



“Adults Skate Too” Exhibition Guide

Drafted by:

Terryl Lee Allen, *Vice Chair for Community Support and Development– Adult Skating Committee*

Lori Fussell, *Chair – Adult Skating Committee*

Marci Richards, *Community Support and Development – Adult Skating Committee*

Karissa Woienski, *Figure Skating Programs Manager - U.S. Figure Skating*

Edited by:

Michelle Gross Daichman and Julie Gidlow, *Adult Skating Committee*

INTRODUCTION/RATIONALE

The first “Adults Skate Too” exhibition was organized by Marcia Richards and held in Milwaukee, WI five years ago. The exhibition included primarily adult skaters who had never competed. These skaters were given the opportunity to perform varied programs, including pattern and free dances, free skate and artistic numbers, multigenerational programs, figures, and demonstrations of skating skills. Adult synchronized skating teams also performed. The ages of the performers ranged from 25-86. The exhibition was designed to be a special event to allow all adult skaters the opportunity to perform and adult competitive skaters the opportunity to practice before a competition or test.

Reasons an “Adults Skate Too” exhibition can benefit local clubs and skating programs:

- Helps with growth and retention of adult skaters as club members.
- Gives those who compete and/or test another performance-practice opportunity.
- Gives recreational skaters a chance to experience performing without other skaters on the ice.
- Gives adult skaters a chance to perform for their friends and families, possibly their only chance to demonstrate their skating skills to their loved ones.
- Helps bring awareness to the adult skating program.
- Demonstrates the positive example of adults participating in a lifelong commitment to and love of skating.

“Adults Skate Too” exhibitions can be as small or as large, as informal or as grand, as interest or circumstances dictate.

STEPS TO ORGANIZING AN ‘ADULTS SKATE TOO’ EXHIBITION

Ask coaches and other adult skaters to help identify those who would like to participate. Potential participants may include those who skate on adult sessions, take private lessons, are members of Learn-to-Skate, are members of Coffee Clubs or just show up at public sessions.

Be sure to work with your local club or multiple local clubs when organizing.

Choose the time of day you want to have the exhibition.

- Select a date that is between one and three weeks before a local competition, sectional or national competition or test session.
 - Sometimes a coffee club or adult session will promote such an event during their usual time with little cost (free or for the nominal entry fee). Since this is during the day, however, those who work during the day may not be able to attend.
 - Alternatively, ice may be purchased at a more convenient time for all skaters with the cost offset by charging an exhibition fee or asking the participants to pay for ice time or both.

Allow a wide variety of programs to reach the most participants and highlight adult skating diversity:

- Free skate (competition and test programs)
- Solo or partnered dance
- Showcase, Theater on Ice
- Synchronized skating
- Figure demonstration
- Demonstration of basic skating elements or group class activities
- Family programs - adult skater with child(ren) and/or grandchild(ren)
- Duets and small groups

Select individuals to:

- Obtain a U.S. Figure Skating sanction. **This is mandatory!** All sanctions are applied for via the Members Only site at www.usfigureskating.org.
- Arrange for ice time to include a warm-up period of at least 15 minutes and possibly longer, depending on what is needed for all skaters performing.
- Play music and announce the skaters during the event.
- Write and print a performance program (optional).
- Publicize your exhibition. Some ideas include posting a flyer at the rink, inviting news media, posting on social media and emailing club members. **All forms of advertising, announcement, program or notice, including on the internet/web, of any sanctioned carnival or exhibition must state that the event is presented by the sponsoring club/ program and sanctioned or approved by U.S. Figure Skating.**
- Provide food, if desired, for everyone attending or just for the skaters performing.
- If food is provided, find a person to oversee hospitality during the exhibition.
- Assign a person to greet spectators, pass out programs (optional) and collect admissions (optional).
- It is best to have one individual oversee the whole event and possibly do some of the above tasks.

On the day of event:

- Post warm-up time(s) and skate order where skaters will see it.
 - Suggestions for posting are in the dressing room, at the skaters' entrance to the ice and in the lobby area.
- Make dressing rooms available, if possible.
- Make sure the sound system is available and operational.
- Have a greeter direct spectators to seats, collect admission (if charged) and pass out programs (if used).
- The hospitality person needs to oversee the food and food service.
- Make sure warm-up ice of at least 15 minutes before the event is announced.

After the exhibition:

- Be sure to clean up and return to their original condition the areas used during the exhibition.
- Thank the participants, volunteers and the rink for their attendance and time!