



RMU Island Sports Center's
2026 Sunsational Invitational
Compete USA Competition
FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 2026
Entry Deadline: Friday, July 24, 2026

The Sunsational Invitational, hosted by the RMU Island Sports Center, will be conducted in accordance with the rules set forth in the **2026-27 edition of the U.S. Figure Skating Rulebook & Compete USA guidelines**. The competition is open all persons as defined by the eligibility rules and who are **current members (for the 2026-27 membership year) of U.S. Figure Skating, either through a member club, a registered Learn to Skate USA program or as an individual member**. Current membership will be verified by the competition registrar prior to the competition.

Coaches: Please be reminded of the LTS USA/Compete USA changes to the CJS system of judging which will be implemented July 1, 2026 and be followed for the Sunsational Invitational. Updates can be found here: <https://learntoskateusa.com/CompeteUSA>

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS & LEVELS:

- **Snowplow Sam** - Basic 6: Elements & Program with Music
- **Aspire Free Skate 1-4**: Program with Music
- **Excel Levels**: Excel Pre-Preliminary & Preliminary Free Skate with Music*
- **Well Balanced Levels**: Pre-Preliminary & Preliminary Program with Music
- **Athlete Development Events**: Compulsory Moves, Jump & Spin Events
- **Adult Basic 1-6** Program with Music
- **Adult Beginner & Bronze** Program with Music

Skaters must skate at least at the highest level passed by Friday, July 24, 2025, but may skate up one level but not both.

MISSION STATEMENT:

We promote a FUN, introductory, competitive experience for all participants.

Compete USA is designed to promote a positive competition experience at the grassroots level and increased skating participation while generating enthusiasm. Compete USA competitions incorporate skills from Learn to Skate USA and U.S. Figure Skating into a competitive format that can be easily and successfully conducted by registered Learn to Skate USA programs and U.S. Figure Skating member clubs or interclub.

The competition is open to any skater who is a current member of Learn to Skate USA or is a full member of U.S. Figure Skating. Non-members are eligible to register for competition but must be a registered Learn to Skate USA or U.S. Figure Skating member to compete. There should be no more than six competitors' maximum in a group, and all six should receive an award.

ELIGIBILITY RULES FOR PARTICIPANTS

The competition is open to ALL skaters who are current members of either Learn to Skate USA and/or those who are full members of U.S. Figure Skating. Members of other organizations are eligible to compete but must be a current registered member of Learn to Skate USA or a full member of U.S. Figure Skating. There will be no more than six competitors' maximum in an event, and all six should receive an award.

Eligibility and Test Requirements:

Eligibility will be based on skill level as of closing date of entries. All **Snowplow Sam and Basic 1-6** skaters must skate at highest level passed or one level higher, and NO official U.S. Figure Skating tests may have been passed, including moves in the field or individual dances.

For the **Aspire Levels** (Pre-Free Skate, Free Skate 1-6), **Excel and Well-Balanced** eligibility will be based only upon highest badge level or free skate test level passed. Moves in the field test level will not determine a skater's competitive level. Skaters may skate at highest level passed OR one level higher but not both levels in the same event during the same competition.

It is very important to the success of the competition that skaters are placed in the correct divisions. If, for whatever reason, the local organizing committee (LOC) discovers that a skater has been placed in a category below his/her badge or test level, the chair and referee will have the option to move the skater into the proper level, even if it is the day of the competition. This will ensure that every event is as fair as possible to the competitors. It is an ethical violation for coaches to sandbag an event.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Skaters must skate at least at the highest level passed by Friday, July 24, 2026, but may skate up one level but not both.

EVENTS OFFERED:

Program requirements for the events listed below can be found [HERE](#)

COMPETE USA EVENTS	JUDGING	1ST EVENT PRICE	2ND EVENT PRICE
Snowplow Sam-Basic 6 Program w / Music	CJS	\$70	\$40
Aspire Program w / Music	CJS	\$70	\$40
Excel Free Skate (Pre-Preliminary - Preliminary Plus)	CJS	\$70	\$40
Pre-Preliminary - Preliminary Free Skate	CJS	\$70	\$40
Adult 1-6 Program w / Music	CJS	\$70	\$40
Snowplow Sam - Basic 6 Element - Referee led	CJS	\$70	\$40
Adult Free Skate (Beg. - Bronze)	CJS	\$70	\$40
Athlete Development - Compulsory Moves 1-4	CJS	\$70	\$40
Athlete Development - Spin Challenge 1-4	CJS	\$70	\$40
Athlete Development - Jump Challenge 1-4	CJS	\$70	\$40
Compete USA – Showcase* Individual, Duets or Trios	CJS	\$70	\$40

*Showcase

Categories may include:

- **Character Performance:** Skaters will impersonate a character, original or adapted, on the ice. Performances as a character from a movie, musical, book, original idea, original adaptation are all welcome here.
 - Lip synching is required
 - Props and Scenery are permitted
 - No Technical Limitations
- **Lyrical Pop:** Perform to your favorite song containing lyrics, without lip-synching.
 - Lip synching is not permitted
 - Props and Scenery are not permitted
 - No Technical Limitations
- **Duets/Trios:** Theatrical/artistic performances by 2 to 3 skaters.

**Levels can be subdivided or combined, if necessary, depending on entry numbers and event set up to ensure performances are contested as per the guidelines*

Showcase for Duets

Each skater will pay the appropriate event fees as a 1st or 2nd event, depending on if they are participating in other Shamrock Skate events. Each skater is required to pay the entry fee in a duet or trio.

ELIGIBILITY RULES FOR COACHES/INSTRUCTORS

For credentials at a Compete USA event, coaches/instructors are required to have:

- Learn to Skate USA instructor membership OR U.S. Figure Skating full membership
- SafeSport training is completed for coaches/instructors 18 years old and older
- Background check successfully passed (for coaches/instructors 18 years old and over)
- Learn to Skate USA instructor certification OR U.S. Figure Skating coach compliance (for coaches under 18 years old)

All Event Requirements Can Be Found Here: <https://learntoskateusa.com/CompeteUSA>

Be sure to follow the details for any updates July 1, 2026

REGISTRATION PROCESS (Three-Step)

To minimize registration errors, the competition registration will be a **THREE-STEP PROCESS**

Follow the steps listed below to be sure you have completed all of the steps for registration.

Please be sure to consult your coach if you have any questions about the details which are required, as listed below.

Gather all the necessary registration information:

Read announcement and determine level and events to enter after consulting with your primary coach.

Note the details which will be required for registration process.

- Name of Athlete
- Highest Skating Level Passed
- Name of Primary Coach
- Name of Secondary Coach, if applicable
- Program/Club Name
- First Event Level and Name (must select if only event)
- Additional Events & Levels, as needed
- Practice Ice Registration will be available after the schedule is posted

Gather all the additional information needed to register

- LTSUSA membership # and/or U.S. Figure Skating membership #
- Primary Coach U.S. Figure Skating #
- Primary Coach contact information
- Primary Contact Information for Athlete:
Email Address:
Phone number:

Step 1 - Payment of all registered events and practice ice sessions

- Login to your DASH account at RMU Island Sports Center: www.rmu.edu/dash
Skaters who are new to RMU ISC, will need to create a registration profile in our DASH registration system.
- Go to the Registration Page and locate the Sunsational Invitational logo and click on the link.
- Be sure to have the ATHLETE'S NAME listed in the drop down for **"WHO ARE YOU REGISTERING?"**
- Add to cart all the events for which the athlete will participate in Sunsational Invitational, be sure that you have listed all of the events as they have been listed in Sk8stuff.com
 - First Event \$70 | (Choose "first event")
 - Additional Events \$40/ea. | (click on "add another registration" for each additional event)
 - Showcase Duet/Trios: Each skater must pay the appropriate fee (1st event or additional event) for their showcase with a partner(s)
 - Ensemble Team Events: \$70 per team and \$15 per skater fee

Practice Ice Sessions will be available, but skaters may wait until schedule is released to purchase practice ice.

Step 2- Register for all events and practice ice online at Sk8stuff.com

Copy registration site link for events here: www.sk8stuff.com Under Upcoming Events: Click "Sunsational Invitational"

Register your athlete for all events, filling out the required details on the Sk8stuff registration form

NOTE: Sk8stuff does not collect payment, only registration details for scheduling your skater for Shamrock Skate. You do not need to send the paper as listed; this is only for competitions that use Sk8stuff for payments.

If skaters do not complete this TWO-STEP PROCESS, they will not be scheduled for their competition events.

Entry deadline is Friday, July 24, 2026

Late entries may be accepted at the discretion of the competition director and if space is available.

If accepted, a late fee of \$25 will be assessed.

Refund Policy: Entry fees will not be refunded after Friday, July 24, 2026, unless no competition exists or an event is canceled. There will be no refunds for medical withdrawals or any other reason. Payment of the fee will be required before the skater can participate in practice ice or events.

Questions: Contact Beth Sutton @ Sutton@rmu.edu or 412.397.4469

Hotel: There are several hotels in the area but the closest to the rink is the Fairfield Inn, Neville Island: [Fairfield Inn Link](#)

Step 3 - MUSIC

Music Uploads will be sent to a google forms site for *Sunsational Invitational*. **Hanna Fussman is the music coordinator. Music Upload Link will be posted on the Sunsational Sk8stuff page and Sunsational Website: <https://www.rmuislandsports.com/sunsational> or go directly to: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdJ53A93hRezWH-xS3cRqQj78hXeroaTfRwm_ejwrkegObFRw/viewform**

For the music upload process, please follow:

- **MUSIC Please input your skater's name**
- **All music should be in MP3 format. If you have a wave or MP4, please convert your file to MP3**
- **Please name files with your skater's name as it appears on registration: FirstLastLevel.mp3 (example: LizzieSmithAspire1FS.mp3)**
- **You should receive a confirmation email from Google Forms after submitting. So long as you don't get an error when you hit submit, you're good to go!**
- **If you have any issues with your music upload, please contact Hanna at hfussman@fmbankarena.com**

Competitors must also have available a backup copy of their competition music on a cell phone, and it must be immediately available on the rink side whenever the skater competes. If the phone does not have the standard round headset connector, an appropriate adapter, such as an Apple Lightning connector or Samsung USB-C adapter is required to be attached. The phone should be presented to the music person with the file ready to play, phone in airplane mode and volume turned to maximum.

Scheduling of Events: a few weeks following the close of entries, a tentative schedule of events will be available at: <https://www.rmuislandsports.com/sunsational>

An email will be sent to all coaches and skaters based on email listed in DASH registration system.

Coaches: Coaches must be in compliance with Rules MR 5.12 and MR 5.13 in the current U.S. Figure Skating Rulebook or they will not be allowed at the venue. Coaches must be a current full member of U.S. Figure Skating. They must have completed the registration process through U.S. Figure Skating and paid the annual registration fee. If 18 years of age or older, they must have successfully passed the background screen. Coaches must have completed the appropriate CER courses depending on the highest level of skaters being coached. They must have submitted proof of current general liability insurance. For Basics Skills coaches ONLY, the coach must be 18 years and older and instructing in a Learn to Skate USA program. In addition, they must have successfully passed the annual background screen and be registered as a Learn to Skate USA instructor member.

The competition committee will check the list of compliant coaches that are published online by U.S Figure Skating. A coach who is not on the list of compliant coaches will not be allowed to be in the coaching area during the competition.

Assumption of Liability: Per rule 1600 in the current U.S Figure Skating Rulebook, U.S. Figure Skating, the RMU Island Sports Center and organizers of this competition undertake no responsibility for damages or injuries suffered by the competitors. As a condition of and in consideration of the acceptance of their entries or participation in this competition, the competitor and his/her parents(s) agree to assume all risks of injury and loss of property resulting from, caused by or connected with, the conduct of management of this competition, and to waive and release any and all claims which they may have against any officials, U.S. Figure Skating, the RMU Island Sports Center and their employees, and their entries shall be accepted only on such condition.

Facilities: RMU Island Sports Center will use the Olympic & Clearview Arenas for the competition events. The rink's telephone number is 412.397.4454

Registration: The Shamrock Skate competition registration desk will be located at the entrance of RMU Island Sports Center Café Area. The registration desk will open at 7:00 AM. Competitors must check in at the Registration Desk upon arrival.

Computation of Results: The CJS closed system of judging will be used in all events. All results will be posted in a live streaming at Sk8stuff. Details for link will be sent at time of competition and QR Code links will be posted at the registration table.

Events/Awards: All events will be final rounds. Medals will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places. Ribbons will be awarded for 4th, 5th & 6th places. Awards will be available at the Skater Registration Table following the posting of the results on Sk8stuff. The skater is responsible for picking up award(s) following his/her events. Awards will not be mailed to the skater. Skaters may pick up their awards at any time prior to leaving Shamrock Skate.

Videography and Photos: We will not have professional photo or video for Sunsational. Family and friends who take photo or video may only do so from the spectator area in the viewing stands. As per US Figure Skating rules, you may only video your skater and are not permitted to video tape other competitors.

Notices: Official notices and skating orders will be posted online and at the ice entrance for the competition events & in the program booklet. Skaters should arrive at the facility a minimum of one hour before their scheduled warm-up time and should check in with the ice monitor twenty minutes prior to their events. **If the events are running ahead of schedule, the competition will keep moving forward with events.** Skaters who do not arrive at least an hour prior to their scheduled warm-ups/events will not be provided refunds or credits if they miss their events due to the schedule running early.