

Clubs Matter - Fall 2009

Skating in the Schools

Going into this Olympic year, U.S. Figure Skating is committed to spreading the joy and excitement of skating to more people across the country. Walk into any school today, and it's not your same old physical education class. U.S. Figure Skating is developing a new curriculum for physical education teachers to introduce the sport to their classes during regular school hours as an after-school program or a field trip.



Making the connection is the most important first step. If you have successfully connected with your school district, we want to hear from you! Please send a brief description of your program to swehrli@usfigureskating.org, and we will post all the different examples on our web site to share. Check the Skating in the Schools home page – <http://www.usfigureskating.org/Programs.asp?id=362> – often for new information.



Get Your Board on Board – a tip from BoardSource

Managing Conflict of Interest

An important responsibility of a board is to assure accountability for the organization. A conflict of interest occurs when a board member's personal or professional interests affect his or her ability to put the welfare of the club before personal/professional benefit. In the figure skating realm, it is not unusual for actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest to arise. To avoid such situations, make sure you create a carefully written conflict of interest policy based upon your needs. Ask each board member to agree in writing to uphold the policy.



Vital information to include is:

1. Full disclosure – Make known personal or business connections with which the club might be doing business in the future.
2. Board member abstention from discussion and voting – Board members who have an actual or potential conflict of interest should not participate in a discussion or vote on matters affecting transactions between the club and the other group. Ask the board member to physically leave the room during the duration of the discussion and vote.
3. Signature and date

For a sample Conflict of Interest statement, visit <http://www.usfigureskating.org/Clubs.asp?id=239>. The section on "Ethical Behavior and Conflict of Interest" can be found on pages 18-23 of the Conflict Resolution Guidebook.

Upcoming Educational Opportunities

To find all registration information, go to www.usfigureskating.org and click "Clubs" or "Basic Skills."

2010 Club Education Seminars:

- Feb. 20 – Milwaukee, Wis.
- March 20 – Everett, Wash.
- April 17 - Charlotte, N.C.
- May 2 – Orange County, Calif.
- May 10-12 – Chicago, Ill., in conjunction with NARCE

2010 Basic Skills Workshops:

- Jan. 30 – Ogden, Utah
- March 6 – Northfield, Minn.
- April 18 – Pineville, N.C.
- May 10-12 – Chicago, Ill., in conjunction with NARCE

New About U.S. Figure Skating guidebooks are available to order!

If you would like to order these guidebooks to hand out to your current and new members and to have around the rink, please e-mail swehrli@usfigureskating.org with mailing address and desired quantity.



Feature Club/ Program Story Ideas

Did your club recently hold a unique (and successful!) fundraiser? Is there a skater at your club who has overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles? Does one of your instructors have unconventional – but effective – teaching techniques? We want to hear about them. Send in your club-related story ideas, and maybe your club or program will appear in U.S. Figure Skating's new "Featured Club/Program" department.

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Sign Up Now for 2010 National Skating Month – Destination Vancouver

To capitalize on the excitement of the upcoming Olympic Winter Games, U.S. Figure skating is extending the annual January event to include the duration of the Olympics to give participating clubs and programs more opportunities to celebrate.



The 2010 open house kits including posters, postcards, brochures, sample press releases for you to customize and collectors cards. Logo souvenirs for the participants will have an Olympic theme – "Destination Vancouver." U.S. Figure Skating has a limited supply of these kits, so submit your application by **Nov. 1** to reserve your materials.

To find the application form, go to <http://www.usfigureskating.org/Clubs.asp?id=234>. The completed application can be mailed, faxed or e-mailed. We will post all activities, stories and photos on this page, so check back often to find out what others are doing to celebrate "Destination Vancouver."

Breaking News



U.S. Figure Skating announced today the organization's Basic Skills Program and National Skating Month campaign have received a \$100,000 grant from the Robert V. Hauff & John F. Dreeland Foundation. The first \$50,000 from the grant will be immediately invested to establish the Robert V. Hauff & John F. Dreeland Foundation Fund, with the purpose of providing grants to eligible Basic Skills programs throughout the United States. The remaining \$50,000 will be utilized to enhance U.S. Figure Skating's "It's Great to Skate" program and elevate the annual National Skating Month efforts to attract, involve and inspire new generations of figure skaters.

Coffee Clubs?

If your club or rink offers a "Coffee Club" skating program, please tell us about it. E-mail swehrli@usfigureskating.org to submit a response.