



2019 Skate Houston
Hosted by Texas Gulf Coast Figure Skating Club
August 30, 2019 through September 2, 2019

www.TexasGulfCoastFSC.org

Email: CompetitionChair@TexasGulfCoastFSC.org



Events Offered:

USFS Approved for NQS Singles and Pairs
Well-Balanced Non-Qualifying and Adult Events
Excel Events
Compete USA Events
Showcase Events
Critiques and Exhibitions

2019 Skate Houston will be conducted in accordance with the rules and regulations of U.S. Figure Skating, as set forth in the current rulebook, as well as any pertinent updates which 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, and is a currently registered member of a U.S. Figure Skating member club, a collegiate club or an individual member in accordance with the current rulebook. Please refer to the current rulebook for non-U.S. Citizens.

The Learn to Skate / Compete USA (Basic Skills) competition is open to all skaters who are currently eligible members of the Learn to Skate USA program and those who are full members of U.S. Figure Skating.

This event will be managed through the US Figure Skating Event Management System (EMS) tool: Go to <https://www.usfsaonline.org> Google Chrome is suggested for best user experience. EMS is also configured for mobile devices.

NATIONAL QUALIFYING SERIES (NQS):

This competition has been approved by U.S. Figure Skating as an official NQS event. Athletes are required to read the NQS handbook [found here](#) and would have registered for the series through EMS by May 28th 2019. (This was a

separate registration from the Skate Houston competition registration).

ELIGIBILITY/TEST LEVEL:

Test level: Competition level is the highest test passed as of the entry deadline, in the discipline the skater is entering. Entrants may skate one level above that for which they qualify, but they may not skate down in any event.

Age restrictions/requirements: Singles free skate events (Well Balanced Program) have the following requirements.

- Juvenile: Girls - 12 years of age or younger; Boys - 13 years of age or younger
- Open Juvenile: Girls - 13 years of age or older; Boys - 14 years of age or older
- Intermediate: 17 years of age or younger
- Open Intermediate: 18 years of age or older
- Adult: 21 years of age 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.

For Compete USA events, there will be no more than six (6) competitors in an event.

NQS REMINDER: NQS events Intermediate – Senior are combined short program and free skate events. NQS Juvenile events are free skate only. If there are more than 24 entries per event, qualifying rounds must be held in accordance with Rule 2460. Juvenile skaters wanting to skate a short program can skate up to intermediate. Intermediate short program will be offered as a separate event*.

If there ARE enough competitors for qualifying and championship rounds, skaters not qualifying for the championship round will not have a Total Score entered in the NQS for that competition. They (intermediate and higher) may compete their short program in a consolation round.

ENTRIES:

Entries will only be accepted online via EMS at www.usfsaonline.org. Online registration **opens June 28, 2019 and closes July 26, 2019**. Skaters wishing to register for the competition will need their U.S. Figure Skating member number and password. Late entries will be accepted until August 2, 2019 with a late fee of \$30.00.

ENTRY FEES:

***National Qualifying Series Events: You do not need to be registered as an NQS skater to enter these events.**

FIRST LEARN TO SKATE USA / COMPETE USA EVENT	Snowplow Sam, Basic 1-6, Pre-Free Skate, Free Skate 1-6, Adult 1-6	\$50.00
EACH ADDITIONAL LEARN TO SKATE USA / COMPETE USA EVENT	Snowplow Sam, Basic 1-6, Pre-Free Skate, Free Skate 1-6, Adult 1-6	\$35.00
FIRST EVENT- SINGLES EVENTS (IJS): Well Balanced / Excel / Excel Plus / Adult	Free Skate: Preliminary, Pre-Juvenile, Open Juvenile, Juvenile* Excel "Plus" Juvenile Excel Intermediate, Novice, Junior, Senior Adult Bronze, Silver, Gold, Masters	\$125.00
COMBINED SINGLES EVENTS* (IJS):	SP/FS Intermediate – Senior Combined Events*	\$195.00
Additional IJS Singles Event*	Intermediate short – for juvenile skaters wanting to skate short program.)	\$75.00
FIRST EVENT SINGLES EVENTS: (6.0)	No Test, Pre-Preliminary Excel Beginner, High Beginner, Pre-	\$95.00



Well Balanced / Excel / Excel Plus / Adult	Preliminary, Pre-Juvenile, Juvenile Excel "Plus" – Preliminary Plus, Pre-Juvenile Plus Adult Beginner, Adult High Beginner, Adult Pre-Bronze	
EACH ADDITIONAL SINGLES EVENTS (6.0): All other singles events entered are classified as additional events. (Compulsory Moves, Jumps, Spins, Showcase)	Any singles event entered above shall be considered the "First Event" when calculating fees due.	\$60.00
PAIRS EVENTS (IJS):	Pre-Juvenile, Juvenile – Intermediate Pairs* Adult Silver, Gold, Masters Pairs	\$125.00 per team
PAIRS COMBINED EVENTS* (IJS):	Novice – Senior Pairs*	\$195.00 per team
PAIRS EVENTS: (6.0)	Bronze, Centennial	\$95.00 per team
Pairs fees are separate from the singles event fees and do not qualify as the "First Event" fee.		

Other:

Singles Skaters Not Entering any Freestyle Event: (6.0) (Compulsory Moves, Jumps, Spins, Showcase)	First Singles Event No-Test through Senior Excel/Excel Plus Beginner - Senior Adult Beginner – Masters Junior/Senior	\$95.00
Additional Singles Events:	No Test through Senior	\$60.00
FIRST SHOWCASE DUETS (PER SKATER) (Not considered a "First Event" when calculating fees due.)	Per Skater	\$60.00
CRITIQUE (1 critique per skater) Skaters must enter IJS events. This fee is for the discussion with panel members that takes place after the completion of their IJS events.	Preliminary – Senior Excel Juvenile - Senior Adult Bronze – Masters	\$35.00
EXHIBITION (Not in EMS - register via club website) www.TexasGulfCoastFSC.org	Theater on Ice Synchro	\$100.00 per team + \$5 per person
Test Credit Packet	(Pay at competition)	\$15.00
Entry Late Fee	Entry after July 26 th . (No late entries will be processed after August 2)	\$30.00
Music Upload Late	If sent after August 2.	\$30.00
Planned Program Content (PPC) Late Fee	If sent after August 23.	\$30.00

PRACTICE ICE See practice ice section for allowable number of sessions available for purchase.	Per 20-minute session in advance (pre-purchase)	\$15.00
	Per 20-minute session purchased in open sales or onsite sales	\$20.00
	Per 20-minute session Premium Practice Ice (midday during event if time permits)	\$25.00

All EMS registration fees are credit card only and include a 3% processing fee paid by the skater.

PARTNERED EVENTS:

Only one partner needs to 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.

REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Go to www.usfsaonline.org
 - a. For best experience, the Google Chrome browser is recommended
2. Enter your **U.S. Figure Skating Member number** or **Learn to Skate Member number** and password
 - a. If you need assistance with your member number and password, contact Member Services at memberservices@usfigureskating.org.
3. Click the blue EMS button
4. Click "Competition Registration"
5. Choose "SKATE HOUSTON" from the list of competitions.
If you need assistance completing your registration, contact productsupport@usfigureskating.org.

EMS SKATER PORTAL:

Once online registration has been completed, skaters will gain access to the EMS Skater Portal for this competition. This is where you will manage music and PPC upload as well as purchase practice ice, view the competition schedule (once available) and update coach information. To access your skater portal, click the **BLUE** Event Management System button on the [Members Only](#) landing page then select the competition name from options at the bottom of the screen.

REFUND POLICY: Entry fees will not be refunded after July 26, 2019 unless no competition exists or the event is canceled. There will be no refunds for medical withdrawals.

SCHEDULE: Competitors may be scheduled on any day or time for the announced dates of the competition. The competition and practice ice schedule will be available via EMS as soon as possible after the close of entries. All participants will be notified via email once available. **Skaters entered in events with 1 skater will skate for a medal. Referee will define groups/combine levels as appropriate.**

FACILITIES: Skate Houston will be held at the dual ice surface, Sugar Land Ice & Sports Center, 16225 Lexington Blvd., Sugar Land, TX 77479. Each ice surface is 200' X 85' with rounded corners. The Sugar Land Ice & Sports Center contains a pro shop and locker rooms for changing skating outfits. The Sugar Land Ice & Sports Center is a free-standing facility and can be chilly. Please be sure to dress accordingly

MUSIC UPLOAD:

DEADLINE: August 2 (A late fee will be applied after August 2.)

All competition music must be electronically submitted via the EMS Skater Portal through the Music & Program Content tab no later than August 2. 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.

When uploading music, you will be prompted for Title, Artist, Arrangement, Record Label, and Duration. You will also be prompted to play the music before you can complete the upload process. (iTunes, apps like Soundhound and Shazam, can help provide the information requested for copyright purposes.)

If you need assistance, email productsupport@usfigureskating.org



MUSIC CRITERIA:

- File Format: MP3 (only format EMS will accept)
- 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 bring a copy of their competition music on CD as a backup in case of technical difficulties and must be available rink side during the competition. Only CDs (standard CD-R format only) will be accepted for backups and must be clearly marked with the competitor's name, event, and running time.

LIABILITY: U.S. Figure Skating, Texas Gulf Coast FSC, and Sugar Land Ice & 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.

JUDGING SYSTEM:

INTERNATIONAL JUDGING SYSTEM

The International Judging System (IJS) will be used for the following events:

- Well-Balanced Program free skate events – Preliminary, Pre-Juvenile, Open Pre-Juvenile, Juvenile, Open Juvenile, Intermediate, Novice, Junior, Senior
- Excel Plus – Juvenile
- Excel – Intermediate, Novice, Junior, Senior
- Adult Free skate events – Bronze, Silver, Gold, Masters
- Pairs events – Pre-Juvenile, Juvenile, Intermediate, Novice, Junior, Senior
- Adult Pairs events - Adult Silver, Adult Bronze, Adult Gold, Adult Masters

PLANNED PROGRAM CONTENT (PPC):

DEADLINE: August 23. (A Late fee will be applied after August 23.)

Competitors participating in IJS events must submit their PPC via the EMS Skater Portal no later than August 23. Program content must be entered under the Music & Program Content tab of your EMS for this competition.

If you need assistance, email productsupport@usfigureskating.org

6.0 JUDGING SYSTEM

The 6.0 Judging System will be used for:

- Basic Skills Events - Snowplow Sam, Basic 1-6, Pre-Free Skate, Free Skate 1-6, Adult 1-6
- Introductory Free Skate events - No Test, Pre-Preliminary
- Excel Beginner, High Beginner, Pre-Preliminary, Preliminary, Pre-Juvenile, Juvenile
- Excel "Plus" – Preliminary Plus, Pre-Juvenile Plus
- Adult Beginner, Adult High Beginner, Adult Pre-Bronze
- All specialty singles events (spins, jumps, compulsory moves, etc.)
- All showcase events

REGISTRATION: Registration will begin on Friday, August 30th at 6pm and end September 2nd. Registration will be open one to two hours before the first event and run through the last event of the day. The registration table will be located at the Sugar Land Ice & Sports Center, 16225 Lexington Blvd., Sugar Land, TX 77479. Please register promptly upon arrival.

LOCKER ROOMS AND CHANGING AREAS: Please click here to review the [Locker Rooms and Changing Area policy](#). More detailed information can be found in the [SafeSport Handbook](#).

PRACTICE ICE: All practice ice will be available for purchase online through the EMS Skater Portal. A timeline for practice ice sales periods will be available for viewing on the Main page of your skater portal. You will only be allowed to pre-pay for 1 practice ice session for each event you are registered in and up to one additional practice per event. Practice ice will be available for purchase on a first come, first served basis at the rink. Premium (mid-day) practice ice will be offered if time permits.

PHOTO/VIDEO: Action photography and videography will be provided by Kevin Devine. Personal cameras will be permitted in the bleachers only and may not be plugged into the rink outlets. No flash photography during the warm ups or events. The LOC reserves the right to restrict personal video recording to your skater's events only. Video recording for personal profit is not allowed. Skaters are encouraged to participate in all group award photographs and award presentations in skating costumes and skates

AWARDS:

- Basic Skills events: Medals will be presented to all competitors in an event (6)
- Well Balanced/Excel events: Medals will be awarded to first, second, third, fourth, fifth, and 6th place winners in all events.

Trophies will be awarded to Pre-Preliminary, Preliminary, Pre-Juvenile, Juvenile, Intermediate, Novice, Junior, and Senior final round winners if number of entries warrant and time permits for final rounds to be held.

Awards will be presented off-ice at the photographer's table after the results for the event are posted.

The KITTY CARRUTHERS-CONRAD TROPHY will be awarded to the skater placing 1st in the Novice Ladies Free skate Event.

OFFICIAL NOTICES: An official bulletin board will be maintained between the rinks. 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.

TEST CREDIT: Skaters that meet the requirements for test credit may request their test credit forms at registration. Forms must be picked up at the registration desk. Test credit must be requested before the end of the competition. The fee for the test credit packet is \$15.00

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR ALL COACHES:

To be a credentialed coach at a sanctioned nonqualifying competition, coaches must be included within a skater's registration or updated through their EMS Skater Portal. All coach compliance is verified via EMS and is connected to the U.S. Figure Skating database.

U.S. Figure Skating athletes:

- Current member in good standing with U.S. Figure Skating
- Completed background check (green light status)
- Completed SafeSport Training*
- Continuing Education Requirements (CERs) for the 2019-2020 Competition Season
- Proof of current general liability insurance with limits of \$1 million per occurrence/\$5 million aggregate.

Compete USA athletes:

- Learn to Skate USA Instructor membership OR U.S. Figure Skating full membership
- Completed SafeSport Training* (for coaches 18 years old and over)
- Completed background check (green light status) (for coaches 18 years old and over)
- Learn to Skate USA Instructor Certification completed (for coaches under 18 years old)

SafeSport training is available through <http://www.usfsonline.org> for full members of U.S. Figure Skating (through Learn to Skate USA portal for instructors). **There is no cost to this training and certification is valid for 2 seasons.**

The LOC will have a list of compliant coaches via EMS, verified through the U.S. Figure Skating database who are approved to receive a credential at the competition. Coaches will need to check in at the event registration desk and show a government issued photo I.D. to receive a credential.

If a coach cannot provide a photo I.D. and is not on the list or cannot produce the necessary documents, he or she will not be allowed a credential. There can be no exceptions to this policy.

For more information regarding Coach Compliance, please visit:

<http://usfsa.org/content/Coaches%20Requirements%20Chart.pdf>

VOLUNTEER INFO: Please consider volunteering for the event. Visit our competition website for additional information. www.TexasGulfCoastFSC.org

CONTACT INFO: If you have questions, please contact Wendy Barnard at CompetitionChair@TexasGulfCoastFSC.org

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Official hotel accommodations – TBA. Please see the website for information. www.TexasGulfCoastFSC.org

SECTION 2: Events Offered

SEE CURRENT RULEBOOK OR CLICK [HERE](#) FOR CURRENT RULES AND REQUIREMENTS.

OFFICIAL NQS EVENTS: (You do **not** need to be registered in the NQS series to compete in these events.)

Singles:

[Intermediate – Senior Combined Short Program + Free Skate](#)

[Juvenile Free Skate](#)

Pairs: [Juvenile, Intermediate Pairs Free Skate](#)

[Novice – Senior Combined Short Program + Free Skate](#)

Qualifying rounds will be held if there are more than 24 entries in one event. Groups are seeded. Four (4) skaters per group advance + the next 4 highest scores, see Rule 2460 of the Athlete Handbook for a chart. If held, the QR will consist of a free skate only, with the appropriate number of athletes advancing to the championship round. The championship rounds will consist of a combined SP and FS competition, resulting in a Total Score (intermediate – senior) or a championship free skate only Total Score (juvenile). When there are 24 or fewer entries, there is no qualifying round and all skaters are considered to be competing in the championship round.

Consolation rounds will be held for intermediate – senior. This is an event for all skaters that didn't make the championship round to compete their short program only. The consolation round is for practice; scores are not considered for official NQS standings. Rules for consolation rounds are under the jurisdiction of the host competition.

ADDITIONAL SINGLES EVENTS: 2019-2020 Rules will be followed for all IJS events.

[Snowplow Sam- Free Skate 6 Program \(with music\)](#)

[Basic Elements – \(no music\)](#)

[Excel Free Skate](#)

[Singles Well Balanced Free Skate \(No Test – Open Juvenile\)](#)

Intermediate Short Program only event

COMPULSORY MOVES – SINGLES

[Snowplow Sam – Free Skate 6 Program](#)

[Excel Compulsory \(Excel Beginner – Excel Preliminary\)](#)

[Compulsory Moves \(No Test – Senior\)](#)

ADDITIONAL PAIRS EVENTS: 2019-2020 Rules will be followed for all IJS events.

[Pairs Short Program](#)

[Pairs Free Skate](#)

SPECIALITY EVENTS

[Jumps Challenge](#)

[Spin Challenge](#)

ADULT EVENTS

[Adult 1-6 \(Program with music\)](#)

[Adult 1-6 and Introductory Compulsory](#)

[Adult Introductory Free Skate Beginner and High Beginner](#)

[Adult Singles Free Skate](#)

[Adult Compulsory Moves](#)

[Adult Jumps Challenge](#)

[Adult Spins Challenge](#)

[Adult Pairs Free Skate](#)

SHOWCASE EVENTS: Please click the link below or visit www.usfigureskating.org to get the current guidelines.

<https://www.usfigureskating.org/programs?id=59260>

A. Singles Light Entertainment

B. Singles Dramatic Entertainment

C. Duets

THEATRE on ICE EVENTS / EXHIBITION events will be conducted in accordance with guidelines for the discipline.

Athletes and coaches are responsible for going to the U.S. Figure Skating website for rules, program length, etc., www.usfigureskating.org. You cannot register for TOI events in EMS. You must go to our website to register.

SYNCHRO TEAMS / EXHIBITION events will be conducted in accordance with guidelines for the discipline. Athletes and

coaches are responsible for going to the U.S. Figure Skating website for rules, program length, etc., www.usfigureskating.org. You cannot register for Synchro team events in EMS. You must go to our website to register.

CRITIQUES: Skaters may register for one (1) critique session offered at the following levels:

Well-Balanced - Preliminary – Senior

Adult Bronze – Adult Masters

Excel/Excel Plus – Juvenile – Senior

Skaters must enter IJS events. This fee is for the discussion with panel members that takes place after the completion of their IJS events. It is not a standalone event.