

F Facts
S Satisfaction
C Communication



UPDATE

A tool to increase communication about the development of rules and governance for Figure Skating. A monthly communication with the coaches and those who care about skating

RSA/USARS TESTING SUB COMMITTEE LOOKING AT COMPETITIVE REQUIREMENTS

The figure sport committee has begun the process of considering the benefit of having testing requirements (RSA proficiency tests) for each division.

The goal or ideal would be to improve quality and proficiency in all events by having minimal standards for each division. These testing requirements, if implemented, would require athletes to demonstrate passing a specific level of test prior to entering a qualifying event.

Some concerns have been expressed about the lack of judges to complete the tests. Still others have concerns that not all roller skating centers are members of RSA. These details are significant are being discussed with the RSA representative, Pat Jacques, and the USARS representative, Ed Harney. Their results and recommendations will be shared with the Figure Sport Committee (FSC) and then forwarded to the Board of Directors.

This would not be effective this current season but is being recommended by a group of coaches as a method of improving their teaching and increasing

their ability to have additional skills to teach during instruction.

This is a large departure. Until last year USARS had testing requirements for the "B" and "C" events that had been suspended.

The FSC committee would like to have your feedback about this plan or whether you feel this will enhance competitive skating.

Please provide your feedback to a FSC member that you may know personally or we now have an e-mail address at USA Roller Sports that you may use to communicate with the committee.

We hope this newsletter and an email address will help improve more timely communication and sharing of ideas.

FSC@usarollersports.org

National Art Schedule Tentatively Approved

The FSC has reviewed the tentative schedule for the 2015 National Championships in Albuquerque, NM. It has tentatively approved the schedule and it will be published in the next week. This will be one week prior to last year and a month sooner than years previous.

Due to limited practice facilities in the Albuquerque metro area, there was a lot of work to develop a schedule that permitted practice on the national surface the day prior or the day of competition. This practice will cost the same as previous years in Lincoln, \$10.

USARS continues to investigate and seek additional practice outlets for the athletes who have worked hard to compete at the national level. Some issues under consideration are sport court, seeking to borrow the Lincoln floor, and seeking a floor from a local middle school or elementary school in the area. Transport of the floors from any location is extremely expensive and revenues from previous practices at Albuquerque did not cover the cost of the transport of the sport court.

We will keep you informed.

Judges Content Sheets are posted on USARS web site

With recent changes to the rules and without staffing to update the electronic rulebook the Judges Selection Committee has completed updating all of the judge's content sheets. These sheets have the requirements and the penalties for each event including quartet. In the interim it should help with coaches who seek information and are frustrated by not having access to the rules.



Future sites for National Championships

Many persons have asked about the sites for 2016. Selecting a site is not an easy process and, as you know, Pershing Auditorium is no longer available. Considerations include a city or metropolitan area that can financially support the staging of a national sporting event. Other issues are practice facilities, access to airports, adequate hotels etc.

Lincoln is interested in continuing to have the championships and has suggested some new facilities being constructed at this time. Other cities are also being considered but their convention bureaus are unclear in what financial support they can offer to host the event. As soon as there is additional information it will be shared.

FSC to Host an Open Forum for members to Communicate

The new president, Dan Brown, has committed to having open forum communication with the members. FSC plans to have a Webinar forum in the next month. It is currently planned for a likely date of Sunday. This is to be aware of teachers teaching in AM and that means considering both coasts of the USA. Likely time would be 4:30 pm EST since that would ensure that Pacific coaches would be finished their teaching for the morning. There is no ideal time and weekends are thought to be best since most coaches have full time jobs that would make weeknights more challenging. Date to be published real soon.



“B” AND “A” RULES

Many persons have asked about the recent changes for the B division and how it affects the athlete ability to compete in an A event.

The changes made this season to this process were the direct result of the coaches voting through their regional meetings. The results showed that by a margin of 3 to 1 they sought a method of limiting the athlete who chronically remained in a B event when their skills demonstrated that they were capable of advancing to the A division. It was felt that the new or beginner skater would compete with these skaters who by discussion had been competing for many seasons and were not beginners. Coaches reported that this precipitated some of their skaters and their parents from no longer participating in the sport due to

a perception of unfair competition.

The FSC made a ruling last season to be effective this season that if a B skater qualified for a final at Nationals, they could not participate in B in that discipline the following season.

Ultimately, this season the skater may compete in A and B at regional level but there are rules that will determine what event that athlete will need to skate at the national championship in the same season.

We encourage you to read the Artistic rules carefully for 8.02.05

This is a Partnership!

There is so much that has gone before and so many caring people that seek to change the structure to make things better. We have similar feelings and we have the same feelings of urgency. We desire to work together to build and develop artistic skating to ensure that our rules and our programs enhance athletes, enhance the operators and his/her business and enhance your business as a skating instructor.

We need your active participation as a coach and with your coach's representatives.



- C events are now unofficial
- Regional meets challenged with date changes
- Regions doing their own seminars and education programs to improve knowledge
- Art Open Forum coming soon to webinar
- Strategic Planning committee established at Board Meeting



Now is the time to consider what competitive requirements you may wish to have in 2016 season

Last year we had amazing input from over 300 comments to modify or update the competitive requirements for artistic skating. Not everyone was happy but we clearly had more input than before from the field.

If you wish to continue to have input, now would be the time to coordinate with your regional representative about your desires for the next season. Coordinating those efforts provides time for revision and with other regions in the USA and voting on the requirements at your regional meeting during the regional meet.