With competition season quickly approaching, we would like to help with understanding which events your skater is eligible for, what you need, and how to sign up.

**2023-2024 Competitions:**

Dec 1-3: Central South Dakota Ice Classic (Pierre) Deadline to register: Oct 26

Dec 8-9: 2023 9th Annual Watertown FSC Skate Games-Dakota Series Deadline to register: Nov 24

Jan 12-14: 8th Annual Palace Ice Festival (Mitchell) Deadline to register: Dec 8

Feb 16-18: 2024 Black Hills Gold Rush (Rapid City) Deadline to register: Jan 15, 2024

Feb 23-25: Omaha Winterfest

We have many new skater families, so I want to describe the basic concepts and how to go about learning more and/or entering your skater.

The competitions listed above are "non-qualifying competitions" which means, yes, they do have official judges and follow the Learn to Skate (Compete USA) and USFSA rules, but no—you can't get to the Olympics by doing well at these competitions.

All of our skaters are eligible to compete. There are events for snowplow sam to adult. The most common entries for beginner skaters are the Basic Elements (called compulsory in higher levels), and Basic Program with music.

Please note—these are I-minute programs so it is easy for the skater and coach to put together prior to January.

I will use Basic 2 as an example to show what is required. I have highlighted some differences

 BASIC ELEMENTS: NO music Perform in order listed below; skated on a half sheet of ice

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Level |  Time | Skating Rules/Standards |
| Basic 2 | 1:00 max | Forward one-foot glide (no variations) either footScooter pushes, 2-3 each footMoving snowplow stopTwo-foot turn in place, forward to backwardBackward swizzles, 6-8 in a row |

 BASIC PROGRAM: With music Skated on full sheet of ice; skater may use elements from a lower level

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Level | Time | Skating Rules/Standards |
| Basic 2 | 1:10 max | * Forward one-foot glide (no variations), either foot
* Scooter pushes, right & left foot, 2-3 each foot
* Moving snowplow stop
* Two-foot turn in place, forward to backward
* Backward swizzles, 6-8 in a row
 |

You can see that the same elements are used. The basic program adds the artistry of skating to music whereas the elements are focused on technique. You can search youtube to view examples of these programs.

There are also Showcase Events which are judged more for entertainment value than technical skating skills.

The following categories are available for Showcase events:

* Emotional Performance: portray a story, conflict, resolution...
* Character Performance: Impersonate a character from a movie, book etc
* Comedic Impressions: humorous
* Lyrical Pop: performed to a favorite song
* Duets/Trios: Theatrical/artistic performance (The Holiday Show duets will work here)
* Mini Production ensembles: Theatrical performance by 3-7 skaters
* Production ensembles: Theatrical performances by 8-30 skaters.

 Open-Inflatable: Theatrical performance by 1-2 skaters wearing a partial-body or full-body inflatable costume.

* *New this year—The Taylor Swift Event. Skate to your favorite Taylor Swift Song*
* Interpretive Event

Skaters sign up for this event but have no idea what the music will be until they hear/practice it during warm up ice. It is played twice for all skaters during warm up on the ice. Next, skaters go to another room and are brought out one at a time. They get to hear the music and practice on the full sheet of ice alone one more time, and then they perform it. The next skater is then brought out, gets to hear it one more time, then perform it. It is judged on originality, pattern, technical and music interpretation and expression. Spins and jumps must be appropriate for the competition level.

**Jumps/Spins Challenge**

**Jumps:** As skaters start learning jumps and spins, there are also “Jump Challenge” and “Spin Challenge.” The “Beginner” level for jumps must be able to do a waltz jump, ½ flip or ½ Lutz and a single Salchow. These are often on only ½ sheet of ice. All jumps may be repeated once during the time limit of 1:15 minutes. [Jumps Challenge](https://www.usfigureskating.org/sites/default/files/media-files/2023-24%20Jump%20Challenge%20Chart.pdf)

**Spins:** The lowest level of spins must do a one-foot upright spin (3 revolutions), and one-foot back upright spin (3 revs), and a sit spin (3 revs). If you can do these, you are eligible to compete them. Spins challenge is often on ½ sheet of ice. They may not be repeated! The time limit is 1:30 max. [Spins Challenge](https://www.usfigureskating.org/sites/default/files/media-files/2023-24%20Spin%20Challenge%20Chart.pdf)

These are the most common for beginner skaters. There are typically 6 or less entries per level, and each entry will receive a placing and an award. Refer to the competition announcement for the specific competition.

**What is needed to compete:**

1. Skater must pick out music if doing a Basic Program (with music) aka freeskate program.
2. Coach: will cut the music to the appropriate length and will develop a program that includes the required elements for the level.
3. Coach and private lesson costs are at skater's expense as are entry fees.
4. Competition attire: In general, "Clothing and make-up must be modest, dignified and appropriate for athletic competition." The showcase events have more specific rules for attire, props, and lip-synching. Refer to specific showcase rules. Reasonably priced skating dresses can be found on Amazon, and other figure skating stores.
5. Cost: Vary for each competition. Our competition for Basic skaters is $60 for the 1st event and $35 for each event after that.

We are here to help and make this as easy as possible. I know it seems intimidating at first, (or at least it was to me), but it is also very rewarding for the skaters. So, how to get started signed up?

Not all competitions utilize EntryEeze, but most of the South Dakoto competitions are on there.

To access competitions on Entryeeze: [www.entryeeze.com](http://www.entryeeze.com)

Instead of going to “find your club” on the right, go to the left side where it has “Skaters—Register for or login to a competition” and click on the blue “Start here…”. Select a state🡪 SD🡪 the competitions will be listed. Select the competition for which you would like to register.

You will need your Learn to Skate number. You will be asked to choose a 4-digit PIN. Keep these numbers as they will be used to register for all future competitions on EntryEeze. If you need help with your Learn to Skate number or help with registering, we are certainly glad to help.

The Snowplow Sam to Free Skate 6 events are under Compete USA Events. Your coach can also help you select the events appropriate for your skater.

The Compete USA Competition Manual can be accessed at: <https://learntoskateusa.com/CompeteUSA>

**Snowplow Sam thru Basic 6**

[Basic Elements (No Music) Snowplow Sam – Basic 6](https://www.usfigureskating.org/sites/default/files/media-files/Snowplow%20Sam%20-%20Basic%206%20Elements%202023-24_%20Sept%201-Dec%2031.pdf)

[Program with Music Snowplow Sam-Basic 6](https://www.usfigureskating.org/sites/default/files/media-files/Snowplow%20Sam%20-%20Basic%206%20program%202023-24_%20Sept%201-Dec%2031.pdf)

[Showcase Events](https://www.usfigureskating.org/sites/default/files/media-files/Showcase%202023-24_Sept%201-Dec%2031.pdf) (includes Interpretive)

[Jump Challenge](https://www.usfigureskating.org/sites/default/files/media-files/Jump%20Challenge%202023-24_%20Sept%201-Dec%2031.pdf)

[Spin Challenge](https://www.usfigureskating.org/sites/default/files/media-files/Spin%20Challenge%202023-24_%20Sept%201-Dec%2031.pdf)

**Pre-Free Skate and higher levels**

[Program with Music Pre-Free Skate-Free Skate 6](https://www.usfigureskating.org/sites/default/files/media-files/Pre%20Free%20-%20Free%20skate%206%20Program%202023-24_%20Sept%201-Dec%2031.pdf)

[Compulsory Moves (No Music) Pre-Free Skate-Free Skate 6](https://www.usfigureskating.org/sites/default/files/media-files/Pre%20Free%20-%20Free%20skate%206%20Compulsory%202023-24_%20Sept%201-Dec%2031.pdf)

[Excel Free Skate: Excel Beginner thru Preliminary Plus](https://www.usfigureskating.org/sites/default/files/media-files/Excel%20Free%20Skate%202023-24_%20Sept%201-Dec%2031.pdf)

[Well-Balanced Free Skate Program](https://www.usfigureskating.org/sites/default/files/media-files/Well%20Balanced%20Free%20Skate%202023-24_%20Sept%201-Dec%2031.pdf)

[Jump Challenge](https://www.usfigureskating.org/sites/default/files/media-files/Jump%20Challenge%202023-24_%20Sept%201-Dec%2031.pdf)

[Spin Challenge](https://www.usfigureskating.org/sites/default/files/media-files/Spin%20Challenge%202023-24_%20Sept%201-Dec%2031.pdf)

USFS Levels—for the higher level skaters and adults. I am not adding those links to prevent confusion.

As always, please call with questions. We are here to help!

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