

SFSC Out-of-Region Membership Policy

For several years there has been much discussion regarding out of region club membership, which allows skaters from outside of the Northwest Pacific region to join and represent the Spokane Figure Skating Club (SFSC) in qualifying and non-qualifying events. SFSC has traditionally had a fairly open policy with regards to membership from outside our region, however in an effort to balance regional and national figure skating interests, a more restrictive policy was implemented in 2005 based on the number of competitive skaters at each level (see below). In 2006, the United States Figure Skating (USFS) Governing Council implemented additional regulations on Juvenile and Intermediate Singles-only skaters (see page 16 of http://www.usfsa.org/content/COMBINED_ROA_Oct_05_-_May_06.pdf). At the May 31, 2006 SFSC board meeting, the following revised membership policy was adopted:

United States Figure Skating (USFS) is a national organization that promotes competitive and recreational skating at all levels. USFS seeks to grow the top national competitive skaters by sanctioning Regional, Sectional and National competitions, but recognizes that competitive membership and coaching expertise varies with geography and time, particularly in certain disciplines. Hence some competitors (e.g. Junior and Senior Pairs and Dance) have received automatic byes to Sectional competitions (bypassing Regional qualification).

Spokane Figure Skating Club (SFSC), a USFS member club, supports the USFS's efforts to promote the top national competitors through qualifying competitions and abides by USFS bylaws regarding club membership from persons residing outside our home (Northwest Pacific) region. SFSC also recognizes our region's skaters' desires to experience and progress competitively, particularly in single ladies events where the field is well populated with competitors.

SFSC will review new membership applications from outside of the Northwest Pacific region and may, at the board's discretion, accept the following as full or associate members:

- Non-competitive adult or recreational skaters
- Competitive skaters or teams at levels where the previous year's Regional competition had four (4) or less entries
- Parents/guardians of existing members
- Coaches of existing members

Note that existing SFSC members are not affected by the revised SFSC policy, however based on the USFS rules change, Single Juvenile and Intermediate skaters who do not also compete in Pairs or Dance must compete in the regional competition where they primarily live or train.

If you any questions about the SFSC membership policy or bylaws, please feel free to contact me or any of the SFSC board members. Thank you.

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