NUFSC Notes to New Skating Parents
2024-2025

The NUFSC Handbook has a lot of great information in it!
Check it out on the For Members/Resources - Parent Info page at nuskate.org.

Where to Start

Group lessons are the best place to start. There are sessions throughout the year. Your skater does not need to start at age 5; all skaters once they are potty-trained are welcome. There are no volunteer requirements in the first year and no club membership fees until a skater starts in level Alpha. You can rent skates at the rink or bring your own for any group lessons throughout the year. Renting skates is done online through the Parent Portal store.

Class information is available under Skating Lessons/Group Lessons on the nuskate.org website. To register for classes, you will sign up through the SignUpNow/Parent Portal also on the nuskate.org website.

Pick and choose what works for your skater as they move up the levels. Group Lessons, Private Ice, Ice Show, and Competitions are mostly independent ways to enjoy skating. There are some crossover requirements such as you must participate in Fall Group Lessons to be in the Ice Show, and you need to be in Private Ice to be in any competitions. You can pick and choose what works for your family. If a volunteer requirement or cost is listed more than once below under the different categories, it does not need to be done/paid more than once. For example, you only have to pay membership dues or complete competition volunteer hours once even if you do Group Lessons, Ice Show and Private Ice.

Group Lessons

Group lessons happen in sessions. There is one session in the Fall (mid September through mid November), occasionally a Winter session (January -March) and one session in the Spring (mid April through the end of May). Summer lessons, if offered, are usually in 4 week sessions. The beginning levels (see *ISI Levels and Testing* below) are called the Learn to Skate Program. They do not require membership dues. But, after the first year skating, there will be volunteer hours. You will be a member of the New Ulm Figure Skating Club (NUFSC) as soon as you sign up for lessons or private ice. You will need to pay club membership dues once your skater starts in level Alpha. You will also need a current ISI (Ice Skating Institute) membership which is the association that oversees NUFSC. Both are paid yearly in the Fall. ISI memberships are covered by the club with your yearly membership. If you join in the Spring, you will pay both in the Spring (in full) and again the next Fall because they both expire on August 31st. What group lessons to sign up for? If you're not sure of your skater's level, start with Beginner 1 (Tot1). If your skater is more advanced, they will be moved to the correct class in the first week or two of classes. Skaters over age 6 are usually moved up to PreAlpha.	**Cost:** ● Lesson cost ($50-$75) ● NUFSC membership (Level Alpha and up) $60/paid yearly **Volunteer** (1st year exempt): ● NUFSC Competition, the weekend before Thanksgiving

Private Ice

Private ice is practice ice time (similar to open skate) for everyone signed up to skate on that session. A skater hires a coach to give an individual or semi private lesson during that time. Your skater can join private ice at any time during the year and they do not have to have a coach to practice during their scheduled private ice time. You must find your own coach and pay that coach directly for private ice lessons. There is a list of approved coaches on the NUFSC website. You can contact any of those coaches to see if they have an available slot. Coaches often have wait lists and you will most likely lose your opening with that coach if you take a season off of lessons. Purchasing of private ice sessions is done in seasons, 4 times per year (Sept-Nov, Dec-Mar, Apr-May, Jun-Aug). You can drop or add your private ice times at the start of any season. During the season, additions have a late fee. You will need to coordinate with your coach as to which contract you should buy. A full contract is one hour. A half contract is 30 minutes, either the first 30 minutes or the second 30 minutes of the full contract. So, if a contract is 6:00 – 7:00 pm, you can choose either 6:00 – 6:30 or 6:30 – 7:00 for your half contract. Your skater will have their name listed on that day in the ice monitor attendance book. If there is a conflict one day, the skater can do a makeup on another day within that season. Makeup time does not carry forward to the next season. The only additional volunteer requirement beyond the competition requirement is that you must ice monitor one session per skater during their private ice time. *See Ice Monitor explanation below.*	**Cost** ● Private ice contract ● Coach payment ● NUFSC membership (Level Alpha and up) ● ISI membership (Level Alpha and up) **Volunteer** ● NUFSC Competition Volunteer Points (1st year exempt) ● Ice Monitoring

Ice Show

The Ice Show is annually held near the end of February/beginning of March. If your skater chooses to participate, they must have participated in Fall Group Lessons. There are volunteer hour requirements associated with the Ice Show. First year families must have a parent room monitor for at least one show (see *Room Monitor*). There are many other opportunities to volunteer; pre-show, during shows and post-show to earn hours. The group lessons for the Ice Show are primarily on Saturdays in January and February and are mandatory. There is a registration fee for the ice show along with costume/prop fee. Costumes and props are assigned to the skater and vary in cost. There are other optional costs such as purchasing skater pictures and skater gifts. A packet of ice show information comes out in October.	**Must take Fall Group Lessons** **Cost:** ● Ice Show Fee ● Costume/Props ● NUFSC membership (Level Alpha and up) ● ISI membership (Level Alpha and up) ● Optional: pictures and gifts **Volunteer** ● Ice Show Hours

Ice Skating Competition (NUFSC Fall Festival)

New Ulm Figure Skating Club holds our annual Fall Festival Ice Skating Competition the weekend before Thanksgiving. It is the largest fundraiser for NUFSC. All club members, after their first year, are required to volunteer. If a family has no skater competing they will volunteer 3 hours. Six hours if they have a competing skater. Skaters 12 years and older do at least 2 volunteer hours. There is a $35 fee if those hours are not completed. There are limited opportunities to volunteer outside the competition weekend if you have a conflict. If you are interested in having your skater compete, you need to have a private ice coach and lessons on private ice (see Private Ice). There is a cost to participate in the competition which varies with the number of events the skater participates in. Your private ice coach will help you with picking which categories to enter. It really helps to go watch a competition to see what happens in the various categories. Watching the competition is free! If you are interested in competitions outside NUFSC's Fall Festival, talk to your coach (who needs to go with your skater) and other parents and see which competitions they are attending. Information on Competitions can also be found in our newsletter which is sent out monthly and the Skater/Parent Facebook page. This Facebook page will also have information for hotel room blocks.	**Cost** *Non-Competing:* ● none *If Competing:* ● Entrance fee ● Costumes/dresses, possibly props ● Fee to Coach for putting skater on ice ● If the competition is not in New Ulm, the coach is also paid for travel expenses ● Private ice expenses associated with private lessons to prepare for competition ● Possibly, music cutting cost **Volunteer (2024)** *Non-competing:* ● 1st year: exempt ● 2nd year+: 3 points during competition *If Competing:* ● 6 points, skaters 12+ have hours

ISI Levels and Testing

New Ulm Figure Skating Club is governed by ISI rules. The ISI skating levels and what is expected to pass each level is listed, along with demonstration videos, at: https://www.skateisi.org/programs/testing-requirements/.
For information on how testing happens, see the NUFSC Handbook.

Beginner Levels/Learn to Skate Program (memberships not required)

- Beginner 1 (Tot 1 and 2 combined) age 6 and under
- Beginner 2 (Tot 3 and 4 combined) age 6 and under
- PreAlpha

Mid Levels (ISI Membership and NUFSC Membership required)

- Alpha
- Beta
- Gamma
- Delta

Upper Levels (ISI Membership and NUFSC Membership required)

- Freestyle 1 through Freestyle 4

Advanced Levels (ISI Membership and NUFSC Membership required)

- Freestyle 5 through Freestyle 10

Volunteer Hours

First-year NUFSC club members are exempt from volunteer requirements, as are skaters only taking summer lessons. The Ice Show does have volunteering requirements for first-year members if they have a skater participating in the ice show.

- See *Fall Festival Competition*
- See *Ice Show* (only if your skater is participating in the Ice Show)

Ice Monitoring (Private Ice only)

- Get the ice monitor box from the coaches' room and put the vests out for skaters.
- Taking attendance during private ice. (Ask other parents or coaches around you to help as you probably won't know all the skaters' names.)
- Throw the rope for the harness over the wall if asked to do so by a coach.
- Help with any first aid needs.

Room Monitor (Ice Show only)

- Assist skaters to get on their skates
- Assist skaters to change costumes
- Make sure skaters are ready for their next number during the ice show
- Keep track of skaters if they run off to the bathroom, etc.

Skates

You can rent skates at the rink but when you are ready to buy, skates are not like shoes. You cannot buy a size bigger and then wait for your skater to grow into them. Skates need to fit the exact size of the foot, so you'll need to purchase them more often than tennis shoes. *The NUFSC handbook has other great information on skates so check it out.*

Things to watch for throughout the year:

August:	Sign up for Fall Group Lessons
	Sign up for Fall Private Ice Contracts
September	Confirmed times for Fall group lessons
October:	Sign up for Ice Competition (Fall Festival) volunteer hours
November:	Sign up to be in the Ice Show / costume measuring for the ice show
December:	Schedule comes out for Ice Show practices
	Costumes arrive
	Sign Up for Winter Private Ice
Dec/Jan:	Picture taking schedule is announced for Ice Show
	Sign up for Ice Show volunteer hours
February:	Sign up for Spring Group Lessons
	Sign up for Spring Private Ice
May:	Yearly NUFSC Member Meeting, Awards
	Voting for NUFSC Board Members
	Sign up for Summer Private Ice
	Sign up for Summer Group Lessons and Camps

Approximate Costs (as of 2024)

NUFSC Membership: per individual skater: $60 per year OR per family: $75 per year (alpha and up)

ISI Membership: $15 per year per skater, covered by NUFSC with registration. (alpha and up)

Skates: Prices can widely vary but used skates can be $10-$50 and it can go way up from there. At the beginning, renting skates at the rink is also an option but it's usually cheaper to buy used skates over the length of group lessons.

Group Lessons: $9-11/half hour lesson This does vary depending on the session.
For Summer, it's 4-5 lessons so $40-$50; Fall session is about 8 weeks so $80 and Spring is shorter than Fall, 4-6 lessons so $40-$60.

Private Ice: $17.00/hr if you purchase the full contract; $8.50/half hr if you purchase the half contract. The amount you pay varies depending on what day of the week you pick and the length of the season. The cost of a half contract is calculated by counting up the number of days in that season and multiplying it by the half hour rate. Because of days off, there is often a different number of Sundays versus Wednesdays, for example.

Private Ice Coach: Ranges from $12/hr to $60/hr depending on the coach's experience. You are usually purchasing a ½ hour and sometimes only 15 or 20 minutes at a time, depending on your needs and what amount of time the coach has available.

Ice Show: $40 includes opening, closing, and 1 group number of the ice show. $10 for each additional number the skater wants to be in. Tryout numbers (FS5+) $25. Most skaters will skate 1-3 numbers. Costume costs will vary but $50-$60 per number is average. The opening number is the show t-shirt that is included/ordered at registration, along with a black skirt and tights the skater will need to get. The closing number uses one of the previous costumes so there's no additional cost. To do the base amount in the ice show is about $100.

Competition: In estimation, entrance fees range from $75-$90 for an event and then there are smaller fees like $15 to $25 for additional events your skater wants to compete in. You will also pay a fee to your coach for putting the skater on the ice. If the competition is out of town, you will pay a portion of the coach's travel and lodging expenses. You may also have travel and lodging expenses for your family. The club will send out and post information on room blocks for our most common attended competitions; Frosty Blades in Blaine, and Sioux Falls Challenge Cup in Sioux Falls.

If you have any other questions, please don't hesitate to email us at nufsclub@gmail.com