



**US FIGURE
SKATING**[®]
NATIONAL QUALIFYING SERIES



2022 Skate Houston

Sept 2-5, 2022

Texas Gulf Coast FSC
TexasGulfCoastFSC.Org
Sugar Land Ice & Sports Center
16225 Lexington Blvd, Sugar Land, TX 77479
www.sugarlandice.com

The 2022 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.

NATIONAL QUALIFYING SERIES (NQS)

This competition is approved for the 2022-23 National Qualifying Series (NQS) in singles and pairs, Juvenile – Senior.

For the 2022-2023 season, the Competitions Committee has proposed a National Qualifying Season combining the stand-alone October qualifying competitions, Regional (singles) and Sectional (pairs and ice dance) Challenges, into approved series competitions from mid-July to late September allowing athletes to advance to the Sectional Singles, U.S. Pairs and U.S. Ice Dance Finals in November 2022 and culminating with the 2023 Toyota U.S. Figure Skating Championships and National Development Camp in January 2023 (San Jose, California).

Beginning June 15, athletes/team wishing to participate in the qualifying season may register via the [EMS Series Application](#). The Series Application is the key requirement for qualifying registration AND replaces regional/sectional registration from July 15 – September 1. All interested athletes (including potential and known byes) MUST complete this step.

Without a completed/paid series application prior to the start of this competition, the scores will NOT count towards [National Qualifying Series Standings](#) – no exceptions.

For additional information, review the NQS Athlete Handbook [here](#).
Questions can be directed to events@usfigureskating.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 or one level higher.

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.

If there are large entries for National Qualifying Series (Juvenile – Senior) events, the Referee may choose to break the event into two or more seeded groups per the U.S. Figure Skating Rulebook. Athletes will remain in the same groups for each applicable segment. **There will be NO consolation or final rounds for NQS.**

Please note, there will be NO segment only competitive events for NQS levels (i.e. Intermediate Men's Short Program, only Intermediate Men's Combined).

EMS COMPETITION REGISTRATION

*****Entries will be limited to first come first serve in all levels/events**

Entries will be accepted via [EMS](#) with credit card only.
Each transaction includes a 3% credit card fee.

Registration Open: 07/01/2022 at 6:00 AM ET

Registration Deadline: 07/22/2022 at 11:59 PM ET

Late Registration Deadline: 07/26/2022 at 11:59 PM ET + \$35 Late Fee

1. Go to <https://m.usfigureskating.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 2022 Skate Houston 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 "Create Account (Non-Member)" option on the [Members Only](#) login page.

Note: foreign athletes may register and compete in NQS events but are not eligible to participate in the series (and receive a standing/score).

PAIRS:

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 skatesafe@usfigureskating.org for instructions or questions regarding parental consent.

REFUND POLICY

Entry fees will not be refunded after entry deadline 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

The competition will be held at Sugar Land Ice & Sports Center, 16225 Lexington Blvd, Sugar Land, TX 77479. Their phone number is 281-265-7465 and the website is www.sugarlandice.com. The rink has 2 sheets of ice with bleachers in both rinks. There is a restaurant in the facility.

EMS COMPETITION PORTAL | MUSIC UPLOAD:

DEADLINE: 08/12/2022 at 11:59 PM ET

Competitors participating in events with music are required to upload their music to [EMS](#) no later than **08/12/2022 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.

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

If you need assistance, email productsupport@usfigureskating.org

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

MUSIC CRITERIA:

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

Competitors must also have available a backup copy of their competition music on a CD-R or on a cellphone and it must be immediately available rink side whenever the skater competes. If the phone does not have the standard round headset connector an appropriate adapter, such as an Apple Lightning connector or Samsung USB-C adapter is required to be attached. The phone should be presented to the music person with the file ready to play, phone in airplane mode, and volume turned to maximum.

EMS COMPETITION PORTAL | PLANNED PROGRAM CONTENT (PPC)

DEADLINE: 08/12/2022 at 11:59 PM ET

Competitors participating in IJS events are required to submit PPC in [EMS](#) no later than **08/12/2022 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.

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

If you need assistance, email 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

Check-in will open on Friday Sept 2nd, 2022 in the lobby of Sugar Land Ice & Sports Center. Time to be announced.

Locker rooms and changing areas will not be available this competition. All athletes are expected to arrive to the arena ready (costumes, hair, make-up etc.). 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 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 2 practice ice sessions for each event you are registered for at the time of registration. All registration practice ice purchases will be the first to select their practice ice sessions in the pre-selection period. After Pre-selection, open-sales and open-selection for practice ice will be available. Practice ice will be available for purchase on a first come, first served basis at the rink. Premium practice ice will be offered if necessary and if time permits. Note* Pairs practice ice requires 1 credit for each skater per session.

CHANGE OF EVENTS

A change of event fee of \$35 will be incurred for each event change after the schedule is posted.

PHOTO/VIDEO

Photos of the events will be available for purchase from Melanie Heaney Photography. Photo orders will be available on site during the event. The photo website is www.melanieheaney.com

Videos of the events will be available for purchase from Pro-Mix Sound & Video. Video orders will be available on site during the event. The video website is www.promixsoundvideo.com

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

AWARDS

Awards ceremony will be held onsite barring any new covid restrictions. They will be held off-ice at the awards podium after the results for the event are posted. The following awards will be given.

- Basic Skills Events: Medals will be presented to all competitors in an event (6)
- NQS/Well Balanced/Excel events: Medals will be awarded to first, second, third and fourth.
- Trophies will be awarded to the NQS events first place medalists.

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

OFFICIAL NOTICES

All competition information will be included in the EMS Skater/Coach portal. Additionally, an official bulletin board will be maintained at the main lobby. 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.

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 \$25. Any test credit requests after the close of registration will incur a \$35 late fee.

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.

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 athlete is participating in the National Qualifying Series, 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 → 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 <http://TexasGulfCoastFSC.Org>

VOLUNTEER COMPLIANCE: compliant positions at all U.S. Figure Skating sanctioned events include key LOC members, locker room monitors and 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 → Person Icon  Account → Member Profile → Compliance

CRITIQUES

As an approved National Qualifying Series competition, no critiques will be offered at this event – for any level or discipline.

CONTACT INFO

If you have questions, please contact:

Competition Chair - David Rogers
Asst Competition Chair - Janelle Heallen
Competitions@TexasGulfCoastFSC.Org

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Official hotel accommodations

COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT-Sugar Land /Lake Pointe
16740 Creek Bend Drive
Sugar Land, TX 77478

\$105 per night / Book [HERE](#)

Home2 Suites
11121 Fountain Lake Drive
Stafford, TX. 77477

\$89 per night / Book [HERE](#)

Airport Information

Houston is served by 2 major airports:

[Bush Intercontinental Airport \(IAH\)](#) – Approximately 42 miles from the facilities

[Houston Hobby \(HOU\)](#) – Approximately 30 miles from the facilities

***Entries will be limited to first come first serve in all levels/events

NATIONAL QUALIFYING SERIES				
		1 st EVENT	2 nd EVENT	3 rd + EVENT
Juvenile Singles Free Skate	IJS	\$160	\$100	\$100
Intermediate – Senior Singles Combined (SP & FS)	IJS	\$250	\$100	\$100
Juvenile & Intermediate Pairs FS	IJS	\$160	\$100	\$100
Novice – Senior Pairs Combined (SP & FS)	IJS	\$250	\$100	\$100

U.S. FIGURE SKATING EVENTS				
SINGLES	IJS/6.0	1st EVENT	2nd EVENT	3rd + EVENT
Excel Free Skate Preliminary Plus/Pre-Juvenile Plus/Juvenile/Juvenile Plus/Intermediate/Intermediate Plus/Novice/Junior/Senior	<i>IJS</i>	\$160	\$100	\$100
Excel Free Skate Beginner/High Beginner/Pre-Preliminary/Preliminary/Pre-Juvenile	6.0	\$140	\$100	\$100
Well Balanced Free Skate (Preliminary, Pre-Juv, Open Juv)	<i>IJS</i>	\$160	\$100	\$100
Well Balanced Free Skate (No Test, Pre-Preliminary)	6.0	\$140	\$100	\$100
Adult Free Skate (Adult Silver – Master Jr/Sr)	<i>IJS</i>	\$160	\$100	\$100
Adult Free Skate (Adult Pre Bronze – Bronze)	6.0	\$140	\$100	\$100
Adult Beginner & High Beginner Free Skate	6.0	\$140	\$100	\$100
SHOWCASE	JUDGING	1st EVENT	2nd EVENT	3rd + EVENT
Individual Entertainment Beginner/High Beginner/No-Test/Pre-Preliminary/Preliminary/Pre-Juvenile/Open-Juvenile, Adult	6.0	\$140	\$100	\$100
*The referee reserves the right to combine different Showcase event types by skating level, and combine Showcase levels to create competition				
COMPETE USA EVENTS				
Snowplow Sam-Basic 6 Program w/ Music	6.0	\$85	\$70	\$70
Pre-Free Skate – Free Skate 1-6 Program w/ Music	6.0	\$85	\$70	\$70
Adult 1-6 Program w/ Music	6.0	\$85	\$70	\$70
Snowplow Sam – Basic 6 Elements	6.0	\$85	\$70	\$70
Pre-Free Skate – Free Skate 1-6 Compulsory Moves	6.0	\$85	\$70	\$70
Adult 1-6 Compulsory Moves	6.0	\$85	\$70	\$70
2021-22 Compete USA Manual				
SPECIAL OLYMPICS/ADAPTIVE SKATING				
Adaptive****	6.0	\$85	\$70	\$70
Adaptive Skating Manual				

LOC CONTACT INFORMATION:

Chief Referee

Nancy Iida

Nancy.Iida@sbcglobal.net

Competition Chair/Asst Competition Chair

David Rogers/Janelle Heallen

Competitions@TexasGulfCoastFSC.Org

Practice Ice

Lisa Helwig

PracticeIce@TexasGulfCoastFSC.Org

Volunteers

Volunteers@TexasGulfCoastFSC.Org