



*The Gardens Figure Skating Club of Maryland Announces its 23rd Annual*

## *May Day Open and Compete USA*

*IJS Critiques available*

2024 Competition Announcement

**May 9-11, 2024**

Gardens Figure Skating Club

The Gardens Ice House

13800 Old Gunpowder Road

Laurel, Maryland 20707

A Non-Qualifying Competition Sanctioned by **US Figure Skating**

Approved by US Figure Skating Compete USA

Website - [Gardensfsc.org](http://Gardensfsc.org)

GFSCMayDayOpen@gmail.com

## I. COMPETITION OVERVIEW

The May Day Open and Compete USA 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.

### SERIES INFORMATION:



**2024 Excel Series:** This competition has been approved as a 2023 Excel Series host. Skaters must register to participate in the Excel Series prior to competition at designated competitions in order to have their points recorded and seen in standings. [Excel Series Registration](#) | [Excel Series Information](#)

## 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 (If allowed at your competition): 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. (Note: if an athlete has passed the pre-preliminary singles test, they are no longer eligible for No Test or lower levels).
- 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](mailto:events@usfigureskating.org).

**All other singles and partner events (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:**

[Program requirements for the events listed below can be found here: usfigureskating.org – Skate – Compete – Program Requirements](https://usfigureskating.org)

This event will follow program requirements for the 2023-2024 season.

<b>SINGLES</b>	<b>JUDGING</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Event Price</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Event Price</b>
Excel Free Skate	IJS	\$200	\$125
Excel Free Skate (Aspire 1-Preliminary)	6.0	\$150	\$85
Well Balanced Short Program	IJS	\$200	\$125
Well Balanced Free Skate	IJS Preliminary and above; 6.0 below; 6.0 for Open Juvenile	\$200 for IJS and \$150 for 6.0	\$125 for IJS and \$85 for 6.0
Combined: Short Program & Free Skate	IJS	\$325	\$125 for IJS and \$85 for 6.0
Adult Free Skate (Adult Pre-Bronze – Master Jr/Sr)	IJS Adult Silver and above; 6.0 below	\$200 for IJS and \$150 for 6.0	\$125 for IJS and \$85 for 6.0
Adult Beginner & High Beginner Free Skate	6.0	\$150	\$85
<b>PAIRS</b>	<b>JUDGING</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Event Price</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Event Price</b>
Short Program	IJS	\$200	\$125
Free Skate	IJS	\$200	\$125
Combined Short Program & Free Skate	IJS	\$325	\$125 for IJS and \$85 for 6.0
Adult Pairs Free Skate	IJS Adult Silver and above; 6.0 below	\$200 for IJS and \$150 for 6.0	\$125 for IJS and \$85 for 6.0
<b>PARTNERED ICE DANCE</b>	<b>JUDGING</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Event Price</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Event Price</b>
Pattern Dance	IJS	\$200	\$125
Adult Pattern Dance	IJS	\$200	\$125
<b>SPECIALTY</b>	<b>JUDGING</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Event Price</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Event Price</b>
Compulsory Moves (Pre-pre-Senior)	6.0	\$150	\$85
Excel Compulsory Moves (Excel Beg.–Excel Prelim.)	6.0	\$150	\$85
Adult Compulsory Moves (Adult Beginner–Masters Jr/Sr)	6.0	\$150	\$85
Jumps Challenge (Beginner–Senior)	6.0	\$150	\$85
Adult Jumps Challenge (Adult Beginner–Masters Jr/Sr)	6.0	\$150	\$85
Spins Challenge (Beginner–Senior)	6.0	\$150	\$85
Adult Spins Challenge (Adult Beginner–Masters Jr/Sr)	6.0	\$150	\$85
Step Sequence (Pre-Pre.–Senior)	6.0	\$150	\$85
Adult Step Sequences (Adult Pre-Bronze–Masters Sr)	6.0	\$150	\$85

<b>SHOWCASE</b>	<b>JUDGING</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Event Price</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Event Price</b>
Emotional Performance (No Test – Senior, Adult)	6.0	\$150	\$85
Choreographic Artistry (No Test - Senior, Adult)	6.0	\$150	\$85
Lyrical Pop (No Test - Senior, Adult)	6.0	\$150	\$85
Character Performance (No Test - Senior, Adult)	6.0	\$150	\$85
Comedic Impressions (No Test - Senior, Adult)	6.0	\$150	\$85
Duets/Trios (No Test – Senior, Adult)	6.0	\$150	\$85
Interpretive	6.0	\$150	\$85
<b>SOLO DANCE</b>	<b>JUDGING</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Event Price</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Event Price</b>
Solo Pattern Dance (not participating in series)	IJS	\$200	\$125
Solo Open Pattern Dance	IJS	\$200	\$125
Solo Free Dance	IJS	\$200	\$125
Solo Combined Dance	IJS	\$200	\$125
Shadow Dance	IJS	\$200	\$125
Adult Solo Pattern Dance	IJS	\$200	\$125
Adult Solo Free Dance	IJS	\$200	\$125
<b>COMPETE USA EVENTS</b>	<b>JUDGING</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Event Price</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Event Price</b>
Snowplow Sam-Basic 6 Program w/ Music	6.0	\$60	\$25
Aspire 1-4 Program w/Music	6.0	\$60	\$25
Adult 1-6 Program w/ Music	6.0	\$60	\$25
Snowplow Sam – Basic 6 Elements	6.0	\$60	\$25
Aspire 1-4 Compulsory Moves	6.0	\$60	\$25

## **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](http://www.USFigureSkating.org/SkateSafe) or email [SkateSafe@USFigureSkating.org](mailto: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:

- [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](mailto:skatesafe@usfigureskating.org) for instructions or questions regarding parental consent.

## III. REGISTRATION INFORMATION

### ONLINE REGISTRATION VIA EMS :

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% transaction fee.

Registration Deadline: 3/31/2024 at 11:59 PM ET

Late Registration Deadline: 4/7/2024 at 11:59 PM ET + \$60 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](http://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](mailto:memberservices@usfigureskating.org).
3. Click EMS then "Competition Registration"
4. Choose "**May Day Open and Compete USA**" from the list of nonqualifying competitions.
5. You may also directly register using the following URL: <https://m.usfigureskating.org/competition/33885>
6. If you need assistance completing your registration, please contact [productsupport@usfigureskating.org](mailto: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:

NOTE: skaters may register for test credit via EMS.

### CRITIQUES:

Free IJS critiques will be available for IJS well-balanced freestyle first round events for juvenile through senior. First round events will receive a critique regardless of the final round, and there will be no critiques for final round events.

## MUSIC SUBMISSION/UPLOAD:

EMS MUSIC UPLOAD: Competitors participating in events with music are required to upload their music to EMS no later than **April 10, 2024 at 11:59 PM ET**. 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.

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

*If you need assistance, email [productsupport@usfigureskating.org](mailto: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 **April 10, 2024 at 11:59 PM ET**. 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.

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

*If you need assistance, please email [productsupport@usfigureskating.org](mailto:productsupport@usfigureskating.org)*

## REFUND POLICY

Entry fees will not be refunded after entry deadline unless no competition exists or the event is canceled by the LOC. There will be no refunds for medical withdrawals.

## LIABILITY:

U.S. Figure Skating, Learn to Skate USA, Gardens Figure Skating Club and the Gardens Ice House 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:

The competition will be held at:

The Gardens Ice House  
13800 Old Gunpowder Road  
Laurel, Maryland 20707  
(301) 953-0100  
[www.thegardensicehouse.com](http://www.thegardensicehouse.com)

Snack bar facilities are located at the rink. The competition will be held on the Olympic ice surface (200' x 100') and up to two NHL ice surfaces (200' x 85').

### **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 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:**

The Gardens FSC website is [www.gardensfsc.org](http://www.gardensfsc.org). It is the responsibility of each competitor, parent and coach to check the website frequently for any schedule changes and/or additional information pertaining to the competition. 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 information will be available on the [gardensfsc.org](http://gardensfsc.org) website after the schedule is posted.

### **ONSITE CHECK-IN:**

Check-in will open on Thursday, May 9, 2024 at approximately 3 PM.

### **AWARDS:**

Awards will be distributed with a traditional ceremony or can be picked up at the check-in desk. All Compete USA skaters are invited to participate in the medal ceremony.

### **VOLUNTEER INFO:**

We always need and appreciate volunteers, especially medical professionals. Please refer to the May Day page of [www.gardensfsc.org](http://www.gardensfsc.org) for more sign up information. For questions, please contact the competition chairs, Dorothy Jones-Davis and Jordan Graham at [GFSCMayDayOpen@gmail.com](mailto:GFSCMayDayOpen@gmail.com)

### **VOLUNTEER COMPLIANCE:**

Reminder: Compliant positions at all U.S. Figure Skating events include key LOC members, locker room monitors and ALL medical event personnel. [Click here for volunteer compliance information.](#)



**PHOTO/VIDEO:**

Vision Photo & Video, LLC will provide video services. Their contact information is  
335 Maple Place  
Keyport, NJ 07735  
(732) 888-2786  
[www.visionphotovideo.com](http://www.visionphotovideo.com).

Live video streaming of each rink may be available directly through the Gardens Ice House. Please contact the Gardens Ice House directly for more information.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

There are three major airports in the Washington, DC region: [Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport](#) (airport code: DCA), [Washington Dulles International Airport](#) (airport code: IAD) and [Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport](#) (airport code: BWI).

If you would like to serve as a vendor or sponsor, please contact the Competition Chairs, Dorothy Jones-Davis and Jordan Graham at [GFSCMayDayOpen@gmail.com](mailto:GFSCMayDayOpen@gmail.com)

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Competition website: <https://gardensfsc.org/club-events/#mayday>

For questions, please contact the following individuals:

Competition Co-Chair:	Dorothy Jones-Davis	GFSCMayDayOpen@gmail.com	615-397-3232
Competition Co-Chair:	Jordan Graham	mccreary.jordan@gmail.com	240-601-3573
Chief Referee:	John O'Connor	j_patrick_oconnor@yahoo.com	215-264-1260
Practice Ice Chair:	Candice Kriner	Intncnb@aol.com	301-502-1556