



Excel Competition Series Handbook

2019 Season

Excel Competition Series Dates

January 4, 2019 – May 13, 2019

Dear Skaters, Coaches and Parents,

On behalf of U.S. Figure Skating's Program Development Committee, we are thrilled to announce the inaugural season of the Excel Competition Series.

The Excel Competition Series has been developed to provide a meaningful series of events for young athletes to encourage skaters to enjoy an exciting and competitive environment where they can experience the challenge of working toward advancing their technical goals each season. Events will be held at select non-qualifying competitions; a list of participating competitions is [available here](#).

The primary mission of this program is to inspire more of our young athletes to continue training and remain committed to participating in figure skating by providing them with events at a level that allows them to showcase their strengths. Additionally, we view this program as an opportunity for skaters and coaches to familiarize themselves with the fundamentals of the International Judging System (IJS) through a gradual introduction, rather than all at once. The substitution of a choreographic step sequence throughout the levels and limits for spins at the lower levels provides a phased approach which allows skaters to become proficient and confident with the IJS.

As we enter the pilot season of the Excel Competition Series, please know that we always welcome constructive feedback and will work very hard at the end of this season to find solutions to issues that may arise, while keeping the program's mission in mind.

We hope that this opportunity will reignite the fire for many young athletes, opening up an exciting competitive avenue that inspires them to work hard and focus on achieving challenging yet attainable goals each season. We wish all the athletes good luck this season – skate your best, have fun and enjoy the challenge!

Sincerely,

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Excel Competition Series Rules and Information

General Information

Overview	4
Dates	4
Events to be Skated	4
Eligibility and Test Levels	4
Series Registration	5
Entry Fees	5
Music	6
Awards	6
Costumes	6
Judging System	6
Warm-up Groups	6
Group Size	6
Awarding of Points	6
Earning Series Awards or Invitations	7
LOC/Participating Series Competition Information	8

General Information

Welcome to the 2019 Excel Competition Series!

Excel Competition Series events are U.S. Figure Skating nonqualifying competitions, as per Rule 3060 in the 2019 U.S. Figure Skating Rulebook.

Overview:

U.S. Figure Skating is pleased to announce the 2019 Excel Competition Series. This is the inaugural year of the program and is open to individual skaters within the Eastern, Midwestern and Pacific Coast Sections.

Excel Preliminary Plus, Pre-Juvenile Plus, Juvenile Plus, Intermediate, Novice, Junior & Senior

Skaters competing in the above events:

- **The top six skaters by section** for each event will earn an invitation to participate in the Excel Finalist Camp and Excel Series Final at the National Festival.

Excel Beginner, High Beginner, Pre-Preliminary, Preliminary, Pre-Juvenile & Juvenile

Skaters competing in the above events:

- All skaters in the above list of events, who compete in at least one series competition will receive an **automatic invitation** to compete at the Excel Series Final at the National Festival.
- Will compete to earn special recognition at the National Festival and recognition in Skating Magazine based on their participation and placement within the series.

Dates:

The 2019 Excel Competition Series will run from January 4, 2019 to May 13, 2019 with the Excel Finalist Camp and Excel Series Final competition taking place at the National Festival, June 7 -9, 2019 in Coral Springs, Florida.

The National Festival is an opportunity for skaters from Compete USA levels up through Excel Senior to participate and compete at a national event; the Excel Series Final and Finalist Camp are two components of the larger National Festival.

Events to be skated:

Free skate events for all Excel track levels will be offered at each Excel Series competition, including: excel beginner, excel high beginner, excel pre preliminary, excel preliminary, excel pre-juvenile, excel juvenile, excel preliminary plus, excel pre-juvenile plus, excel juvenile plus, excel intermediate, excel novice, excel junior, and excel senior.

Eligibility & Test Levels

Athletes must be eligible members in good standing of U.S. Figure Skating and may be members of the figure skating club of their choice. The skater's section for the duration of the Excel Series will be based upon the location of the skaters' home figure skating club at the close of registration, the legal residence of the individual member, or the physical address of the Learn to Skate USA program in which the skater is registered. Skaters may not switch sections during the season even if their home

club changes. All participants will be expected to abide by the Code of Ethics (GR 1.01) and the Code of Conduct (GR 1.02), as set forth in the 2019 U.S. Figure Skating Rulebook.

Canadian skaters who have are eligible members in good standing of U.S. Figure Skating may compete in the Series; section will be determined by section of their home U.S. Figure Skating club, or, in the case of individual members, section closest to their legal residence as per Rule 2410 in the U.S. Figure Skating Rulebook. Canadian skaters who are not members of U.S. Figure Skating may compete in an Excel levels at any competition offering it, but may not enter the Series.

All skaters must either compete at their test level or one level above their highest US Figure Skating free skating test passed.

The determination of level will be based upon test level as of the 2019 Excel Competition Series entry deadline of March 1, 2019, or when the skater submits their registration to be an Excel Series participant (whichever date is earlier).

If a skater plans to take a free skating test during the 2019 Excel Series season, they should start the season registered to compete one level above their highest US Figure Skating free skating test passed in order to remain eligible to compete within the Series after passing their next free skating event.

For example, if a Pre-Preliminary skater plans to take their Preliminary test during the Series season, they should register for the series to compete in Excel Preliminary or Excel Preliminary Plus in order to remain eligible to compete in the Series after passing the Preliminary free skating test.

Skaters may not change or move up levels in the 2019 Series once the registration deadline has passed.

Skaters must be under 21 years old as of the registration deadline of July 1, 2018.

Series Registration:

Skaters interested in participating in the 2019 Excel Competition Series will need to complete the online Excel Competition Series registration form and pay a \$45.00 fee to U.S. Figure Skating by March 1, 2019, in addition to registering for the individual Series competitions they wish to enter. Each registered athlete may only compete in one level for the entire season.

The online form to enter the Series is [available here](#).

In order for skaters to earn points within the Series, they must be registered with U.S. Figure Skating as an Excel Series participant prior to entering and competing in an Excel Series competition that they plan to earn points credit from.

Entry Fees:

All skaters must register for the individual Excel Series competitions within the Series separately through the LOC hosting each individual event. Excel Competition Series event entry fees will be set by the LOC hosting the individual competition and will be listed within their announcement. Skaters are responsible for registering directly with each Excel Series competition they wish to compete in.

Music:

Music must be provided for events according to requirements in each competition's announcement.

Awards:

For participating Series competitions, awards (trophies, medals, or ribbons) will be at the discretion of the hosting organization and will be detailed in each competition's individual announcement.

Costumes:

The Excel Competition Series will follow all costume rules and requirements as stated for singles events in the 2019 U.S. Figure Skating Rulebook. (Rules 6030-6035)

Judging System:

The IJS will be used for all Excel "PLUS" levels, and intermediate through senior levels at ALL Excel Series competitions. Please refer to the Excel Program Technical Handbook for IJS guidelines for Excel events found [here](#).

Choice of either IJS or 6.0 judging system is at the discretion of the LOC and will be specified in the announcement for the following Excel levels: Beginner, High Beginner, Pre-Preliminary, Preliminary, Pre-Juvenile and Juvenile levels.

Warm-up Groups

Warm-up groups are at the discretion of the chief referee, and skaters will be notified prior to the start of the event if there will be more than one warm up group.

Group Size:

All events scored using the IJS will compete as a single group per event level. Events scored as 6.0 will be split at the discretion of the chief referee.

Awarding of Points

Points will be awarded by the U.S. Figure Skating Program Development Committee as detailed below.

Excel Beginner, High Beginner, Pre-Preliminary, Preliminary, Pre-Juvenile & Juvenile

- Skaters must participate in at least one Series competition in order to have their points recognized. All skaters who compete in at least one Series competition, regardless of placement, will receive an invitation to compete at the National Festival.
- Skaters may enter any Series competition, anywhere in the country (they are not required to compete only in their section).
- Points will be awarded to skaters who place first through fourth at any Series competition within their section in the above levels as follows: (1st Place: 8 points, 2nd place: 6 points, 3rd place: 4 points, 4th place: 2 points).
- If a skater in the above levels chooses to compete in more than one Series competition, the points earned from their top two finishes will be averaged to compute a point total. For example, if a skater earns a 3rd place (4 points) at one competition and first place at the next competition (8 points), their points calculation is $4 + 8 = 12$, divided by $2 = 6$ points.
- If a skater in the above levels chooses to compete in only one Series competition, the points earned from that competition will equal their Series point total.

- If a skater is the only competitor to skate in their event, then 6 points will be awarded for the 1st place finish.
- Ties: In the case of a tie in overall finish, skaters will share the available points. For example, if competitors are tied for first place, the skaters will share the points for first and second place, each skater receiving 7 points for their shared first place finish.
- Points will only be awarded to athletes who compete in the competition. No points will be awarded to an athlete who withdraws for any reason or is not registered as a participant in the Series by the entry deadline of the competition or by the March 1, 2019 Excel Series entry deadline, whichever is earlier.

Excel Preliminary Plus, Pre-Juvenile Plus, Juvenile Plus, Intermediate, Novice, Junior & Senior

- Skaters must participate in at least two Series competitions in order to have their scores recognized. Skaters may enter any Series competition, anywhere in the country (they do not have to compete only in their section).
- As the above events will be scored IJS, each skater's top two Series competition will be added together to attain their final point total. For example, if a skater's top two scores were 26.01 and 23.24, that skater's final point total would be 49.25
- Scores will only be recognized for athletes who are registered as a participant in the Series by the entry deadline of the competition or by the March 1, 2019 Excel Series entry deadline, whichever is earlier.
- **The top six skaters by section** for each event will earn an invitation to participate in the Excel Finalist Camp and Excel Series Final at the National Festival.

Earning Series Awards and Invitations

Excel Preliminary Plus, Pre-Juvenile Plus, Juvenile Plus, Intermediate, Novice, Junior & Senior:

- Skaters competing in the above Excel Series level events will compete to earn an invitation to compete in the Excel Series Final competition and Excel Finalists Camp, June 7-9, 2019.
- Skaters can compete in as many competitions during the Series season as they desire, however, only the skater's top two point finishes will be used towards their point total.
- Skaters must compete in at least two competitions in order to be eligible to advance to the Excel Series Final and Finalists Camp.
- Those skaters who finish in the top six (6) places within their section, based on the combined total of their two highest scores, will receive an invitation to advance to the Excel Series Final competition and Finalists Camp.
- A variation of the fill-up rule may be used if less than six skaters qualify to receive invitations to the Excel Series Final at any particular level. This variation of the fill-up rule will be at the discretion of the Program Development Committee.

Excel Beginner, High Beginner, Pre Preliminary, Preliminary, Pre-Juvenile, Juvenile:

- Skaters competing in at least one Excel Series competition will receive an automatic invitation to compete in the National Festival, June 7- 9, 2019.
- Top points earners in each section will receive special recognition awards at the National Festival.
- Skaters can compete in as many competitions during the Series season as they desire, however, only the points earned from a skater's top two finishes will be averaged to compute their point total.

Questions about the Excel Competition Series should go to the Excel Series email at ExcelSeries@usfigureskating.org.

LOC/Participating Competition Information

A list of the 2019 Excel Series competitions is [available here](#) as well as on the Excel Series webpage.

Events: Each selected 2019 Excel Competition Series event will need to offer all levels of Excel events at their competition. Those levels are as follows:

excel beginner, excel high beginner, excel pre-preliminary, excel preliminary, excel pre-juvenile, excel juvenile, excel preliminary plus, excel pre-juvenile plus, excel juvenile plus, excel intermediate, excel novice, excel junior, excel senior.

Judging:

Each participating 2019 Excel Competition Series competition agrees to:

- Use the ISU judging system for all Excel "PLUS" levels (Preliminary Plus, Pre-Juvenile Plus, Juvenile Plus), and Intermediate through Senior levels at their Excel Series competition. Please refer to the Excel Program Technical Handbook for IJS guidelines for Excel events.
- Choice of either the IJS or 6.0 judging system is at the discretion of the LOC and will be specified in the announcement for the following Excel levels: Beginner, High Beginner, Pre-Preliminary, Preliminary, Pre-Juvenile and Juvenile levels.

Items Needed from Participating Series Competitions:

Thank you for participating in the 2019 Pilot Season of the Excel Competition Series. We appreciate your willingness to add the Excel Competition Series format into your nonqualifying event this season and appreciate your support of this new U.S. Figure Skating program.

As soon as possible: Designate a Chief Referee and email the name of the Chief Referee to the Program Development Committee at ExcelSeries@usfigureskating.org.

Immediately following your event: In order to help us calculate and post the point standings of the Excel Competition Series participants, below is a list of the items we need for you to forward to us **immediately following the conclusion** of your competition (you can request these to be sent by your chief accountant). They need to be emailed to the Program Development Committee at: ExcelSeries@usfigureskating.org in electronic format for point calculation purposes.

- The event results sheets for all Excel events.
- The complete IJS protocol for all Excel Plus events and Excel Intermediate through Senior.
- Format needed for results submission:
 - Club Report from Forms Central – the WORD version of the Club Report
 - Competition Survey Report (R4) from Hal2, found under the Competition Survey function