



PARTICIPANT HANDBOOK

Section 1 | Series Requirements & Technical Information

Section 2 | Approved Competition Information

Section 3 | Frequently Asked Questions

Section 4 | Athlete Profiles (Click [HERE](#))

To always have the current handbook bookmark:

https://www.usfigureskating.org/sites/default/files/media-files/NQS_announcement%202024-25.pdf

SECTION 1 | SERIES REQUIREMENTS & TECHNICAL INFORMATION

NATIONAL QUALIFYING SERIES (NQS) SNAPSHOT

- Twenty-Two (22) competitions have been designated as National Qualifying Series in Singles, Pairs, and Ice Dance – Juvenile through Senior from mid-July to early October. The competition list can be found [here](#) and details in Section 2.
- **Singles athletes may only register for and compete at a maximum of three (3) approved NQS competitions**. Pairs and Ice Dance teams do not have a registration maximum. **There is no phased registration this year, athletes may register for their 3 competitions on their own timeline.** Registration for each competition will open on the date indicated in Section 2. Each competition will determine their own closing date. Note that entries may close early based on capacity.
- The EMS Series Application for NQS will open on Tuesday, July 2 to accommodate membership renewal and club changes. The application must be completed prior to the **first day** of the NQS competition for the score to count in the Series Standings and advancement opportunities.

HISTORY & OVERVIEW

The U.S. Figure Skating National Qualifying Series (NQS) was approved by the 2018 Governing Council and implemented in the summer of 2019. The NQS is a series of competitions hosted individually by member clubs nationwide, in which athletes enter and earn a score. They will earn a placement in the individual competition they enter, an overall national ranking in their level and a regional and sectional ranking.

Beginning 2022-2023, nine stand-alone October qualifying competitions, Regional (singles) and Sectional (pairs and ice dance) Challenges were consolidated into the National Qualifying Series, allowing athletes to advance to the NQS Finals in November – Sectional Singles, U.S. Pairs and U.S. Ice Dance Finals – and culminating with the U.S. Figure Skating Championships and National High Performance Development Team Camp in January.

CONFIRM COMPETITIVE LEVEL

Meet all age requirements pertaining to the event to be entered by July 1, 2024

Meet test requirements by the conclusion of the National Qualifying Series.

Athletes/teams may complete qualifying registration for ONE level. Registration may be at the participants' current competitive floor (i.e. lowest level an athlete can compete at) or higher based on each athlete's goals and technical skill.

If an athlete/team chooses to compete at a higher level than their current competitive floor, test information (from club test session, virtual test or IJS competition test credit) must be fully processed with U.S. Figure Skating and reflected in the athlete's profile no later than **October 6, 2024**. If minimum test eligibility is not met by this date, athletes/teams will NOT be permitted to advance to NQS Finals in November.

- **What is the competitive floor?**

An athlete's competitive floor is the lowest level an athlete can compete at and is dictated by a paid EMS Series Application from the previous season's National Qualifying Series (NQS) or National Excel Series (Excel). If an athlete competes in both NQS and Excel at different levels, their NQS level may be ONE LEVEL lower than Excel. For example, if an athlete skates Junior Excel, they may skate Novice NQS.

- **I do not have a competitive floor, what should I do?**

Section 4 of this handbook includes NQS Athlete Profile data. This data is based on results from the 2022-23 competitive season and reflects the performance of an athlete set on a given day during the National Qualifying Series (NQS). Scores for the 2024-25 competitive season may fluctuate contingent on varied program requirements, rule changes and scale of values. This information should be reviewed individually with each athlete's coach(es) to assess annual goals and selection of the appropriate competitive level.

- **Can I change my level?**

Athletes/teams wishing to move up a level prior to the conclusion of NQS may request the change via email at events@usfigureskating.org. A mid-season change will VOID all previous Series Standings and advancement opportunities tied to the athlete/team's original level.

- Only ONE change request is permitted per entry AND athletes may only move UP; they are not permitted to change to a lower level after posting a score to the Series Standings.
- Singles athletes are allowed to register for a maximum of three total NQS competitions and this maximum is enforced if changing a level.

- For example, if an athlete competes in two NQS competitions as a novice and wishes to move up to Junior, their third NQS competition registration must be updated to Junior by request to the LOC, in addition to events@usfigureskating.org, for an opportunity to advance to the NQS Finals.

Meet the citizen and residency requirements as stated in Rules 2230-2243.

Foreign or released athletes residing in the U.S. who currently represent another ISU federation other than U.S. Figure Skating may register and compete at an approved NQS competition. However, they are not eligible to complete the Series Application nor receive a score within the Series Standings.

- **Have you competed on behalf of another ISU federation (i.e. in international competition or their qualifying season) and are looking to return and/or compete within U.S. Figure Skating? Review the resources and requirements [at the bottom of this page](#) for next steps.**

REGISTRATION | CHANGE FOR 2024-25 SEASON

Competition registration will take place from May 15 – early Sept. or when the last competition reaches capacity.

Singles athletes are allowed to register for a maximum of three (3) total NQS competitions in the 2024-25 season and to advance, must register for and compete at least one (1) competition to post a score. Athletes may register for their 3 competitions at any time within a competition's registration timeline – **there is no phased registration this season**. If a singles athlete registers for more than 3 competitions they are subject to withdrawal without a refund by U.S. Figure Skating.

Pairs and ice dance athletes, **DO NOT** have an NQS competition limit. They must register for and compete at least one (1) competition to post a score and be eligible for advancement.

Competition hosts (LOCs) reserve the right to close registration at any given time, even if earlier than they originally stated, based on their entry capacity. This allows the hosts to manage the number of participants in the competition and provide the best competitive experience. The entry capacity will not be published due to the variables with each location. Ultimately, the decision to close registration is at the full discretion of the host, and participants should be aware of this possibility when considering their competitive schedule and plan for multiple scenarios.

Registration Notes:

- There is no phased registration this season. Athletes may register for their competitions at any time they choose.
- Singles athletes may only register for and compete at a maximum of three approved NQS competitions, Singles athletes may **not** register for additional events and simply not have the score count towards series standings.
- If a singles athlete withdraws from one of their three NQS competitions during the published dates of said competition (even if their specific event has not started yet), they are not eligible to register for an additional competition.
- If a NQS singles event has met their entry maximum and is no longer accepting registrations, the LOCs are permitted to accept pairs and/or ice dance entries. Interested teams must email the competition chair and chief referee (located in section 2 of this handbook) for details.
- Incomplete registrations are not valid forms of entry for approved NQS competitions. A competition registration is not valid unless payment has been processed and the athlete/team has access to the EMS Skater Portal.

RENEW MEMBERSHIP

A current membership for the 2024-25 season is required to complete the EMS Series Application (membership must be fully processed with home club AND U.S. Figure Skating) and participate in approved NQS Competitions.

The application must be completed prior to the first day of the NQS competition for the score to count in the Series Standings and advancement opportunities. Singles athletes are automatically entered into one of the nine regions based on the location of their home club, or if an individual member, their home address. Pairs and ice dance teams are automatically entered into one of the three sections based on the location of the home club of the partner who completes the series application, or if an individual member, their home address. Note: only one member of the team is required to complete the series application and approved competition registration.

All registrants are bound to their geographic designation at the time of entry/paid series application and no changes are permitted. Club representation stays intact for the entirety of the season even if the athlete/team changes club.

EMS SERIES APPLICATION

Beginning July 2, athletes/teams can complete their qualifying registration via the EMS Series Application. For pairs and ice dance teams, only ONE member must complete the registration.

The Series Application is the key requirement for qualifying registration. All interested athletes (including potential and known byes) MUST complete this step prior to the start of their first approved NQS competition (first day of competition) or before receiving their bye.

- Without a paid Series Application, NO scores will be posted to the Series Standings and thus athletes/teams cannot advance to the November Finals and/or U.S. Figure Skating Championships and National High Performance Development Team/Camp.
 - This applies equally to known byes; athletes who receive a bye MUST complete the Series Application regardless of status.
- If an athlete/team competes in an approved NQS competition prior to completing their Series Application, the scores will NOT count in the Series – no exceptions!
 - Skater A competes at Glacier Falls at the end of July but doesn't complete their Series Application until August, their scores do NOT count (and will not count AFTER the Series Application is complete).
 - Competing at an NQS competition without an application still counts as one of an athlete's 3 competitions.

Online payment via credit card is the ONLY accepted form of payment for the Series Application. No cash, checks, or mail orders will be accepted by U.S. Figure Skating.

NATIONAL QUALIFYING SERIES (NQS) STANDINGS

The NQS Standings will be available for viewing in EMS. The standings will display a national and sectional rank for all disciplines. Singles events will also display a regional ranking.

To access the standings:

- Log in to Members Only at <https://m.usfigureskating.org>.
 - Select **EMS**.
- Click "Series Information."

- Choose “2024-25 National Qualifying Series.”
- Select “Standings.”

At the end of each approved NQS competition, all IJS competition results will be uploaded to EMS by the chief accountant as soon as possible following the event’s conclusion. Each skater’s total score is transmitted to the Standings. Only a skater’s current highest total score is officially recorded. If a skater finishes a competition and beats their previous high score, the score will be updated. If a skater competes but does not beat their current high score, the previous score stands.

An athlete/team will not appear on the NQS standings until they have earned a total score at an approved NQS competition for the level of their paid Series Application.

Please note, progression in the qualifying season (i.e., advancement to the November Finals) is tied to the **highest posted score** in the Series Standings, NOT from individual event placements at approved NQS competitions.

ATHLETE RECOGNITION

Digital series certificates will be provided to all participants who post a score with their final ranking(s) and pins will be sent to the home club of each participant for local recognition, and if an individual member of U.S. Figure Skating to the athlete(s) home address:

- Top 25% nationally – gold pin
- Top 26-50% nationally – silver pin
- Remaining participants will receive a “competitor” pin

SINGLES AWARDS

Regional Medals – awarded to top four highest scores per level, per region

Trophy – awarded to the gold medalist for each level, per region

PAIRS & ICE DANCE AWARDS

Sectional Medals – awarded to top four highest scoring teams per level, per section

Trophies – awarded to the gold medalist team for each level, per section

National Qualifying Series medals and trophies will be presented in-person, onsite at the November Finals. If unable to attend the November Finals, awards will be sent to each recipient's home address.

ADVANCEMENT TO NQS FINALS

2025 November Finals information will be announced in May.

Advancement information will be sent via email, outlining the EMS registration process and competition details in mid-October. Each qualifier will be required to complete registration and pay their entry fee within 72 hours of advancement email from U.S. Figure Skating Headquarters. Failure to respond will result in forfeiture of advancement and an alternate will be invited.

Singles: To Be Announced

Pairs and Ice Dance: To Be Announced

Online payment via credit card is the ONLY accepted form of payment for the qualifying season. No cash, checks, or mail orders will be accepted by U.S. Figure Skating.

SINGLES

- **Juvenile – Novice: 24 skaters per level**
 - Top 4 overall scores from each region, next best 12 overall scores from the section
- **Junior – Senior: 18 skaters per level plus byes**
 - Top 4 overall scores from each region, next best 6 overall scores from the section

PAIRS

- **Juvenile – Novice: 24 teams per level**
 - Top 4 overall scores from each section, next best 12 overall scores from nation
- **Junior – Senior: 18 teams per level plus byes**
 - Top 4 overall scores per section, next best 6 overall scores from nation

ICE DANCE

- **Juvenile – Novice: 24 teams per level**
 - Top 4 overall scores from each section, next best 12 overall scores from nation
- **Junior – Senior: 18 teams per level plus byes**
 - Top 4 overall scores per section, next best 6 overall scores from nation

ADVANCEMENT TO NATIONAL HIGH PERFORMANCE DEVELOPMENT CAMP

Advancement criteria and information for the 2025 High Performance Development Camp will be posted 8/5/2024.

ADVANCEMENT TO U.S. CHAMPIONSHIPS

Bye Criteria will be posted June 1, 2024. If there are any changes to advancement criteria in any capacity the handbook will be updated to reflect as soon as possible.

SINGLES

Junior: maximum of 18 entries from the Sectional Singles Final

Top 4 athletes per section

Top 2 novice athletes per section invited to skate up to junior

Note: There is a current RFA pending and any changes to advancement criteria will be updated in the handbook following 2024 Governing Council.

Senior: maximum of 18 entries inclusive of Byes and Sectional Singles Final

Athletes receiving a bye per the U.S. Figure Skating Rulebook or approved bye criteria (will be published no later than June 1, 2024)

Top 2 athletes per section from Sectional Singles Final

Plus, next best scores nationwide until maximum is met

ICE DANCE

Novice: maximum of 5 entries from the U.S. Ice Dance Final

Top 5 teams from U.S. Ice Dance Final

Junior: maximum of 10 entries from the U.S. Ice Dance Final

Top 10 teams from U.S. Ice Dance Final

Note: There is a current RFA pending and any changes to advancement criteria will be updated in the handbook following 2024 Governing Council.

Senior: maximum of 15 entries inclusive of Byes and the U.S. Ice Dance Final

Teams receiving a bye per the U.S. Figure Skating Rulebook or approved bye criteria (will be published no later than June 1, 2024). Plus, next best teams from U.S. Ice Dance Final until maximum is met.

PAIRS

Novice: maximum of 4 entries from the U.S. Pairs Final

Top 4 teams from U.S. Pairs Final

Note: There is a current RFA pending and any changes to advancement criteria will be updated in the handbook following 2024 Governing Council.

Junior: maximum of 8 entries from the U.S. Pairs Final

Top 8 teams from U.S. Pairs Final

Note: There is a current RFA pending and any changes to advancement criteria will be updated in the handbook following 2024 Governing Council.

Senior: maximum of 12 entries inclusive of Byes and the U.S. Pairs Final

Teams receiving a bye per the U.S. Figure Skating Rulebook or approved bye criteria (will be published no later than June 1, 2024).

Plus, next best teams from U.S. Pairs Final until maximum is met.

See [U.S. Figure Skating Rules 2520-2524](#) for alternate information

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

When there are more than 24 entries in an event the referee will divide the competitors into groups per the U.S. Figure Skating Rulebook. Athletes will remain in the same groups for each applicable segment to post a total score for the Series. For example: if there are two groups of athletes in intermediate women, all skaters in group A will compete against each other in the short program and, the free skate for a total combined score. Likewise, skaters in group B will compete against each other in the short program and free skate for a total combined score.

There will be NO qualifying, consolation, or final rounds for NQS.

Please note, there will be NO segment-only competitive events for NQS levels. Intermediate through Senior levels will be a combined event only.

No refunds are provided for the EMS Series Application Fee under any circumstances (medical withdraws included). All withdrawals from approved NQS competitions are considered final after the respective registration phase deadline and refunds will not be permitted under any circumstances.

Feedback will be offered for all disciplines following the guidelines set by the Competitions and Discipline Committees. These will be available before the first NQS Competition.

Coach Compliance

Any coach attending the competition must be included within a skater's series application AND individual competition registration via EMS. Any coaches declared at the time of registration will be included in the skater's registration confirmation email and have access to the EMS Coach Portal. 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. Noncompliant coaches will receive automated email reminders through the start of the competition.

All National Qualifying Series coaches must meet the criteria below:

- ✓ Must be a current full member of U.S. Figure Skating either through a member club or as an individual member.
- ✓ If 18 years or older, must submit information for, proper payment of \$30 and successfully pass a background check.
 - The background check will be valid for two seasons, the one in which it was completed plus one additional.
- ✓ If 18 years or older, must complete annual SafeSport Training.
 - The training will be valid for 365 days from date of completion and there is no cost for the training/certification.
- ✓ Must have completed the U.S. Figure Skating Coach Core Certification (once in a career requirement).
- ✓ Must have joined Coach I.C.E. (the official program for coach certification, education, and development/ annual requirement.)
- ✓ Must submit proof of general liability insurance with limits of \$1 million per occurrence/\$5 million aggregate.
- ✓ Must agree to the U.S. Figure Skating Code of Ethics and the Coaching Standards of Professionalism.
- ✓ Must complete three waivers: 1) Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Release and Indemnification Agreement, 2) Medical Consent and 3) Name and Likeness Release and Consent Agreement.

Liability

U.S. Figure Skating, the host club(s) and/or interclub association, the organizing committee and the ice arenas utilized for these events accept no responsibility for injury or damage sustained by any participant in these National Qualifying Series events (U.S. Figure Skating Rule 1600).

QUALIFYING ATHLETE CHECKLIST

- ☑ CONFIRM COMPETITIVE LEVEL (AGE & TEST ELIGIBILITY)
- ☑ ESTABLISH REGISTRATION PLAN FOR NQS
- ☑ REGISTER FOR AN APPROVED NQS COMPETITION VIA EMS
- ☑ RENEW MEMBERSHIP FOR 2023 – 24 SEASON → JUNE 1, 2024
- ☑ COMPLETE EMS SERIES APPLICATION → JULY 2, 2024

RESOURCE LIST

U.S. Figure Skating Rulebook

- 2000s = Qualifying Competitions
 - See 2701 F & 2712 A for practice ice parameters

Technical Notifications

Event Management System (EMS)

- Series Application
- Competition Registration
- Series Standings
- Skater Portal: My Coaches, Music, PPC
- Coach Portal: My Skaters, Coach Schedule

Citizenship Eligibility

Program Requirements | Juvenile - Senior

Bye Criteria – coming summer 2024

Minimum total element score – coming summer 2024

Feedback Guidelines – coming June 2024

CONTACTS

U.S. Figure Skating Events Department

Email: events@usfigureskating.org

Phone: (719) 635-5200

U.S. Figure Skating Product Support (EMS)

Email: productsupport@usfigureskating.org

Phone: (719) 635-5200

SECTION 2 | APPROVED NQS COMPETITION INFORMATION



The competitions below have been approved for the 2024-2025 National Qualifying Series. All NQS competition registrations will be processed via the Event Management System (EMS). [Full Schedule here.](#)

Refer to EMS for additional information on entry fees, practice ice availability/pre-purchase, [music upload](#), [PPC submission](#) deadline(s) and if applicable, late fees. If you need assistance with EMS, email productsupport@usfigureskating.org.

When accessing registration on May 15 and beyond, look for the “NQS” designation in the event name and the **series logo**. All competitions reserve the right to close registration early. Note, nonqualifying competition registration (i.e. excel, showcase) will be offered separately and **WILL NOT** include Juvenile through Senior events for the NQS approved disciplines. Nonqualifying registration timelines and events offered are at the full discretion of the local organizing committee.

ALL COMPETITIONS OPEN REGISTRATION AT NOON ET

NQS & SDS – DALLAS CLASSIC | JULY 12-14

Approved Disciplines: Juvenile – Senior Ice Dance

[Children’s Health StarCenter](#) – Plano, Texas

Registration Open: May 15

Registration Close: June 10

Competition Chair: [Megan Toohey and Chellie Bowden](#)

Chief Referee: [Julia Rey](#)

[Competition Website](#)

- Entry Fees: \$335/team Juvenile - Senior
- This competition is also approved for the Solo Dance Series (SDS). Registration for NQS and SDS will all be managed through the same EMS portal.



NQS – CACTUS CLASSIC | JULY 18-21

Approved Disciplines: Juvenile – Senior Singles

[Ice Den](#) – Scottsdale, Ariz.

Registration Open: May 15

Registration Close: June 14, or when reaches capacity

Competition Chair: [Sarah Gahan](#) & [Kassie Lewis](#)

Chief Referee: [Hal Marron](#)

[Competition Website](#)

- Entry Fees: \$185 Juvenile, \$275 Intermediate – Senior



NQS – PEACH OPEN | JULY 18-21

Approved Disciplines: Juvenile – Senior Singles

[Atlanta IceForum](#) – Duluth, Ga.

Registration Open: May 15

Registration Close: June 19, or when reaches capacity

Competition Chair: [Jim Cork](#) & [Rob Lichtefeld](#)

Chief Referee: [Cheryl Litman](#)

[Competition Website](#)

- Entry Fees: \$190 Juvenile, \$290 Intermediate – Senior



NQS – GLACIER FALLS | JULY 24-28

Approved Disciplines: Juvenile – Senior Singles & Pairs

[Anaheim ICE](#) – Anaheim, Calif.

Registration Open: May 15

Registration Close: July 1, or when reaches capacity

Competition Chair: gsummerclassic@gmail.com

Chief Referee: [Lisa Erle](#)

[Competition Website](#)

- Entry Fees:
 - Singles: \$185 Juvenile, \$270 Intermediate – Senior
 - Pairs: \$195 Juvenile – Intermediate, \$285 Novice – Senior



NQS & SDS – LAKE PLACID ICE DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS | JULY 28-31

Approved Disciplines: Juvenile – Senior Ice Dance

[The Olympic Center](#) | Lake Placid, N.Y.

Registration Open: May 15

Registration Close: June 28

Competition Chair: [Mary-Elizabeth Wightman](#) and [Kathaleen Cutone](#)

Chief Referee: [Sue Keogh](#)

[Competition Website](#)

- Entry Fees: \$340/team Juvenile – Senior
- This competition is also approved for the Solo Dance Series (SDS). Registration for NQS and SDS will all be managed through the same EMS portal.
- Lake Placid will also host an international event for Junior and Senior teams. U.S. Teams approved by the International Committee may participate. Scores for U.S. Teams will count in the NQS standings. More information to come.



NQS – PHILADELPHIA SUMMER CHAMPIONSHIPS | JULY 31-August 4

Approved Disciplines: Juvenile – Senior Singles

[IceWorks Skating Complex](#) | Aston, Penn.

Registration Open: May 15

Registration Close: July 12, or when reaches capacity

Competition Chair: [Lisa Shaw](#)

Chief Referee: [Lauren O'Toole](#)

[Competition Website](#)

- Entry Fees: \$225 Juvenile, \$335 Intermediate – Senior
- Admission: \$10/day, \$25/all event



NQS – SCOTT HAMILTON INVITATIONAL | AUGUST 2-4

Approved Disciplines: Juvenile – Senior Singles

[Ford Ice Center Bellevue](#) | Bellevue, Tenn.

Registration Open: May 15

Registration Close: June 28, or when reaches capacity

Competition Chair: competition@scotthamiltonskatingclub.org

Chief Referee: [Kim Heim](#)

[Competition Website](#)

- Entry Fees: \$190 Juvenile, \$290 Intermediate – Senior



NQS – COPPER CUP | AUGUST 7-11

Approved Disciplines: Juvenile – Senior Singles

[South Davis Recreation Center](#) | Bountiful, Utah

Registration Open: June 12

Registration Close: July 8, Late Registration July 15, or when reaches capacity

Competition Chair: [Rebecca Hayes](#) & [Michael Roberts](#)

Chief Referee: [Richard Kern](#)

[Competition Website](#)

- Entry Fees: \$195 Juvenile, \$240 Intermediate – Senior



NQS – CUP OF COLORADO | AUGUST 15-18

Approved Disciplines: Juvenile – Senior Singles & Pairs

[South Suburban Sports Complex](#) | Littleton, Colo

Registration Open: June 12

Registration Close: July 17, or when reaches capacity

Competition Chair: [Cassy Papajohn](#)

Chief Referee: [Hannah Katz](#)

[Competition Website](#)

- Entry Fees:
 - Singles: \$175 Juvenile, \$240 Intermediate – Senior
 - Pairs: \$175 Juvenile - Intermediate, \$240 Novice – Senior



NQS – Skate the Lake | AUGUST 14-18

Approved Disciplines: Juvenile – Senior Singles

[RexPlex Ice Arena](#) | Pleasant Prairie, Wis.

Registration Open: June 12

Registration Close: July 12, or when reaches capacity

Competition Chair: [Stephanie Schopp](#) & [Lacey Forgette](#)

Chief Referee: [Lisa Landon](#)

[Competition Website](#)

- Entry Fees: \$185 Juvenile, \$235 Intermediate – Senior



NQS – POTOMAC OPEN | AUGUST 16-18

Approved Disciplines: Juvenile – Senior Singles

[Ashburn Ice House](#) | Ashburn, Va.

Registration Open: June 12

Registration Close: July 21, or when reaches capacity

Competition Chair: [Sherry Chen & Amanda Babcock](#)

Chief Referee: [Heather Nemier](#)

[Competition Website](#)

- Entry Fees: \$230 Juvenile, \$340 Intermediate – Senior



NQS – PROVIDENCE OPEN | AUGUST 21-25

Approved Disciplines: Juvenile – Senior Singles

[Schneider Arena](#) – Providence College | Providence, R.I.

Registration Open: June 12

Registration Close: July 8, or when reaches capacity

Competition Chair: [Gloria Haddad](#) & [Janice Delano](#)

Chief Referee: [Gerald Miele](#)

[Competition Website](#)

- Entry Fees: \$225 Juvenile, \$300 Intermediate – Senior



NQS – SKATE SAN FRANCISCO | AUGUST 23-25

Approved Disciplines: Juvenile – Senior Singles

[Yerba Buena Ice Skating Center](#) | San Francisco, Calif.

Registration Open: June 12

Registration Close: July 29, or when reaches capacity

Competition Chair: [Don Corbiell](#) & [Lisa Chang](#)

Chief Referee: [Bruce Bell](#)

[Competition Website](#)

- Entry Fees: \$220 Juvenile, \$250 Intermediate – Senior



NQS – 98th MIDDLE ATLANTIC FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS | SEPT. 5-8

Approved Disciplines: Juvenile – Senior Singles & Pairs

[Chelsea Piers Sky Rink](#) | New York, N.Y.

Registration Open: June 12

Registration Close: August 13, or when reaches capacity



Competition Chair: [Terri Levine](#)

Chief Referee: [Connacht Peterson](#)

[Competition Website](#)

- Entry Fees: **All entries include a free t-shirt**
 - Singles: \$295 Juvenile, \$345 Intermediate – Senior
 - Pairs: \$320 Juvenile - Intermediate, \$375 Novice – Junior, \$395 Senior
- Admission Fees: All Athletes will receive 1 parent credential and 1 coach credential.
 - Spectator One Day Ticket Price: \$10
 - Spectator Two Day Ticket Price: \$15
 - Spectator Three Day Ticket Price: \$25
- In conjunction will be the John Nicks Pairs Challenge which is an international event for Junior and Senior pair teams. U.S. Teams approved by the International Committee may participate. Scores for U.S. Teams will count in the NQS standings. More information to come.

NQS – GREATER CHICAGOLAND FALL INVITATIONAL | SEPT. 6-8

Approved Disciplines: Juvenile – Senior Singles & Pairs

[Robert Crown Community Center](#) | Evanston, Ill.

Registration Open: July 10

Registration Close: August 1, or when reaches capacity

Competition Chair: [Lanny Nelson](#) & [Tracey Connor](#)

Chief Referee: [Kathleen Krieger](#)

[Competition Website](#)

- Entry Fees:
 - Singles: \$190 Juvenile, \$295 Intermediate – Senior
 - Pairs: \$250 Juvenile - Intermediate, \$375 Novice – Senior



NQS – JOHN SMITH MEMORIAL COMPETITION | SEPT. 6-8

Approved Disciplines: Juvenile – Senior Singles

[Extreme Ice Center](#) | Indian Trail, N.C.

Registration Open: July 10

Registration Close: August 17, or when reaches capacity

Competition Chair: [Alyson Hansen](#)

Chief Referee: [Jennifer Goulet](#)

[Competition Website](#)

- Entry Fees: \$190 Juvenile, \$275 Intermediate – Senior



NQS – 45th ANNUAL PASADENA OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS | SEPT. 11-15

Approved Disciplines: Juvenile – Senior Singles

[Pasadena Ice Skating Center](#) | Pasadena, Calif.

Registration Open: July 10

Registration Close: August 21, or when reaches capacity

Competition Chair: [Sharon Watson](#)

Chief Referee: [Carla Golubski](#)

[Competition Website](#)

- Entry Fees: \$185 Juvenile, \$270 Intermediate – Senior



NQS – PACIFIC NORTHWEST INTERCLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS | SEPT. 19-22

Approved Disciplines: Juvenile – Senior Singles & Pairs

[Sno-King Ice Arena](#) | Snoqualmie, Wash.

Registration Open: July 10

Registration Close: August 15, or when reaches capacity

Competition Chair: [Pam Dawson-LeMarr](#)

Chief Referee: [Linda Chihara](#)

[Competition Website](#)

- Entry Fees:
 - Singles: \$180 Juvenile, \$270 Intermediate – Senior
 - Pairs: \$200 Juvenile – Intermediate, \$285 Novice – Senior



NQS – CHALLENGE CUP | SEPT. 19-22

Approved Disciplines: Juvenile – Senior Ice Dance

[Philadelphia Skating Club and Humane Society](#) | Ardmore, Penn.

Registration Open: July 10

Registration Close: August 23

Competition Chair: pschs@pschs.org

Chief Referee: [Sue Miller](#)

[Competition Website](#)

- Entry Fees: \$295



NQS – SKATE CLEVELAND | SEPT. 20-22

Approved Disciplines: Juvenile – Senior Singles

[Winterhurst Ice Arena](#) | Lakewood, Ohio

Registration Open: July 10

Registration Close: August 9, or when reaches capacity

Competition Chair: [Nicole Kappenhagen](#)

Chief Referee: [Barry Doren](#)

[Competition Website](#)

- Entry Fees: \$175 Juvenile, \$245 Intermediate – Senior



NQS – AUSTIN AUTUMN CLASSIC | SEPT. 26-29

Approved Disciplines: Juvenile – Senior Singles & Ice Dance

[Ice & Field at The Crossover](#) | Austin, Texas

Registration Open: July 10

Registration Close: August 18, or when reaches capacity

Competition Chair: compchair@afsctx.org

Chief Referee: [Lori Osborne](#)

[Competition Website](#)

- Entry Fees: All entry fees include a competition t-shirt
 - Singles: \$225 Juvenile, \$290 Intermediate – Senior
 - Ice Dance: \$375 Juvenile – Senior

NQS – BOSTON NQS | OCT. 3-6

Approved Disciplines: Juvenile – Senior Singles & Pairs

[The Skating Club of Boston](#) | Norwood, Mass.

Registration Open: July 10

Registration Close: August 18, or when reaches capacity

Competition Chair: events@scboston.org

Chief Referee: [Allison Duarte](#)

[Competition Website](#)

- Entry Fees:
 - Singles: \$280 Juvenile, \$350 Intermediate – Senior
 - Pairs: \$350 Juvenile – Intermediate, \$395 Novice – Senior

SECTION 3 | FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Will there be any changes in the approved NQS competition list?

Approved NQS competitions and the designated disciplines are locked in as of February 29. There will be no additional competitions. The competition list will be evaluated each year by the Competitions Committee.

Can I register for more than three NQS competitions as a singles athlete?

No. To promote fair competition and equitable opportunities for advancement, singles athletes are restricted to three NQS competitions. Singles athletes may **not** enter additional NQS competitions and simply not have the score count. If you are an ISP athlete whose international division is lower than their domestic division, you may work with the high-performance and events department to set up an exhibition for your junior division at an NQS event (pending LOC discretion) where you will receive full IJS protocol. You will not receive an award at the event. This will not count towards series standings, advancement, or the 3-competition max.

Will nonqualifying competitions be held in conjunction with NQS?

Yes, each LOC may host a separate nonqualifying competition in conjunction with NQS. These events will be managed separately, to review registration timelines, events offered and announcements, click [here](#).

What levels are offered for the National Qualifying Series?

National Qualifying Series events are offered at juvenile, intermediate, novice, junior and senior for singles, pairs, and ice dance. Open juvenile is NOT included in NQS but athletes considering this level are invited to explore the [Excel](#) program.

I have not renewed my membership for the 2024-25 season, what are my options?

Athletes/teams should renew membership AFTER July 1 and then complete the Series Application. For scores to count, the series application must be completed prior to the FIRST DAY of an athlete/team's preferred NQS event. Without a renewed membership, an athlete/team cannot complete the Series Application and without a paid Series Application, scores from an approved NQS competition will not count (no exceptions).

Where can I find the Series Standings?

To access the standings:

- Log in to <https://m.usfigureskating.org>.
 - Not a member? Create a non-member account [here](#).
- Select **EMS**.
- Click “Series Information.”
 - Choose “2024-25 National Qualifying Series.”
- Select “Standings.”

After the conclusion of each approved NQS competition, the chief accountant will upload the scores to EMS. Please allow up to 48 hours of event closure for standings to update. **Reminder: only the athlete/team’s highest score will be included on the series.**

I competed at an approved NQS competition, but I don’t see my scores on the Series Standings?

If a score is not listed from an approved NQS competition, review the following scenarios:

- Did you complete and pay for the [Series Application](#) prior to competing?
 - **Yes**, email productsupport@usfigureskating.org with member number, series level and competition name.
 - **No**, the score will not count as it is a requirement to complete the Series Application prior to competing at the approved NQS competition. There will be no exceptions!
- Is the score your highest for the Series?
 - Only an athlete/team’s highest total score will be reflected on the Series Standings.

How can I verify if I (or my teammate) has completed the required Series Application?

Access [EMS](#) and select “Series Information” – if complete, you will see your event level and **Paid ✓**.

Need to update your level after payment?

- Email events@usfigureskating.org for next steps. Note, after an athlete/team has posted a score to the Series Standings, they may only move up a level and may not move down.

How will initial and/or final rounds work?

There will be NO initial/qualifying or final rounds.

If there are large entries for National Qualifying Series (juvenile – senior) events, the referee will divide the skaters into groups per the U.S. Figure Skating Rulebook.

- Athletes will remain in the same groups for each applicable segment.
- The total score will appear in the Series Standings, if they have a paid Series Application at this level.

If I competed at an approved NQS competition but did not complete my Series Application – do my scores count?

NO. Only scores from approved NQS competitions after you complete and pay for your Series Application will count towards Series Standings. Further, the series application level and competition level must match!

I skated up at approved NQS competitions and I qualified for the NQS Finals, but I haven't passed my test yet. What happens?

Appropriate tests must be passed by the conclusion of the National Qualifying Series to advance. Athletes may use IJS protocol for test credit to meet this requirement, but it must be processed (i.e., submitted to U.S. Figure Skating through their home club) no later than October 6, 2024. It is the responsibility of the athlete and coach to ensure they are following the appropriate procedure and timelines.

- Athletes should ensure they understand the process for obtaining and submitting competition test credit from approved NQS competitions in advance of the event (review details in announcement).

Do alternates for the November Finals, U.S. Championships or NHPDT need to do anything?

No action is required for alternates. If invited to the qualifying competition, alternates will be notified via email by U.S. Figure Skating. Alternates may be invited up to 72 hours prior to the first segment draw in their event.

I have the highest score in my level, in my region. How do I get my award?

National Qualifying Series medals and trophies will be presented in-person, onsite at the NQS Finals. If unable to attend the November Finals, awards will be mailed to each recipient's home address.

I have formed a new partnership after paying for my Series Application, what are my options?

If a team disbands after paying for the Series Application and a new team is formed, the new team must email events@usfigureskating.org to request a change. Any team changes will VOID all previous Series Standings and advancement opportunities tied to the team's original application.

If an athlete is deciding between two levels for the competitive season, what is the best direction?

If deciding between two levels for NQS, it would be best for the athlete to register for the lower of the two levels. This allows them to request a change to move up if they feel that they are ready to compete at a higher level. It is important to note that athletes who change levels for NQS must compete at that new level within the registration maximum (three), and no additional events will be offered to accommodate the change.

Overall, the decision to register for a lower or higher level should be based on the athlete's individual abilities, goals, and level of readiness for competition. It's important to carefully consider all factors before making a final decision.

I want to change my level after paying for my Series Application.

Athletes/teams wishing to move up a level prior to the conclusion of NQS may request the change via email at events@usfigureskating.org. A mid-season change will VOID all previous Series Standings and advancement opportunities tied to the athlete/team's original level. Only ONE change requested is permitted per entry.

I want to change my home club after paying for my Series Application.

After completing the Series Application (available on July 2), athletes/teams are bound to their club for the entirety of the qualifying season. Club representation may NOT be changed at any time, under any circumstance.

Who will receive byes to the NQS Finals and/or U.S. Figure Skating Championships?

Bye criteria will be published June 1, 2024.

Can foreign athletes compete within the National Qualifying Series?

Athletes/teams representing another ISU federation may compete at National Qualifying Series approved competitions (as a nonqualifying entry) but may not complete the Series Application and/or post a score to the Series Standings.

If a foreign athlete or returning U.S. citizen, who has competed for another ISU federation, wishes to compete within the National Qualifying Series they must receive approval. Review the resources [here](#) for additional information.

What happens if an athlete qualifies in two disciplines and the team event is held in a different section?

If an athlete qualifies for the NQS Finals in two disciplines, they may transfer their singles entry to the section the U.S. Ice Dance or U.S. Pairs Final is held or they may opt to compete at both events separately.

Advancement information to the national high performance development team/camp & the 2024 U.S. Figure Skating Championships will be available in August 2024.

SECTION 4 | NQS ATHLETE PROFILES

Click [HERE](#) for NQS Athlete Profile Data.

This data is based on results from the 2022-23 competitive season and reflects the performance of an athlete set on a given day during the National Qualifying Series (NQS). Scores for the 2023-24 competitive season may fluctuate contingent on varied program requirements, rule changes and scale of values. This information should be reviewed individually with each athlete's coach(es) to assess annual goals and selection of the appropriate competitive level.