



National Showcase Series Athlete Handbook

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Dear Athletes, Coaches, and Parents,

On behalf of U.S. Figure Skating, we are thrilled to welcome you to the 2026–27 Showcase Series – an exciting new chapter designed to celebrate creativity, performance, and the vibrant spirit of Showcase skating.

The Showcase Series was created to elevate performance excellence across the program and provide athletes with a dynamic, inspiring environment to develop their artistic and theatrical skating skills. With the rapid growth of National Showcase in recent years – including a 53% increase in qualified athletes since 2021 – the Series offers a sustainable pathway for athletes to develop, shine, and prepare for National Showcase.

Throughout the season, Showcase Series events will be held at select competitions across the country. Athletes may register for up to three individual Showcase categories and will compete in at least two (and no more than four) Series competitions. Their top two scores will be combined for Series standings, provided at least one score meets the minimum requirement. This structure encourages athletes to challenge themselves, refine their performance quality, and bring their most imaginative work to the ice.

Our mission is simple: create an unforgettable experience that motivates athletes to dream bigger, perform bolder, and embrace everything that makes Showcase skating special. Whether you're bringing laughter, drama, emotion, or full-out theatrical flair to the ice, this Series is designed to celebrate your individuality and ignite your passion.

As always, our priority is to provide a safe, supportive, and inspiring environment for all athletes, coaches, and officials. We encourage you to review the 2026–27 Showcase Handbook carefully before registering, and we look forward to seeing your artistry come alive throughout the Series.

We can't wait to see the energy, the artistry, and the heart you bring this season. Skate your best, have a blast, and let the Showcase Series be the place where your creativity takes center stage.

Let's make this season unforgettable!

Sincerely,

Lori Osborne

National Vice Chair, Showcase

midwestskater@gmail.com

ATHLETE CHECKLIST

- ☐ Renew membership for 2026-2027 Season
- ☐ Register for Showcase Series via Series Application (**Opens Sept. 2026, and closes March 1, 2027**)
- ☐ Register for and compete in at least two approved Showcase Series Competitions via EMS
- ☐ Track your series standings on EMS
- ☐ National Showcase Open event registration deadline: **June 1, 2027**
- ☐ National Showcase Qualifier event registration deadline: **June 10, 2027**

National Showcase Competition Series Dates

October 1, 2026 – June 6, 2027

2027 National Showcase

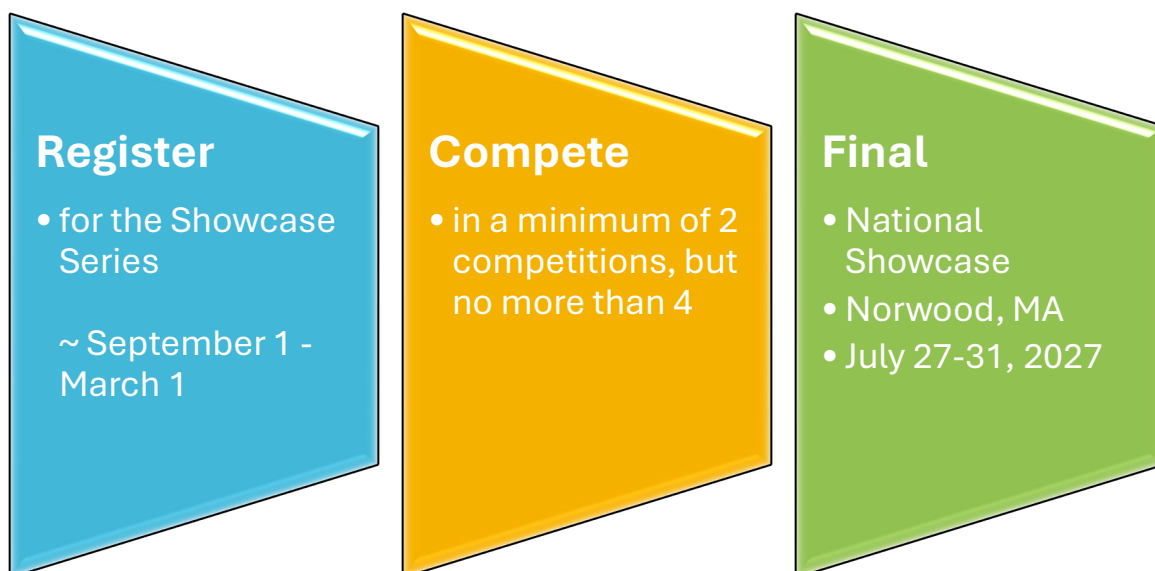
The Skating Club of Boston
July 27-31, 2027
Norwood, MA

National Showcase Questions?

Showcase@usfigureskating.org - Series & Technical Questions

MemberServices@usfigureskating.org – EMS assistance/general Questions

SHOWCASE SERIES STRUCTURE



Series Registration ~ September 1 – March 1

- Login to Members Only and complete series registration through EMS
- Sign up for a minimum of two (2) competitions in the Showcase Series
- Must be registered for the Showcase Series BEFORE competing in a Showcase qualifying competition for scores to count

Compete October 1, 2026 – June 6, 2027

- Compete in a minimum of two (2) [Showcase Series approved competitions](#)
- Ensure you have met the minimum score in each of the events you wish to compete in at the 2027 National Showcase Series Final
- Week of June 6 – National Showcase registration invitations sent – must complete registration within 48 hours of the send date/time.
- Registration for the National Showcase closes June 11, 2027.
- Age, tests, and minimum score requirements must be met by June 6, 2027.

National Showcase July 27 – 31, 2027

- The Skating Club of Boston, Norwood, MA

STEP 1 - REGISTER FOR U.S. FIGURE SKATING OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

To complete registration (via the [Series Application](#)) and register for approved National Showcase Series competitions, athletes in Preliminary through Senior Elite/Pro-Am, and Adult Bronze through Masters levels must be current members of U.S. Figure Skating.

Athletes in Learn to Skate USA, Aspire 1-4, Pre-Preliminary, and Adult Pre-Bronze levels may compete in non-qualifying competitions, but will not be able to participate in the Showcase Series or National Showcase.

A current membership for the 2026-2027 season is required to complete the series application (membership must be fully processed with both the home club and U.S. Figure Skating; you can verify membership status [here](#)).

Athletes are automatically entered into one of the three sections based on the location of their home club, or, if an individual member, their home address. All registrants are bound to their geographic designation at the time of registration, and no changes are permitted. Club representation stays intact for the entirety of the Showcase Series season, even if an athlete changes clubs.

STEP 2 – DETERMINE YOUR COMPETITIVE LEVEL

- Athletes must meet age, test, and minimum score requirements as of June 6, 2027, to register and compete in the 2026-2027 Showcase Series.
- Athletes may complete a Showcase Series registration at ONE competition level only.
- Athletes can enter a maximum of three (3) event categories (Character Performance, Choreographic Artistry, Comedic Impressions, Emotional Performance, Lyrical Pop, or Theme).
- Skating Up is not permitted at National Showcase – athletes must meet the minimum age and test requirements as listed below and as registered in the Showcase Series.

Can I change my level?

Athletes competing in events that require qualification for the National Showcase Series Final may **NOT** change level after registering and competing in one or more Showcase Series competitions.

Meet the citizenship and residency requirements as stated in Rules 2230-2243. Foreign or released athletes residing in the U.S. who currently represent another ISU federation other than U.S. Figure Skating may register and compete at an approved Showcase Series competition. However, they are not eligible to complete the Showcase Series Application or receive a score within the Showcase Series Standings.

Eligibility

- Athletes must meet the age, test, and minimum score requirements as of the registration deadline of June 6, 2027.
- Any athlete who competed in the 2026 National Showcase competition may not enter the 2027 Showcase Series at a lower level.
- For athletes who did not compete in the 2026 National Showcase competition, eligibility is determined by the Skating Skills and Pattern Dance tests passed. Dance tests will be based on passing a minimum of one pattern dance test (solo or partnered).
- Any athlete who won the 2026 National Showcase Founders Parade of Champions, 2026 National Showcase Parade of Junior Champions, or 2026 National Showcase Parade of Champions, at the Preliminary through Junior levels must register and compete in the 2027 Showcase Series at least one level above the level in which they competed during the 2026 National Showcase event, unless they are already competing at the highest level (Senior or Senior Elite/Pro-Am).

STEP 3 – COMPLETE SHOWCASE SERIES APPLICATION

Beginning September 1, athletes can complete their [Showcase Series registration](#) via the Showcase Series Application on EMS. The Series Application is the key requirement for registration. **All interested athletes MUST complete this step before the start of their first approved Showcase Series competition (on the first day of the competition).**

Application Open		Application Close	Fee
Standard	September 1	March 1	\$90

Note: Registration will close on March 1 at 11:59 p.m. ET. No late registrations will be accepted.

- Without a paid Series Application, NO scores will be posted to the Series Standings, and athletes cannot advance to National Showcase.
- If an athlete competes in an approved Showcase Series competition before completing their Series Application, the scores will NOT count in the Series – no exceptions.
- Athletes may register for up to 3 event categories (Theme, Character Performance, Choreographic Artistry, Comedic Impressions, Emotional Performance, or Lyrical Pop).
- Online payment via credit card is the ONLY accepted form of payment for the Showcase Series Application. No cash, checks, or mail orders will be accepted by U.S. Figure Skating.
- No refunds are provided for the Showcase Series Application Fee under any circumstances (medical withdrawals included). Entry fee refund policies for approved Showcase Series competitions are at the discretion of each host club.

STEP 4 – REGISTER FOR AT LEAST TWO SHOWCASE SERIES COMPETITIONS VIA EMS

All athletes must register for at least TWO (2) approved Showcase Series competitions via U.S. Figure Skating's Event Management System (EMS) and compete.

For the 2027 Showcase Series, athletes may compete in up to FOUR (4) Showcase Series competitions. It is recommended that series participants compete in all categories they have registered for at the same competitions.

Athletes must enter each approved Showcase Series competition directly, in accordance with the entry deadline and entry fees set forth by the host club. It is the sole responsibility of each athlete to complete this step to ensure their scores are posted for the Series and, thus, the opportunity to advance to the National Showcase event.

For adult athletes, Eastern, Midwestern, and Pacific Coast Adult Sectional non-qualifying Showcase events will be included in the Showcase Series. All events will be grouped by level and category only. Events will not be separated by age. The U.S. Adult Figure Skating Championships, and the associated non-qualifying competition held with this event, are not a qualifying competition for National Showcase.

Note: In order for scores to count toward the Showcase Series Standings, participants must compete in at least two approved Showcase Series Competitions and must register for the Showcase Series prior to their first competition.

ADVANCEMENT TO NATIONAL SHOWCASE

Advancement by Standard Event Categories:

All Preliminary through Senior Elite/Pro-Am, and Adult Bronze through Masters athletes.

Showcase Series competition results and standings will be used to verify athletes' eligibility for the National Showcase competition. Each Event Category (Character Performance, Choreographic Artistry, Comedic Impressions, Emotional Performance, Lyrical Pop, and Theme) and level will qualify athletes based on the following requirements:

- All qualifiers must have at least one of their two scores that meet the minimum score requirements (in each category/level).
- Intermediate – Senior Elite/Pro-Am and Adult Bronze – Masters levels:
 - A maximum of 35 athletes will earn an invitation to participate in National Showcase in each category and level.
 - The top 10 athletes in each section, plus, the athletes with the next 5 highest scores nationally, regardless of section.

- If there are fewer than 35 total athletes who meet the minimum score in a category and level, the event will not fill up with athletes below the minimum score.
- Finalists will compete in one group, with the winners qualifying for the associated Parade of Champions. Medals will be awarded in each level and category.
- Preliminary, Pre-Juvenile, Juvenile, and Open Juvenile levels:
 - A maximum of 80 athletes will earn an invitation to participate in National Showcase in each category and level.
 - The top 25 athletes in each section, plus, the athletes with the next 5 highest scores nationally – regardless of section.
 - If there are fewer than 80 total athletes who meet the minimum score in a category and level, the event will not fill up with athletes below the minimum score.
 - If more than 40 athletes meet the minimum score requirement, there will be two initial round groups of athletes, with the top 4 athletes in each group advancing to the final round. The winner of the final round will advance to the associated Parade of Champions. Medals will be awarded in each level and category for the initial and final rounds.

Standard Event Category Qualifiers:

All Preliminary through Senior Elite/Pro-Am, and Adult Bronze through Masters athletes.

- The deadline to satisfy age, minimum test requirements, minimum score requirements, and Showcase Series competition qualification is June 6, 2027.
- Advancement information will be sent via email, outlining the EMS registration process and competition details, the week of June 8th.
- Each qualifier will be required to complete National Showcase registration and pay their entry fee within 48 hours of receipt of the advancement email from U.S. Figure Skating.
- If there is no response within the 48 hours, the spot will be forfeited, and an alternate will be invited.
- Entries will close on June 11, 2027.
- Duets/Trios and Inflatables registration will also be available during the 48-hour registration window. All athletes must first qualify and register for National Showcase in an individual event before they are eligible to compete in Duets/Trios and/or Inflatables.

Open Event Category Qualifiers

All Adaptive, Skate United, Special Olympics, Mini-Production Ensemble, and Production Ensemble athletes.

Athletes competing in Adaptive, Skate United, or Special Olympics events, Mini Production, and Production Ensemble events do not need to register for the Showcase Series, nor do they need to qualify to compete in these events at National Showcase. An athlete may still be part of a Mini

Production or Production Ensemble without skating in an individual or elective event, provided they meet the minimum test requirements for the Preliminary or Adult Bronze level.

- Registration information will be sent via email, outlining the EMS registration process and competition details, by May 1, 2027.
- The deadline for Open Athletes and Teams to register for National Showcase is June 1, 2027.

BYES

2026 National Showcase Winners:

Skating in the 2026 National Showcase does not automatically qualify you for 2027 National Showcase.

2026 National Showcase athletes in the **Junior, Senior, Senior Elite/Pro-Am, or Masters** individual events will receive a bye to 2027 National Showcase provided that they meet the following requirements:

- Athlete placed in the top 4 of their event category/level, and
- 2026 National Showcase score meets the 2026-2027 minimum score requirement in the level they plan to compete at the 2027 National Showcase, and
- Athlete has registered and paid for the Showcase Series, and
- Athlete has registered in the Showcase Series for the same event category where they placed in the top 4.

EXAMPLE: At the 2026 National Showcase, you placed 3rd in Junior Lyrical Pop and had a score of 27.06; you would qualify for the 2027 National Showcase in Junior, Senior, Senior Elite/Pro-Am, or Masters Lyrical Pop. If you also skated Emotional and placed 10th, you do not qualify in Emotional. You must re-qualify through the Showcase Series for any events you did not place in.

Professional Skaters

Professional skaters who are under contract during the Showcase qualifying season and want to compete at the 2027 National Showcase must:

- Register for the Showcase Series in the Senior Elite/Pro-Am level, and
- Apply for a bye using the [Professional Skater Bye Application](#), and
- Upload a copy of the fully executed contract for the show/tour, and
- If the athlete competed at the 2027 National Showcase, include events, scores, and placements.

Showcase Series registration and the Professional Skater Bye Request Form must be submitted no later than March 1. All applications will be reviewed. Final decisions will be made by April 1.

MINIMUM SCORE REQUIREMENTS

For athletes registered for the Showcase Series, at least one Showcase Series score must meet the minimum score requirement in each of the individual categories registered (Character Performance, Choreographic Artistry, Comedic Impressions, Emotional Performance, Lyrical Pop, and Theme). If the athlete's score does not meet the minimum score requirement, the athlete will not qualify for National Showcase. The minimum score requirements are as follows:

Level	Minimum Total Score
Preliminary	<u>17.0</u>
Pre-Juvenile	<u>19.0</u>
Juvenile/Open Juvenile	<u>21.0</u>
Intermediate	<u>22.5</u>
Novice	24.0
Junior	25.0
Senior	26.0
Senior Elite/Pro-Am	25.0
Young Adult	<u>19.0</u>
Adult Bronze	15.0
Adult Silver	16.0
Adult Gold	17.5
Adult Masters	20.0

SHOWCASE STANDINGS

The Showcase Standings will be available for viewing in EMS. The standings will display a sectional rank by category.

Qualifying events are Preliminary through Senior Elite/Pro-Am and Adult Bronze through Masters levels for the following event categories:

- Character Performance
- Choreographic Artistry (Juvenile/Open Juvenile – Senior, Adult Masters only)
- Comedic Impressions
- Emotional Performance

- Lyrical Pop
- Theme Event

Open events DO NOT require Series Registration and will not be listed in the Showcase Standings:

- Mini Production Ensembles
- Production Ensembles
- Adaptive/Skate United
- Special Olympics
- Inflatables*
- Duets/Trios*

* At National Showcase, the Inflatables and Duets/Trios events are only available to athletes who qualify and compete at the 2027 National Showcase. These events will be available only during the National Showcase registration window.

To access the standings:

- Log in to Members Only at <https://m.usfigureskating.org>.
- Select EMS.
- Click “Series Information”.
- Choose “2026-27 National Showcase Series.”
- Select “Standings.”

At the end of each approved Showcase competition, all IJS competition results will be uploaded to EMS by the Chief Scoring Official as soon as possible following the event’s conclusion. Each athlete’s score is transmitted to the Standings. Only an athlete’s current two highest scores are officially recorded. If an athlete finishes a competition and beats one of their previous two highest scores, the scores will be updated. If an athlete competes but does not beat one of their current two highest scores, the previous two scores stand.

An athlete will not appear on the Showcase standings until they have earned a score at an approved Showcase competition for the level of their paid Series Application.

Please note that the invitation to the National Showcase is tied to the two highest posted scores in the Series Standings, NOT to individual event placements at approved Showcase competitions.

FINALIST RECOGNITION

- Medals will be awarded to first through fourth place in each event category and level, including initial and final rounds.

- The winners of each Inflatables, Duets/Trios, and individual event category/level will be U.S. Figure Skating National Showcase Champions in their respective levels and categories. For example: “U.S. Figure Skating National Showcase: Intermediate Character Performance Champion.”
- The winner of the Parade of Champions will be the U.S. Figure Skating National Showcase Champion and will receive a keepsake trophy and, along with second, third, and fourth places, receive medals. The name of the winner of the Parade of Champions will also be added to the Richard Dwyer Trophy (Perpetual Trophy).
- The winner of the Parade of Junior Champions will receive a keepsake trophy and, along with second, third, and fourth places, receive medals. The name of the winner of the Parade of Junior Champions will also be added to the Haley Gans Skate with All Your Heart Trophy (Perpetual Trophy).
- The winners of the Founders Parade of Champions, Adult Parade of Champions, Theme Parade of Champions, and Duets/Trios Parade of Champions will receive a keepsake trophy and, with the second, third, and fourth places, receive medals.
- The winner of the Production Ensemble event, along with the second, third, and fourth places, will receive a team keepsake trophy. The winner's name will be added to the Kathy Slack Trophy (Perpetual Trophy).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Club Name and Program Descriptions

- At National Showcase, club names will not be announced during events.
- National Showcase will not collect or announce descriptions as part of the event.

Coach Compliance

Any coach attending the competition must be included in a athlete's Showcase Series application AND in the individual competition registration via EMS. Any coaches declared at the time of registration will be included in the athlete's registration confirmation email and have access to the EMS Coach Portal.

Non-compliant coaches will receive automated email reminders until the competition begins. Please note that EMS does not have a registration approval process because membership data is linked directly to the U.S. Figure Skating database.

All Showcase coaches must be fully compliant U.S. Figure Skating coaches & meet the criteria below:

- 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 and proper payment, and successfully pass a background check. The background check will be valid for two seasons: the one in which it was completed and one additional season.
- 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 Coach I.C.E requirements through US Figure Skating.
- 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.

Liability

U.S. Figure Skating, the host club(s) and/or interclub association, the organizing committee, and the ice arenas utilized for these events accept no responsibility for injury or damage sustained by any participant in any Showcase event. (U.S. Figure Skating Rule 1600).

Dates

The 2027 Showcase Series will run from October 1, 2026, to June 6, 2027, with the National Showcase competition taking place at National Showcase, The Skating Club of Boston, Norwood, MA, July 27-31, 2027.

Judging System

All events in the series and at the National Showcase will use Showcase CJS.

Officials

At Series competitions:

- The majority of the panel will consist of Showcase-appointed officials.
- Any nonqualifying competition judge or higher may be included as a minority of the panel.
- A minimum of 3 judges is required.
- Showcase Officials are selected by the Local Organizing Committee and approved by NVC Showcase no later than 2 weeks before the start of the competition.

At National Showcase:

- The majority of the panel will consist of National Showcase officials.
- Certified Showcase officials may be included as a minority of the panel.
- All officials will be selected by the NVC Showcase.

Warm-up Groups

Warm-up groups at Showcase Series events are at the discretion of the Chief Referee, and athletes will be notified before the start of the event if there will be more than one warm-up group, or if a curtain and/or spotlights will be used.

At National Showcase, warm-ups will be held behind the curtain, and each athlete will have approximately 3 minutes before their call to start. The maximum event group size at National Showcase is 40.

SHOWCASE NON-QUALIFYING COMPETITIONS GROUP SIZE**			
Showcase Level	Judging System	Suggested Max Warm Up Size	Suggested Max Event Group Size
Learn to Skate USA*	CJS	12	6
Aspire 1-4*	CJS	12	6
Pre-Preliminary*	CJS	12	6
Preliminary	CJS	10	8
Pre-Juvenile	CJS	10	8
Juvenile/Open Juvenile	CJS	10	15
Intermediate	CJS	6	15
Novice	CJS	6	18
Junior	CJS	6	18
Senior	CJS	6	18
Senior Elite/Pro-Am	CJS	6	18
Young Adult	CJS	6	18
Adult Pre-Bronze*	CJS	6	18
Adult Bronze	CJS	6	18
Adult Silver	CJS	6	18
Adult Gold	CJS	6	18
Masters	CJS	6	18
<i>* Learn to Skate USA, Aspire 1-4, Pre-Preliminary, and Adult Pre-Bronze do not qualify for the National Showcase.</i>			
<i>** Group sizes may be slightly smaller or larger at the discretion of the Chief Referee. If a CJS Showcase event is split into separate groups, the Chief Referee is encouraged to keep the judging panel as consistent as possible across groups at the same event level.</i>			

Music:

Music must be provided for events in accordance with the requirements in each competition's announcement.

Costumes

Showcase will follow all costume rules and requirements as stated in the Showcase Handbook.

Resources

- [2026-2027 Showcase Handbook](#)
- [Event Management System \(EMS\)](#)
- [Showcase Series Application](#)
- [Competition Registration](#) (via EMS only)
- [Showcase Series Standings](#)

CONTACTS

Lori Osborne, National Vice Chair, Showcase

E-mail: Midwestskater@gmail.com

U.S. Figure Skating Programs Department

Email: skatingprograms@usfigureskating.org

Phone: (719) 635-5200

U.S. Figure Skating Product Support (EMS)

Email: productsupport@usfigureskating.org

Phone: (719) 635-5200