



## Test Sessions 101

### **Notice of Test Session:**

Notice of upcoming test sessions will be made available through the FSCC Yahoo Group, the USFS Test Calendar at [www.usfigureskating.org](http://www.usfigureskating.org), and the FSCC website at [www.skatecincinnati.org](http://www.skatecincinnati.org). Please check these resources regularly for test information.

### **Test Applications:**

Test applications are available online at the FSCC website, [www.skatecincinnati.org](http://www.skatecincinnati.org). Test applications are due in general about 5 weeks before the test session. The due date will be clearly stated on the test application. Some clubs accept test applications closer to the test date; however the ice rinks we skate at do not allow any changes to the ice schedule 30 days or less to the prior to our event.

If you are a home club member of the FSC of Cincinnati, and are taking a test with another club, you are required to provide a "letter of permission" to test from your home club. Please contact the FSCC test chairperson to receive test permission. To receive permission to test, you must be a member in good standing with both FSCC and USFS. In reverse, if you are not a member of the FSC of Cincinnati, and wish to test with our club, you will need to provide a letter of permission from your home club, as well as include the out-of-club test fee.

It is necessary for all skaters to take and pass the Moves-in-the-Field (MIF) test associated with a particular level before taking the Freestyle or Pairs test at that level. It is not possible for a skater to "opt out" of the Moves-in-the-Field tests. Moves-in-the-field is a technical discipline designed to improve skater's abilities in areas such as stroking, turns, edge work, etc.

### **Test Fees:**

Test fees vary depending upon the test level. Fees are listed on the application by discipline and test level. Test Fees are non-refundable, however if you are unable to test due to injury or illness, your test fee will be credited towards a future test session. An out-of-club fee of \$25 is charged once per test application to skaters who are not members of the FSC of Cincinnati. Test applications that are submitted past the deadline will incur a \$10 late fee.

### **Test Schedule:**

The test schedule will be available online at the FSCC website, [www.skatecincinnati.org](http://www.skatecincinnati.org), about 7 to 10 days prior to test day. A copy of the schedule will also be sent to skaters by e-mail if an e-mail address was provided on the test application.

While every effort is made to accommodate all skaters who wish to test, sometimes we do have more tests than time will allow. If this is the case, FSCC club members are scheduled first, then out-of-club skaters second. Applications received after the deadline will only be scheduled as time permits.

The skate order for the test is determined by several factors (discipline/levels of tests, number of skaters, and availability of judges). In general, similar levels of tests will be grouped together, and skaters will be scheduled in alphabetical order by last name. Please remember however this is a general guideline, and that the test schedule may be set to accommodate the schedule of the officials and/or dance partners.

## **Test Day:**

1. Plan to arrive at the rink at minimum 45 minutes before the start of your warm-up period. Test sessions can sometimes run ahead of schedule, so you will want to be at the rink and prepared to skate if the tests are running early. Please be aware that if you arrive late, and miss your scheduled test time, there is no guarantee that your test can be "fit-in" later in the session. A copy of the test schedule will be posted near the ice. Check this schedule for any last minute changes. Also check-in with the test chairperson so they know you have arrived. Turn in music if testing freestyle.
2. Treat a test session similar to a competition. If testing a free skating program, bring two copies of music. Make sure you have an extra set of laces in your skate bag. Each test group will receive a 4 to 6 minute on-ice warm-up prior to their test, however off-ice warm-up is also recommended.
3. Usually, a test session is an "all-day" event. You will be scheduled in a grouping with several other skaters taking the same or similar tests. Your group will be scheduled for a "warm-up" time, followed immediately by the skating of the tests within that group. Usually, you will be the only one on the ice during your actual test, but for some tests (some moves-in-the-field, and the pre-preliminary freestyle) you may share the ice with others.
4. There will be judges there to evaluate your performance. Usually, there are 3 judges for all tests. For some tests (lower-level) it is acceptable for a single high-level judge to judge your test, and this is sometimes done when ice-time is limited. The judges are usually off the ice in a hockey-box or similar area, and will usually have clipboards with your test papers on them. Usually, there will be one judge called the "judge-in-charge". If your test requires "instruction" (i.e. if the judges need to talk to you), then it is this judge that does the talking.
5. When it is time for your Test, the judges or an announcer will inform you of your opportunity.
6. If this is a Freestyle or Pairs program, or a Dance test, you should skate to your starting position and wait for your music to start. If it is a Moves test or Pre-Preliminary or Adult PreBronze Freestyle test you should go to the judges for instructions on how they want to conduct the test.
7. When you have finished your test, you should stay on the ice until the judges "dismiss you". You should approach the judges, but not "too close" (sometimes they will need to discuss aspects of your test privately). The judges might ask you to "reskate" an element or two from the test. If this is done, it is because that element was "not quite right", and the judges want to give you another chance to try it. Usually, they will tell you what it was about the element that they would like to see improved. If you are asked to reskate an element, you will be given the opportunity to "warm it up" before you do it for real, if you choose to do so. If you do want to warm it up, you need to tell the judges before you do it that you are doing a warmup.
8. After you are dismissed, you will need to wait for your results. Usually, the judges will complete a group of skaters before handing in their paperwork. Eventually though, you will get copies of your "Test Papers". These will have the judge's comments on your performance, and at the bottom will have an indication of your "Pass" or "Retry" status. With a 3-judge panel, you must receive a passing mark from at least 2 judges in order to pass the test. Usually, you are allowed to keep your test papers and you and your coach should use them as a tool for developing your instructional plans.
9. If you should fail to pass a test, you are required to wait a minimum of 28 days before retrying the test (see section TR 19.02 in the Rulebook).

## **Test Certificates:**

Test certificates for passing tests are mailed to the FSCC test chairperson about 45 to 60 days following the test session. The club test chairperson will distribute test certificates to skaters at club sessions or by mail. If you believe you are missing a test certificate from a prior test, please contact the FSCC test chairperson.