

**Middle & High School Team
Challenge Events**

at the

6th Annual

***October
Skatefest***

A Gardens Competitive Series Competition

Presented by Gardens Sports Limited

and



and

GARDENS
FIGURE
SKATING
CLUB
LAUREL
MARYLAND

Friday, October 17th, 2025

**The Gardens Ice House
13800 Old Gunpowder Road, Laurel MD 20707
www.thegardensicehouse.com**

I. COMPETITION OVERVIEW

The 2025 October Skatefest Middle & High School Team Challenge 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, or an individual member in accordance with the current rulebook. For non-U.S. citizens, please refer to the rulebook for more information.

II. ELIGIBILITY

ELIGIBILITY & TEAM FORMATION

All skaters must be enrolled as a full-time student as defined by the institution that they attend, grades 9-12 (High School) or grades 6-8 (Middle School), as per state guidelines. This includes traditional, online, and home-schooled students.

A minimum of two (2) skaters is required to form a team. Team members may include skaters of any gender. Skaters do not have to be at the same test or competitive level. Athletes may compete either for the high school they are attending, or as a high school collaborative, defined as follows:

- Athletes from a single school, representing that school, OR
- Athletes representing two or more area high schools combining to form a team.

TEAM REPRESENTATION

Competitors may not represent more than ONE high school skating team at one time.

TEAM MANEUVER EVENTS

Athletes may “skate up” one level but they may not compete on a team at a lower level than the highest Singles test they have passed.

ARTISTIC FREE SKATE EVENTS

Level will be determined by the highest singles test passed. Skaters may compete at the highest level they have passed, or “skate up” up to one level higher, BUT not both levels in the same event during the same competition.

EVENTS OFFERED:

- **U.S. Figure Skating Program Requirements:** usfigureskating.org --> Skate --> Compete --> Program Requirements
- **Compete USA Program Requirements:** learntoskateusa.com/competeusa
- **Skate United:** For any Skate United (S.U.) Athlete, please have them register for their appropriate level under the “standard” option. Once the registration is complete, the following form must be submitted to the competition chair via email at gregm@thegardensicehouse.com.
 - [Click here for the Skate United Athlete Form.](#)
- **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 gregm@thegardensicehouse.com.
 - [Click here for more information about S.A.Ms.](#)

MIDDLE SCHOOL TEAM MANEUVERS	JUDGING	1st Event Price per Team	Additional Cost per skater
Level A Team Maneuvers	<i>6.0</i>	\$95	\$5
Level B Team Maneuvers	<i>6.0</i>	\$95	\$5
Level C Team Maneuvers	<i>6.0</i>	\$95	\$5
Level D Team Maneuvers	<i>6.0</i>	\$95	\$5
HIGH SCHOOL TEAM MANEUVERS	JUDGING	1st Event Price per Team	Additional Cost per skater
Level A Team Maneuvers	<i>6.0</i>	\$95	\$5
Level B Team Maneuvers	<i>6.0</i>	\$95	\$5
Level C Team Maneuvers	<i>6.0</i>	\$95	\$5
Level D Team Maneuvers	<i>6.0</i>	\$95	\$5
ARTISTIC FREE SKATE	JUDGING	1st Event Price	2nd Event Price
Artistic Free Skate	<i>6.0</i>	<i>\$68</i>	<i>N/A</i>

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 gregm@thegardensicehouse.com.

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.

TEAM SERVICE PERSONNEL

Teams are permitted a maximum of two team service personnel. Team service personnel must have a current U.S. Figure Skating or Learn to Skate USA® membership, a green lighted background check and completed SafeSport™ Training. All compliance requirements must be met at the time of check-in to access the competition, no exceptions. Team service personnel is defined as those indicated as a team manager and/or team service personnel planning to attend the competition with the team.

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

Visit www.entryeeze.com to register.

Deadline Date: Entry deadline is **September 30th, 2025**. There will be **no refunds after the close of entries** except events canceled by the Local Organizing Committee (rule #3235).

Late entries may be accepted at the discretion of the competition committee and may require an additional \$30.00 late fee. We reserve the right to combine groups when applicable and limit the number of entries on a first come, first served basis. Single entrants will be judged against the test standard. Walk in registration will not be accepted. Refunds will not be issued due to weather conditions.

Payment: Visa and MasterCard accepted

Entry Fees: \$68.00 first event
\$33.00 for each additional event.
\$95.00 High School and Middle School Team event, plus \$5 per skater

Please Note: There will also be a \$30.00 change of event fee if you need to alter your event after the close of entries.

Applications may NOT be mailed. All entries must be made through our competition page at www.entryeeze.com.

MUSIC SUBMISSION/UPLOAD:

Music must be uploaded via Entryeeze 1 week prior to the competition. It is the responsibility of the skater to have a backup CD in your possession. Competition officials are not responsible for the condition of your CD.

IV. COMPETITION DETAILS

FACILITIES

The competition will be held at:

The Gardens Ice House
13800 Old Gunpowder Road, Laurel MD 20707
www.thegardensicehouse.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 a “ready room” 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](#).

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. The competition schedule will be posted on our page at <http://www.entryeeze.com> and at www.thegardensicehouse.com as soon as possible after the close of entries. Schedules will not be mailed.

PRACTICE ICE

Practice ice will be provided, if time allows, and will be determined after the close of entries and announced on the website.

ONSITE CHECK-IN & REGISTRATION DESK

The registration desk will be open throughout the competition. Skaters MUST check in at least one hour prior to the event. It is not unusual for a warm-up for more than one event to be combined. In addition, events frequently run early, so BE READY with skates on before the event is called!

AWARDS

All events will be final rounds. Medals will be awarded to the top 3 finishers. Awards Ceremonies will be held throughout the competition. Ceremony times will be posted on the competition schedule.

Team Points:

Team points will be calculated by the Competition Accountant utilizing the accounting software.

Gardens Competitive Series:

This competition is a part of the 2025-2026 Gardens Competitive series. All competitors will receive points for their respective placements which will be complied for their respective team/clubs. Point totals will be announced at the conclusion of each competition in our series with a Team Trophy being awarded at the end of the season to the team with the highest cumulative point totals for the series.

COMMUNICATIONS

Any adjustments, modifications, or changes must be communicated by the Team Coach and the Competition Chair.

Protest:

Any protest must be made in writing to the competition chair by a Team Coach prior to the posting of final scores. Upon receiving notice of protest the Competition Chair will make any appropriate considerations and render a final decision in accordance in the spirit of the Competition Series. All decisions will be final.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Competition website: www.thegardensicehouse.com

For questions, please contact the following individuals:

Competition Chair:	Greg Maddalone	gregm@thegardensicehouse.com	301-953-0100
Chief Referee:	Ellyn Kestnbaum	ekestnbaum@yahoo.com	202-320-2646
Additional Contact:	Candy Kriner	lnncnb@aol.com	(301) 502-1556

2025-26 High School – Team Maneuvers

	Jumps	Spins	Edge or Skating Skill Sequence
A <u>Skaters may not have passed higher than Preliminary Singles</u> <i>(This level is best suited for skaters that compete Aspire through Preliminary Excel)</i>	1. Waltz jump 2. Mazurka 3. Salchow/toe loop combination 4. Optional: Single Loop	1. Two-foot spin (min 3 revs) 2. Forward upright one-foot spin (min 3 revs) 3. Forward sit spin 4. Optional: Backward upright spin	1. Forward Power Three Turns (as performed on Preliminary Skating Skills) 2. Basic forward spiral on a straight line (no variations), right or left 3. Choreographic step sequence – ½ ice length 4. Optional: Backward one-foot glides, both feet
B <u>Skaters may not have passed higher than Pre-Silver Singles</u> <i>(This level is best suited for skaters that compete Pre-Juvenile through Intermediate Excel)</i>	1. Any single jump 2. Waltz jump/loop jump combination 3. Split jump 4. Optional: Single Lutz	1. Forward upright spin (optional free foot position, min 5 revs) 2. Forward or backward camel spin (optional free foot position, min 5 revs) 3. Combination spin, at least one change of position. (no fly, no change of foot, min 6 revs total) 4. Optional: Backward sit spin (min 3 revs)	1. Forward OR Backward Power Circle (as performed on Bronze Skating Skills) 2. Forward to Backward Lunge 3. Choreographic sequence (at least 2 different movements REQUIRED, pattern not restricted, see Rule 6105)* 4. Optional: Five-Step Mohawk Sequence (as performed on Pre-Bronze Skating Skills)

C <small>MEMBER OF</small> <u>No test restrictions</u> <i>(This level is best suited for skaters that compete Novice through Senior Excel)</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Single axel 2. Any double jump 3. Any 3 jump combination, consisting of single or double jumps 4. Optional: Double Lutz 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Forward upright spin to back upright spin (variations permitted, min 6 revs each foot) 2. Flying spin (any position, no change of foot, variations permitted, min 5 revs) 3. Combination spin (at least 1 change of position, change of foot optional, may fly, min 10 revs total) 4. Optional: Layback spin (variations permitted, min 5 revs) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Spiral Sequence (as performed for Pre-Silver Skating Skills) 2. Short edge element (NO change of position, NO change of edge, max 7 second hold, see Rule 8375 for acceptable elements) 3. Choreographic sequence (at least 2 different movements REQUIRED, pattern not restricted, see Rule 6105)* 4. Optional: Backward Rocker Choctaw Sequence (as performed for Silver Skating Skills)
D <u>No test restrictions</u> <i>(This level is best suited for skaters that compete Intermediate through Senior Well-Balanced Singles)</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Double axel 2. Combination jump (double/double OR triple/double) 3. Double or triple loop immediately preceded by connecting steps 4. Optional: Double or Triple Lutz 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Camel spin w/ EITHER difficult entry OR difficult exit (NO fly, change of foot required, variations permitted, min 6 revs each foot) 2. Flying Sit Spin (variations permitted, NO change of foot, min 5 revs) 3. Combination spin (change of foot REQUIRED, change of direction permitted, fly permitted, all 3 basic positions REQUIRED, min 2 revs per position, min 8 revs TOTAL) 4. Optional: Forward upright spin to back upright spin (optional free foot position, min 8 revs each foot) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. BO Power Dbl 3-Turns to Power Dbl Inside Rockers (as performed for Gold Skating Skills) 2. Twizzle sequence (max 3 twizzles, change of direction REQUIRED, change of foot REQUIRED, optional free foot position, no more than 3 steps between twizzles) 3. Choreographic sequence (at least 2 different movements REQUIRED, pattern not restricted, see Rule 6105)* 4. Optional: Straight Line Step Sequence (as performed for Pre-Gold Skating Skills)

*Step/choreographic sequences should be distinct from the step sequence elements found on skating skills test.



2025-2026 High School - Artistic Free Skate Rules

The primary focus of the event will be on the skater's ability to artistically express and present a complete composition while demonstrating technical skills.

- **Strong emphasis** will be on five specifically defined components evaluating the artistry of each program and skater. These components are:
 - Expression of the music's character/feeling and rhythm.
 - Finesse, reflect the details and nuances of the music
 - Originality of composition, *creativity!*
 - Multi-dimensional use of space and design of movements
 - Involvement of the skater physically, emotionally and intellectually as they deliver the intent of the music and composition.
- Skaters will skate to the music of their choice. Vocal music is permitted at all levels.
- Level will be determined by the highest singles test passed. Skaters may compete at the highest level they have passed, or "skate up" up to one level higher.
- Unintended falls, poorly executed skating elements and obvious losses of control will negatively affect the competitor's marks.
- Technical difficulty is not rewarded in artistic free skate.
- Utilization of space and time: good ice coverage and pattern should be attained; program highlights should be spread through the entire performance.

The 6.0 judging system will be used. One mark will be awarded by each judge for each performance. No technical skating mark will be awarded.

No props are permitted for this event.

Artistic Free Skate is not to be judged as a gendered event.

TIMING: Timing of the program will begin with the first purposeful movement of any competitor. For performances that are over the time allotment, standard time deductions will apply to the score as per U.S. Figure Skating's current rulebook (Rule 6914 G.). Timing will cease when the last skater comes to a complete stop.

Technical requirements by level are included on the following page.



Artistic Free Skate Levels

Level	Time	Jumps	Spins	Step Sequence
Level A <i>(Aspire through Pre-Preliminary singles test levels)</i>	1:40 max	3 jumps of choice (may include 1 two-jump combination or sequence)	1 spin of choice	1 choreographic step sequence (covering at least half the ice)
Level B <i>(Preliminary & Pre-Bronze singles test levels)</i>	2:00 max	3 jumps of choice (may include 1 two-jump combination or sequence)	1 spin of choice	1 choreographic step sequence (full ice coverage)
Level C <i>(Bronze - Silver singles test levels)</i>	2:10 max	3 jumps of choice (may include 1 two-jump combination or sequence)	2 spins of choice	1 choreographic step sequence (full ice coverage)
Level D <i>(Pre-Gold & Gold singles test levels)</i>	2:40 max	3 jumps of choice (may include 2 two-jump combinations or sequences)	2 spins of choice	1 choreographic step sequence (full ice coverage)

2025-26 Middle School – Team Maneuvers

	Jumps	Spins	Edge or Skating Skill Sequence
A <i>Skaters may not have passed higher than Preliminary Singles</i> <i>(This level is best suited for skaters that compete Aspire through Preliminary Excel)</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Waltz jump Mazurka Salchow/toe loop combination Optional: Single Loop 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Two-foot spin (min 3 revs) Forward upright one-foot spin (min 3 revs) Forward sit spin Optional: Backward upright spin 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Forward Power Three Turns (as performed on Preliminary Skating Skills) Basic forward spiral on a straight line (no variations), right or left Choreographic step sequence – ½ ice length Optional: Backward one-foot glides, both feet
B <i>Skaters may not have passed higher than Pre-Silver Singles</i> <i>(This level is best suited for skaters that compete Pre-Juvenile through Intermediate Excel)</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Any single jump Waltz jump/loop jump combination Split jump Optional: Single Lutz 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Forward upright spin (optional free foot position, min 5 revs) Forward or backward camel spin (optional free foot position, min 5 revs) Combination spin, at least one change of position. (no fly, no change of foot, min 6 revs total) Optional: Backward sit spin (min 3 revs) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Forward OR Backward Power Circle (as performed on Bronze Skating Skills) Forward to Backward Lunge Choreographic sequence (at least 2 different movements REQUIRED, pattern not restricted, see Rule 6105)* Optional: Five-Step Mohawk Sequence (as performed on Pre-Bronze Skating Skills)

C <small>MEMBER OF</small> <u>No test restrictions</u> <i>(This level is best suited for skaters that compete Novice through Senior Excel)</i>	1. Single axel 2. Any double jump 3. Any 3 jump combination, consisting of single or double jumps 4. Optional: Double Lutz	1. Forward upright spin to back upright spin (variations permitted, min 6 revs each foot) 2. Flying spin (any position, no change of foot, variations permitted, min 5 revs) 3. Combination spin (at least 1 change of position, change of foot optional, may fly, min 10 revs total) 4. Optional: Layback spin (variations permitted, min 5 revs)	1. Spiral Sequence (as performed for Pre-Silver Skating Skills) 2. Short edge element (NO change of position, NO change of edge, max 7 second hold, see Rule 8375 for acceptable elements) 3. Choreographic sequence (at least 2 different movements REQUIRED , pattern not restricted, see Rule 6105)* 4. Optional: Backward Rocker Choctaw Sequence (as performed for Silver Skating Skills)
D <u>No test restrictions</u> <i>(This level is best suited for skaters that compete Intermediate through Senior Well-Balanced Singles)</i>	1. Double axel 2. Combination jump (double/double OR triple/double) 3. Double or triple loop immediately preceded by connecting steps 4. Optional: Double or Triple Lutz	1. Camel spin w/ EITHER difficult entry OR difficult exit (NO fly, change of foot required, variations permitted, min 6 revs each foot) 2. Flying Sit Spin (variations permitted, NO change of foot, min 5 revs) 3. Combination spin (change of foot REQUIRED , change of direction permitted, fly permitted, all 3 basic positions REQUIRED , min 2 revs per position, min 8 revs TOTAL) 4. Optional: Forward upright spin to back upright spin (optional free foot position, min 8 revs each foot)	1. BO Power Dbl 3-Turns to Power Dbl Inside Rockers (as performed for Gold Skating Skills) 2. Twizzle sequence (max 3 twizzles, change of direction REQUIRED , change of foot REQUIRED , optional free foot position, no more than 3 steps between twizzles) 3. Choreographic sequence (at least 2 different movements REQUIRED , pattern not restricted, see Rule 6105)* 4. Optional: Straight Line Step Sequence (as performed for Pre-Gold Skating Skills)

*Step/choreographic sequences should be distinct from the step sequence elements found on skating skills test.



2025-2026 Middle School - Artistic Free Skate Rules

The primary focus of the event will be on the skater's ability to artistically express and present a complete composition while demonstrating technical skills.

- **Strong emphasis** will be on five specifically defined components evaluating the artistry of each program and skater. These components are:
 - Expression of the music's character/feeling and rhythm.
 - Finesse, reflect the details and nuances of the music
 - Originality of composition, *creativity!*
 - Multi-dimensional use of space and design of movements
 - Involvement of the skater physically, emotionally and intellectually as they deliver the intent of the music and composition.
- Skaters will skate to the music of their choice. Vocal music is permitted at all levels.
- Level will be determined by the highest singles test passed. Skaters may compete at the highest level they have passed, or "skate up" up to one level higher.
- Unintended falls, poorly executed skating elements and obvious losses of control will negatively affect the competitor's marks.
- Technical difficulty is not rewarded in artistic free skate.
- Utilization of space and time: good ice coverage and pattern should be attained; program highlights should be spread through the entire performance.

The 6.0 judging system will be used. One mark will be awarded by each judge for each performance. No technical skating mark will be awarded.

No props are permitted for this event.

Artistic Free Skate is not to be judged as a gendered event.

TIMING: Timing of the program will begin with the first purposeful movement of any competitor. For performances that are over the time allotment, standard time deductions will apply to the score as per U.S. Figure Skating's current rulebook (Rule 6914 G.). Timing will cease when the last skater comes to a complete stop.

Technical requirements by level are included on the following page.



Artistic Free Skate Levels

Level	Time	Jumps	Spins	Step Sequence
Level A (Aspire through Pre-Preliminary singles test levels)	1:40 max	3 jumps of choice (may include 1 two-jump combination or sequence)	1 spin of choice	1 choreographic step sequence (covering at least half the ice)
Level B (Preliminary & Pre-Bronze singles test levels)	2:00 max	3 jumps of choice (may include 1 two-jump combination or sequence)	1 spin of choice	1 choreographic step sequence (full ice coverage)
Level C (Bronze - Silver singles test levels)	2:10 max	3 jumps of choice (may include 1 two-jump combination or sequence)	2 spins of choice	1 choreographic step sequence (full ice coverage)
Level D (Pre-Gold & Gold singles test levels)	2:40 max	3 jumps of choice (may include 2 two-jump combinations or sequences)	2 spins of choice	1 choreographic step sequence (full ice coverage)