



Hosted by Silver Blades FSC of Kansas City

May 31st – June 2nd, 2024

Kansas City Ice Center
19900 Johnson Drive in Shawnee, KS 66218

Registration Deadline: April 24, 2024

email: events@silverblades.org

website: www.silverblades.org

phone: 913.967.9041 / 816.289.6048

(No calls before 9 am or after 9 pm CT)

I. COMPETITION OVERVIEW

The 2024 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](#), 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.

EXCEL SERIES:

Heart of America is part of the 2024 Excel Series and will offer all Excel levels, Aspire – Senior.

- Excel Free Skate Events to be judged IJS: All Excel “PLUS” levels (Preliminary Plus, Pre-Juvenile Plus, Juvenile Plus, Intermediate Plus) and Pre-Juvenile through Senior levels.
- Excel Free Skate Events to be judged 6.0: Aspire 1-4, Pre-Preliminary and Preliminary.

Skaters must register through EMS to participate in the Excel Series prior to competing at designated competitions in order to have their points recorded and seen in standings. Excel skater registration will close on 3/1/2024.

Excel Series information can be found [here](#).

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.

EVENTS OFFERED:

Program requirements for the events listed below can be found here: usfigureskating.org – Skate – Compete – Program Requirements

This event will follow program requirements for the 2024-2025 season.

NOTE: Skaters may not enter both Excel and Well-Balanced Free Skate events at the same competition.

| SINGLES (Includes professional event video) | JUDGING | First Event | Additional Event |
|--|----------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Excel Free Skate (Pre-Juvenile – Senior, all “PLUS” levels) | IJS | \$155 | \$60 |
| Excel Free Skate (Aspire 1-4 – Preliminary) | 6.0 | \$155 | \$60 |
| Championship Combined: Short Program & Free Skate (intermediate – Senior) | IJS | \$195 | n/a |
| Well Balanced Short Program (Juvenile – Senior) | IJS | \$155 | \$60 |
| Well Balanced Free Skate (Pre-Juvenile – Senior) | IJS | \$155 | \$60 |
| Well Balanced Free Skate (Pre-Preliminary – Preliminary) | 6.0 | \$155 | \$60 |
| Adult Free Skate (Adult Silver – Master Jr/Sr) | IJS | \$155 | \$60 |
| Adult Free Skate (Adult Beginner – Bronze) | 6.0 | \$155 | \$60 |
| SPECIALTY (Includes professional event video) | JUDGING | First Event | Additional Event |
| Compulsory Moves (Aspire – Senior) | 6.0 | \$155 | \$60 |
| Excel Compulsory Moves (Excel Beginner – Excel Preliminary) | 6.0 | \$155 | \$60 |
| Adult Compulsory Moves (Adult Beginner – Masters Jr/Sr) | 6.0 | \$155 | \$60 |
| Jumps Challenge (Beginner – Pre-Preliminary) | 6.0 | \$155 | \$60 |
| Jumps Challenge (Preliminary – Senior) | IJS | \$155 | \$60 |
| Adult Jumps Challenge (Adult Beginner – Masters Jr/Sr) | 6.0 | \$155 | \$60 |
| Spins Challenge (Beginner – Pre-Preliminary) | 6.0 | \$155 | \$60 |
| Spins Challenge (Preliminary – Senior) | IJS | \$155 | \$60 |
| Adult Spins Challenge (Adult Beginner – Masters Jr/Sr) | 6.0 | \$155 | \$60 |
| SHOWCASE (Includes professional event video) | JUDGING | First Event | Additional Event |
| Emotional Performance (No Test – Senior, Adult) | CJS | \$155 | \$60 |
| Choreographic Artistry (Juvenile – Senior) | CJS | \$155 | \$60 |
| Lyrical Pop (No Test – Senior, Adult) | CJS | \$155 | \$60 |
| Character Performance (No Test – Senior, Adult) | CJS | \$155 | \$60 |
| Comedic Impressions (No Test – Senior, Adult) | CJS | \$155 | \$60 |
| Interpretive (No Test – Senior, Adult) | CJS | \$155 | \$60 |
| Duets (No Test – Senior, Adult) | CJS | \$155 | \$60 |
| Theme Event (No Test – Senior) | CJS | \$155 | \$60 |
| COMPETE USA EVENTS (Includes professional event video) | JUDGING | First Event | Additional Event |
| Snowplow Sam-Basic 6 Program w/ Music | 6.0 | \$70 | \$45 |
| Adult 1-6 Program w/ Music | 6.0 | \$70 | \$45 |
| Snowplow Sam – Basic 6 Elements | 6.0 | \$70 | \$45 |
| Adult 1-6 Compulsory Moves | 6.0 | \$70 | \$45 |
| Compete USA – Showcase | 6.0 | \$70 | \$45 |

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 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.

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.

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.

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 on 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:

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

Registration Deadline: 04/24/2024 at 11:59 PM ET/10:59 PM CT

Late Registration Deadline: 04/28/2024 at 11:59 PM ET/10:59 PM CT + \$25 Late Fee

*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
 - 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 "Heart of America Invitational" from the list of nonqualifying competitions.
 - a. If you need assistance completing your registration, contact productsupport@usfigureskating.org.

Late entries will be accepted only at the discretion of the chief referee, and a late fee of \$25.00 will be charged. Late/Change fee applies to each late entry or change – this is a per issue charge. This includes entry fees, planned program content forms, music, and event changes.

ENTRY FEES (including one professional event video):

| | |
|---|-------|
| Championship Event (combined short and long program) – <i>Intermediate – Senior</i> | \$195 |
| First Invitational Event (Well Balanced and Excel Formats) | \$155 |
| Duets/Trios (per team) | \$155 |
| Second and Each Additional Singles Event | \$60 |
| First Compete USA Event | \$70 |
| Second and Each Additional Compete USA Event | \$45 |
| Entry into Mid-West Figure Skating Council Championship Series | \$10 |
| Test Credit Packet (via online registration) | \$20 |
| Late/Change Fee (per issue) | \$25 |

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 May 29, 2023, 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.

MUSIC SUBMISSION/UPLOAD:

EMS MUSIC UPLOAD: Competitors participating in events with music are required to upload their music to EMS no later than **May 15, 2024 at 11:59 PM ET/10:59 PM CT**. After this date, skaters will be locked out of this feature and subject to a **\$25 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: May 15, 2024, 11:59 PM ET/10:59 PM CT - \$25 late fee applies for items submitted after this date.

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 **May 15, 2024 at 11:59 PM ET/10:59 PM CT**. After this date, skaters will be locked out of this feature in EMS and subject to a **\$25 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: May 15, 2024, 11:59 PM ET/10:59 PM CT - \$25 late fee applies for items submitted after this date.

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 Kansas City Ice 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.

IV. COMPETITION DETAILS

FACILITIES:

Kansas City Ice Center (KCIC)
19900 Johnson Dr
Shawnee, KS 66218
www.kcicecenter.com

KCIC features an 85' x 200' ice surface and is located midway between Hwy K7 and I-435, across from the Mid-America Sports Complex. KCIC also offers a snack bar with several restaurants nearby.

SKATER READY ROOMS:

Locker rooms and changing areas will not be available for 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. Doors will remain open at all times.

Skaters will not be permitted to change in public restrooms.

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 NOTICES:

Official notices will be emailed to competitors through EMS and posted to the Silver Blades website at <https://silverblades.org/heartofamerica/>. 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.

RESULTS:

Results will be posted online. The results link will be provided prior to the start of 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. **No practice ice is included with registration.** Practice



ice sessions are 20 minutes in length. All practice ice must be paid for in advance. **MUSIC WILL NOT BE PLAYED DURING PRACTICE ICE.**

Once your registration is completed, you will be able to access the Practice Ice/Schedule area within EMS to pre-purchase your credits. Skaters will receive an email in order to access practice ice records and select sessions after the schedule has been posted. **Pre-purchased practice ice is non-refundable and may not be sold to other skaters.** Additional practice ice sales may be available online after the schedule has been posted and pre-paid sessions have been selected.

| | |
|---|------|
| Practice Ice (purchased at time of registration) | \$15 |
| Practice Ice (purchased after the schedule has been posted) | \$17 |
| Practice Ice (purchased onsite competition) | \$20 |

EMS (SKATER) PRACTICE ICE RESOURCES:

[Pre-Purchase](#) and [Selection](#) | [Open Sales](#)

ONSITE CHECK-IN:

Check-in will open on one hour before the first event and run through the last event of the day. The check-in desk will be located upon entrance at Kansas City Ice Center. Please check-in promptly upon arrival.

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.

TEAM SCORING:

Points will be awarded, according to placement, to a skater's home club for each event skated. First place will receive 3 points, second place 2 points, and third place 1 point. The club with the highest point total (Silver Blades FSC is not eligible) will be awarded the High Points Team Trophy.

PHOTO/VIDEO:

Professional photos and videos will be provided by MKT Event Photography. One video is included with each event entry. Additional professional photography packages will be available online for a discounted pre-purchase price or can be purchased at the time of competition for full price.

Flash photography of skaters is not permitted. Individuals may only use handheld cameras and no rink power outlets may be used. **Note, per U.S. Figure Skating policy, photographing and/or recording of anyone other than your own skater is strictly prohibited.**

MERCHANDISE:

Apparel will be provided on site – details will be provided at a later date.



OFFICIAL HOTEL:

Hampton Inn

16555 Midland Dr., Shawnee, KS

913-248-1900

Rate: \$149.00/night

Book Here: [Hampton Inn Silver Blades](#)

ADDITIONAL HOTELS:

There are numerous hotel options within 6 miles of KCIC

Courtyard by Marriott

17250 Midland Dr., Shawnee, KS

Phone: 913-631-8800

Holiday Inn Express & Suites

17346 Midland Dr., Shawnee, KS

913-400-2509

Comfort Inn & Suites

16510 Midland Dr., Shawnee, KS

913-962-5555

Springhill Suites – Lenexa

17190 W. 87th St, Lenexa, KS

913-225-9955

Fairfield Inn & Suites

16550 Midland Dr., Shawnee, KS

844-631-0595

Hyatt Place

8741 Ryckert St., Lenexa, KS

913-742-7777

Please book early as there are multiple events happening around the area and hotel rooms will be limited.

Nearest Airport:

Kansas City International Airport

Code: MCI

Website: www.flykc.com

Kansas City International airport is a public airport located 15 miles northwest of downtown Kansas City and 32 miles northeast of Kansas City Ice Center.

