

The U.S. Figure Skating Coach Directory informs athletes, parents, and clubs about U.S. Figure Skating Certified Coaches\* who are members of Coach I.C.E. and are eligible to coach at sanctioned activities. This guide will explain what is displayed on each coach's profile and provide information to help select a coach or verify a coach's credentials.

## What is a Certified Coach?

A coach is considered "Certified," and therefore eligible to participate in U.S. Figure Skating sanctioned activities once they have completed the following requirements:

- ✓ Completed the U.S. Figure Skating Core Coach Certification course.
- ✓ Are current members of U.S. Figure Skating.
- ✓ Are current members of the U.S. Figure Skating *Coach I.C.E.* program.
- ✓ Have passed a current background check. Background Checks are good for 2 seasons and rechecked annually.
- ✓ Have completed the required training with the U.S. Center for SafeSport within the past 12 months.
- ✓ Carry current coaches' liability insurance.
- ✓ Agree to the Coaching Standards of Professionalism and Code of Ethics.
- ✓ Keep certification/accreditation active by completing Continuing Education Units (CEUs) annually.

## What is Coach I.C.E.?

Coach I.C.E. stands for "Inspiring Coaching Excellence." It is U.S. Figure Skating's program for coach development, education, and accreditation. It provides coaches with the tools they need to be Certified, as well as active, engaged learners who seek to grow and develop as professionals.

## BEYOND THE BASICS

While ALL coaches wishing to coach at U.S. Figure Skating sanctioned activities are required to meet the standards above, there are additional accreditations, qualifications, education, experience, and areas of focus that athletes and parents should consider in selecting a coach. In addition, athletes and parents should consider a coach's character, demeanor, and overall fitness for an athlete prior to selecting and hiring a coach.

## CERTIFICATION / ACCREDITATION

All coaches are required to complete the U.S. Figure Skating Core Coach Certification. Beyond that, through the Coach I.C.E., program, coaches are encouraged to earn higher-level accreditations in various disciplines to expand their knowledge base and professional development. The coach directory displays the highest certification or accreditation level earned by that coach in each discipline.

## U.S. Figure Skating Core Certified Coach

The Core Certification Course is an in-depth online course divided into five sections reflecting the core values of U.S. Figure Skating: *Community, Resilience, Integrity, Respect, and Excellence*. These sections feature 17 modules that cover the key fundamentals that every figure skating coach should understand including topics such as Athlete Health and Well-Being, Creating a Positive Sport Experience, Professionalism, Delivery of Feedback, Growth and Development, Training Basics, and General Technique Concepts. (*Note: Completion of this course demonstrates a coach's understanding of the topics above, it does not ensure compliance with U.S. Figure Skating rules and policies.*)

### **U.S. Figure Skating Level 1 Accredited Coach**

*Available Disciplines: Singles, Pairs, Ice Dance, Synchronized Skating, Skating Skills Tests, Skating Director, Choreography, Learn to Skate USA, Theatre on Ice*

Level 1 centers around the safe and effective foundational basics in each discipline. Coaching techniques and methods are explored “from the ground up.” The curriculum allows the coach to discover technique in a wide assortment of practical skills specific to the discipline and sport-wide information applicable to all disciplines. Level 1 guides coaches to teach benchmarks, employ a wide variety of implementation strategies and expand the journey of coaching as a professional.

### **U.S. Figure Skating Level 2 Accredited Coach**

*Available Disciplines: Singles, Pairs, Ice Dance, Synchronized Skating, Skating Skills Tests, Skating Director, Choreography, Learn to Skate USA, Theatre on Ice*

Level 2 is available to coaches who have completed the Level 1 assessment and centers around the principles in each discipline and explores skill analysis and acquisition with an athlete-centered approach. The curriculum includes informational sessions to safely and effectively strengthen essential movements that support skill development, coaching and teaching strategies, and other fundamental coaching skills. Methods are discussed for refining understanding of quality elements and strategies for sustainable quality skating.

### **U.S. Figure Skating Senior Accredited Coach**

*Available Disciplines: Singles, Pairs, Ice Dance, Synchronized Skating, Skating Skills Tests, Skating Director, Choreography, Learn to Skate USA, Theatre on Ice*

Senior Level is available to individuals who have completed Level 2 accreditation and is focused on developmental strategies, identifying, and addressing inefficiencies, and expanding on training progressions specific to the discipline. The Senior Coach curriculum studies the knowledge needed for a safe and effective optimization of athlete-centered coaching expertise validated at previous levels.

### **U.S. Figure Skating Accredited Master Coach**

*Available Disciplines: Singles, Pairs, Ice Dance, Synchronized Skating, Skating Skills Tests, Skating Director, Choreography, Learn to Skate USA, Theatre on Ice*

The Master level in each discipline recognizes coaching proficiency substantiated in the previous levels. The curriculum challenges the coach to develop a deep understanding of techniques and coaching practices, further advance their professionalism, and optimize their coaching experiences through reflection. A coach who has successfully completed the Master assessment demonstrates an extensive comprehension and application of safely effective application of the development of skills in the discipline.

### **COACHING DISCIPLINES/SPECIALTIES**

This section is self-reported by the coach and features the disciplines, specialties, and age groups with which the coach has experience. Using this filter in the coach directory will help an athlete or parent specifically search for the type of coach they are looking for. For example, if looking for a coach to teach the skating skills tests, one would select that as one of the disciplines/specialties. Coaches have identified and ranked a maximum of eight specialties.

## HIGHEST COMPETITIVE COACHING EXPERIENCE

This section lists the highest level(s) of U.S. Figure Skating competition that athletes of the coach have achieved. In order to list the level, the coach must have been the head coach/coach of record for one or more athletes at that level. *(This is self-reported, and coaches must attest that it is correct with no misrepresentation).*

Highest Coaching Experience	Applicable Discipline(s)	Event(s) that qualify at this level
Non-qualifying coach	Singles, Ice Dance, Ice Dance – Solo, Pairs, Synchronized Skating, Theatre on Ice, Showcase, Adult, Collegiate	Any sanctioned non-qualifying competition, or an open-entry non-qualifying event within a qualifying competition.
National Adult Programs Coach	Singles, Ice Dance, Pairs, Synchronized Skating	U.S. Adult Championships (qualifying events) U.S. Synchronized Championships (adult and masters)
National Skating Programs Coach	Singles – Excel, Ice Dance-Solo, Theatre on Ice, Showcase, Collegiate	National Excel Festival, National Solo Dance Final, National Theatre on Ice, U.S. Intercollegiate Final
Qualifying Coach	Singles, Ice Dance, Pairs, Synchronized Skating	Juvenile + NQS, Regionals pre-2020, U.S. Collegiate championships, Synchronized Sectionals Juvenile – Senior, Collegiate
Sectional / U.S. Finals Coach	Singles, Ice Dance, Pairs	Sectional Singles Final, U.S. Pairs or U.S. Ice Dance Final
National High-Performance Development Coach	Singles, Ice Dance, Pairs, Synchronized Skating	Juvenile, Intermediate, or Novice at the National Development Team, U.S. Championships, or U.S. Synchronized Skating Championships (or equivalent before 2020)
U.S. Championship Coach	Singles, Ice Dance, Pairs, Synchronized Skating	Junior or Senior – U.S. Championships Junior, Senior, Collegiate – U.S. Synchronized Championships
Developmental International Coach	Singles, Ice Dance, Pairs, Synchronized Skating	Advanced Novice International, U.S. Challenge Skate, athlete in international selection pool (not selected for Team USA)
International / Team USA Coach	Singles, Ice Dance, Pairs, Synchronized Skating	Junior or Senior Team USA at an international competition
World Championship Coach	Singles, Ice Dance, Pairs, Synchronized Skating	World Figure Skating Championships or World Synchronized Skating Championships
Olympic Coach	Singles, Ice Dance, Pairs	Olympic Winter Games

## PERSONAL U.S. FIGURE SKATING TEST ACCOMPLISHMENT

This section verifies the highest official U.S. Figure Skating test level that the coach achieved as an athlete in their personal figure skating career. Achieving the gold level in any category earns the title, “U.S. Figure Skating Gold Test Medalist,” which you are likely to see on coaching resumes. The test levels, disciplines, and hierarchy are currently listed in the chart below.

### Please note the following:

1. Skating Skills. This test was formally known as “Moves in the Field.” All tests taken under the name MITF have been “translated” to their equivalent in Skating Skills.
2. History of Skating Skills / MITF / Figures. This test structure was created by U.S. Figure Skating in the mid-1990s. Prior to that, athletes were required to participate in Figures. Figures tests consisted of challenging patterns skated on the ice that developed strong balance, coordination, edge control, mechanics of turns and alignment. These were some of the core building blocks used to create the Skating Skills tests.

Depending upon the time that a coach trained as an athlete, it is likely that they do not have Skating Skills tests on their personal test record. A coach that has figure tests listed, but not Skating Skills tests, has experience training the fundamentals of skating skills tests.

3. Coaches from foreign countries. All countries have unique developmental pipelines. Many countries do have test structures, but they are different from U.S. Figure Skating’s. If a coach trained as an athlete in a foreign country, they may not have a test listed. If possible, U.S. Figure Skating ‘translates’ their accomplishments to an equivalent, but it isn’t always possible.

Skating Skills (Mid-1990s and Later)	Singles	Free Dance	Pattern Dance	Pairs	Figures (Mid-1990s and Earlier)
Pre-Preliminary	Pre-Preliminary				Preliminary
Preliminary	Preliminary		Preliminary		1 <sup>st</sup> Figure
Pre-Bronze	Pre-Bronze		Pre-Bronze		2 <sup>nd</sup> Figure
Bronze	Bronze	Bronze	Bronze	Bronze	3 <sup>rd</sup> Figure
Pre-Silver	Pre-Silver	Pre-Silver	Pre-Silver	Pre-Silver	4 <sup>th</sup> Figure
Silver	Silver	Silver	Silver	Silver	5 <sup>th</sup> Figure
Pre-Gold	Pre-Gold	Pre-Gold	Pre-Gold	Pre-Gold	6 <sup>th</sup> Figure
Gold	Gold	Gold	Gold	Gold	7 <sup>th</sup> Figure
			International		8 <sup>th</sup> Figure

*Note: There are available tests in the Adult Skating program. If a coach passed a U.S. Figure Skating test in the adult program, it would be noted with “Adult” preceding the level, i.e., “Adult Gold Singles”. The adult test program for skating skills, singles, and pairs features less difficult technical requirements. For example, the “Adult Gold Singles or Skating Skills” tests have similar technical difficulty to the standard Bronze level. Adult pattern dance tests have similar technical skills to the standard pattern dance tests.*

## **PERSONAL COMPETITIVE HISTORY**

This section verifies a coach's participation or achievement in a U.S. Figure Skating qualifying or international competition. Qualifying competitions are the competitions in the official competitive pipeline that lead to the U.S. Figure Skating Championships or Synchronized Skating Championships and potentially being named to Team USA. Depending upon the years that a coach competed, the names of events could vary.

Not all coaches participate in the qualifying competitive pipeline as athletes and that section could be blank, this is okay. It may also be blank if the coach competed in a foreign country for much of their career. Competition results for international competitions, where the athlete/coach represented a foreign country, that can be verified are added per the coach's request.

The competitions listed are verifying the following. All listed on the same line are similar achievements:

- Regional Championships or National Qualifying Series (Singles, Pairs or Ice Dance)
- Sectional Championships or Sectional Singles Final (Singles)
- Sectional Championships or U.S. Pairs or U.S. Ice Dance Final (Pairs or Ice Dance)
- Juvenile/Intermediate Championships, U.S. Junior Championships or National Development Team
- U.S. Figure Skating Championships
- Sectional Synchronized Skating Championships (Synchronized Skating)
- U.S. Synchronized Skating Championships (Synchronized Skating)

The level and discipline the coach entered will also be included. (i.e., Novice Women, Junior Pairs)

Any international competitions listed will verify the level competed (junior or senior), and discipline.

## **RELEVANT FORMAL TRAINING / DEGREES / CERTIFICATIONS**

This section is self-reported and attested to by the coach. It includes an opportunity for them to list degrees or certifications achieved outside of U.S. Figure Skating that are relevant to coaching, such as a bachelor's or master's degree.

## **OFFICIALS APPOINTMENTS**

Coaches are allowed to earn U.S. Figure Skating officials' appointments as technical specialists or test judges. This section lists their earned level of appointment. Technical specialists are officials on a competition panel that identifies each element completed by the skater. Test Judges serve on the panel of a test session to evaluate whether a skater passes a test.

Coaches holding these appointments are not allowed to serve on panels for events that include athletes they work with or have worked with for several years. However, this appointment does show additional knowledge in that area.

## WHAT DO I DO WITH THIS INFORMATION?

As an athlete or parent, finding the right fit in a coach is a top priority. Finding a coach who is qualified and engaged in their learning, who supports agreed-upon goals, whose values are aligned with yours, and most importantly has a well-thought-out coaching philosophy is a key to success. A well-thought-out coaching philosophy showcases many aspects of the coach's delivery and presents a consistent and positive message to the athletes being coached. Coaches carry out their roles based on experience, knowledge, values, opinions, and beliefs. Different coach experiences may be a better fit for some athletes. The athlete or parent/guardian has the right and responsibility to engage with a coach(es) to determine if the coach will provide a safe, effective, and positive sport experience.

### **\*Disclaimer**

*Coaches that are listed in this directory are verified to be a Certified Coach. Information contained within the Coach Directory regarding any specific coach or coaching service does not constitute or imply endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by U.S. Figure Skating, its directors, or employees. U.S. Figure Skating expects coaches to be honest and clear about the scope and content of coaching services they are qualified to provide, understand the limits of their own knowledge and capacity, comply with all U.S. Figure Skating rules, policies, and requirements, including the SkateSafe® policies, and not accept coaching responsibilities that they are insufficiently prepared or trained for. All coaches have attested to providing truthful and correct information. Misrepresentation on the part of the coach is a violation of U.S. Figure Skating's Coaching Standards of Professionalism.*

*Sexual, emotional, and physical abuse are issues in all facets of society where adults are in a position of authority over others, particularly over minors. This Certification is meant to provide guidance to athletes (or permanent legal guardian if a minor) in selecting a coach that best meets the athlete's sport-related needs. An athlete (or permanent legal guardian if a minor) must not rely on the Certification in selecting a coach that fits the emotional and developmental needs of the athlete. This Certification does not certify that abuse or misconduct will not happen in the sport of figure skating, during In-Program or Out-of-Program Contact as defined in the [SkateSafe® Handbook](#). U.S. Figure Skating does not certify a coach's character and demeanor. It is the responsibility of the athlete (or permanent legal guardian if a minor) and any other person who observes abusive conduct to report. All allegations of sexual abuse and child abuse must be immediately reported to the U.S. Center for SafeSport and local law enforcement (<https://uscenterforsafesport.org/report-a-concern/>). All other allegations of abuse or misconduct as defined in the [SkateSafe® Handbook](#) must be reported to U.S. Figure Skating*

*All information related to U.S. Figure Skating's SkateSafe® Program can be found at [www.usfigureskating.org/skatesafe](http://www.usfigureskating.org/skatesafe).*