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2024 Minnesota L'Étoile du Nord Challenge  
(Formerly the Minnesota State FS Championships)

August 17 – 18, 2024

Sponsored by the Twin City Figure Skating Association

Hosted by the FSC of Bloomington

Bloomington Ice Garden, Bloomington, MN

Chief Referee: Lisa Anne Venne

Chief Accountant: Gay Ann Louiselle

Chief Technical Accountant: Carolyn Marker

Chief Music Coordinator, Chip Rauth

Entry Deadline: July 20, 2024

## **I. COMPETITION OVERVIEW**

The 2024 Minnesota L'étoile du Nord Challenge will be conducted in accordance with the rules and regulations of U.S. Figure Skating, as set forth in the [current rulebook](#), as well as any pertinent updates that have been posted on the U.S. Figure Skating [website](#).

All 2024 Minnesota L'étoile du Nord Challenge events will be scored using the International Judging System (IJS).

This competition is open to all eligible, restricted, reinstated or readmitted persons as defined by the Eligibility Rules listed below.

Skaters must be a currently registered member of a U.S. Figure Skating member club, a collegiate club or who is an individual member in accordance with the current rulebook. For non-U.S. citizens, please refer to the [rulebook](#) for more information.

## **II. ELIGIBILITY**

This competition is open to all registered U.S. Figure Skating members in good standing who are residents of the state of Minnesota AND/OR a home club member of a Minnesota U.S. Figure Skating club as of July 1, 2024.

### **Singles: Well-Balanced Events:**

- Skaters must meet at least the minimum singles test requirements for the event's level. A skater's singles test level may be higher than the minimum requirement.
  - o Skate Up skaters may skate up one level higher than their minimum test requirement allows.
- Skaters may not register for an event level lower than allowed by their competitive floor. An athlete's competitive floor is set by one of the following scenarios:
  - o If an athlete has a paid EMS series application for the NQS series, the event level registered for in the most recent NQS will become the lowest level they may compete at in any U.S. Figure Skating sanctioned event.
  - o If an athlete has a paid EMS series application for the Excel Series, the event level registered for in the most recent Excel series will become the lowest level they may compete in any Excel event. For Well-Balanced and Specialty events the skater will be permitted to register at one level lower than the "floor" set by their excel series entry.
  - o If an athlete has never had a paid EMS series application in the NQS or Excel series, the athlete may select their level based on their goals and technical skills as long as the minimum test requirements are met.
- For more details about establishing event levels, refer to information sheet [HERE](#) or email [events@usfigureskating.org](mailto:events@usfigureskating.org).

**Singles: Adults:**

- Skaters must meet the minimum test requirements for the events level, but not exceed the maximum permissible test requirement.

**EVENTS OFFERED:**

U.S. Figure Skating Program Requirements: [usfigureskating.org](https://usfigureskating.org) --> Skate --> Compete --> [Program Requirements](#)

On the program requirements page linked above, competitions that fall within the date range beside the program requirements must use those requirements.

SINGLES	JUDGING	Event Price
Well Balanced Free Skate – Pre-Preliminary thru Juvenile / Open Juv	IJS	\$195
Combined: Short Program & Free Skate – Intermediate thru Senior	IJS	\$240
Adult Free Skate - Adult Pre-Bronze thru Master Jr/Sr	IJS	\$195

**OUR COMMUNITY:**

U.S. Figure Skating is dedicated to fostering a culture of belonging and community that is welcoming for all individuals. We are committed to championing diversity, equity and inclusion and understand its value in combating discrimination and challenging inequalities necessary to develop champions both on and off the ice. We are actively working toward developing equitable practices and policies that foster safety and empower all individuals to authentically pursue their unique path in all areas of our sport. We stand firmly on the belief that our members are the most important asset to our organization and that our differences are meaningful and strengthen our sport. We believe that skating is for everyone.

**NON-DISCRIMINATION:**

U.S. Figure Skating commits in policy, principle and practice to sustain a non-discriminatory approach on and off the ice for all members. We strive to provide equal opportunity for all despite their varied backgrounds, experiences and identities, and want all members to feel valued and respected at every level of organization. U.S. Figure Skating’s SkateSafe® Program receives, investigates and addresses allegations of discrimination or harassment throughout its membership and the organization. Please refer to the [SkateSafe® Program Handbook](#) for further definition of harassment, discrimination and abuse.

By attending this event, all participants are willingly committing to upholding U.S. Figure Skating’s Code of Ethics (*GR 1.01*) and Code of Conduct (*GR 1.02*), as detailed within the [U.S. Figure Skating Rulebook](#).

To report a concern of discrimination or harassment to U.S. Figure Skating, please visit [www.USFigureSkating.org/SkateSafe](https://www.USFigureSkating.org/SkateSafe) or email [SkateSafe@USFigureSkating.org](mailto:SkateSafe@USFigureSkating.org).

### **COMPLIANCE:**

For full details about participant compliance requirements, refer to the U.S. Figure Skating SkateSafe® webpage: <https://www.usfigureskating.org/skatesafe#compliance>.

### **COACHES**

To be an eligible coach at a nonqualifying competition, coaches must meet the applicable compliance requirements and verified by U.S. Figure Skating. Coach compliance falls into two categories, Coach Compliance (includes choreographers) and Learn to Skate USA® Instructor Compliance. Details regarding compliance requirements can be found [HERE](#). All compliance requirements must be met at the time of check-in to access the competition, no exceptions.

If a coach cannot provide a photo ID and is not the list or cannot produce the necessary documents, he or she will not be allowed a credential. There can be no exceptions to this policy.

Coaches of foreign athletes: If you are a coach of a foreign athlete only, you are not subject to U.S. Figure Skating coach compliance and will only be asked to provide a letter of good standing for the federation your athlete represents.

Only ONE (1) coach credential will be issued per skater.

## **III. REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

### **ENTRIES:**

Fees are \$195.00 for single events and \$240.00 for Combined Intermediate thru Senior Short Program & Free Skate events. Online registration through EntryEeze is required and payment must be made via a secured credit card transaction serviced by EntryEeze. Upon receipt of your online registration, emails will be sent to the skater's coach to verify the accuracy of the entry and to the skater's home club to certify that the skater is in good standing with the club. Coaches and clubs are required to confirm the accuracy of the information the skater has provided on EntryEeze. As part of the entry fee, skaters will receive one complimentary video of their free skate event.

*Registration will open on July 5, 2024 and will close at 11:59 pm CDT on July 20, 2024. Late registrations are NOT allowed.*

### **TEST CREDIT:**

Test credit is NOT being offered at this competition.

### **MUSIC SUBMISSION/UPLOAD:**

For this competition, ***online submission is the ONLY acceptable method for submitting program music.*** After you have paid for your events, the system will prompt you to upload your music for each event. If your music is not available at that time, you can logout of your account and return later to upload your music by going to the “Competition” tab and then selecting “My Music.” Please be sure you are uploading the correct music for the correct event segment. Be careful not to mix up your short program and your free skate!

***All music must be uploaded no later than 11:59 pm CDT on August 7, 2024.*** After this date skaters will be locked out of this feature and subject to a **\$30 late fee per segment.** Late fees will not be removed under any circumstances and must be paid prior to receiving skater credentials onsite.

The uploaded program music MUST conform to the following specifications:

- Programs per file: One (1) – Only one piece of competition program music (e.g. short program, free skate) per file is allowed.
- File Format: EntryEeze will accept either MP3 or M4A format files.
- Bit Rate: 192 kbps is requested (bit rates between 128 and 320 kbps will be accepted).
- Maximum leader: The Chief Music Coordinator requests that there be NO leader. The leader is the silence between the start of the track and the actual start of the program music.
- Maximum trailer: The Chief Music Coordinator requests that there be NO trailer. The trailer is the silence between the end of the program music and the end of the actual track.

Competitors must also have available a backup copy of their competition music on a cell phone and it must be immediately available rinkside whenever the skater competes. If the phone does not have the standard round headset connector, an appropriate adapter, such as an Apple Lightning connector or Samsung USB-C adapter is required to be attached. The phone should be presented to the music person with the file ready to play, phone in airplane mode and volume turned to maximum.

### **PLANNED PROGRAM CONTENT (PPC) SUBMISSION/UPLOAD**

The International Judging System (IJS) will be used for all 2024 Minnesota L’etoile du Nord Challenge events. All competitors skating in these events must submit the planned program content (PPC) form online via EntryEeze. Submission of PPCs is required by USFS rule #3054.

***All PPCs must be uploaded no later than 11:59 pm CDT on August 7, 2024.*** After this date skaters will be locked out of this feature and subject to a **\$30 late fee per segment.** Late fees will not be removed under any circumstances and must be paid prior to receiving skater credentials onsite.

## **REFUND POLICY**

Entry fees will not be refunded after entry deadline unless no competition exists or the event is canceled. There will be no refunds for medical withdrawals. Online processing fees are not refundable. Contested credit card charges will be charged a \$25.00 fee. Payment of the fee will be required before the skater is allowed to participate in practice ice or events.

## **LIABILITY:**

U.S. Figure Skating, Learn to Skate USA®, Twin City Figure Skating Association, FSC of Bloomington and Bloomington Ice Garden accept no responsibility for injury or damage sustained by any participant in this competition. This is in accordance with Rule 1600 of the official U.S. Figure Skating Rulebook.

## **IV. COMPETITION DETAILS**

### **FACILITIES:**

Bloomington Ice Garden

3600 West 98<sup>th</sup> St, Bloomington, MN 55431

<https://www.bloomingtonmn.gov/big/bloomington-ice-garden>

Official events will take place on NHL size rinks.

Note there is a concession stand as well as vending machines.

### **LOCKER ROOMS AND CHANGING AREAS:**

Locker rooms and changing areas **will not** be available at this competition. All athletes are expected to arrive at the arena ready (costumes, hair, make-up etc.). Athletes will be provided with an area to put skates on but changing will not be permitted in these spaces.

### **U.S. Figure Skating Travel Policy:**

All travel must strictly adhere to Two-Deep Leadership requirements. An Adult Participant cannot transport a Minor Athlete one-on-one and Two-Deep Leadership requirements must be adhered to at all times during In-Program travel, by transporting at least two minors or a second Adult Participant. An Adult Participant cannot share a hotel room or other sleeping arrangement with a Minor Athlete(s). Full details of the SkateSafe® Travel Policy and any exceptions can be found starting on page 12 of the [SkateSafe® Handbook](#).

### **OFFICIAL WEBSITE & UPDATES:**

An official bulletin board will be located at the main entrance to the rink. It is the responsibility of each competitor, parent and coach to check the bulletin board frequently for any schedule changes and/or additional information pertaining to the competition.

### **SCHEDULE**

Competitors may be scheduled on any day or time during the announced dates of the competition. . All competitors are expected to arrive at the rink **at least 45 minutes** prior to

the start of their event(s) as an event may start up to 20 minutes ahead of its scheduled time. The competition and practice ice schedule will be available after the close of entries. All participants will be notified via email once available.

### **PRACTICE ICE:**

Official practice ice is not included in the entry fee. Practice ice will be available for purchase via Entryeze. All sessions will be leveled (Low, Medium, High & Adult) and will be 20 minutes in length. Additional practice ice information will be available via Entryeze and emails. Refunds will not be given for unused practice ice sessions.

### **ONSITE CHECK-IN:**

Check-in will open two hours prior to the start of practice ice and/or events each day beginning on Friday, August 16<sup>th</sup> and for each competition day thereafter. The registration desk is located at the main entrance to the Bloomington Ice Garden arena.

*Skaters who have not uploaded their music and/or PPC form will not be allowed to register for the competition until those items have been received and all late fees paid.*

If you are participating in a role requiring compliance, please be sure to [download or print your compliance card](#) to verify your compliance status on-site, if requested. If you believe your compliance card does not accurately reflect your compliance status, please contact [skatesafe@usfigureskating.org](mailto:skatesafe@usfigureskating.org) at least 2 business days prior to the competition for assistance.

### **AWARDS:**

Medals will be awarded to the top 4 competitors in each event. Combined short program and free skate events will have medals awarded after the completion of the free skate segment. Awards can be picked up at the awards table once results have been officially posted as **FINAL** on the Live Results Leaderboard for the event.

The Minnesota State Champion title will be awarded for all levels. The award will be given to the highest scoring eligible skater at the annual recognition event in September. In addition in order to earn the title of Minnesota State Champion for the Juvenile thru Senior levels and the Adult Gold, Silver, Master Interim/Novice and Master Junior/Senior levels the competitor must earn the minimum required test scores (TES, PCS and TSS) for their free skate program. A skater may be the Minnesota State Champion only once at each level except for Senior and Master Junior/Senior levels where they may be the state champion twice.

A team trophy will be awarded to the Twin City Figure Skating Association member club earning the most points. Points are awarded for free skate events only.

### **PHOTO/VIDEO:**

Photography and video will be provided by Perkins Media. One free skate event video is provided for free as a skater gift. Please bring a flash drive to download the video(s) at the competition. Video and photos for any additional events can be purchased at a discounted rate.

**HOTELS:**

There are several hotels 5 to 10 minutes from the rink. In addition, the Mall of America is only 15 minutes away with several hotels nearby. The official hotel for the event is the Hilton Minneapolis/Bloomington located at 3900 American Blvd W in Bloomington, MN 55437. You can make reservations through the link [HERE](#). You have until July 22<sup>nd</sup> at 11:59pm to book at the discounted rate.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Competition email: [tcfcompetition@gmail.com](mailto:tcfcompetition@gmail.com)

For questions, please contact the following individuals:

Competition Chair:	Onia Gelecinskyj	<a href="mailto:ogelecinskyj25@gmail.com">ogelecinskyj25@gmail.com</a>	612-708-7647
Chief Referee:	Lisa Anne Venne	<a href="mailto:Lisa.Venne@outlook.com">Lisa.Venne@outlook.com</a>	763-229-2181
Practice Ice Chair:	IP	E-mail	Phone
Volunteer Co-Ordinator	Kathy Reiley	<a href="mailto:kreiley@umn.edu">kreiley@umn.edu</a>	651-695-1709