



Big Sky State Games

January 17 – 19, 2025

Hosted by Rimrock Figure Skating Club

Centennial Ice Arena / Billings, MT

I. COMPETITION OVERVIEW

The Big Sky State Games 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](#).

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, Learn to Skate USA® member, 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.

All persons must meet at least ONE of the following guidelines:

- A full-time resident of Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Idaho or Wyoming.
- A registered member of a figure skating club in Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Idaho or Wyoming

II. ELIGIBILITY

Singles: Excel and Well-Balanced Events:

- Skaters must meet at least the minimum singles test requirements for the event's level. A skater's singles test level may be higher than the minimum requirement.
 - o Skate Up: skaters may skate up one level higher than their minimum test requirement allows.
- Skaters may not register for an event level lower than allowed by their competitive floor. An athlete's competitive floor is set by one of the following scenarios:
 - o If an athlete has a paid EMS series application for the NQS series, the event level registered for in the most recent NQS will become the lowest level they may compete at in any U.S. Figure Skating sanctioned event.
 - o If an athlete has a paid EMS series application for the Excel Series, the event level registered for in the most recent Excel series will become the lowest level they may compete in any Excel event. For Well-Balanced and Specialty events the skater will be permitted to register at one level lower than the "floor" set by their excel series entry.
 - o If an athlete has never had a paid EMS series application in the NQS or Excel series, the athlete may select their level based on their goals and technical skills as long as the minimum test requirements are met.
- Skaters are not permitted to enter an Excel free skate and a Well-Balanced free skate event at the same competition (example: Juvenile Girls Free Skate and Juvenile Girls Excel Free Skate). However, they are permitted to enter an Excel and a Well-Balanced event of different types such as a short program (if stand-alone event option), specialty or showcase events (example: Intermediate Women Short Program and Intermediate Women Excel Free Skate).
- For more details about establishing event levels, refer to the information sheet [HERE](#) or email events@usfigureskating.org.

All other singles and partner events (such as Adults, Pairs, Ice Dance):

- Skaters must meet the minimum test requirements for the events level, but not exceed the maximum permissible test requirement.

EVENTS OFFERED:

- **U.S. Figure Skating Program Requirements:** usfigureskating.org --> Skate --> Compete --> Program Requirements
- **Compete USA Program Requirements:** learntoskateusa.com/competeusa
- **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 cathygoettel@gmail.com.
 - o [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 cathygoettel@gmail.com.
 - [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	1st Event Price	2nd Event Price
Excel Free Skate (<i>Pre-Pre. – Senior</i>)	6.0	\$85	\$25
Well Balanced Free Skate (<i>Pre-Pre. – Senior</i>)	6.0	\$85	\$25
Adult Free Skate (<i>Beginner – Master Jr/Sr</i>)	6.0	\$85	\$25
SPECIALTY	JUDGING	1st Event Price	2nd Event Price
Excel Compulsory Moves (<i>Excel Pre-Pre.– Excel Prelim.</i>)	6.0	\$85	\$25
Compulsory Moves (<i>Pre-Pre. – Senior</i>)	6.0	\$85	\$25
Adult Compulsory Moves (<i>Adult Beginner–Masters Jr/Sr</i>)	6.0	\$85	\$25
Jumps Challenge (<i>Aspire – Senior</i>)	6.0	\$85	\$25
Adult Jumps Challenge (<i>Beginner – Masters Jr/Sr</i>)	6.0	\$85	\$25
Spins Challenge (<i>Aspire – Senior</i>)	6.0	\$85	\$25
Adult Spins Challenge (<i>Beginner – Masters Jr/Sr</i>)	6.0	\$85	\$25
Step Sequence (<i>Pre-Pre. – Senior</i>)	6.0	\$85	\$25
Adult Step Sequences (<i>Adult Pre-Bronze – Masters Sr</i>)	6.0	\$85	\$25
Skating Skills (<i>Pre-Pre. – Gold</i>)	6.0	\$85	\$25
Adult Skating Skills (<i>Adult Pre-Bronze – Masters Sr</i>)	6.0	\$85	\$25
SHOWCASE	JUDGING	1st Event Price	2nd Event Price
Emotional Performance (<i>No Test – Senior, Adult</i>)	CJS	\$85	\$25
Choreographic Artistry (<i>No Test - Senior, Adult</i>)	CJS	\$85	\$25
Lyrical Pop (<i>No Test - Senior, Adult</i>)	CJS	\$85	\$25
Character Performance (<i>No Test - Senior, Adult</i>)	CJS	\$85	\$25
Comedic Impressions (<i>No Test - Senior, Adult</i>)	CJS	\$85	\$25
Duets/Trios (<i>No Test – Senior, Adult</i>)	CJS	\$65/\$5	\$65/\$5
Interpretive* (see note below)	CJS	\$85	\$25
Mini Production Ensemble	CJS	\$65/\$5	\$65/\$5
SOLO DANCE	JUDGING	1st Event Price	2nd Event Price
Solo Pattern Dance (not participating in series)	6.0	\$85	\$25
Solo Free Dance	6.0	\$85	\$25
Adult Solo Pattern Dance	6.0	\$85	\$25
Adult Solo Free Dance	6.0	\$85	\$25

COMPETE USA EVENTS	JUDGING	1 st Event Price	2 nd Event Price
Snowplow Sam – Basic 6 Elements	6.0	\$65	\$20
Snowplow Sam – Basic 6 Program w/ Music	6.0	\$65	\$20
Aspire 1-4 Compulsory Moves	6.0	\$65	\$20
Aspire 1-4 Program w/ Music	6.0	\$65	\$20
Adult 1-6 Compulsory Moves	6.0	\$65	\$20
Adult 1-6 Program w/ Music	6.0	\$65	\$20
Compete USA – Hockey 1-4 Elements & Skills Challenge	6.0	\$65	\$20
ADAPTIVE	JUDGING	1 st Event Price	2 nd Event Price
Elements (<i>Adaptive 2-12</i>)	6.0	\$65	\$20
Program w/ Music (<i>Adaptive 2-12</i>)	6.0	\$65	\$20

* **Interpretive Note:** Competitors in interpretive events will not gain eligibility to compete in the National Showcase Competition.

The LOC will pre-select and edit musical choices appropriate for these events. During warm-up, skaters will hear the selection of music twice. Following the warm-up, all skaters except the first skater will be escorted to a sound-proof locker room. The first skater will hear the music one more time and then perform a program to the song. As each skater performs, the next skater in line will be allowed to hear the music for the third time before they perform. The listening skater will not be allowed to view the performing skater.

- Levels will be set by ability with ages divided as appropriately as possible.
- Music duration for all levels is up to 1:30 max
- There is no instruction allowed during this event from coaches, parents or fellow skaters. Staging areas must be kept clear except for the ice monitor and listening competitor.

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 upholding 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 cathygoettel@gmail.com.

COMPLIANCE:

For full details about participant compliance requirements, refer to the U.S. Figure Skating SkateSafe® webpage: <https://www.usfigureskating.org/skatesafe#compliance>.

COACHES

To be an eligible coach at a nonqualifying competition, coaches must meet the applicable compliance requirements and 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 compliance requirements can be found [HERE](#). 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.

TEAM SERVICE PERSONNEL

Teams are permitted a maximum of two team service personnel. Team service personnel must have a current U.S. Figure Skating or Learn to Skate USA® membership, a green lighted background check and completed SafeSport™ Training. All compliance requirements must be met at the time of check-in to access the competition, no exceptions. Team service personnel is defined as those indicated as a team manager and/or team service personnel planning to attend the competition with the team.

MANDATORY ATHLETES

Athletes age 18+ as of the competition start date who will be competing on a team (i.e., synchro, ice 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 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.

III. REGISTRATION INFORMATION

ONLINE REGISTRATION

Entries can be made using www.bigskygames.org or www.EntryEeze.com

Entry Fees: \$85 for first event and \$25 each additional event. Compete USA events are \$65 for first event and \$20 each additional. Team events, Duets & Trios are \$65 plus \$5 per skater.

Registration Deadline: **12/15/2024 at 11:00 PM MST**

Late Registration Deadline: **12/22/2024 at 9:00 PM MST + \$50 Late Fee**

*The host club reserves the right to close registration at any time if event capacity is met.

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, practice ice sales, etc.**

CRITIQUES/FEEDBACK

If you are interested in receiving a critique or feedback of your performance, please email the name of the skater and the event to cathygoettel@gmail.com by registration deadline (12/15/24).

MUSIC SUBMISSION/UPLOAD:

Competitors participating in events with music are required to upload their music to EntryEeze no later than **12/30/24 at 11:00 PM MST**. After this date, skaters will be locked out of this feature and subject to a **\$50 late fee**.

After you have paid for your events via EntryEeze, you will be prompted to upload your music for each event that requires music. If your music is not available at that time, you can return at a later date (before 12/30/24) by logging back in to EntryEeze and going to the 'Competition tab' and selecting 'My Music'.

All music **MUST** be pre-edited, name appropriately, and provided in an **MP3 format only**. Please test all your songs before you upload them. Label music as follows: Name of Skater, Event.

Competitors must also have available a backup copy of their competition music on a flash drive (**Music must be in MP3 format**) and it must be immediately available rinkside whenever the skater competes.

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.

LIABILITY:

U.S. Figure Skating, Learn to Skate USA®, Rimrock Figure Skating Club, Big Sky State Games and Centennial Ice Arena 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:

[Centennial Ice Arena](#)

427 Bench Blvd., Billings MT 59105

Rink is 200' x 85' with rounded corners and hockey barrier and bleacher style seating

3 locker rooms are available, concession stand will be open with limited hours, arena temperature varies and may be very cold (*below 32 degrees especially if outside temperature is extremely cold*).

LOCKER ROOMS AND CHANGING AREAS:

Locker room monitor has complete authority of who is/isn't allowed in the locker rooms, please respect their decision. Locker rooms and changing areas at U.S. Figure Skating competitive events are for athletes only and will be labeled with regards to specific use and where identified will be gender specific. An exception can be made for athletes under 11 years old that will allow for one parent of the same sex to assist their child 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 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:

Big Sky State Games – www.bigskygames.org

EntryEeze – www.entryeeze.com

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:

Practice ice will be available for purchase via EntryEeze during the registration process and at the registration desk (if spots are available). **Practice is \$15 for 15 minutes.** You may 'pre-purchase' practice ice during competition registration. You will be allowed one practice ice slot per event entered. After close of entries and the tentative schedule is posted you can select your practice ice time slot via EntryEeze on a first-come first-served basis. Any unsold practice ice will be made available for purchase after all pre-purchased ice is scheduled. Additionally, any unsold practice ice may be purchased at the registration table (cash or check only). You will be notified by email when pre-purchased practice ice is available to select time slots.

Skaters are not allowed to use earbuds/headphones during practice ice sessions.

ONSITE CHECK-IN:

Check-in will open one hour before the first event and run through the last event of the day. The Check-in table will be located near the main entrance of Centennial Ice Arena. Please check-in for your event promptly upon your arrival at the rink.

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 to skaters placing first, second, or third in each event. Compete USA events will have no more than three competitors in a group and all three will receive an award.

Medals may be claimed at the Awards table located near the locker rooms. There will be a podium available for personal photos.

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.

TEST SESSION:

Test session is slated for Friday, January 17, 2025 but may be scheduled on any day or time during the announced dates of the competition weekend. Registration link available at www.entryeeze.com. Test session fees will be collected at the time of registration.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Official Hotel: **TBA**
- Airport: **Billings Logan International Airport** (1901 Terminal Circle, Billings, MT 59105)
- Souvenir T-Shirts: All registered competitors will receive a free Big Sky State Games T-shirt, indicate size preference when registering for event on EntryEeze. Limited BSSG souvenirs will be available for purchase during the competition.
- Sponsorship opportunities are available. Interested parties should contact at coordinator at cathygoettel@gmail.com

CONTACT INFORMATION:

www.bigskygames.org

For questions, please contact the following individuals:

BSSG Commissioner:	Cathy Goettel	cathygoettel@gmail.com	406-690-4882
Competition Chair:	Leslie Albright	sk8inginstructor@msn.com	406-672-3859
Chief Referee:	Waverly Huston-Davis	waverlyhuston@gmail.com	406-861-1575