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## **2021 Skate Houston**

**Event dates: Sept 3 – 6, 2021**

**Registration via EMS**  
**Registration Deadline - July 26, 2021 11:59 ET**

### **Events offered:**

WELL-BALANCED PROGRAM/EXCEL SKATE/PAIRS /COMPETE USA

**Hosted by:**  
**Texas Gulf Coast Figure Skating Club**

**Email: [Competitions@TexasGulfCoastFSC.Org](mailto:Competitions@TexasGulfCoastFSC.Org)**

**Event Location:**  
**Sugar Land Ice & Sports Center**  
**16225 Lexington Blvd**  
**Sugar Land, TX 77479**

The 2021 Skate Houston competition 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 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, and who are 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. Please refer to the current rulebook for non-U.S. citizens.

## **COVID-19 INFORMATION:**

- **All attendees, that are not fully vaccinated, are always required to properly wear face coverings** over their nose and mouth and secured under their chin while in a facility (exception: skaters may remove when on the ice). This is not only for your protection, but for the protection of others and is applied to all attendees.
- **Social distancing must be maintained at all times.** The CDC recommends a distance of 6 feet and separate pathways will be established within the venue (minimizing crossover and contamination).
- **Chaperones/Spectators:** Skaters 12 and under are allowed 1 Chaperone. Chaperones and family members may attend events as spectators inside the arena during each skater's assigned event times only (see POD schedule for exact arrival and departure times). Chaperones/Spectators will be required to exit shortly after each event to allow for cleaning and use by next groups. Chaperones/ Spectators must follow flow path, POD arrival/departure schedule, mask wearing and social distancing directions while inside to ensure a safe space for all.
- **U.S. Figure Skating Waivers are a requirement for ALL athletes.** The online waivers are embedded in the EMS registration, except for those listed as partners, and must be completed via [Members Only](#) prior to the competition. , instruction here..
- **All registered competitors, chaperones and coaches will receive email notifications following close of registration detailing our Competition Covid-19 Safety Plan including flow, POD Schedule, and health/safety requirements for all attendees. All health/safety documents will also be available for reference on our competition website [www.TexasGulfCoastFSC.org](http://www.TexasGulfCoastFSC.org)**

## **ELIGIBILITY/TEST LEVEL:**

**Test Level:** Competition level is the highest test passed as of the entry deadline in the discipline the skater is entering. Athletes may skate one level above that for which they qualify but 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 or younger; Boys – 13 years or younger

Open Juvenile: Girls – 13 years or older; Boys – 14 years or older

Intermediate must be under the age of 18

Adults must be 21 years or older

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

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

## **ADULT EVENTS:**

Age classes for all free skate, dramatic entertainment and light entertainment events:

- Young Adult: 18 years through 20 years
- Class I: 21 years through 35 years
- Class II: 36 years through 45 years
- Class III: 46 years through 55 years
- Class IV: 56 years through 65 years
- Class V: 66 years and older

All age classes may be divided or combined depending on the number of entries and at the discretion of the chief referee and/or the competition committee. Men and ladies will be combined in Adult 1 through adult bronze free skate events (based on the [Adult Competition Series rules](#)), and all levels of compulsory moves, jumps, spins and dramatic/light entertainment events. Men and ladies will not be combined in adult silver and higher free skate events. Athletes in adult silver and higher free skate events with no competitor of the same gender in another age class will be offered the opportunity to skate an exhibition for first place, skate up to the next higher level (if this provides a competitor) or be issued a refund. The chief referee reserves the right to request proof of age.

### **COMPETITION REGISTRATION:**

Entries will be accepted via [EMS](#) with credit card only.

Each transaction will include a 3% credit card fee.

**Online registration opens July 5, 2021.** Skaters wishing to register for the competition will need their U.S. Figure Skating member number and password.

**Registration Deadline: 7/26/2021 at 11:59 pm ET (Note: EMS software denotes Eastern Time)**

**Late Registration Deadline: 07/30/2021 at 11:59 pm ET + \$35 Late Fee**

The Chief Referee reserves the right to cut off entries up to 48 hours prior to the close of entries, if numbers are sufficiently high. Every effort will be made to keep entries open at least through published close of entries date.

1. Go to <https://m.usfigureskating.org/ems/>
2. Enter your U.S. Figure Skating 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](mailto:memberservices@usfigureskating.org).
3. Click the blue EMS button then "Competition Registration"
4. Choose "SKATE HOUSTON" from the list of competitions.
  - a. If you need assistance completing your registration, contact [productsupport@usfigureskating.org](mailto:productsupport@usfigureskating.org).

All EMS registration fees are credit card only and include a 3% processing fee paid by the skater. Charges are direct to U.S. Figure Skating, not Texas Gulf Coast FSC. For help with EMS, please contact U.S. Figure Skating at [ProductSupport@USFigureSkating.org](mailto:ProductSupport@USFigureSkating.org). Responses will be provided by U.S. Figure Skating staff.

### **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 "Create Account (Non-Member)" option on the [Members Only](#) login page.

**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.**

**Mandatory Athletes:**

Athletes age 18+ as of the competition start date who will be competing on a team (i.e. synchro, dance, pairs, shadow dance, theatre, etc.) with at least one minor athlete must complete SafeSport training. \*

Minor Athletes who turn 18 mid-season are encouraged to seek parental consent to take the online SafeSport training early to avoid any disruptions in their ability to participate as the training is required upon turning 18. The athlete will not be SafeSport compliant until they have completed the training and their Members Only portal reflects completion. Please email [safesport@usfigureskating.org](mailto:safesport@usfigureskating.org) for instructions or questions regarding parental consent.

**REFUND POLICY:** Entry fees will not be refunded after August 2, 2020 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 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.

**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

**EMS MUSIC UPLOAD:**

**DEADLINE: August 19 11:59 pm ET (A \$35 late fee will be applied after August 19)**

Competitors participating in events with music are required to upload their music via the [EMS competition portal](#) no later than **August 19 11:59 pm ET**. After this date, skaters will be locked out of this feature and subject to a **\$35 late fee**. The late fee will automatically be added to each skater's cart who doesn't meet this requirement by the deadline. Late fees will not be removed under any circumstances and must be paid prior to receiving the skater credential onsite.

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

***If you need assistance, email [productsupport@usfigureskating.org](mailto: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:

- Only 1 piece of competition program music (e.g. short program, free skate, etc.) per file is allowed
- 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 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.

**Interruption in Music – U.S. Figure Skating Rule 1403** If, after the competitor/team's name has been called to compete, there is an issue with the downloaded music or CD provided at the event, the competitor will have up to 3 minutes to rectify the situation with a backup copy of the music on CD. After 3 minutes, the competitor/team will be considered withdrawn.

**Administrative Fee for Incorrect Music or Failure to Upload Music** The LOC may assess each competitor/team an **additional charge, up to \$35.00 per event segment**, to manually handle a team's music, if the competitor/team: 1) fails to submit their music prior to the close of online music submission, 2) submits files that do not follow the specifications above, or 3) uploads the incorrect music for a given event segment (e.g. uploads short program music instead of the free skate). Once the fee is assessed the competitor/teams will not receive their credentials at registration until they pay the fee and turn in their music on CD, conforming to the requirements above.

**Planned Program Content (PPC):** Events judged with the **International Judging System (IJS)** require the submission of the Planned Program Content (**PPC**) form.

Competitors participating in IJS events are required to submit their PPC via the [EMS competition portal](#) no later than **August 19, 2021 at 11:59 pm ET**. After this date, skaters will be locked out of this feature in EMS and subject to a \$35 late fee. The late fee will automatically be added to each skater's cart who doesn't meet this requirement by the deadline. Late fees will not be removed under any circumstances and must be paid prior to receiving the skater credential onsite.

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

**If you need assistance, email [productsupport@usfigureskating.org](mailto:productsupport@usfigureskating.org)**

**LIABILITY:** U.S. Figure Skating, Texas Gulf Coast Figure Skating Club 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.

**ONSITE CHECK-IN:** The Registration desk for check-in will open on Friday, September 3rd at and close September 6th. Registration will be open one to two hours before the first event and run through the last event of the day. The registration desk 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:** Due to Covid 19 safety locker rooms and changing areas will not be accessible during Skate Houston 2021. Skaters should be prepared to dress off-site and arrive/depart from the arena ready (costumes, hair, make-up, etc.) in competition attire. Athletes will be provided with an area to put skates on but will not be permitted to change in public restrooms.

**PRACTICE ICE:** All practice ice will be available for purchase online through the via the [EMS competition portal](#). A timeline for practice ice sales periods will be available for viewing on the Competition Information 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 1 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:** Photo and Video of events will be provided and information will be posted on [www.TexasGulfCoastFSC.org](http://www.TexasGulfCoastFSC.org)

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

#### **AWARDS:**

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

- 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, final round winners if number of entries warrant and time permits for final rounds to be held.

The KITTY CARRUTHERS-CONRAD TROPHY will be awarded to the skater placing 1st in the Novice Ladies Free Skate Event. (Based on the highest score in the Novice FS 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 preparation of a test credit form at registration. Delay in printing of forms may occur if not requested prior to skating your event. Forms must be

picked up at the registration desk prior to the end of the competition. Submission of test credit form to USFSA is the responsibility of the skater upon return home in conjunction with their home club test chair. Cost for test credit form preparation is \$15.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR ALL COACHES:** To be a credentialed coach at a sanctioned nonqualifying competition, coaches must meet the compliance requirements listed below and verified by the U.S. Figure Skating. **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. The compliance tab within EMS lists ALL individuals who were declared by skaters at the time of registration or through their EMS Skater Portals (also allows access to skater schedule, music/PPC preview etc.).

#### **EMS Coach Resources:**

- [My Competitions](#)
- [My Skaters](#)
- [Coach Schedule](#)

#### Coach/Choreographer (domestic/non-foreign):

- ✓ 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 complete the Professional Coach/Choreographer Coaching Education Requirement (CER) through the [Professional Skaters Association \(PSA\)](#).
- ✓ 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. \*
- ✓ 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. \*
- ✓ If attending a qualifying competition or traveling as a part of Team USA and/or International Selection Pool (ISP), must be a full member of the [Professional Skaters Association \(PSA\)](#).

#### Learn to Skate USA Coach:

- ✓ Must be a current full member of U.S. Figure Skating either through a member club or as an individual member OR Learn to Skate USA instructor membership

- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Learn to Skate USA Instructor Certification completed OR U.S. Figure Skating compliance coach (details above)

\* Accessible via U.S. Figure Skating Members Only Website:

[www.usfsaonline.org](http://www.usfsaonline.org) → Person Icon  or Account → Member Profile → Compliance

#### Foreign Coach/Choreographer:

- ✓ Required to present the LOC with a letter from their federation verifying they are a member in good standing.

For more information regarding Coach Compliance, please visit the [Coach Compliance](#) page.

**VOLUNTEER INFO:** Links for volunteer opportunities will be posted on [www.TexasGulfCoastFSC.org](http://www.TexasGulfCoastFSC.org)

#### **VOLUNTEER COMPLIANCE:**

Reminder: compliant positions at all U.S. Figure Skating sanctioned events include key LOC members, locker room monitors and ALL medical event personnel. To be considered compliant, an approved volunteer serving in one of these positions must:

- ✓ 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
- ✓ 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 \*

\* Accessible via U.S. Figure Skating Members Only website:

[www.usfsaonline.org](http://www.usfsaonline.org) → Person Icon  Account → Member Profile → Compliance

**CONTACT INFO:** If you have questions, please contact

Competition Chair - David Rogers – [Competitions@TexasGulfCoastFSC.org](mailto:Competitions@TexasGulfCoastFSC.org) or 713 582 7747

Asst Competition Chair - Janelle Heallen – [Competitions@TexasGulfCoastFSC.org](mailto:Competitions@TexasGulfCoastFSC.org) or 713 444 8945

**EVENTS OFFERED AND ENTRY FEES:** Well Balanced qualifying level events will be a Combined FS/SP for Intermediate thru Senior; and FS only for Juvenile.



- **Single skaters competing in combined events may compete in only one separate Short Program event for further experience.**
- **Singles skaters competing in well-balanced or excel free skate events may only compete in one Short Program event for further experience.**
- **Skaters may not enter both a Well Balanced Free Skate event and an Excel Free Skate event at the same nonqualifying competition.**

Final Rounds (performing the Free Skate program) will be offered at the discretion of the chief referee if time permits and entries warrant at the Pre-Preliminary and higher levels. For initial rounds consisting of Free Skate only (Pre-Pre thru Juvenile) final rounds will be based on initial rounds FS scores only. For combined events final rounds will be based on the combined SP and FS scores from initial rounds.

**\*Note** – Open Pre-Juvenile is not considered part of the standard competition levels but is offered based on past demand. For event requirements Open Pre-Juvenile = Pre-Juvenile (please refer to Eligibility section for Open Pre-Juvenile age requirements).

**SEE CURRENT [RULEBOOK](#) OR [U.S. FIGURE SKATING WEBSITE](#) FOR RULES/REQUIREMENTS.**

*\*\*Review the charts for requirements and levels, if not offering all levels, include that information below, for example: "Spins Challenge (Beginner – Preliminary)". Chart below was updated on March 25, 2021 with the [2021-2022 Singles, Pairs & Ice Dance SP & FS Charts](#).*

<b>SINGLES</b>	<b>Judging System</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Event</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> + Event</b>
<a href="#">Excel Free Skate</a> Preliminary Plus/Pre-Juvenile Plus/Juvenile/Juvenile Plus/Intermediate/Intermediate Plus/Novice/Junior/Senior	IJS	\$130	\$75
<a href="#">Excel Free Skate</a> Beginner/High Beginner/Pre-Preliminary/Preliminary/Pre-Juvenile	6.0	\$110	\$75
<a href="#">Well Balanced Free Skate (21/22)</a> Pre, Pre-Juv, Juvenile, Open PJ*, Open Juv	IJS	\$130	\$75
<a href="#">Well Balanced Free Skate (21/22)</a> No Test, Pre-Preliminary	6.0	\$110	\$75
Combined: Intermediate - Senior ( <a href="#">SP</a> & <a href="#">FS</a> )	IJS	\$205	\$75
Separate <a href="#">Well Balanced Short Program</a> Juvenile - Senior	IJS	\$75	\$75
<a href="#">Adult Singles Free Skate (Adult Pre Bronze- Masters Jr/Sr)</a>	IJS	\$130	\$75
<a href="#">Adult Beginner &amp; High Beginner Free Skate</a>	6.0	\$110	\$75

PAIRS – Price is per team. 1 skater to register and list partner			
<a href="#">Free Skate</a> (Juvenile thru Intermediate)	IJS	\$150	\$75
Combined Novice – Senior <a href="#">SP</a> & <a href="#">FS</a>	IJS	\$230	\$75
<a href="#">Adult Pairs Free Skate</a> – Adult Silver and Above	IJS	\$150	\$75
<a href="#">Adult Pairs Free Skate</a> – Adult Bronze and below	6.0	\$150	\$75
Compete USA			
<a href="#">Snowplow Sam-Basic 6 Program w/ Music</a>	6.0	\$65	\$45
<a href="#">Pre-Free Skate – Free Skate 1-6 Program w/ Music</a>	6.0	\$65	\$45
<a href="#">Adult 1-6 Program w/ Music</a>	6.0	\$65	\$45
<a href="#">Pre-Free Skate – Free Skate 1-6 Compulsory Moves</a>	6.0	\$65	\$45
<a href="#">Snowplow Sam – Basic 6 Elements</a>	6.0	\$65	\$45
<a href="#">Excel Compulsory Moves</a>	6.0	\$65	\$45
<a href="#">Adult 1-6 Compulsory Moves</a>	6.0	\$65	\$45

#### OTHER FEES:

Test Packet	Paid at competition	\$15
Late Entry** after July 26 <sup>th</sup> .	No late entries will be processed after July 30 <sup>th</sup> .	\$35
Music Upload Late**	If sent after August 19 <sup>th</sup>	\$35
Planned Program Content (PPC) Late**	If sent after August 19 <sup>th</sup>	\$35
**Late Fees are automated through the U.S. Figure Skating EMS system.		

**PRACTICE ICE:** See practice ice section for allowable number of sessions available for purchase.

20-minute session in advance (pre-purchase)	\$15
20-minute session purchased in Open sales or Onsite sales	\$20
20-minute session Premium Practice Ice (midday during event if time permits)	\$25

## LOC CONTACT INFORMATION:

## **Chief Referee**

Nancy Iida

[nancy.iida@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nancy.iida@sbcglobal.net)

## **Competition Chair**

David Rogers

[Competitions@TexasGulfCoastFSC.Org](mailto:Competitions@TexasGulfCoastFSC.Org)

## **Asst. Competition Chair**

Janelle Heallen

[Competitions@TexasGulfCoastFSC.Org](mailto:Competitions@TexasGulfCoastFSC.Org)

## **Practice Ice**

Lisa Helwig

[PracticeIce@TexasGulfCoastFSC.Org](mailto:PracticeIce@TexasGulfCoastFSC.Org)

## **Volunteers**

Janelle Heallen

[Volunteers@TexasGulfCoastFSC.Org](mailto:Volunteers@TexasGulfCoastFSC.Org)