




EXCEL
NATIONAL FESTIVAL 2026

NORWOOD, MA

July 15 - 19, 2026

**Hosted by and at:
The Skating Club of Boston
750 University Avenue, Norwood, MA 02062**

DEADLINES

June 1, 2026, at 11:59 PM Eastern

Excel Open Events (Aspire 1-4, Pre-Preliminary, Preliminary)

Registration may close prior to posted deadline if open levels reach capacity

Within 48 hours after receipt of invitation in early June.

Excel Series Final Events (Excel Preliminary Plus, Pre-Juvenile Plus, Juvenile, Juvenile Plus, Intermediate, Intermediate Plus, Novice, Junior, Senior) by invitation only. Invitations are expected to be sent in early June.

LATE REGISTRATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

I. COMPETITION OVERVIEW

The 2026 Excel National Festival 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](#). The 2026 National Excel Festival and Final will continue to use the same calling specifications, guidelines and scoring as have been used throughout the 2026 Excel Series. **Skaters and coaches should reference the [2026 Excel Program Technical Information](#) and refer to the following for additional information:**

[2026 Excel Competition Series Athletes Handbook](#)
[ISU Communication #2707– Single and Pair Skating](#)
[ISU Communication #2701 – Single and Pair Skating](#)

[2026 Excel Free Skate Requirements Chart](#)
[ISU Technical Panel Handbook – Singles 2025/2026](#)
[Excel Choreographic Spin](#) (updated 3/24/2026)
[2026 Excel Q&A](#) (posted 03/24/2026)

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, 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.

The 2026 Excel National Festival is made up of two parts:

Excel Series Final Competition: Invitation only through the 2026 Excel Series for Excel Preliminary Plus, Pre-Juvenile Plus, Juvenile, Juvenile Plus, Intermediate, Intermediate Plus, Novice, Junior & Senior

Excel Series Open Competition: Open to all skaters in the 2026 Excel Series in levels: Aspire 1-4, and Pre-Preliminary

Note: *Aspire levels and Pre-Preliminary will be judged using CJS.* Coaches and parents of skaters competing at these levels will be invited to a CJS educational webinar in May which will be recorded and posted on the event website.

II. ELIGIBILITY AND TEST LEVEL

The determination of level will be based upon test level as of the 2026 Excel Series deadline of March 1, 2026, or when the skater submits their registration to be an Excel Series participant (whichever date is earlier).

Skaters competing in 'open' events may move up ONE level during the Series and/or for the Excel Final. Skaters may not move 'down' in level. 'Open' events include: Aspire 1-4, and Excel Pre-Preliminary.

Age restriction: Skaters must be under 21 years of age as of March 1, 2026.

EVENTS OFFERED:

U.S. Figure Skating Program Requirements: usfigureskating.org --> [Skate](#) --> [Compete](#) --> [Program Requirements](#)

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 events@scboston.org. [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 events@scboston.org. [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	Free Skate Event
Excel Free Skate FINAL 2026 Excel Program Requirements	IJS	\$360.00 <i>Includes Free Skate Competition, Finalist Camp, Competitors' Party & Finalist Exhibition</i>
Excel Free Skate OPEN 2025 - 2026 Aspire 1-4 Program Requirements 2026 Excel Program Requirements (Excel Pre-Preliminary)	CJS	\$335.00 <i>Includes Free Skate Competition, Festival Experience, Competitors' Party</i>

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 uphold 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 events@scboston.org.

COMPLIANCE:

COACHES

To be an eligible coach at a nonqualifying competition, coaches must meet the applicable compliance requirements and be 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



Updated 4/13/2026

compliance requirements can be found [in](#) Members Only, click the blue “COACH” button. 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](#)” or “Team Personnel.” All coaches declared at the time of registration will be included in 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](#)

III. REGISTRATION INFORMATION

ONLINE REGISTRATION VIA EMS (Singles and Partnered events only):

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% Processing Fee.

Excel OPEN Events (Aspire 1-4, Pre-Preliminary, Preliminary)

Registration Deadline: 06/01/2026 at 11:59 PM ET

**Registration may close prior to posted deadline if open levels reach capacity*

Excel Series FINAL Events (Excel Preliminary Plus, Pre-Juvenile Plus, Juvenile, Juvenile Plus, Intermediate, Intermediate Plus, Novice, Junior, Senior)

Within 48 hours after receipt of invitation in early June.

Excel Series Final Events by invitation only. Invitations are expected to be sent in early June.

LATE REGISTRATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

**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 “**2026 Excel National Festival**” 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 packet by submitting a request on EMS (if prior to the entry deadline), along with a \$35.00 administrative fee. If the competition entry deadline has passed, Test Credit requests can be submitted via email to events@scboston.org or in person at Registration, but must be submitted PRIOR to the start of the competitor’s event. Test credit packets will be emailed by the end of business on the Tuesday following the competition.

Any athlete seeking IJS Test Credit is responsible for all steps outlined in the “For Athletes” section of the [IJS Protocol for Test Credit](#) document. This includes submitting your Test Credit Packet and coach statement to your club for official processing within the permissible timeline.

MUSIC SUBMISSION/UPLOAD:

DEADLINE: JULY 1, 2026 LATE FEE: \$35.00

EMS MUSIC UPLOAD: Competitors participating in events with music are required to upload their music to EMS no later than **July 1, 2026 at 11:59 PM ET**. After this date, skaters will be locked out of this feature and subject to a **\$35.00 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.

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 rinkside 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

DEADLINE: JULY 1, 2026 LATE FEE: \$35.00

EMS PLANNED PROGRAM CONTENT (PPC) – Competitors participating in IJS events are required to submit PPC in EMS no later than **July 1, 2026 at 11:59 PM ET**. After this date, skaters will be locked out of this feature in EMS and subject to a **\$35.00 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. PPC Paper form, [click here](#).

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

If you need assistance, email productsupport@usfigureskating.org

REFUND POLICY

Entry fees will not be refunded after the entry deadline unless no competition exists or the event is canceled. There will be no refunds for medical withdrawals.

LIABILITY:

U.S. Figure Skating, Learn to Skate USA®, and The Skating Club of Boston 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 at 750 University Avenue, Norwood, MA 02062. Please visit scboston.org for more information. The Tenley E. Albright Performance Center and West Rink will be used for competition and practice ice, and the East Rink will be used for practice ice only. The Performance Center is Olympic size (200' x 100') and the West Rink and East Rink are NHL size (200' x 85'). The facility has plenty of seating, the 1240 Café and Performance Center concessions, and Home Ice skate shop. The Performance Center and West Rink have no hockey lines or glass. The boards in the West Rink are 24 inches high.

LOCKER ROOMS AND CHANGING AREAS:

Locker rooms and changing areas at U.S. Figure Skating competitive events are for athletes only and will be labeled with regard to specific use and where identified will be gender specific. The Skating Club of Boston allows one parent into a designated "Skate Tying" area of the locker room hallway to assist athletes under 11 years 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 who are at least 8 years of age 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:

It is the responsibility of each competitor, parent and coach to check scboston.org/excel frequently for any schedule changes and/or additional information pertaining to the competition.

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:

Unofficial Practice Ice (UPI)

- 20 minute sessions
- Music is not permitted during practice ice
- Sessions may be leveled or open, depending on demand, and will be limited to 22 skaters (West) and 25 skaters (Performance Center)

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.

- [Click Here for a Pre-Purchase How-To Document](#)

- Open: May 1, 2026 at 12:00 PM ET
- Close: June 10, 2026 at 11:59 PM ET
- Maximum credits per registered event: UPI - 2
- Cost per credit: \$30.00

Pre-Purchase Selection: After the close of entries and shortly after the competition schedule is published, skaters will receive an email with notice of the practice ice schedule and the date/time when pre-purchased credits can be scheduled via EMS.

- [Click Here for a Selection How-To Document](#)
- Open: June 17, 2026 at 12:00 PM ET
- Close: June 19, 2026 at 5:00 PM ET

Open Sales: Practice Ice sessions will be available after the schedule has been published. Skaters will be able to purchase open sessions available to them.

- [Click Here for an Open Sales How-To Document](#)
- Open: June 22, 2026 at 12:00 PM
- Close: July 19, 2026 at 4:00 PM
- Maximum sessions per registered event: UPI - 8 (subject to availability)
- Cost per session: \$35.00

ONSITE CHECK-IN:

Registration will be open at least one hour before the first event of the competition and run through the last event of the final day of competition. The registration table will be at The Skating Club of Boston. Detailed registration hours will be emailed to registered participants in the Know Before You Go (expected early July 2026).

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.

AWARDS:

MEDALS will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th place finishes for all events. An awards schedule will be posted.

FINALIST RECOGNITION pins will be awarded to all athletes in IJS events at the Excel National Final who earn at least one +3 from a judge on any element during the Final.

PRESENTATION AWARDS will be presented to the skater with the highest presentation score at each qualifying level during the 2026 Excel National Final. Awards will be presented during the awards ceremony.

FOUNDERS TROPHIES will be awarded, one to the boy/man with the best presentation and one to the girl/woman with the best presentation as voted on by the judging panel.

OFFICIAL NOTICES:

All official notices will be posted on the [competition website](#) and will be sent via email to registered participants. Results will be posted online, and a link will be available on the website and at the competition.

Skaters are requested to arrive at least one hour prior to the scheduled time of their event. A tentative schedule of events will be posted prior to the competition but will not be available until after the close of

entries. It is the responsibility of each competitor, parent and coach to check for any schedule changes and/or additional information.

VOLUNTEER INFO:

If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out to The Skating Club of Boston at events@scboston.org.

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.

Professional photography will be available and details will be emailed to registered competitors by July 1, 2026. The LOC prohibits spectators from photographing or videotaping any skater other than their own.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

HOTEL

Please refer to scboston.org/excel for hotel information, booking links, tentative block schedule and other information pertaining to the competition and local area.

TICKETS

Competitors and coaches will receive a credential which will allow you into the viewing area. Competitors will also receive one (1) complimentary All-Event ticket with their registration. All other spectators, parents, siblings, etc. will need to purchase tickets. Tickets are required for entry into The Skating Club of Boston, whether you are here to watch the competition or participate in the camp experience. Tickets can be purchased at scboston.org/tickets.

All tickets are inclusive of fees:

- \$50.00 All-event Ticket
- \$30.00 All-event Ticket (11 years and under, senior citizens and military) - on-site purchase only
- \$25.00 Day ticket
- \$15.00 Day ticket (4 - 11 years and under, senior citizens and military) - on-site purchase only (3 years and under are FREE)

CONTACT INFORMATION		
National Vice Chair, Excel Committee	Marc Weitzman	weitzmanM@aol.com
Senior Director, Member Services, U.S. Figure Skating	Elise Preston	epreston@usfigureskating.org
Member Programs, U.S. Figure Skating	Casey Mallory Chloe Roberts	skatingprograms@usfigureskating.org
Chief Referee	Lori Osborne	midwestskater@gmail.com
Chief Scoring Official	Christopher Brunner	cpbrunner@gmail.com
Chief Systems Scoring Technician	Alan Heinold	jkabeal-usfsa@yahoo.com
Practice Ice and Other Questions The Skating Club of Boston	Events Team	events@scboston.org

