



42nd Annual



Margaret Faulkner Springtime Invitational

Hosted by the Ann Arbor Figure Skating Club

May 14-17, 2026

Registration via [EMS](#) - Registration Deadline: April 1, 2026 at 11:59 PM EDT
(\$15 early bird discount if you register by March 15th, 2026)

EMS upload deadline for Music and Planned Program Content: May 8, 2025 at 11:59 PM EDT

Online purchase of practice ice sessions will be available through EMS

Chief Referee Emerita: Margaret Faulkner

LOC Chair: Ann Dougherty

Chief Referee: Pine Kopka-Ross; Dance Referee: Carol Wooley

Chief Scoring Official: Beth Roberts; Chief Scoring System Technician: Calvin Carson

IJS for Singles & Pairs Championship Track Preliminary and Above, Solo & Partnered Dance, Excel Plus, Excel Juvenile-Senior Events, and all Jumps and Spins events. CJS for all Showcase events.

Go to www.annarborfsc.org for more information.

CONTACTS

- Ann Dougherty, Competition Chair:
apdoug829@gmail.com | 734.417.2727
- Pine Kopka-Ross, Chief Referee:
kopkap@umich.edu | 231.883.2748
- Melissa Sperling, Practice Ice Chair
springtimePI@gmail.com 734-323-5043

National Solo Dance Series Information:

- 2026 [NSD Series Website](#)

Excel Series information:

- Skaters may not enter both a Well-Balanced Free Skate event and an Excel Free Skate event at the same non-qualifying competition.
- 2026 [Excel Series Information](#)

LOCATION

Bigby Coffee Ice Cube—Ann Arbor (three-rink facility with ice surfaces — 200' x 100' and 200' x 85') 2121 Oak Valley Dr., Ann Arbor, MI 48103; Rink Phone: 734.213.1600. AAFSC Office Phone: 734.213.6768. Lockers rooms: 8; full snack bar. Upper lobby for spectators; lower lobby for skates and coaches. Practice ice rink is very cold.

SANCTIONING

This non-qualifying competition is sanctioned by U.S. Figure Skating (#36687) and Skate Canada (#22006-2026). The Margaret Faulkner Springtime 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, 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

This competition has been approved by U.S. Figure Skating as part of the 2026 National Solo Dance Series and the 2026 Excel Competition Series.

ELIGIBILITY & TEST LEVEL

Singles: Excel and Championship Track (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 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.

Entrants in Spins or Jumps may enter any level at or above that which they qualify but may not skate down in any event. Not all events need to be skated at the same level.

Age restrictions/requirements: Championship Track Singles free skate events (well-balanced program) have the following age requirements: **Age as of the July 1 that immediately precedes the competition.**

- Pre-Preliminary: none
- Preliminary: Girls–12 years or younger; Boys–13 years or younger
- Pre-Juvenile: Girls – 12 years or younger; Boys – 13 years or younger
- Juvenile: Girls – 12 years or younger; Boys – 13 years or younger
- Intermediate: must be under the age of 18
- Adults must be 21 years or older

Skaters entering pre-juvenile and lower events will be divided as closely as possible by age and gender should the number of entries warrant more than one group.

REFEREE

The decision of the Chief Referee on all matters will be final. The Chief Referee, along with the LOC, shall have the right to exclude any person(s) whose behavior is unruly, unsportsmanlike, or does not comply with U.S. Figure Skating, SkateSafe, or the Ann Arbor Figure Skating Club's (LOC) policies. Additionally, the Referee reserves the right to combine or split events to best accommodate the number of entries and schedule of events.

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. 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.

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.

A MAXIMUM of two coaches may be credentialed per registered athlete. Please note that no coach will be allowed to enter the facility without a credential.

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 for instructions or questions regarding parental consent.

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.

COMPETITION REGISTRATION

Entries will be accepted via EMS with credit card only. Each transaction includes a 3% transaction fee.

Registration Deadline:

April 1, 2026 at 11:59PM EDT

Late entries may be accepted, if space permits, until April 5th for an additional \$50 fee.

1. Go to www.usfsaonline.org
2. Enter your U.S. Figure Skating 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 "42nd Annual Margaret Faulkner Springtime Invitational" from the list of non-qualifying competitions.
 - a. If you need assistance completing your registration, contact productsupport@usfigureskating.org.

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

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.

FEES

All-Inclusive fees include video download for events with music. Entry fees are per person/team, per event. Prices are listed within the Events Offered grid on page 5. Events are priced in the following order: 1. Combined; 2. By IJS; 3. By 6.0. Online payment via credit card is the ONLY accepted form of payment. Fees for missed deadlines and additional charges

- **Late entry fee** \$50
- **Late Music** \$50 (\$75 within 3 days of event)
- **Late PPC** \$50 (\$75 within 3 days of event)
- **Change of event fee** \$20 after entry deadline
- **Contested credit card fee** \$50

Payment of the fee will be required before skaters are allowed to participate in practice ice or events.

REFUND POLICY

Entry fees will not be refunded after the entry deadline unless no competition exists or the event is canceled. There will be no refunds for medical withdrawals. However, a partial credit may be granted for the next year's competition entry fee -- accompanying physician's note required. Online processing fees are not refundable.

SCHEDULE

The competition and practice ice schedule will be set by the Chief Referee in coordination with the LOC after the close of entries and is subject to change. Please note that competitors may be scheduled on any day or time during the announced dates of the competition. Notification of competition and practice ice times, schedules and announcements will be sent to your email through EMS. See page 6 for tentative block schedule. Listing a valid email address when you register online is required! Competition information and updates can be found at www.annarborfsc.org.

MUSIC SUBMISSION

Competitors participating in events with music are required to upload their music to EMS **no later than May 7th @ 11:59PM EDT**. After this date, skaters will be locked out of this feature and subject to a \$50 late fee or \$75 if within 3 days of the event. 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 credentials

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

If you need assistance, email

productsupport@usfigureskating.org

All music must meet the following criteria. If you have questions about what format you have, please contact your coach and get a new version of your music that meets the criteria listed below:

- File Format: MP3
- Bit Rate: 192 kbps or higher and Sample Rate: 44,100 kHz
- Leaders and trailers (the silence or "dead space" before and after the actual start and end of the program music) may not exceed two (2) seconds. We prefer that there be NO leaders or trailers at all. Excessive leaders and trailers may disrupt the playing of the music during competition.

Competitors must also bring a copy of their competition music on CD or mobile phone as a backup in case of technical difficulties and must be available rink side during the competition. Only CDs (standard CD-R format only) and/or mobile phones will be accepted for backups and CDs must be clearly marked with the competitor's name, event, and running time. If you provide a mobile phone, please note that you must also supply an adaptor for a stereo 1/8-inch plug.

PLANNED PROGRAM CONTENT (PPC)

Competitors participating in IJS events other than Jumps, Spins, and Pattern Dance are required to submit PPC in EMS **no later than May 7th @ 11:59PM EDT**. After this date, skaters will be locked out of this feature in EMS and subject to a \$50 late fee or \$75 if within 3 days of the event. 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.

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

If you need assistance, email
productsupport@usfigureskating.org

LIABILITY

U.S. Figure Skating, Ann Arbor Figure Skating Club and Bigby Coffee Ice Cube – Ann Arbor 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.

ONSITE CHECK-IN

Onsite check-in will be open Thursday through Sunday one hour before the start of competition through the end of competition each day. Skaters should check in at least one hour before their first practice or event.

LOCKER ROOMS AND CHANGING AREAS

Locker rooms and changing areas at U.S. Figure Skating competitive events are for athletes only, will be labeled with regard to specific use and where identified will be gender specific. An exception can be made for athletes under 11 years old that will allow for one parent of the same sex to assist their child immediately prior to and after their skating event(s). Please review the Locker Room and Changing Area Policy in the [SkateSafe® Handbook](#).

VIDEOS, PHOTOS

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.

All events are recorded by KrPhotogs Photography LLC, found at www.KrPhotogs.com, and will be available on their website. Skaters will receive a video of each of their music events (but without music per USFS rules). Action photos will also be taken by KrPhotogs and will be available for preview and purchase online. Skaters will receive an email from KrPhotogs after registration is complete with more details. Note, [per U.S. Figure Skating policy](#), photographing and/or recording of anyone other than your own skater is strictly prohibited.

AWARDS/RESULTS

Medals are awarded for 1st – 4th places; ribbons 5th–8th. Results will be posted online and printed results will not be available.

TEST CREDIT

You may sign-up for Test Credit through our online form during online registration for \$20. See Technical Notifications 294 (Pairs), 295 (Partnered Free Dance), 296 (Solo Free Dance), 303 (Singles and Adult) for levels and requirements. Test Credit Packets should be picked up at registration. After registration is closed but before the day of your event, you must email the competition chair who will add you to the list. apdoug829@gmail.com

PRACTICE ICE

All sessions are 20 minutes in duration. There are no refunds for prepaid sessions, even if not used. No music is played on practice ice.

Sessions will be available Thursday through Sunday and will be designated by level and discipline (FS, Dance, Pairs). Skaters will be able to pick their own practice ice sessions online but you MUST indicate the number of sessions you want and you MUST pay for them when you register online. Practice ice sessions will be limited as follows:

- Singles & NSD Sessions: no more than 15 athletes
- Pairs Sessions: no more than four teams
- Partnered Ice Dance Sessions: no more than five teams

Pre-Purchase: Practice Ice credits will be available until April 15 for pre-purchase during the registration process. Specific Practice Ice sessions will be selected by skaters during the session-selection window. After close of entries, you will receive an email in order to access your practice ice record and select your sessions via EMS. Practice ice will be \$20 per person if you pre-purchase sessions. A maximum of 2 Practice Ice sessions may be pre-purchased per skater, per eligible event.

Pre-Purchase Session Selection: The session selection window will begin no later than May 3. More information will be emailed to competitors after the close of entries and the schedule of events has been finalized.

Open Sales: Following the close of the pre-purchase selection window, skaters will have the opportunity to purchase and select additional PI sessions for \$22 per session. More information will be emailed to competitors once the schedule of events has been finalized. The Open Sales window will close on Tuesday, May 12th at 7:00 pm EDT.

On Site: Practice ice sessions will be sold on site at the event for \$25 at the practice ice desk or via EMS.

Please direct practice ice questions to Melissa Sperling
734-323-5043 or springtimePI@gmail.com



Events Offered

Program requirements for the events listed below can be found here:

usfigureskating.org > Resources > Skating Rules > Competition Program Requirements

Athletes must use the new rules as of March 3 for Championship Track Events. Event requirements will be set for the 2026-2027 Competitive Season wherever possible. Excel events follow 2026 requirements.

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 apdoug829@gmail.com.

U.S. FIGURE SKATING EVENTS

SINGLES	IJS/6.0	1st EVENT	2nd EVENT	3rd + EVENT
Excel Free Skate (All "Plus" Events and Juvenile – Senior)	IJS	\$175	\$75	\$65
Excel Free Skate (Pre-Preliminary)	6.0	\$130	\$65	\$45
Well Balanced Short Program (Juvenile – Senior)	IJS	\$175	\$75	\$65
Well Balanced Free Skate (Pre-Preliminary - Senior)	IJS	\$175	\$75	\$65
Adult Free Skate (Adult Bronze – Master Jr/Sr)	IJS	\$175	\$75	\$65
Adult Free Skate (Adult High Beg- Pre-Bronze)	6.0	\$130	\$65	\$45
PAIRS	JUDGING	1st EVENT	2nd EVENT	3rd + EVENT
Short Program	IJS	\$175	\$75	\$65
Free Skate	IJS	\$175	\$75	\$65
Adult Pairs Free Skate	IJS	\$175	\$75	\$65
PARTNERED ICE DANCE	JUDGING	1st EVENT	2nd EVENT	3rd + EVENT
Pattern Dance (Pre-Juvenile - Novice)	IJS	\$175	\$110	\$70
Rhythm Dance (Junior - Senior)	IJS	\$175	\$110	\$70
Free Dance (Pre-Juvenile - Senior)	IJS	\$175	\$110	\$70
Adult Partnered Pattern Dance (Preliminary - Centennial)	6.0	\$130	\$65	\$60
Adult Partnered Pattern Dance (Pre-Gold – Masters Open)	IJS	\$175	\$100	\$60
Adult Partnered Free Dance	IJS	\$175	\$100	\$60
COMPETE USA	JUDGING	1st EVENT	2nd EVENT	3rd + EVENT
Aspire 1-4 Program w/Music	6.0	\$130	\$70	\$50
ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT	JUDGING	1st EVENT	2nd EVENT	3rd + EVENT
Compulsory Moves (Levels 1-4); half-ice	IJS	\$130	\$70	\$50
Jumps Challenge (Levels 1-4); half-ice	IJS	\$130	\$70	\$50
Spins Challenge (Levels 1-4); half-ice	IJS	\$130	\$70	\$50
SHOWCASE	JUDGING	1st EVENT	2nd EVENT	3rd + EVENT
Emotional Performance (Prelim – Senior, Adult)	CJS	\$130	\$75	\$75
Lyrical Pop (Prelim - Senior, Adult)	CJS	\$130	\$75	\$75
Character Performance (Prelim - Senior, Adult)	CJS	\$130	\$75	\$75
SOLO DANCE	JUDGING	1st EVENT	2nd EVENT	3rd EVENT
NSD Solo Pattern Dance	IJS	\$175	\$100	N/A
NSD Solo Combined Dance	IJS	\$220	N/A	N/A
NSD Shadow Dance	IJS	\$175	N/A	N/A
Adult Solo Pattern Dance	6.0	\$130	\$70	\$50
Adult Solo Free Dance	6.0	\$130	\$70	\$50

Springtime: *Tentative* Schedule blocks

This is intended to help with scheduling travel or avoiding school or social conflicts.

It is a “best guess.” All is subject to change...

but historically this is how we try to schedule events. Events listed first are not necessarily the first of the day. Events with a small number of entries (e.g. boys/men’s, pairs, showcase, adult) tend to get moved around a lot to fit into small available time slots. Larger events (Solo Dance, 6.0 low level free skates) are pretty well set. We make no guarantees or promises. A final schedule should be ready the week of April 21st

Thursday

Short programs Juvenile – Novice
NSD: Pattern Dance, Shadow Dance, Combined RD
Partnered Dance
Possibly: Intermediate Excel

Friday

WB/Champ Track Free Skates:
Juvenile – Novice
NSD: Combined Pattern Dance,
Combined Free Dance, Adult dance
Possibly: Men’s events, some Showcase

Saturday

Athlete Development: CM, Jumps, Spins
Short programs; Jr-Sr women,
WB/Champ Track: Prelim – Pre Juv and all men’s
events,
Excel: Prelim – Senior
Possibly: Adult events, Showcase, Pairs

Sunday

WB/Champ Track Free Skates: PrePrelim, Junior-
Senior Women
Excel Prelim Plus
6.0 events: Excel PrePrelim and Prelim, Aspire 1-4

Lodging for the 2026 Margaret Faulkner Springtime Invitational

There are over 30 hotels and/or motels within a 15-mile range of the Ice Cube (I-94; Exit 175). Rooms have been blocked at a number of them. You must indicate your affiliation with the Ann Arbor Figure Skating Club, or figure skating to get these rooms. Block rooms will be released a month before the competition.

For additional information call the Ann Arbor Convention and Visitors Bureau at (800) 888-9487 or visit their Web site at www.annarbor.org

HOTELS: Please tell the reservation clerk you are with the Ann Arbor Figure Skating at the Ice Cube (Hotels with AAFSC Room Blocks)**

Group name when reserving: Springtime Invitational 2026– Figure Skating

*****Fairfield by Marriott \$144/night**
3285 Boardwalk, Ann Arbor, 48108
(734)768-1130 resv. deadline 4/15/25

*****Hampton Inn by Hilton Saline - \$155/night**
1250 East Michigan Ave. Saline, MI 48176
734-977-9001
(Nice, new, 7 miles, 15 min from rink.
No freeway driving)

*****Hampton Inn South - \$134/night**
925 Victors Way,
Ann Arbor, 48108
(734) 665-5000 resv. deadline 4/15/25

EVEN: An IHG Hotel

600 Briarwood Circle
Ann Arbor, MI 48108
800-344-7829

reservation deadline 4/23/25

The Kensington Hotel

3500 South State Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48108
800-344-7829

reservation deadline 4/23/25

Holiday Inn & Suites

3155 Boardwalk Drive
Ann Arbor, MI 48108
(734)-213-1900 Fax: 734-213-2700

Hyatt Place

3223 S. State St
Ann Arbor, MI 48108
734-995-1234 fax 734-995-3080