

# High School Skating Clubs and Teams

## What is it?

Over the past several years, skating as a high school sport has been on the rise. Teams are forming across the country, with some participating in areas that include High School Series competitions and Championships similar to that of the International Skating Union (ISU) and Grand Prix Final.

The main goals behind forming a high school skating club are to encourage skaters to continue their skating throughout high school, eventually bridging into college. Continual participation of this sort will increase awareness of the sport and enrich lives of skaters by combining their love of skating with a school activity. This program was developed for the benefit of figure skaters as it will serve to help them gain recognition for their sport in school and provide them with the opportunity to choose figure skating as a high school team sport.

## Who will love it?

Participation on a High School Figure Skating team would help to serve the needs of high school athletes who wish to continue participating in a sport they enjoy. High school skating and competitions can be especially rewarding for skaters at all levels and abilities to be involved with. These competitions allow a skating team to proudly represent their school with the potential to earn a trophy or medal that would honor both the achievements of the school and its' students alike.

## Membership:

Schools that wish to acquire a School-Affiliated Club membership can do so by completing the School-Affiliated Club membership application and pay an annual \$30 membership fee. Clubs shall receive, upon payment of such dues, a certificate of membership. Members of school-affiliated clubs are able to represent their school in interscholastic competitions sanctioned by U.S. Figure Skating. For all other competitions and testing, these members must be registered with U.S. Figure Skating through their home club or as an individual member

## Program Design:

The main goals behind a High School Team are to encourage skaters to continue their skating career through High School, to increase an awareness of the sport and enrich the lives of skaters by combining their love of skating with a school activity. It is a well known fact that most skaters learn self-discipline, self-esteem, and concentration techniques that can be carried over from skating to everyday life. The goal of high school teams is to provide a vehicle whereby high school figure skating students may



participate in the sport of figure skating as an extracurricular "club" activity.

Skating as a sport offers many benefits to its participants including self-discipline, increased self-esteem, goal setting, task achievement, and the development of focusing capabilities that can be transferred to everyday academic situations and life experiences

## Essentials to get started?

Not all schools have teams and the best way to find out is to speak with the Athletic Director or school principal. Chances are that you are not the only skater in the school and they may be from other US Figure Skating clubs and you just don't know about it.

Each school and school district is unique in its method of governance for an extra-curricular activity. In some districts it may be possible to combine with other local schools to form a team, or you may only be able to form a team with students who are at your school. There may be areas where Junior High skaters are part of the same high school and may be allowed to take part. The skaters who form the team will be responsible for it, but it should be in conjunction with the schools criteria for staff oversight.

## General Information:

Skaters interested in forming a High School Figure Skating Club or team are encouraged to find other skaters in their school, community or local figure skating club that share this passion. Forming a High School Club provides a means for high schools students to continue their participation in the sport of figure skating as and extra-curricular "club" activity.

## Resources:

To find more information on:

- Forming a high school club/team
- Applying for membership
- Listing of school-affiliated clubs
- Upcoming events

Visit [www.usfigureskating.org](http://www.usfigureskating.org), click "Programs" and then "School Programs," or contact Brenda Gildewell, U.S. Figure Skating programs manager, at [bgildewell@usfigureskating.org](mailto:bgildewell@usfigureskating.org) or 719.635.5200 ext. 436.

