

Central Minnesota *Compete USA* Competition Series



We are pleased to announce the 17th annual Central Minnesota Compete USA Competition Series; an exciting skating opportunity for the Learn to Skate skater.

The Central Minnesota Compete USA Competition Series is sponsored equally by the Diamond Edge Figure Skating Club of Willmar, St. Cloud Figure Skating Club, Alexandria Figure Skating Club, Fergus Falls Skating Club, and the Vacationland Figure Skating Club. This is a Learn to Skate approved Compete USA competition series with the approval posted in each participating arena. Competition announcements and packages are available through all participating figure skating clubs and/via the club websites or at our series website www.centralminnesotaseries.org. Each competition has its own online entry forms, please make sure to read the entire announcement for details. Any questions regarding this series are to be directed to any of the contacts listed below.

MISSION STATEMENT:

The purpose of the competition is to promote a FUN, introductory, competitive experience for the beginning skater.

2026 COMPETITION LOCATIONS:

 EVENT #1 LAKES AREA CLASSIC JANUARY 10, 2026 – WILLMAR, MINNESOTA REGISTRATION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 15, 2025 Registration at www.diamondedgeskating.com	 EVENT #2 GRANITE CITY COMPETE USA JANUARY 31, 2026 – ST. CLOUD, MINNESOTA REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JANUARY 5, 2026 Registration www.stcloudfigureskatingclub.org
 EVENT #3 SKATE VACATIONLAND COMPETE USA COMPETITION FEBRUARY 14-15, 2026 – BRAINERD, MINNESOTA REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JANUARY 12, 2026 Registration at www.vacationlandfigureskatingclub.com	 EVENT #4 FERGUS FALLS COMPETE USA MARCH 7-8, 2026 – FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA REGISTRATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 2, 2026 Registration at www.fergusfallsskatingclub.com
 EVENT #5 BATTLE OF THE BLADES MARCH 13-14, 2026 – ALEXANDRIA, MINNESOTA REGISTRATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 9, 2026 Registration at www.alexandriafigureskating.org	 FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.CENTRALMINNESOTASERIES.ORG OR FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK @CENTRALMNSERIES

RULES: These individual competitions will be conducted under the rules set forth by the Learn to Skate USA Competition Manual.

ELIGIBILITY RULES FOR PARTICIPANTS: The competition is open to ALL skaters who are current members of either Learn to Skate USA and/or those who are full members of U.S. Figure Skating (including Aspire). Members of other organizations are eligible to compete but must be a current registered member of Learn to Skate USA or a full member of U.S. Figure Skating. Eligibility will be based on skill level as of the closing date of entries. All **Snowplow Sam and Basic 1-6** skaters must skate at the highest level passed or one level higher and NO official U.S. Figure Skating tests may have been passed, including skating skills or individual dances.

It is very important to the success of the competition that skaters are placed in the correct divisions. This will ensure that every event is as fair as possible to the competitors. Skaters should be placed at a level that challenges them appropriately while fostering and nurturing their continued growth. It is an ethical violation for coaches to sandbag an event.

COMPETITION ENTRIES AND FEES: Each individual competition has its own online registration form and a registration must be completed for each of the individual competitions being entered. All registrations will need to be completed online with a secure credit card payment. Please go to each individual club website and click the individual competition link. Online entries will be accepted until MIDNIGHT of the deadline date noted for each event. Late entries will not be accepted following the deadline date. Space may be limited by site so please submit your registrations early.

Entry fees are per person, U.S. dollars. The first event is \$60, the second event is \$25 and the third, fourth and fifth events are \$15. Entry fees are not refundable unless the competition is cancelled. There will be a \$30.00 fee for contested credit card charges.

SERIES ENTRIES AND FEES: **Entry into the Central Minnesota Compete USA Series is OPTIONAL and not a requirement to participate in any of the hosting clubs' competitions.** To be included in the Central Minnesota Compete USA Series and eligible for the 2026 season-end awards ceremony, you must be a Central Minnesota Compete USA Series participant and pay a **ONE-TIME FEE** of \$30. You may enter the Series at any point during the season. Your points will not begin to accumulate until the **ONE-TIME FEE** is recorded. Each hosting club registration form will have a space to enter the Series and/or a check-box to acknowledge those already participating as a part of the Central Minnesota Compete USA Series to ensure points are tracked accordingly. Skaters participating in all FIVE (5) individual competitions will be eligible for a drawing for a Rink Rabbit Backpack.

PRACTICE ICE: No official practice ice is included in your registration fee. Practice ice will be available at each of the individual club sites for purchase. Practice ice will be 20 minutes in length and cost \$10.00. Details are provided for each competition on the individual competition online sign-up.

MUSIC: The music for all programs must be uploaded to the competition site. Skaters should have a duplicate copy of their music and appropriate adapter if needed on day of competition readily available at all event times requiring music.

JUDGING: The 6.0 Judging System will be used. Individual Judging Worksheets are private and will not be shared with Skating Professionals or Parents.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS: Information regarding groups and skating times will be emailed to you. Event schedules will be posted on each hosting clubs' website within a week prior to the competition. There will be no more than six competitors maximum in an event.

REGISTRATION: The registration table at each location will be open 1 hour before the competition begins. Skaters will not be allowed to compete until they have registered. Please register at least 45 minutes before your competition time. All schedules will be posted at each individual competition. It is the responsibility of each competitor to check the postings for official schedules and notices.

ON-ICE RINK DOOR AREA: The area by the on-ice rink door gets very busy during a competition. No parents/spectators will be allowed in the area.

INDIVIDUAL COMPETITION AWARDS: All competitors will receive an award at each of the individual competitions. Skaters should report to awards immediately following the conclusion of their event. Compulsory, Spins, Interpretive and Showcase event participants will be awarded medals. Freeskate event participants will be awarded a trophy.

CENTRAL MINNESOTA COMPETE USA SERIES POINT SYSTEM/AWARDS: During the competition season, skaters have the opportunity to compete at five different arenas and earn points towards a final standing. Skaters must be registered with the Central Minnesota Compete USA Series to be eligible for accumulating points.

The point system used to calculate skater points to determine Series placement will be as follows:

1 st place	6 points
2 nd place	5 points
3 rd place	4 points
4 th place	3 points
5 th place	2 points
6 th place	1 point

If an event has 2 – 6 skaters, points will be awarded as if there were six skaters in the group. If an event has only one skater, they will be awarded three points only.

In addition, a skater will earn three additional points toward their overall standing for each level of advancement throughout the duration of the series. In order to be awarded the extra three points, he/she must compete at the new level in at least one competition. All points follow the skater throughout the series, so as a skater moves up to higher levels, the points follow the skater. Once a skater moves on to a new level, they may not compete at any time at a lower level. The points for skaters moving up levels will be awarded at the conclusion of their events at the Battle of the Blades Competition in Alexandria.

Final Central Minnesota Compete USA Series trophies will be awarded for 1st through 3rd places in each level from Snowplow Sam through test levels. Skaters who place 4th and beyond will receive a participation trophy. The Central Minnesota Compete USA Series trophies are awarded to skaters based on the last level they competed in during the Central Minnesota Compete USA Series. Final trophies will be handed at the conclusion of events throughout the Alexandria Battle of the Blades Competition held on March 14, 2026. You need not be present at the season-end ceremony to receive your award.

CENTRAL MINNESOTA COMPETE USA SERIES TRAVELING TEAM TROPHY: The traveling team trophy will be awarded to the figure skating club with the most combined series skater entries throughout the Series competitions. This is open to any figure skating club participating in the series at each individual competition and is not limited to the five hosting sites. The current traveling team trophy winner is the Diamond Edge Figure Skating Club for having the most series participants during the 2025 skating season.

QUESTIONS: Your questions and concerns are important to us so please feel free to get in touch with any of the contacts listed regarding individual competitions or participation in the Series. You can visit our website at www.centralminnesotaseries.org or contact any of the following Series organizers:

Lakes Area Classic:	Michelle Behl 320-220-5541 jmabehl@gmail.com Beth Fischer 612-812-7912 Email: diamondedgefsc@outlook.com
Granite City Compete USA:	Janelle Honer 320-493-6362 Email: stcloudlts@gmail.com
Skate Vacationland:	Megan Bistodeau 218-330-5633 Email: vfsclearntoskate@gmail.com
Fergus Falls Compete USA:	Trista Kitzman 218-205-0866 Email: tristakitzmansk8@gmail.com
Battle of the Blades:	Louis Waack Email: info@alexandriafigureskating.org



Event Name	Central Minnesota Compete USA Competition Series
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Competition Dates	Lakes Area Classic - Willmar, MN: January 10, 2026 Granite City Compete USA - St Cloud, MN: January 31, 2026 Skate Vacationland Compete USA - Brainerd, MN: February 14-15, 2026 Fergus Falls Compete USA - Fergus Falls, MN: March 7-8, 2026 Battle of the Blades - Alexandria, MN: March 13-14, 2026
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Series Website	http://www.centralminnesotaseries.org
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Event Name	Central Minnesota Compete USA Competition Series
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Judging	6.0
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Event Cost	1st Event - \$60	2nd Event - \$25	3rd Event - \$15	4th Event - \$15	5th Event - \$15
Series Fee	\$30				

Competition Events - Eligible for Series Points	
Snowplow Sam -Basic 6 Elements	Snowplow Sam-Basic 6 Program w/ Music
Athlete Development - Compulsory Moves 1-4	Aspire 1-4 Program w/Music
Excel Free Skate (Pre-Preliminary - Preliminary Plus)	Pre-Preliminary-Preliminary Freeskate
Competition Events - Not Eligible for Series Points	
Athlete Development - Spins Challenge 1-4	Compete USA Showcase - Interpretive
Compete USA Showcase - Character Performance	

INTERPRETIVE PROGRAM:

Each site will be offering an Interpretive Showcase event that is not eligible for series points but will be recognized with medals at each individual competition.

Competition Format

The host competition will pre-select and edit musical choices appropriate for these events. During the warm-up, skaters will hear the selection of music twice. Following the warm-up, all skaters except for the first skater will be escorted to a soundproof area of the arena. The first skater will hear the music one more time and then perform a program to the music. As each skater performs, the next skater in line will be allowed to hear the music for the third time before they perform to the music. The listening skater will not be allowed to view the performing skater.

Judging Rules: Skaters are judged on originality, pattern, technical (the ability to include jumps and spins), and music interpretation/expression. Spins and jumps performed must be appropriate to competition level. The maximum number of jumps is three.

Time: Music Duration: Snowplow Sam – Basic 3: 1:00 Max
Basic 4-Basic 6: 1:00 Max
Aspire 1 - 4: 1:00 Max
No Test - Preliminary: 1:30 Max

Coaching: There is to be no instruction allowed during this event from coaches, parents, or fellow skaters. The staging area must be kept clear except for the ice monitor and listening competitor.

SHOWCASE - CHARACTER PERFORMANCE:

Each site will be offering the Showcase Event- Character Performance event that is not eligible for series points but will be recognized with medals at each individual competition. .

Competition Format

Performances will be judged from an entertainment standpoint for theatrical qualities. Technical skating skills and difficulty will not be rewarded as such; however, skating must be the major element of the performance and be of sufficient quality to support the selected theatrical elements. Unintended falls, poorly executed skating elements and obvious loss of control will reduce contestant's marks. Jump difficulty is not rewarded in showcase; therefore jumps, if choreographed, should be performed with style, flow and confidence. Theatrical elements evaluated will include energy, poise, acting, pantomime, eye contact, choreography, form/extension and the use of props and ice. Deductions will be made for skaters including technical elements not permitted in the event description.

Character Performance: Skaters will impersonate a character, original or adapted, on the ice. Performances as a character from a movie, musical, book, original idea, original adaptation are all welcome here.

- Lip synching is required
- Props and Scenery are permitted
- No Technical Limitations

Time: Music Duration: Snowplow Sam: 1:00 Max
Basic 1-Basic 6: 1:00 Max
Aspire 1 - 4: 1:20 Max
Pre-Preliminary - Preliminary: 1:30 Max



EVENT NAME

Skate Vacationland Compete USA Competition

COMPETITION DATES

February 14-15, 2026

HOST PROGRAM

Vacationland Figure Skating Club

LOCATION

Essentia Health Sports Center - Brainerd

CONTACT NAME

Megan Bistodeau

CONTACT INFO

Email: vfsclearntoskate@gmail.com

REGISTRATION LINK

www.centralminnesotaseries.org

**REGISTRATION
DEADLINE**

January 12, 2026

This announcement template is for competitions that are only running Compete USA events. If you are running Compete USA events in conjunction with a nonqualifying event, please use the standard nonqualifying announcement template.

RULES FOR COMPETE USA COMPETITIONS

3100 Rules for Compete USA Competitions

3110 Compete USA Competitions – Approvals

3111 Compete USA competitions may include events for skaters who have passed no higher than the preliminary free skate, pre-bronze pattern dance or adult bronze free skate tests without applying for a

U.S. Figure Skating sanction. However, an approval number is required and may be obtained from the appointed Learn to Skate USA representatives.

3120 Compete USA Competitions – Officials

3121 For Compete USA competitions, three judges not related to the competitors are required for each event. Judges may be any official U.S. Figure Skating or Skate Canada judge or any other qualified eligible or ineligible person in skating who is a U.S. Figure Skating member and/or a Learn to Skate USA member.

3122 For Compete USA competitions, the member club or other organization sponsoring and conducting the competition shall approve all judges and officials. All persons serving as judges and officials shall be at least 16 years of age.

3130 Compete USA Competitions – Announcements

3131 For all Compete USA competitions, a copy of the announcement and an approval request shall be sent to the appointed Learn to Skate USA representative for approval and issuance of a Compete USA approval number 30 days prior to the release of the competition announcement to the public. The approval is to be publicly displayed during the competition.

3132 Compete USA competitions will follow the event structure as outlined in the Compete USA Manual.

Any registered Learn to Skate USA program may conduct a Compete USA competition.

3133 When Compete USA competitions are held on the home ice of a U.S. Figure Skating member club, the member club shall be designated as the sponsoring club.

3134 Compete USA competitions may be:

- A. "In house" — the competition is available only to those skaters who are members of the club or pro- gram conducting the competition, or
- B. "Open" — the competition is available to any reg- istered Learn to Skate USA member or full U.S. Figure Skating member.

3055 Entries

At nonqualifying competitions, if only one eligible competitor/team enters an event, the competitor/team will be offered the option to skate an exhibition, compete in an equivalent event one level above or one level below (as qualified by test level) or, for pre-juvenile and lower singles events, compete in an equivalent event against skaters of the opposite gender.

- A. If said competitor chooses to skate an exhibition, judges will award their marks according to the rules and the applicable judging system used, and the competitor/team will receive first place.
- B. If said competitor chooses to compete in an equivalent event against skaters of the opposite gender, the skater will be entered accordingly.
- C. If said competitor/team chooses not to skate, the entry fee will be refunded, and the event will be canceled

3064 - Skating Accommodations Memorandum (S.A.M.)

A singles skater with a documented physical disability, as defined by the American's with Disabilities Act (ADA), may request exception from certain technical rules or element requirements or expectations on the basis that such rule or requirement penalizes them in the assessment.

ELIGIBILITY RULES FOR PARTICIPANTS

It is very important to the success of the competition that skaters are placed in the correct divisions. This will ensure that every event is as fair as possible to the competitors. It is an ethical violation for coaches to sandbag an event.

Choosing a competitive level that is right for your skater: It is the responsibility of the instructor, coach, or skating director to place the skater at the correct competitive level. This decision should be based upon skill proficiency, athlete development, and fairness. Placing skaters at a level that challenges them appropriately while fostering their ongoing development is key to nurturing their growth.

ELIGIBILITY AND TEST REQUIREMENTS:

The competition is open to ALL skaters who are current members of either Learn to Skate USA and/ or those who are full members of U.S. Figure Skating (including Aspire). Members of other organizations are eligible to compete but must be a current registered member of Learn to Skate USA or a full member of U.S. Figure Skating. There will be no more than six competitors maximum in an event, and all six should receive an award.

Eligibility will be based on skill level as of closing date of entries. All Snowplow Sam and Basic 1-6 skaters must skate at highest level passed or one level higher, and NO official U.S. Figure Skating tests may have been passed, including skating skills or individual dances.

Special Olympics events are for skaters with intellectual disabilities. Skate United events are for skaters with physical disabilities. Skate United skaters have the option to compete in the standard track or Skate United track; accommodations may be made upon request.

ELIGIBILITY RULES FOR COACHES/ INSTRUCTORS

When hosting a Compete USA competition, it is important that you verify the compliance of each coach/ instructor who plans to coach onsite at the event.

For credentials at a Compete USA event, coaches/instructors are required to have:

- Learn to Skate USA instructor compliant

OR

- U.S. Figure Skating coach compliant

If a coach/instructor attempts to work at your event without the proper credentials, he or she is in violation of U.S. Figure Skating ethics and code of conduct rules and, as such, is subject to disciplinary action.

All officials and adult volunteers assisting Compete USA events must also be SafeSport Trained™

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

EVENTS OFFERED:

Program requirements for the events listed below can be found [HERE](#)

COMPETE USA EVENTS	JUDGING	1ST EVENT PRICE	2ND EVENT PRICE
Snowplow Sam-Basic 6 Program w / Music	6.0	\$60.00	\$25.00
Aspire Program w / Music	6.0	\$60.00	\$25.00
Excel Free Skate (Pre-Preliminary - Preliminary Plus)	6.0	\$60.00	\$25.00
Pre-Preliminary - Preliminary Free Skate	6.0	\$60.00	\$25.00
Adult 1-6 Program w / Music	NA	NA	NA
Adult Free Skate (Beg. - Bronze)	NA	NA	NA
Snowplow Sam – Basic 6 Elements X Program led Referee led	6.0	\$60.00	\$25.00
Athlete Development - Compulsory Moves 1-4	6.0	\$60.00	\$25.00
Athlete Development - Spin Challenge 1-4	6.0	\$60.00	\$25.00
Athlete Development - Jump Challenge 1-4	NA	NA	NA
Compete USA - Hockey 1-4 Elements & Skills Challenge	NA	NA	NA
Compete USA - Team Compulsory	NA	NA	NA
Compete USA Showcase – Character Performance	6.0	\$60.00	\$25.00
Compete USA – Interpretive	6.0	\$60.00	\$25.00
Adult 1-6 Compulsory	NA	NA	NA
Compete USA - Solo Dance	NA	NA	NA
Special Olympics Badges	NA	NA	NA
Special Olympics - Free Skate Program 1-4	NA	NA	NA
Special Olympics - Pairs 1-2 & Ice Dance 1-2	NA	NA	NA
Skate United Badges	NA	NA	NA
Aspire Synchro (Aspire 1-4)	NA	NA	NA
ADDITIONAL EVENTS			
3 rd Event Price	6.0	NA	\$15.00
4 th Event Price	6.0	NA	\$15.00
5 th Event Price	6.0	NA	\$15.00