

SHOWCASE

The focus of Showcase is on the artistic side of skating, with performances judged for theatricality and artistry from an entertainment standpoint. Skaters participating in Showcase events and competitions display their interpretative and creative skills in the depiction of a particular character or musical theme exhibited throughout their routine.

Technical skating skill and difficulty will not be rewarded as such; however, skating must be the major element of the performance and be of sufficient quality to support the character or theme chosen. Single skaters, duets, small ensembles of 3-7 and production numbers of 8-30 skaters divided by ability/age participate in Showcase events and competitions.

Who participates in Showcase or artistic events?

Skaters choose to participate in Showcase events for a variety of reasons, the most common of which are to have fun, display creative talents, and enjoy this uniquely entertaining artistic aspect of the figure skating. With Showcase putting the expressive and choreographic aspects of skating at the forefront, skaters participating in these events benefit greatly as they not only develop improved skating skills, but also improved expression, poise, eye contact and musical interpretation aptitude.

Events/Opportunities in Showcase:

There are several competitive opportunities for skaters who wish to participate in Showcase. Many nonqualifying competitions offer Showcase, Interpretative and Artistic as additional events for skaters in Basic Skills through Senior levels including adults. Events such as these give competitions a feeling of light-heartedness while allowing skaters the chance to display their artistic



skating talents in the competitive realm, with the potential of qualifying for National Showcase.

Showcase events are judged on musical interpretation and feeling, expression, and how the skating relates to the music. Show costumes are permitted, as long as they do not touch or drag on the ice. Only hand held props are allowed and must remain in the skater's hand(s) at all times. 6.0 Judging is used and deductions are taken for skaters including technical elements not permitted in the event description.

Specific categories that are often offered at competitions include the following:

- Light entertainment
- Dramatic entertainment
- Duets
- Small Ensembles (3-7 skaters)
- Group Production (8-30 skaters)

National Showcase:

National Showcase is a national festival with skaters who have qualified by placing first, second, third or fourth in a contested theatrical event of a sanctioned competition during the preceding 12 months. National Showcase is held annually in August and U.S. Figure Skating member clubs bid to host the competition.

Many who have observed National Showcase have remarked on the uniqueness and variety of programs helping to further develop the level of creativity and skating skills for participants.



It is not only a competition that many skaters strive to qualify for, it also serves as a highlight for the Showcase discipline as a whole as it gives skaters an avenue to display their technical skills to serve their artistry.

National Showcase offers the categories of light entertainment, dramatic entertainment and extemporaneous improvisation to singles skaters. Singles participating in light or dramatic entertainment programs perform under spotlights as do duets. All other events are performed under full house lighting. Ensemble events include

duet, mini-ensembles (3-7 skaters) and production number (8-30 skaters).

The National Showcase event features a Parade of Champions which includes the champion from each Dramatic and Light Entertainment singles event from Intermediate through Senior, plus Masters. The Parade of Junior Champions includes the winners from the preliminary thorough Juvenile events, plus Adults, Young Adults and Teens, with the Champions performing encores of their winning performances.

Resources:

To find more information on:

- Showcase Skater's Guide
- Rules and Guidelines
- Bid packages to host upcoming National Showcase competitions
- Join in on a Discussion Group
- View videos of National Showcase competitors from past events

Visit www.usfigureskating.org, click "Programs" and then "National Showcase," or contact Brenda Gildewell, U.S. Figure Skating programs manager, at bgildewell@usfigureskating.org or 719.635.5200 ext. 436.

