

## Clubs Matter

### How to Support Your Collegiate Skater

As athletes approach their late teens, they begin thinking about what they want to do with their lives, where they want to go to school and how they will continue to figure skate as they make these decisions and strides. Now, more than 50 colleges and universities across the nation offer skating programs to full-time college students. Visit <http://www.usfigureskating.org/Programs.asp?id=86> to find a college or university that is a good match for your skater!

Programs range from extremely recreational club skating, where skaters meet a couple times a week to socialize and practice their skills, to highly competitive programs, where athletes train



nearly every day, both on and off the ice, for intercollegiate team skating competitions and the U.S. Collegiate Championships. Click the link below to learn more about the U.S. Collegiate Championships,

which will be held this fall at Miami University: <http://www.usfigureskating.org/Programs.asp?id=88>

The longest running of all collegiate programs, the U.S. Collegiate Championships began in 1986. Each August, junior- and senior-level skaters gather for intense competition and coveted medals. The U.S. Collegiate Championships are not to be confused with the U.S. Intercollegiate Team Skating Championships, during which individuals represent their school's skating team and gain points for a top-five finish in each event. Events at the U.S. Intercollegiate Team Skating Championships range from pre-preliminary through senior, and short program, free skating, ice dancing and team maneuvers events are offered.

Learn more about intercollegiate team skating at <http://www.usfigureskating.org/Programs.asp?id=89>.

If a school your skater wishes to attend does not already have a skating program, the skater may begin one and enter intercollegiate competitions either individually or with other recruited team members. All he or she needs to do is fill out a registration form and send it to U.S. Figure Skating Headquarters. The form may be found at <http://www.usfigureskating.org/content/IntercollegiateRegistration.pdf>



Please see the 2007-08 Collegiate Fact Sheet and Collegiate Team Handbook, links for which may be found on the Collegiate page of U.S. Figure Skating Online. Visit our web site for more information about collegiate skating and to learn how you can help your skater continue to skate and explore skating opportunities during his or her college years!

### Kathy's Corner

#### Message from Kathy Drevs, Director of Member Services

If you haven't done so already, please download a copy of the report of action from this year's Governing Council: <http://www.usfigureskating.org/Story.asp?id=38569>. All rule changes that were passed are listed in the report. Unless otherwise noted, changes are effective September 1. Please note that although we did pass a coaches registration fee, that change will not be effective for this season.

Registration for the 2007-08 season is well underway. Be sure you renew your officials as soon as possible.

We would like to start an electronic filing cabinet for club bylaws. Please e-mail your most recent set of bylaws to [memberservices@usfigureskating.org](mailto:memberservices@usfigureskating.org).

### Tips for a Better Board: What is the Role of a Governance Committee? — From Board Source —

A governance committee is one of the most influential standing committees of the board. Sometimes referred to as the "nominating committee" or "board development committee," the governance committee's main role is to recruit new board members and to ensure that each board member is equipped with the proper tools and motivation to carry out his or her responsibilities. The governance committee ensures the constant health and effectiveness of the full board and the work it performs for the organization. It expands the traditional idea of a nominating committee, clarifying the variety of responsibilities a governance committee truly has.

Some specific duties of a governance committee include:

- Assessing the board's current composition and identifying missing qualities and characteristics
- Drafting a recruitment plan and continuously cultivating new prospects
- Developing job descriptions for board members
- Orienting new board members and continuing to educate *all* members on their responsibilities
- Ensuring that the board regularly engages in self-assessment

### Club President's Forum

At the most recent Governing Council meeting, held in Reno, Nev., all club presidents in attendance were welcomed to a new discussion forum. This was an idea that came from the task force that addressed revising the meeting schedule and offering more networking opportunities for the delegates. Around 60 club presidents gathered for more than two hours of lively discussion and shared their experiences with, solutions for and needs they have of U.S. Figure Skating. Specific topics discussed included the difficulty of recruiting good volunteers, increasing ice costs, successful fundraising programs, the need for a strategic plan, use of technology to enhance communication between club members and the need for more educational opportunities. Given the positive feedback from the attendees, this will become an annual forum at Governing Council. Thank you to all who participated, and we hope to see you in Denver in '08!

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#### Rink Dasher Board For Sale



U.S. Figure Skating is happy to offer all of our member figure skating clubs and Basic Skills programs a customized eight-foot dasher board to proudly display rink side at your home facility. It's brought to you by AMI Graphics. The U.S. Figure Skating discounted price, which includes shipping, is only \$115 per board. You can personalize the top line with your club name. Dashmax is an ultra-durable dasher product that is easy to install and is guaranteed for the entire year. To download an order form, go to U.S. Figure Skating Online, then "Clubs."

#### Share Your Great Ideas!

If you would like to share a success story with other clubs about a specific program, fundraiser, scholarship award program, governance issues or membership drive, and in the process generate a some publicity for your club, please write a short article (include pictures if possible) and send to Susi Wehrli at [swehrli@usfigureskating.org](mailto:swehrli@usfigureskating.org). We will post responses to initiate a new forum for our clubs to share ideas with one another.



### Helpful Link

**Ice Life Club Program:** Clubs and teams wishing to purchase customized merchandise can do so in U.S. Figure Skating's Online Store. For more information, visit [http://www.icelife.com/Merchant2/merchant.mvc?Screen=CTGY&Store\\_Code=USA&Category\\_Code=ClubProgram](http://www.icelife.com/Merchant2/merchant.mvc?Screen=CTGY&Store_Code=USA&Category_Code=ClubProgram).