New Ulm Figure Skating Club

2025-2026 Handbook

The New Ulm Figure Skating Club (NUFSC) is a non-profit organization, 501.c.3, that was established to promote the sport of figure skating. The club operates according to the guidelines of the Ice Skating Institute of America (ISI) and the United States Figure Skating (USFS). NUFSC organizes a Group Lesson Program, Private Ice Lessons, Camps, Exhibitions, an ISI Competition and an Ice Show.

P.O. Box 2 New Ulm, MN 56073-0002	NUFSC website: **nuskate.org** NUFSC email: nufsclub@gmail.com

NUFSC BOARD CONTACT INFORMATION 2025-2026

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The Ice Sports Industry (ISI) is a Learn-To-Skate program used all over the United States. The program provides a curriculum with a logical progression of skill development. This program is used as a base for NUFSC group lessons.

ISI levels are in this order:
Beginner (Tot) 1, Beginner (Tot) 2, Beginner (Tot) 3, Beginner (Tot) 4, Pre-Alpha, Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta, Freestyle 1 (FS1), Freestyle 2 (FS2), through Freestyle 10 (FS10).

ISI's web site has videos that show what the various required maneuvers are and what is expected to pass each level: https://www.skateisi.org/programs/testing-requirements/

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

NUFSC (New Ulm Figure Skating Club) MEMBERSHIP

NUFSC membership is not required for skaters only participating in group lessons. All skaters skating on any NUFSC private ice session that are not members of another club, competing as a NUFSC member in competition, or participating with NUFSC in any way other than only group lessons are required to be a member in the New Ulm Figure Skating Club. NUFSC Membership runs from September 1 – August 31. The annual dues are $60 for one skater or $75 per family.

ISI MEMBERSHIP

Skaters must be a member of the Ice Sports Industry if they are in private ice or group lessons. This is separate from the NUFSC membership. Skaters may join ISI at any time during the year, however, coverage will go through August 31 and must be renewed on September 1st. ISI annual membership is included with registration fee.

USFS MEMBERSHIP

Optional: The United States Figure Skating Association (http://www.usfigureskating.org), USFS, testing is not part of the NUFSC group lessons. Additional information on USFS can be found at: nuskate.org/usfs-membership

VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS

NUFSC is a volunteer organization and needs contributions from all members to be successful. NUFSC uses a volunteer program based on points in order to help defray the cost of our expenditures and to maintain the quality of our program. Skaters in group lessons only do not need to complete volunteer points but are encouraged to help. All skaters on private ice are required to help with the Fall Festival Competition. This year's points requirements are:

Fall Festival Competition (weekend before Thanksgiving)

- Families with skater(s) not competing: 3 hours (1st year families exempt)
- Families with skater(s) competing: 6 hours
- Competing skaters, 12 years and up: 2 hours

Hours that are not fulfilled will be charged at $35/hour.

Ice Show (March 7 & 8, 2026)

- Hours are determined each year based on participants and need; usually around 12 hours/family.

This is only required of skater families participating in the ice show. There is no buy out option for this. If your family can't fulfill this requirement, you will need to talk with the Ice Show Director about other options. Hours that are not fulfilled will be charged at $35/hour. First year parents are required to room monitor at least one show. This is an excellent opportunity to see what goes on behind the scenes and make your child comfortable in their first year. Adults working with skaters are required to be SafeSport certified.

Private Ice

A skater's parent, guardian, or designated representative is required to ice monitor at least one hour per skater, each session (spring, summer, fall, or winter) they are signed up for. An Ice Monitor must be old enough to handle a first aid emergency. If the hour is not completed, the skater's account will be charged $17.50/half hour of uncompleted time.

If more than 1 hour of ice monitoring is completed, the skater's account will receive $4/half hr in ice credit with a maximum of $24 credit per skater per session. Ice monitors signed up for extra hours can be bumped by someone that has not completed their hour.

OTHER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

There are other volunteer opportunities available throughout the year. There are several ways volunteering may be compensated, including but not limited to monetarily, volunteer hour requirements, and skater credit.

GROUP LESSONS

Group lessons are offered in sessions throughout the year and are an excellent and fun way for the new skater to get involved in the skating program. Students not only learn from their instructors but by watching other skaters. The group lessons are based on the ISI Learn-To-Skate program (www.skateisi.org). The lessons are separated into different groups whereby skills learned in each level build on skills achieved in the preceding level. The professional coaches will test the skaters at the last week of the session in order to decide if they should be moved up to the next level for the next session or register for the same class again. If your skater has a private ice coach, he/she will not be tested in group lessons.

Group lesson dates and times along with registration information can be found on the website under *Skating Lessons*, *Group Lessons*.

PRIVATE ICE CONTRACTS

Private Ice is a chance for skaters to perfect their skills one-on-one with a private coach. The skater and/or parent is responsible for finding a coach. NUFSC website has a short bio for each of our professional staff under *Ice Contracts*, *Coaches*, along with a coach availability guide. Coaches can be emailed through the Parent Portal.

Lesson times should be arranged with the coach prior to contracting/purchasing ice time. Skaters purchase ice time from NUFSC and pay NUFSC. Private Ice contracts are available on Sundays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. The fee paid to the coach for a lesson is in addition to the ice time purchased from the club. Private lessons range from 15-60 minutes and vary in price depending on the coach you hire.

Contracts run September-November, December-March, April-May, June-August. Sign-up is online at nuskate.org through the Parent Portal. If there is room, a skater may start a contract at any time during the year. Signups after that season's deadline are charged a late fee. Generally, each contract is for a half hour of ice time. Currently, the recommended contract time for club members is 4 contracts for FS3 and up, 2 contracts for Gamma-FS2, and 1 contract for Beginner – Beta, if they wish to do private ice.

Skaters on private ice must watch the safety video or attend a safety training yearly. This is usually done at a scheduled group time in the fall or will be done with your private ice coach. They should also review the **Skater Safety and Etiquette Rules** found on the nuskate.org website under For Members, Resources.

If you are receiving private lessons on open skate and are a club member, you must be registered for a contract even if you are not using that specific contract ice time.

SELECTING YOUR PRIVATE ICE COACH

Coaches set their own rates. NUFSC is not involved in setting the rates, billing, or collecting money owed to the coaches. Each coach will recommend the lesson length and number of lessons per individual skater based on age, ability, goals and the coach's availability. This is a recommendation; it is up to the parents and skaters to make the final decision based on desires and financial obligations.

Here are some questions to discuss with the coach:
*How much time should my child need for individual instruction?
*What is the charge for choreography?
*What is the charge for cutting music?
*What is the charge for missing lessons when you do NOT notify the coach?
*What is the charge for out of town competitions? Hotel? Mileage? Etc.
*What is the charge for competitions? When will my child be ready to compete?
*What is the charge for USFS Test Sessions?
*How do you keep current in figure skating techniques?
*What continuing education courses and seminars have you completed?

PRIVATE ICE MAKEUP SESSIONS

If a skater misses a private ice session, it is recorded in the ice monitor's book and will show up in the Attendance on the Parent Portal. Skaters may make up a missed session at any other private ice session provided there is room. At any time, there may be up to 22 skaters on the ice. Make-up sessions may be transferred among family members only and are only valid during the current session. For example: if a skater has missed a contract during the Fall session, they can not save that make up and use it in the Winter.

WALK-ON PRIVATE ICE

Walk-on private ice can be purchased in 60 minute increments at a rate of $20/hour. Walk-on ice is for NUFSC Private Ice members.** Mankato Figure Skating Club members have reciprocity and pay the same rate as NUFSC members. Non-club members may purchase walk-on ice as space allows, however they are charged a non-member fee of three dollars more per hour, currently $23/hr. Payment for walk-ons needs to be done prior to the walk-on. There is a payment drop box located in the North Rink, or the walk-on can be purchased on the Parent Portal.

NUFSC Private Ice members do not need to pre-purchase walk-on ice, but they can. If the skater does not have make-up time when attendance is taken, they will automatically be charged 30 minutes at a time for the walk-on. Walk-on ice payments can be made through the Parent Portal or by dropping off a check in the North Rink NUFSC drop box.

VEST USE

All skaters on private ice must wear the neon-colored vest during their program when their music is played. Only one skater should be wearing a vest while skating. You may wait by the boards with your vest on while you wait for your program. The skater will turn in the vest to the ice monitor or over the glass when the music is finished. Wearing these vests is an effort to recognize who has the right of way, thus ensuring a safer rink. (Review the Skater Safety and Etiquette Rules.)

ICE MONITORS

During Private Ice, ice monitors play a very important role. Monitors are in charge of attendance records, handing out vests, helping coaches reach the harness, and following NUFSC guidelines if there is an accident. You must stay to monitor the entire contract. For every skater a family has on private ice per session (spring, summer, fall, winter), the parent must complete one full hour (2 contracts) of ice monitoring per child. Sign ups for this are sent out with the confirmation email and are available on the Parent Portal in the class notes for all private ice contracts. If there is no ice monitor for a contract, all skaters will be marked present for that contract. A skater that was absent will not be able to transfer that time to another contract. Review volunteer requirements for more information.

BUMPING (Skaters waiting to have their program music played during Private Ice)

Normally, the RinkMusic system handles the bumping. It doesn't always seem fair, but it is based on the rules programmed in the computer. A coach's tag will give a skater priority, and a skater that has not played their music in the last "session", what the computer records as an hour, is also given priority. A skater that is also a coach may not use their coach's tag when they are skating their own program.

If CDs are being used, skaters are only allowed to be bumped in the music line once per time they put their music in. Coaches are able to bump a skater outside of a lesson once. Coaches and skaters are the only ones allowed to put music in line during private ice. They also can only put one CD in line at a time. When you have finished your program, you may put another CD in line if you wish. Once a skater puts another CD in line, the bumping rule starts over and they are allowed to be bumped by a coach one time.

OPEN SKATE

Open Skate is offered several times a week through the New Ulm Park and Recreation department. It is a great opportunity to have some extra practice time. Yearly passes are available at the skate rental office or a session fee can be paid. Use of the music and harness are not available during open skate if there are other public skaters on the ice. Again, if you are a club member receiving coaching on open skate, you must purchase a contract.

FALL FESTIVAL COMPETITION

The NUFSC holds a competition each November the weekend before Thanksgiving. Besides being a fun opportunity for our skaters, this is a huge fundraiser for the club. The competition is open to skaters participating in private ice with an ISI private ice coach. See Volunteer Requirements for more information.

ICE SHOW

NUFSC holds an annual Ice Show late February/early March. Skater participation is optional; however, it is highly encouraged as it is a very fun and exciting experience for everyone involved. The ice show gives our skaters a chance to bond, have fun, and perform for the community without being judged like a competition. Show practices are for roughly 6-7 weeks starting in January. All skaters are required to be at the shows, dress rehearsals, and practices of the numbers they sign up for.

In order to be eligible to participate in the ice show, you must have registered for Fall Group Lessons.

The 2024 participation fee was $40. This fee pays for all rehearsal ice time, coaches, show t-shirt, show program and 1 show number. Each additional number in the show is $10. Costume fees vary and are paid at the time of costume pickup but you can expect between $40-$60 per costume. There are also volunteer hours related to show participation. Most of those hours must be completed during the show but there are options in advertising to complete some hours before the show. Parents with kids in the lower skating levels are required to room monitor for at least one show. See Volunteer Requirements for more information.

Fundraisers may be done through the club throughout the year to help with the costs of the costumes and registration. Fundraiser options will be sent out via email during the year.

GENERAL INFORMATION

*Board meetings are held once a month and are open to all NUFSC members. The meetings are held at various times and locations, primarily virtual. Please contact a current board member to attend. Agenda items should be emailed to nufsclub@gmail.com by the end of the prior month.

*For club information, check the website (**nuskate.org**), the Parent Portal/*Bulletin Board* (*News and Notes* if you use the app)/*Email History*. NUFSC also has a Facebook page and a private Facebook page (New Ulm FSC Skater/Parent Group). There is also a physical bulletin board located on the wall of the North Rink at the New Ulm Civic Center.

Competition and Camp Information

Surrounding area camps and competitions will be promoted with information dispersed in emails and through the private Facebook group throughout the year. Please look out for those emails if your skater is interested in them. Also, please ask your coach on which competitions they are planning to go to throughout the year.

HOW TO BUY AND CARE FOR FIGURE SKATES

The boots need to be stiff enough to prevent the ankle from flopping, but still allow flexing of the ankle. Skaters may need to bend knees deeply when skating certain moves. New boots will develop some flexibility at the ankle as you begin to wear them. When the ankles are heavily creased, they are then "broken down" and may not provide enough support. Consider the skater's ability and weight to choose a boot. A boot should support itself when held by the cuff upside down.

Size

Be sure that skates are NOT too big. Trying to fill the excess space with thick socks causes the skater to lose support since the foot can still slip inside the boot. The boot should be sung through the instep and heel. Typically, a skater wears a boot one and one-half size smaller than the street shoe size. For young skaters who are growing quickly, boots may allow for nine months of growing, about one-half inch.

Lacing Tips

Tap the heel of the foot back into the boot. Pull the tongue completely up and then tuck it in. Pull the laces tightly – one pair at a time. Laces should be snug with even tension up through the instep and first hooks.

Breaking In Skates

Breaking in the skates is very important. Make sure that the tongue of the boot does not slide. If the tongue slips to the side while breaking in the boot, it will ALWAYS slip to the side. Be prepared that blisters may form. Some skaters find it helpful to put some quilting batting in the area of blisters, make up pads, etc. Most new skates are now heat moldable and the skate shop will bake the skates, put the skater in the skates in the shop, and have them sit and walk around to break them in. If there are any areas that are uncomfortable, particularly the toes or ankle, they may need to be stretched or "punched out" by a skate shop.

Be sure to have skates sharpened. It is a myth that beginning skaters do better on dull blades. Blades are sharpened or ground in a concave shape. This gives the blade the inside and outside edges which make contact with the ice. Skaters use these edges to control their footwork. Sharpening can be done in New Ulm or the Cities and typically need sharpened every 30-40 hours of skating.

Do not leave skates in a hot car. It's like putting them into the heat molding oven and they lose support, shape, and life.

Always use blade guards when walking around off the ice. Never let the blades contact cement or metal. Make sure the bottoms of the blades are completely clean of dirt before putting on the guards. Skates should not be stored in skate guards.

Water is very hard on skates; blades rust. Be sure to wipe the boots and blades dry with a towel each time before putting them away. The terry cloth covers (soakers) are very good for wicking away moisture that condenses on the blades after putting them away. Do not store the blades with rubber skate guards since they may encourage

corrosion. The best thing to do is to take soakers off and skates out of the bag every night at home to allow them to dry and air out.

New skates will usually have a waterproof sole. Skaters may need to buy a product and reapply this themselves as it wears away. When drying out skates, do NOT place them by a heat source.

AREA SKATE SHOPS

Play it Again Sports 1829 Adams Street Mankato 507-625-2000	**Scheels** River Hills Mall Mankato 507-386-7767
Pierce Skate and Ski 208 West 98th Street Bloomington, MN 55420 888-SKI-1996 www.pierceskateandski.com	**Westwood Sports** 14805 Granada Ave South Apple Valley, MN 55124 952-431-5590 http://westwoodsports.com
Riedell 122 Cannon River Ave. N. Red Wing, MN 55066 651-388-8251 Riedellskates.com	**Fred's Skates** (Edea) 5508 W. 107th St. Bloomington, 55437 762-325-3402

AREA SKATE SHARPENING

Matt Konakowitz New Ulm, MN 507-276-2788 (call or text for an appointment)	**Fred's Skates** (see above)
Pierce Skate and Ski (see above)	**Westwood Sports** (see above)

Hockey skates can be sharpened at the Civic Center, but figure skates cannot.

RESOURCES

The 'For Members" tab on the nuskate.org website is great for skaters and parents looking for more information. There are practice checklists for skaters to print. There is also information on safety on the ice, as well as behavioral expectations of skaters.

If you are a new parent, we would be happy to set you up with someone to help answer your questions.

PARENT/GUARDIAN
CODE OF CONDUCT

The New Ulm Figure Skating Club is committed to creating a safe and positive environment for member's physical, emotional and social development and ensuring that it promotes an environment free of misconduct.

1. I will encourage good sportsmanship by my actions, demonstrating positive support for all skaters, coaches, and officials at every practice, competition and test session.
2. I will place the emotional and physical well-being of my child and others ahead of my desire to win.
3. I will teach my child that doing his/her best is more important than winning.
4. I will encourage my child to skate in a safe and healthy environment by maintaining a respectful and courteous attitude to others.
5. I will promptly inform my child's coach of any physical/mental disability or challenge affecting my child that may affect the safety of my child or others.
6. I will not ridicule, bully, blame, or yell at my child or other skaters, coaches, officials or volunteers in response to a poor performance or for any other reason.
7. I will do my best to make skating fun at all times and will remember that my child participates in sports for his/her own enjoyment and satisfaction.
8. I will teach my child to treat other skaters, coaches, fans, volunteers, officials, and rink staff with respect, regardless of race, creed, color, sexual orientation or ability.
9. I will also take action and report any acts of bullying, harassment or abuse to the appropriate authorities
10. I will applaud any effort in both victory and defeat emphasizing positive accomplishments and learning from mistakes
11. I will teach my child to resolve conflicts calmly and peacefully without resorting to hostility or violence.
12. I will be a positive role model for my child and others.
13. I will demand a figure skating environment for my child that is free of drug or alcohol abuse and agree that I will not use or provide to a third-party any illegal drug prohibited by applicable federal, state, or municipal law.
14. I will not assist or condone any athlete's use of a banned substance as described by the International Olympic Committee, International Skating Union, United States Olympic Committee, or U.S. Figure Skating, or, in case of athletes, to use such drugs or refuse to submit to properly conducted drug tests administered by one of these organizations.
15. I will expect my child's coach to be in compliance with all requirements of U.S . Figure Skating and the Professional Skaters Association, to continue their education and training through programs offered by U.S . Figure Skating, the Professional Skaters Association and other accredited organizations.
16. I will respect my child's coach and refrain from "side line" coaching my child or other skaters.
17. I will respect the decisions of officials, their authority and decisions during competitions and test sessions and teach my child to do the same.
18. I will fulfill my responsibility to volunteer.
19. I will show appreciation and recognize the importance of volunteers and club officials.
20. I agree to report to the appropriate entity/party any SafeSport or Code of Conduct violations that I observe.
21. I will become familiar with the rules of the U.S. Figure Skating and teach my child accordingly.
22. I will support and respect all skaters and their right to participate.