh
~ Excel Series Event~
April 20 & 21, 2024**

**Pittsburgh Figure Skating Club
RMU Island Sports Center * 7600 Grand Avenue * Pittsburgh, PA 15225**

Chief Referee: Aristeo (AB) Brito * Chief Accountant: Beth Roberts

Skate Pittsburgh 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 or Learn to Skate USA® member for Compete USA Events, 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.

EXCEL SERIES INFORMATION:

[EXCEL SERIES REGISTRATION](#) [EXCEL SERIES INFORMATION](#) [EXCEL SERIES HANDBOOK](#)

The 2024 Skate Pittsburgh competition is a designated Excel Series competition for the 2024 Excel Series. As an Excel Series event, skaters entered in the Series at eligible levels will earn points for their placement.

Skaters must be registered for the Excel Series prior to competing at designated competition: **The deadline to register for the US FS Excel Series is March 1st, 2024**, or prior to your first competition, whichever is earlier.

Skaters must register with US FS Excel Series to participate in the 2024 Excel Series, prior to competing at designated competitions in order to have their points recorded and seen in standings. Registering for the US FS Excel Series is separate from registering for Skate Pittsburgh Excel series.

COMPETITION DETAILS

Deadline for Skate Pittsburgh online entries is Wednesday, March 20, 2024, 11:59 PM, (based on PFSC host club time zone). The Competition Committee reserves the right to limit the number of entries or cancel an event due to lack of entries. Events with only one skater will be exhibitions. Entries will be processed on a first come, first serve basis. The computerized IJS Mini System will be in use.

Included in the registration fee for the first event, **every individual skater will get one digital video and one digital photo of the Freestyle Program or basic skill event during the competition from RES Video & Media.** The video/photo will be of a skater's freestyle program with music unless RES Video is notified otherwise. (Some skaters only perform a compulsory program so that will be chosen.) RES will choose and select a nice photo during the program performance. Opening, ending pose or possibly a skater moves image. Photos will be posted online for any additional orders. Video/digital image will be sent to each individual email and downloaded off the RES website within 10 days after the competition end. A custom website will be made and available for Skate Pittsburgh for competition skaters to review photos/videos online.

EVENT FEES (First Registration Fee Includes a Video & Photo from RES Video – as listed above)

- FIRST IJS EVENT: \$175
- EACH ADDITIONAL IJS EVENT: \$95
- FIRST 6.0 EVENT: \$135
- EACH ADDITIONAL 6.0 EVENT: \$60.00
- FIRST COMPETE USA BASIC SKILLS & FREE SKATE EVENT: \$75.00
- SECOND LEARN TO SKATE USA BASIC SKILLS & FREE SKATE EVENT: \$50

There is no admission fee for spectators.

JUDGING SYSTEMS:

The International Judging System (IJS) and the 6.0 Majority Judging System will be used for events as specified in the chart of offered events below. Click on the link below "Events Offered: for event requirements any conflict with latest USFS regulations, the current (latest) rulebook requirements will be followed.

EVENTS OFFERED

[Program requirements for the events listed below can be found here: usfigureskating.org – Skate – Compete – Program Requirements \(As of 3/5/24 No Test Well Balanced does not exist.\)](https://usfigureskating.org/Program-Requirements)

This event will follow program requirements for the 2023-24 season.

SINGLES	JUDGING
Excel Free Skate: (Pre-Preliminary & Preliminary)	6.0
Excel Free Skate: (Preliminary Plus – Senior)	IJS
Well Balanced Short Program (Juvenile – Senior)	IJS
Well Balanced Free Skate (Pre-Preliminary – Pre-Juvenile)	6.0
Well Balanced Free Skate (Juvenile – Senior)	IJS
Adult Free Skate (Adult Bronze – Master Jr/Sr)	IJS
Adult Beginner, High Beginner & Pre-Bronze Free Skate	6.0

SPECIALTY	JUDGING
Compulsory Moves (No Test–Senior)	6.0
Excel Compulsory Moves (Excel Beg–Excel Prelim.)	6.0
Jumps Challenge (Beginner – Pre-Juvenile)	6.0
Jumps Challenge (Juvenile – Senior)	6.0
Spins Challenge (Beginner–Pre-Juvenile)	6.0
Spins Challenge (Juvenile – Senior)	6.0
SHOWCASE	JUDGING
Emotional Performance (No Test – Senior, Adult)	CJS
Choreographic Artistry (No Test - Senior, Adult)	CJS
Lyrical Pop (No Test - Senior, Adult)	CJS
Character Performance (No Test - Senior, Adult)	CJS
Comedic Impressions (No Test - Senior, Adult)	CJS
Duets/Trios (No Test – Senior, Adult)	CJS
COMPETE USA EVENTS	JUDGING
Snowplow Sam-Basic 6 Program w/ Music	6.0
Aspire 1-4 Program w/ Music	6.0
Snowplow Sam – Basic 6 Elements	6.0
Aspire 1-4 Compulsory Moves	6.0

ELIGIBILITY:

Singles: Excel and Well-Balanced Events:

- 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.
- 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.

All other singles and partner events:

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

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.

COMPLIANCE:

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

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.

With EMS, coaches must be included within a skater/team's registration or updated through their EMS Skater Portal via "[My Coaches](#)". 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](#)

If you are participating in a role requiring compliance (such as coach), 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.

REGISTRATION

ONLINE REGISTRATION VIA EMS: <https://m.usfigureskating.org/competition/33955>

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: 03/20/24 @ 11:59 PM EST

If Accepted, Late Registration: Entry Fees + \$40 Late Fee

**The host club reserves the right to close registration at any time if event capacity is met*

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 "**SKATE PITTSBURGH**" from the list of nonqualifying competitions.
 - a. If you need assistance completing your registration, contact productsupport@usfigureskating.org.

SHOWCASE 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.

MUSIC SUBMISSION/UPLOAD:

DEADLINE: April 8, 2024 11:59 PM EST A \$25.00 LATE FEE WILL APPLY

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

EMS MUSIC UPLOAD: Competitors participating in events with music are required to upload their music to EMS no later than **April 5, 2024**. After this date, skaters will be locked out of this feature and subject to a **\$25 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.

If you need assistance, email productsupport@usfigureskating.org

All music must meet the following criteria. If you have questions about what format you have, please contact your coach and get a new version of your music that meets the criteria listed below.

Music criteria:

- File Format: MP3
- Bit Rate: 192 kbps or higher and Sample Rate: 44,100 kHz
 - This will be verified by the music chair and they may request you upload a corrected file
- Leaders and trailers (the silence or "dead space" before and after the actual start and end of the program music) may not exceed two (2) seconds. We prefer that there be NO leaders or trailers at all. Excessive leaders and trailers may disrupt the playing of the music during competition.

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:

DEADLINE: April 8, 2024 11:59 PM EST A \$25.00 LATE FEE WILL APPLY

EMS PLANNED PROGRAM CONTENT (PPC) – Competitors participating in IJS events are required to submit PPC in EMS no later than **April 5, 2024**. After this date, skaters will be locked out of this feature in EMS and subject to a **\$25 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.

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

If you need assistance, email productsupport@usfigureskating.org

REFUND POLICY:

Entry fees will not be refunded after March 20, 2024, unless no competition exists or the event is canceled. There will be no refunds for medical withdrawals. The online processing fees are not refundable. Payment of the registration fee(s) will be required before the skater is allowed to participate in practice ice or events. No changes to the schedule will be allowed due to personal conflicts, schedule requests will not be permitted.

TEST CREDIT:

Skaters meeting the requirements for test credit may request their test credit forms at registration prior to the start of their event (Open Juvenile- Juvenile through Senior). Skater who would like to use this mention must email, Beth Sutton, Test Chair, by April 15, 2024. sutton@rmu.edu **Test credit will not be available after the last IJS event has ended and the competition has concluded.** Please return test credit form and fee at the registration desk no later than 1 hour

before your event begins. Forms must be picked up at the registration desk prior to the end of the competition. A fee of \$25, payable at the registration desk prior to your event for all skaters using the test credit.

LIABILITY:

U.S. Figure Skating, Learn to Skate USA®, Pittsburgh Figure Skating Club and RMU Island Sports 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.

COMPETITION DETAILS

FACILITIES:

The competition will be held at

RMU Island Sports Center, 7600 Grand Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15225.

Events will be held on the Olympic Arena (Olympic Size). The Ice House Bistro will be open for food and beverages. All IJS events will be held in the Olympic Arena.

ONSITE CHECK-IN EVENT DAY(S):

The Check-In Desk will open on Saturday, April 20, 2024 and end after the last event on Sunday, April 21, 2024. Check-In will be open one hour before the first event and run through the last event of the day. The registration table will be located inside the main entrance of RMU Island Sports Center. Competitors must register at least one hour before their scheduled event.

LOCKER ROOMS & CHANGING AREAS:

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 in the [SkateSafe® Handbook](#).

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](#).

OFFICIAL WEBSITE & UPDATES:

An official virtual bulletin board will be maintained on the Pittsburgh FSC website: www.pittsburghfsc.com All starting orders and results will be posted online only. Link to this information will be provided for each attendee. It is the responsibility of each competitor, parent and coach to check the virtual bulletin board frequently for any schedule changes and/or additional information.

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.

Skaters are requested to arrive 60 minutes, (1 hour) prior to the scheduled time of their event. A

tentative schedule of events will be posted prior to the competition. Events may run up to 30 minutes early at the discretion of the Chief Referee.

UNOFFICIAL PRACTICE ICE:

All practice ice will be available for purchase online only through the [EMS Competition Portal](#). **\$20/20 minute pre-purchased session(s) If ice is available, open/on-site purchase \$25/20 minutes**

Pre-Purchase: Practice ice credits may be purchased after participants complete their event registration, via the EMS Competition Portal. Skaters who purchase credits during the pre-purchase period will be able to select sessions during the selection period, after the schedule has been completed and posted. **THERE ARE NO REFUNDS OR CREDITS FOR UNUSED PRACTICE ICE.**

- [Click Here for a Pre-Purchase How-To Document](#)
 - **Unofficial Practice Ice:** Please note that all practice ice will be Unofficial Practice Ice and no music will be played during sessions.
 - **Earbud/headphones:** Earbuds and wireless headphones/other music devices will not be allowed on practice sessions or warmups associated with any events in this competition.

AWARDS:

All events are final rounds. Medals will be awarded to 1st, 2nd & 3rd place finishers in each group and ribbons will be awarded to 4th, 5th & 6th place finishers. Awards will be available, at the registration desk, directly after results are posted. Awards must be picked up by the close of the competition and will not be mailed.

PHOTO/VIDEO:

RES Video & Media will provide professional event photography & video. 1st event registration fee includes a video & photo for each skater.

Note, per U.S. Figure Skating policy, photographing and/or recording of anyone other than your own skater is strictly prohibited.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Area Hotels:

Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott Pittsburgh-Neville Island

5850 Grand Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15225
(412) 264.4722

Double Tree Hotel in Moon Township

8402 University Blvd, Moon, PA 15108
(412) 329-1400

CONTACT INFO: If you have questions, please contact competition co-chairs:

Kari Lipchin: skatepgh@gmail.com or Beth Sutton: sutton@rmu.edu

Competition website: www.pittsburghfsc.com

Rink website: www.rmuislandsports.com