

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE HIGH SCHOOL FIGURE SKATING CLUB CONCEPT

Q. WHY EVEN TRY TO START SKATING CLUBS IN OHIO AT THE HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL?

A. Due to the large number of middle school and high school students who enjoy skating at the beginning level through the advanced competition level in the state of Ohio. Figure skating is a very popular sport in Ohio, from those who enjoy watching, attending open skates with their friends, to taking beginning classes, to those skaters who have coaches and belong to the United States Figure Skating Association and take skating tests and enter competitions. Also, due to the large number of rinks in the Northeast Ohio area alone, which support at this time an interest of over 100 skaters just in Cuyahoga County to begin skating Clubs in their prospective schools.

Q. WHAT EXACTLY IS A SKATING CLUB?

A. A skating club is a group of high school students who are interested in skating. This may include anyone who enjoys the sport of figure skating, who is a recreational skater, or a beginner to advanced skater. The purpose of the skating club is as follows:

1. To allow a student who enjoys skating, but has beginning level skating skills to learn to skate at their beginning level and represent their school on a "team" club level at a skating competition. This is unique because usually by high school if a student wants to represent their school in a varsity sport they have to have developed skills in that sport. The skating club allows for even students with totally beginning skills to participate along side more advanced skaters.
2. To allow advanced skaters to represent their high school in a sport. Currently students who are advanced skaters cannot participate in other after school sports because they are skating 3-5 days at a rink. This would allow them to represent their school participating in a sport that they spend so much time doing outside of school. Overall, a skating club is a fun, friendly format to represent your school, learn a sport and maintain friendships outside of school in a supervised activity.

Q. CURRENTLY WHO SUPPORTS THIS CLUB CONCEPT?

A. Currently the following groups support the skating club concept:

1. The United States Figure Skating Association (USFSA). This is the governing body of figure skating in the United States.
2. The Cleveland Council of Figure Skating Clubs. This is comprised of members from 15 local skating clubs. These are the Brooklyn FSC of Ohio, Center Ice SC, Chagrin Valley SC, Cleveland SC, Euclid Blade & Edge FSC, Forestwood FSC of Parma Ohio, Garfield Heights FSC, Ice Zone FSC, Kent SC, Mentor FSC, Pavilion SC of Cleveland Heights, Shaker FSC, The Strongsville SC, West Shore FSC, and Winterhurst FSC. Each of these clubs has delegates who attend monthly Cleveland Council meetings creating and promoting skating opportunities within our local regions, throughout the state and nationally.
3. Clubs throughout the State Of Ohio. These include clubs at the local and collegiate levels throughout Ohio. These include clubs in Bowling Green, Columbus, Waterville, Liberty Center, Miami, Toledo Cincinnati, Dayton, Troy, Hunting Valley and Worthington, Ohio.
4. Independent skating coaches throughout the State of Ohio. Too numerous to list individually, over 25 coaches in the area were surveyed, and all agreed that the high school skating concept was a positive experience for all involved. This opinion is a consensus throughout the state of Ohio.
5. Over 160 skaters responded to our first initial survey of middle and high school age skaters in Northeast Ohio. These skaters represent the following schools and districts: Aurora, Bay Village, Beaumont, Center High School, Columbia, Fairview Park, Gilmour Academy, Parma, Parma Heights, Hathaway Brown, Hillside Middle School, Hudson, Kenston, Lake Catholic, Magnificat, Mentor Normandy, Notre Dame Cathedral Latin, Orange, Padua, Riverside High School in Painesville, Shaker High School, Shore Jr. High, St. Augustine, St. Joseph & John, St.

Joseph Academy, St. Mary's, St. Mary's in Berea, Willoughby South, St. Edward.

6. The parents of all of these skaters. In order for the concept to move forward, parent involvement is encouraged at the club adviser level. Parents who are familiar with paperwork, skating protocol, rinks, skating terms and coaches are encouraged to assist the club in the successful operation of the club. Schools are encouraged, but not required to have a school adviser. The parent adviser reports to the school district directly on all club matters.

Q. WHERE ELSE IN THE UNITED STATES ARE THERE HIGH SCHOOL SKATING CLUBS?

A. Currently the following states have active high school skating clubs: Ohio, Michigan, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Colorado.

Q. WHO WOULD BE ELIGIBLE TO JOIN A SKATING CLUB ?

A. Any student interested in figure skating. As each school has their own guidelines for academic, discipline and attendance, the students must follow each schools guidelines for student membership.

Q. WILL THE CLUB HAVE A CHARTER AND REGULAR MEETINGS? WILL AN ADVISER ATTEND THESE MEETINGS?

All clubs will have a charter, have regular meetings, and can have their adviser in attendance at meetings and team practices. The adviser will also attend the high school competition to be held in northeast Ohio in April 2003.

Q. WHAT EXACTLY WILL THE SKATING CLUB DO, AND WHAT WILL THEY ACCOMPLISH THIS SCHOOL YEAR?

A. The skating club will meet on a regular basis to encourage new skaters to participate in skating. They will practice at local rinks and improve their skating skills. In April 2003 the clubs will meet at the Pavilion Recreation Center in Cleveland Heights, Ohio for a friendly competition to earn trophies and medals for their schools. Those students who join the club and choose not to skate can still participate by making signs, playing music for the competition, announcing the skaters and participating in the behind the scenes accounting, score running etc., that are vital parts of any skating competition.

Q. BREAKDOWN OF SKATING CLUB MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS:

A. They are as follows:

1. Any school district requirement in the areas of academic, attendance and discipline.
2. Membership to the United States Figure Skating Association (USFSA). This membership is required as the USFSA will sanction the high school competition in April 2003. Also, this membership includes permission for any skater to skate at any rink with a USFSA approved club in the United States. This membership is also required by any rink in the United States to practice on club ice or work with any coaches in the United States. This fee is \$20.00 to be paid by the skater. Skating club members who opt not to skate are not required to pay this fee.
3. Membership to one of the 15 local clubs. This fee is different for each club. However, as all the clubs are interested in having high school skating develop in the area, most clubs may waive their membership fee for high school skating students, allowing them membership privileges up and until the April 2003 skating competition. This includes liability insurance for anyone skating at any time. The opportunity to walk on or contract ice at local clubs. The opportunity to take individual or group lessons at any club in the United States. There may be a fee for the lessons, a list of coaches will be provided who are willing to donate time and lessons to the high school project this school year.

Q. WHAT PAPERWORK IS REQUIRED FROM THE SCHOOL DISTRICT?

A. The following would be required from the school district:

1. Whatever usual paperwork the school district requires to organize and recognize a club in their district.

2. Each participating school district is required to sign and return to the United States Figure Skating Association the provided Application for School Affiliated Club Membership Form. The required \$30.00 club dues will be paid by all participating skating club members. The \$30.00 fee is split between all club participants, including the parent adviser. Therefore, the fee is minimal for all club participants. This \$30.00 total fee can be paid and sent to the USFSA by a parent/adviser. It should not be paid from a school account.

3. There is no financial cost for the district involved with the skating club or the club competition.

Q. WHAT IS THIS APRIL 2003 COMPETITION AND, HOW WILL THE STUDENT SKATERS PARTICIPATE?

A. In order for the club to have a purpose and a goal, a friendly high school competition will be organized and held in April 2003 at the Pavilion Recreation Center in Cleveland Heights, Ohio. The competition will be held for a few hours on a weekend. As with the club meetings and practices, this competition will not be held during school hours. Transportation will be provided by parents. Parent supervision will be provided before, during and after the competition, as well as local skating club supervision and volunteers. As the competition is sanctioned by the USFSA, judges, security and medical personnel will be provided as with any USFSA skating competition. There will be no cost to the school for any of these required USFSA components. Students who choose to skate may enter the following categories: Free skate long or short programs, solo ice dancing, individual compulsory moves, team events such as spins or a maneuver team. This broad category of events allows even a beginner to participate.

***Students do not have to purchase expensive skating costumes. Advanced skaters may choose to wear skating apparel they already have for individual events, or students may choose to all have the same dress code requirement for their team. EX: Dress in school colors. Skates may be rented, they do not have to be bought. All apparel to be worn will be pre-approved by the district. The idea is to skate for your school, not to spend funds to skate.

Q. HOW IS THE COMPETITION JUDGED?

A. The competition is judged by USFSA sanctioned judges who donate their time and expertise year round to the sport of figure skating. Each category and skater will be awarded points, the school with the most points, wins the placement trophies. The teams are constructed of the number of students who participate from each school, the smallest number of accepted skaters is 2 per school. The idea behind the concept is to get as many students skating as possible. All skaters skate at their ability level, from beginner through advanced. The competition is a real competition, therefore, students must be prepared and mature when skating. No immature or unprofessional behavior on the part of any participating student will be tolerated.

Q. WHY ONLY ONE COMPETITION THIS YEAR?

A. To make the goals realistic and attainable for skaters beginning to skate, only one competition will be held this school year. Also, as this program is in development for this area and the entire state of Ohio, one competition will be held this year. There have been skating clubs formed in the Southern and Northwestern parts of Ohio in previous years. This is the first time the entire state is attempting to participate with all teams at one competition. Skating competitions that were previously held in Ohio were held at Bowling Green University in 2000 & 2001.

****SCHOOLS WILL GET TO KEEP ANY TROPHIES WON BY THEIR SKATERS. SKATERS WILL GET TO KEEP ANY INDIVIDUAL MEDALS OR RIBBONS RECEIVED AT THE COMPETITION.

Q. IS THERE A FEE REQUIRED OF SKATERS TO SKATE IN THE COMPETITION?

A. Yes, there is a fee required of all skaters. This fee will depend on the number of events students choose to skate. This fee will be covered by the skater, by any fundraising the skater may do through the club, or donations given to the club. These fees will cover the cost of the ice fee the host club will be required to pay. As the concept grows, if a profit is occurred, all profits will be split and returned to the clubs at the end of the school year to be used at the school and clubs discretion.

Q. IS THERE A COMMITTEE OR GROUP OF PEOPLE I CAN CONTACT TO GET MORE INFORMATION?

A. Yes, you may contact the following:

1. Diane Murphy Home: 440-327-9598
 Work: 440-808-1995
 E-Mail: cleveskate@aol.com

***Mrs. Murphy is the Administrator for the Cleveland Skating Office which represents the Greater Cleveland Council of Figure Skating Clubs.

2. Peggy Blakemore Home: 440-777-6485
 Work: 216-362-6450
 E-mail: Myqt1@aol.com

***Mrs. Blakemore is a Board Member and Treasurer of the West Shore Figure Skating Club. She is also the parent of a freshmen at Fairview High School.

3. Shirley Rego Home: (440) 777-4549
 Email: smrego@aol.com

Mrs. Rego is Treasurer of the Greater Cleveland Council of Figure Skating Clubs. She is also a National Accountant for the USFSA.

4. Anne Eurenus Home: (440) 886-6654

Ms. Eurenus is a Board Member of the Strongsville Figure Skating Club, and the parent of two competitive skaters with 15 years of combined competitive experience.

5. Karen McCrary Home: (216) 561-5121

Mrs. McCrary is a parent of a four time National Competition Level skater who attends Shaker High School. She is also a USFSA Parent Committee member through the Pavilion Skating Club in Cleveland Heights, Ohio.