

Governing Bodies

What is the Board of Directors and what does it do?

As defined in the By-Laws (available on the website), the Board of The Gate City Figure Skating Club is an elected group of Club members who, together with the Officers of the Club, have the responsibility and the authority to manage the affairs of the Club. The group is elected at the annual meeting which is held in August of each year. The Board meets monthly to make decisions relating to the issues of the Club.

How can members make their views known to the Board?

All members are encouraged to attend regular board meetings. Members may write letters to the Board regarding any concerns or suggestions they may have. Alternatively, members may approach Board members directly to discuss informally any issues and to request their consideration at a subsequent meeting.

Miscellaneous

How can I stay informed about Club events, policies, etc.?

The club website www.gatecityfsc.com is the foremost resource for Club information. In addition, new information and announcements are also posted on the bulletin boards around the rink.

What is the Annual Awards Banquet?

The Club hosts an awards banquet at the end of each season. At the banquet everyone enjoys a buffet meal, dancing fun with the DJ, the club also recognizes our graduating seniors and presents skaters with pins earned for tests passed.

Who can contribute to the Gate City Grapevine newsletter?

Any parent or skater who would like to contribute to the club newsletter is encouraged to send their suggestions, articles, photos, etc. to gatecityfsc@gmail.com



Membership Guide

The Gate City Figure Skating Club is a community oriented skating club for recreational, as well as competitive, figure skaters. GCFSC exists to encourage year-round instructions and individual development in the sport of figure skating.



What kinds of memberships are available?

The membership is yearly from July 1st through June 30th
There are several categories of membership:

Introductory Membership

Introductory Membership is available to an individual who do not or have not previously belonged to a USFSA club. This special membership is for one year and any year after that will be at regular club rates. Renewing members or any skater already affiliated with another club do not qualify for this offer.

Full Membership

Full Membership of the Gate City FSC is available to an individual who wishes to participate in all exhibitions/events sponsored by the Club including Club parties, Annual Holiday Show and Annual Skating Banquet (additional fees may apply). Conway Arena has offered a \$1.00 off each contracted Freestyle session to all Full Member Gate City FSC skaters.

Subsequent Full Membership

Subsequent Full Membership is a second (or subsequent) skating family member. All subsequent members have the privilege to participate in any exhibitions/events sponsored by the Club including Club parties, Annual Holiday Show and Annual Skating Banquet (additional fees may apply). Conway Arena has offered a \$1.00 off each contracted Freestyle session to all Full Member Gate City FSC skaters.

Team Membership

Team membership is available to an individual who wishes to participate only in the synchronized skating program of the club. This class of membership gives the privileges of participation in club parties only. The option to attend the Annual Banquet is permitted only at the guest rate. No discount on Freestyle sessions is being offered by Conway Arena for this membership class.

Non-Skating Membership

A parent and/or board member who wishes to join the GCFSC.

Who judges the Free Skating tests?

Judges are selected from the official list of US Figure Skating judges, exclusively by the test chairperson. They are selected on an 'as-available' basis and according to the test levels required.

What should I wear for a test?

A neat and groomed appearance is essential when testing.

Synchronized Skating

What is synchronized skating?

Synchronized skating is a team sport in which 8-20 skaters perform a carefully choreographed program. It uses the same USFSA judging system as singles, pairs and dance and is characterized by teamwork, speed, intricate formations and challenging step sequences. As with other disciplines, all teams perform a free skate with required well-balanced program elements.

Who can join Synchro Stars?

Club members ranging from Basic Skills Level 4 all the way through Senior Moves-in-the-Field are encouraged to contact recruit@synchrostars.org for more details.

Am I permitted to continue competing as an individual skater if part of the team?

Yes, all skaters are encouraged to continue with lessons either in a group learn to skate session or with a coach of their choosing, to pursue facets of individual skating (jumps and spins) that aren't a part of the synchronized skating discipline. Diversified skating experience is crucial for the well balanced skater.

SafeSport

What is the SafeSport Program?

USFS strives to provide a safe environment for its members that is free of abuse and harassment. The association will not tolerate or condone any form of harassment or abuse of any of its members including athletes, coaches, officials, directors, employees, parents, volunteers or any other persons while they are participating in or preparing for a figure skating activity or event conducted under the auspices of U.S. Figure Skating. All forms of abuse and harassment are unacceptable and in direct conflict with U.S. Figure Skating rules.

Testing

Can I get a copy of my test sheet?

Official test sheets are retained by the test chairperson and copies may be given out at the time of the test.

When will I get my test certificate?

All tests are conducted in accordance with US Figure Skating rules. Test certificates are issued by US Figure Skating one to two months following a test. They may be picked up from your skating coach.

When are Free Skating tests scheduled?

Upcoming test dates are posted on the office door and on the website.

How do I apply for a test session?

Applications are available from the Club office and on the website and must be filled out completely and correctly prior to submission. Please be aware of the following rules:

- If the test candidate is a non-member, written permission to test from the skater's home club is required.
- Applications are due two weeks (14 days) before the test date.
- Priority for test sessions are: Club members, high to low, followed by non-Club members, low to high.
- An application is considered submitted only when accompanied by the applicable test fees.
- Account balances with the Club must be current for a skater to be accepted for a test session.
- Late entries will be evaluated on a case by case basis and only when received in writing. Accepted late applications are subject to a late fee.
- Withdrawal from a test session after the test schedule has been posted will result in forfeiture of a skater's application fee.
- From time to time, test sessions are cancelled due to a lack of interest or to scheduling conflicts. When this occurs, the participants are notified and given the option of having their test fees returned or forwarding to the next scheduled test date.

When should I arrive for a test?

Skaters should be at the rink one hour prior to their test time.

Collegiate Membership

Collegiate membership is a full membership for any skater who is attending college. This membership is valid for 4 years and does not need renewing during that period. Collegiate memberships are permitted to participate in all exhibitions/events sponsored by the Club including Club parties, Annual Holiday Show and Annual Skating Banquet (additional fees may apply). Conway Arena has offered a \$1.00 off each contracted Freestyle session to all Full Member Gate City FSC skaters.

What are the privileges of the Club?

Full, Subsequent, Collegiate and Introductory members have the rights to vote and to hold office, to use all of the Club's facilities, and to otherwise participate in Club activities. Representing members in any membership category have the right to represent the club in competition.

What do I need to do to join the Club?

Prospective members who are interested in joining the Club must complete an application, which may be obtained from the website www.gateccityfsc.com. After verifying that the application is complete and that the prospective member is in good standing with U.S. Figure Skating, the Membership chair will then present the application to the Board of Directors for approval at the next regular monthly Board meeting.

Ice Time

How do I contract and pay for ice time?

Skating members of the Club may contract for ice time by completing an Ice Contract, available at the rink and online at www.conwayarena.com

What is the "walk-on" policy?

Walk-on availability is dependent upon space available on the ice. No more than 23 skaters are permitted on the ice during a freestyle session.

What is the expected behavior of parents, caretakers or other chaperones?

Parent/guardian or 'caretaker' coaching from rink side is not permitted, as this is distracting and potentially dangerous to other skaters.

What is the expected behavior of skaters?

Conduct During Session

- The Conway Arena Figure Skating Director is in charge of all skating sessions. Any questions and/or problems should be so directed.
- All Skaters must sign in upon arrival at the rink.
- The clock in the rink is the governing clock for all sessions.
- Plastic water bottles are allowed on the boards ONLY. Remove any equipment and clothing from the ice surface and boards before leaving the ice.
- Skaters may not be on the ice at the same time as the Zamboni.
- Unless injured, a skater must get up from a fall as soon as possible to avoid a collision or accident.
- To avoid accidents, all camel and flying spins should be practiced at center ice. This is the only place on the ice where camel and flying spins may be practiced unless a skater is doing his/her program.
- It is the responsibility of the skater who is moving towards the spinner to change direction to avoid a collision. Spinners should try to avoid doing a spin in the path of a jump.
- Do not intentionally skate into the path of a jump.
- The "right-of-way" belongs to the skater who is doing his/her program. However, skaters performing spins and backwards moves should be given consideration and collisions should be avoided at all costs. Warnings may be issued in a polite fashion by saying "Excuse me!". Skaters and professionals should give way courteously; rudeness will not be tolerated.
- The Conway Arena Figure Skating Director or a staff member may, at his/her discretion remove any skater from a freestyle session.
- To avoid accidents, skaters should avoid the lutz corners unless practicing lutzes.

How can skaters request their program music to be played during a session?

Skaters or coaches may play program music on a rotating basis.

Who has the right of way during a Free Skating session?

The skater performing his/her program always has the right of way and all other skaters are required to yield to that person throughout the course of the program.

When can I invite guests to skate?

Members may invite guests to skate during public skate sessions only. Guests are prohibited on freestyle sessions.

Training

How do I find out about coach availability?

The Gate City Figure Skating Club maintains a list of some of the finest coaches in the area. A list of these coaches is available on the website. Contact the skating director for more information.

How do I select a coach?

After obtaining a list of staff coaches, one should review each coach's profile for a description reflecting the desired discipline and qualities. Private lessons are available on most Freestyle Sessions.

Can I arrange for a non-Club coach to teach me/my child?

Yes, non-club coaches are required to provide evidence of liability insurance and additional information to the Club office and must go through the Skating Director.

What off-ice training is offered?

The Gate City Figure Skating club offers off-ice programs for all skaters. Strength and conditioning classes, offered by certified professionals and are conducted in a training room at the rear of the rink. Additionally, the Club offers periodic on and off ice workshops taught by special guest professionals as well as off-ice spinner classes and jump classes in the summer. Information about these programs is available on the Club website.

Who can use the jump harness?

Only staff coaches may use the harness with skaters in a lesson.