



2026 Heart of America Invitational July 31-Aug 2, 2026

Hosted by Silver Blades FSC of Kansas City

**AdventHealth Sports Park at Bluhawk
16201 Shawnee Drive, KS 66218**

I. COMPETITION OVERVIEW:

The 2026 Heart of America Invitational 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.

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.

SERIES INFORMATION:

MID-WEST FIGURE SKATING COUNCIL CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

Silver Blades Figure Skating Club is a member of the Mid-West Figure Skating Council (MWFSC) and is participating in the Mid-West Council Championship Series (MWCCS). Participating competitions are Heartland Winter Classic, Snowball Spectacular, Skate KC, Heart of America, Wichita Mid-Continent Classic, Pony Express Championships, and Line Creek Fall Fling. Actual competitions will be dependent upon each hosting Club's final decision to hold their event. Points will be awarded for Beginner through Adult level events (Free Skate, Showcase, Jumps, Spins, Dance, and Compulsory) along with Compete USA events (Basic Elements, Basic Program, and Basic Skills Showcase). Skaters may enter one of two tracks. The Comprehensive Track will include all events a skater enters (Free Skate, Dance, Showcase Events, Jumps, Spins, and Compulsory). The Free Skate Track will only include singles Free Skate events (Long Program for Intermediate – Senior). Skaters must indicate the track in which they wish to compete when they sign up. Track selection cannot be changed after registration. Skaters competing in this Series will receive points for placement in each of the above events at the recognized competitions. At the end of the season, top point skaters will receive awards from MWFSC, and the club with the most skater-accumulated points will receive the Traveling Championship Trophy for that year. There is an

annual \$10 registration fee to enter the Championship Series, which can be paid at the first competition entered or by registering on the Council website at www.MWFSC.net.

II. ELIGIBILITY

Singles: Excel and Championship (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.

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:

- 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. 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.
- 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 Championship 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 Championship 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.
- Athlete Development events will be divided by age at the discretion of the Chief Referee.

EVENTS OFFERED:

- **U.S. Figure Skating Program Requirements:** usfigureskating.org --> Skate --> Compete --> Program Requirements
- **Compete USA Program Requirements:** learntoskateusa.com/competeusa
- **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 events@silverblades.org. [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	1 st Event Price	2 nd Event Price
Aspire Program Freeskate (Level 1 – Level 4)	CJS	\$170	\$70
Excel Free Skate (Pre-Preliminary and Higher)	IJS	\$170	\$70
Championship Short Program (Juvenile and Higher)	IJS	\$170	\$70

Championship Free Skate Program	IJS	\$170	\$70
Adult Free Skate (Adult Pre-Bronze – Master Jr/Sr)	IJS	\$170	\$70
Adult Beginner & High Beginner Free Skate	CJS	\$170	\$70
ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT	JUDGING	1st Event Price	2nd Event Price
Compulsory Moves (Level 1 - 8)	CJS	\$170	\$70
Jumps Challenge (Level 1 – 9)	CJS	\$170	\$70
Spins Challenge (Level 1 – 6)	CJS	\$170	\$70
SHOWCASE	JUDGING	1st Event Price	2nd Event Price
Emotional Performance (Preliminary – Senior, Adult)	CJS	\$170	\$70
Choreographic Artistry (Preliminary - Senior, Adult)	CJS	\$170	\$70
Lyrical Pop (Preliminary - Senior, Adult)	CJS	\$170	\$70
Character Performance (Preliminary - Senior, Adult)	CJS	\$170	\$70
Comedic Impressions (Preliminary - Senior, Adult)	CJS	\$170	\$70
Duets/Trios (Preliminary – Senior, Adult)	CJS	\$170	\$70
Theme Event	CJS	\$170	\$70
SOLO DANCE	JUDGING	1st Event Price	2nd Event Price
Solo Pattern Dance (not participating in series)	CJS	\$170	\$70
Solo Free Dance	CJS	\$170	\$70
Shadow Dance	CJS	\$170	\$70
Adult Solo Pattern Dance	CJS	\$170	\$70
Adult Solo Free Dance	CJS	\$170	\$70
COMPETE USA EVENTS	JUDGING	1st Event Price	2nd Event Price
Snowplow Sam-Basic 6 Program w/ Music	CJS	\$80	\$50
Adult 1-6 Program w/ Music	CJS	\$80	\$50
Snowplow Sam – Basic 6 Elements	CJS	\$80	\$50
Compete USA – Showcase	CJS	\$80	\$50
ADAPTIVE	JUDGING	1st Event Price	2nd Event Price
Special Olympics Badges 2 - 12	CJS	\$80	\$50
Special Olympics – Free Skate Program, Pairs & Dance	CJS	\$80	\$50
Skate United	CJS	\$80	\$50

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 events@silverblades.org.

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 [in](#) Members Only, click the blue "COACH" button. 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.

With EMS, coaches must be included within a skater/team's registration or updated through their EMS Skater Portal via "[My Coaches](#)" or "Team Personnel." All coaches declared at the time of registration will be included in the registration confirmation email. Note: There is no registration approval process within EMS as the data (membership and test level) is tied to the U.S. Figure Skating database. Non-compliant coaches will receive automated email reminders through the start of the competition.

EMS Coach Resources (not SYS or TOI):

[My Competitions](#)

[My Skaters](#)

[Coach Schedule](#)

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 VIA EMS (Singles and Partnered events only):

Online registrations will be accepted via [EMS](#). Payment must be made at the time of registration by credit card only. Each transaction includes a 3% Processing Fee.

Registration Deadline: Thursday, June 25, 2026 at 9:00PM ET

Late Registration Deadline: Tuesday, June 30, 2026 at 9:00PM ET + \$35 Late Fee (if offered)

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

1. Go to www.usfsaonline.org
2. Enter your U.S. Figure Skating or if Compete USA events are offered, your Learn to Skate USA® member number and password. 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 "**Heart of America Invitational**" from the list of nonqualifying competitions. If you need assistance completing your registration, contact productsupport@usfigureskating.org.

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.**

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

TEST CREDIT:

Skaters requesting test credit must select the option "Test Credit" during registration or through "Add Event" process within EMS. Late requests can be accommodated until **July 27, 2026**, by making a request via email to events@silverblades.org where the payment must be completed online through EMS prior to receiving a credential and competing. Skaters can pick up their completed test credit packet at the Registration desk approximately one hour after their event concludes. Test credit packets are \$20 and only available for Juvenile through Senior Well Balanced and Excel Free Skate events. On site requests are not guaranteed and will be at the discretion of the LOC.

Any athlete seeking IJS Test Credit is responsible for all steps outlined in the "For Athletes" section of the [IJS Protocol for Test Credit](#) document. This includes submitting your Test Credit Packet and coach statement to your club for official processing within the permissible timeline.

CRITIQUES/FEEDBACK:

Critiques will be offered for well-balanced Juvenile through Senior level short program and free skate events. The fee is \$20 per critique and must be requested during registration for the competition.

MUSIC SUBMISSION/UPLOAD:

EMS MUSIC UPLOAD: Competitors participating in events with music are required to upload their music to EMS no later than **Monday, July 13 at 9:00PM ET**. After this date, skaters will be locked out of this feature and subject to a **\$30 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.

DEADLINE: 7/13/2026 \$30 Late Fee

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

If you need assistance, email productsupport@usfigureskating.org

Competitors must also have available a backup copy of their competition music on a cell phone and it must be immediately available rinkside 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.

PLANNED PROGRAM CONTENT (PPC) SUBMISSION/UPLOAD – FOR IJS EVENTS ONLY:

EMS PLANNED PROGRAM CONTENT (PPC) – Competitors participating in IJS events are required to submit PPC in EMS no later than **Monday, July 13 at 9:00PM ET**. After this date, skaters will be locked out of this feature in EMS and subject to a **\$30 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.

DEADLINE: 7/13/2026 \$30 Late Fee

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

If you need assistance, email productsupport@usfigureskating.org

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®, Silver Blades FSC of Kansas City and AdventHealth Sports Park at Bluhawk 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:

AdventHealth Sports Park at Bluhawk
16201 Shawnee Dr
Overland Park, KS 66223
www.bluhawksports.com

AdventHealth Sports Park at Bluhawk features an 85' x 200' NHL regulation ice surface and is located at 69 Highway and 159th Street in Overland Park, Kansas. Bluhawk also offers onsite dining, concessions and a state of the art arcade and gaming destination. The Bluhawk shopping center adjacent to the rink offers multiple dining options and premier shopping. Check out www.bluhawk.com.

LOCKER ROOMS AND CHANGING AREAS:

Locker rooms and changing areas will not be available this competition. All athletes are expected to arrive at the arena ready (costumes, hair, make-up etc.). Athletes will be provided with an area to put skates on but changing will not be permitted in these spaces.

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 who are at least 8 years of age 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:

Official notices will be emailed to competitors through EMS and posted to the Silver Blades website at www.silverblades.org/heart-of-america. Skaters are expected to arrive 45 minutes prior to the scheduled time of their event. A tentative schedule of events will be posted prior to the competition. It is the responsibility of each competitor, parent and coach to check their emails and EMS notices frequently for any schedule changes and/or additional information pertaining to the competition.

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 tentatively begin Friday morning. Practice ice is not included with registration and must be purchased separately in EMS.

Practice ice information:

- All sessions are Unofficial Practice Ice (UPI)
- No music will be played
- 20-minute sessions
- Sessions may be separated by competition levels
- No props allowed

o Pre-Purchase: \$20/session, \$15/session Compete USA

o Open Sales: \$22/session, \$17/session Compete USA

o On-Site Sales (subject to availability): \$25/session, \$20/session Compete USA

Pre-Purchase: Practice ice credits may be purchased after participants complete their event registration, via the EMS Competition Portal. Skaters who purchase credits during the pre-purchase period will be able to select sessions during the selection period, after the schedule has been completed and posted.

[Click Here for a Pre-Purchase How-To Document](#)

- Open: May 15, 2026
- Close: June 30, 2026 at 9:00PM ET
- Maximum UPI credits per registered event: 1
- Cost per credit: \$20

Pre-Purchase Selection: After the close of entries and shortly after the competition schedule is published, skaters will receive an email with notice of the practice ice schedule and the date/time when pre purchased credits can be scheduled via EMS.

[Click Here for a Selection How-To Document](#)

- Open: TBD, pending schedule release
- Close: Monday, July 27, 2026 at 9:00PM ET

Open Sales: Practice Ice sessions will be available after the schedule has been published. Skaters will be able to purchase open sessions available to them.

[Click Here for an Open Sales How-To Document](#)

- Open: Tuesday, July 28 2026 at 8:00AM ET
- Close: Thursday, July 30 at 5:00PM ET
- Maximum UPI sessions per registered event: 2
- Cost per session: \$22

On-Site Sales:

After the close of open sales, practice ice may be purchased on-site only at the registration desk, subject to availability.

- Open: July 31, 2026
- Cost per UPI session: \$25

Practice ice sessions are not refundable and may not be transferred or sold to other skaters once purchased. We reserve the right to cancel or change any practice session.

ONSITE CHECK-IN:

Check-in will open one hour before the first event and run through the last event of the day. The registration desk will be located upon entrance to AdventHealth Sports Park. Please check-in promptly upon arrival.

EMS ADMIN: [Onsite FAQ](#), [Onsite Check-In](#) and [Onsite Practice Ice Sales](#)

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 given for 1st through 4th places. For all events, ribbons will be awarded for 5th and 6th places. All awards will be distributed immediately following the posting of results. Medals can be engraved for an additional cost.

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.

Video will be provided to all competitors and is included in the entry fees. Instructions for receiving your video will be sent the week before the competition starts. Note, per U.S. Figure Skating policy, photographing and/or recording of anyone other than your skater is strictly prohibited. No flash photography of the skaters on the ice is permitted. No tripods may be used, and no rink power sources may be accessed.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Competition website: www.silverblades.org/heart-of-america For questions, please contact the following individuals:

Competition Co-Chair:	Erin	Culbertson	eeculbertson@gmail.com
Competition Co-Chair:	Kellen	Geneva	kellengeneva@gmail.com
Chief Referee:	Angie	Simants	asimants@hotmail.com

