

THE ALBUQUERQUE FIGURE SKATING CLUB SALUTES YOU!

TO: BASIC SKILLS STUDENTS AND GRADUATES (AND PARENTS TOO)
FROM: ALBUQUERQUE FIGURE SKATING CLUB, INC.
SUBJECT: WHERE TO GO FROM HERE

CONGRATULATIONS! You are in an advanced USFSA Basic Skills class or have successfully completed your Basic Skills lessons. Now, if you're like most of us, you're probably wondering how to continue to pursue your interest in figure skating. You may have heard terms like contract ice, the Club, testing, etc., but don't quite know what it's all about. Most of us in the Albuquerque Figure Skating Club (AFSC) were in your shoes at one time, so we have put this information together to help you through the maze.

Contract Sessions. Up to this point, you've probably done most of your skating on your Basic Skills lesson time or public sessions. You can continue to practice on public sessions, and you should ask the people at the counter about buying a discount card, which may make the sessions less expensive. There comes a point however when it will become hard to practice on crowded public sessions. Then you should consider contracting with Outpost for the sessions you want. You do that by completing a form that you can get at the rink. You can usually find the forms in one of the bins opposite the skate rental counter. If you want to skate on a few contract sessions before committing to a whole month contract, you can do so (assuming the session isn't full) by paying a drop-in fee.

Private Lessons. You will probably want to start taking private lessons if you are not already doing so. There is really no other way to continue to advance in skating. Most lessons are 15, 20 or 30 minutes long and are given on contract or public sessions. A list of coaches and the rates they charge is available at the rink.

Testing. You may have already heard terms like Juvenile, Novice, Bronze level dancer, and others. These terms refer to levels established by the United States Figure Skating (USFS). The level at which you are skating is determined by testing. Each level has stated requirements and is scored by judges appointed by the USFS. If you plan to compete beyond the Basic Skills level, you must test in order to determine your competition level. Even if you are not planning to compete, testing is an excellent way to measure your progress. Your coach can tell you more about testing. The testing program at the Outpost is administered by the Albuquerque Figure Skating Club. In order to test, you must be a member of the AFSC, another figure skating club, or an individual member of USFS. If you are a member of an out-of-state Club or an individual member, you will pay a higher fee to test.

Competitions. As you progress, you may want to compare your skills to those of other skaters by participating in competitions. Many competitions include events for skaters who have not yet passed any USFS tests. You may have already participated in such a competition. Even if competitive skating is not your ultimate goal, practicing for a competition is an excellent way to improve your skating skills. Your coach can advise you about competitions suitable for your skating level. In order to participate in most competitions beyond Basic

Skills competitions, you must be an AFSC member, a member of another club, or an individual member of USFS.

New Skates. You probably already have your own skates right now. However, as you advance in skating, you will need skates of increasingly better quality. Because the combined cost of boots and blades represents a significant expense and because there are so many types and manufacturers of both boots and blades, be sure to ask your coach to help you. Both boots and blades can be ordered from the Outpost Pro Shop. Jada or another Pro Shop staff member will take all sorts of measurements of your feet so you will get the right size. You may also be able to find suitable boots and blades at a Skate Swap, where skaters sell equipment which they have outgrown. Skates purchased at a Skate Swap will be less expensive and probably easier to break in than brand new skates.

Membership in the Albuquerque Figure Skating Club. You knew we would get to this sometime, didn't you? We are proud of our Club and believe it offers substantial benefits to New Mexico skaters. Our Club skating sessions are held many Friday afternoons (5:45-6:45) and are \$5.00 per session or free depending on AFSC's financial status. The dates, times, and cost, if charged, are posted on the Club bulletin board and Club website at www.abqfsc.org. Club session time is used primarily for open skating (during which you can practice and have private lessons), testing, and group clinics. Before most competitions, all or part of the Club session consists of Exhibitions. This means that you and only you (or you and your partner) have the ice all to yourself to perform your competition program to your music in front of an audience. Also, membership in AFSC entitles you to be registered with the USFSA, receive USFS's Skating magazine, test and participate in AFSC-sponsored activities at member rates, skate in our shows, receive our newsletter, participate in clinics and lessons by guest instructors, become part of a friendly and supportive group of skaters, along with many other benefits. You can join now the Club at any time. For information on how to join the club, membership types, dues, and benefits please go to the Club website at www.abqfsc.org, ask your coach for a AFSC membership book, or contact the AFSC Membership Chair, Terryll Allen at terryllallen@aol.com.

**GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR SKATING
PLEASE JOIN US IN AFSC**

AFTER THE BASICS

WHAT'S NEXT?

QUESTION

GROUP LESSONS WERE FUN - BUT WHAT NOW?

ANSWER

CONTRACT SESSIONS AND PRIVATE LESSONS ARE DESIGNED TO HELP EACH STUDENT PROGRESS AT HIS OR HER OWN RATE. THE RINK OFFERS ICE TIME ON A CONTRACT BASIS, AND THE COACHING STAFF OFFER 15, 20, AND 30 MINUTE LESSONS ON A REGULAR BASIS.

AT THIS POINT, IN ORDER TO ADVANCE IN SKATING THROUGH THE USFS TESTING STRUCTURE, IT IS NECESSARY TO JOIN THE UNITED STATES FIGURE SKATING (USFS). THIS IS USUALLY ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH YOUR LOCAL CLUB.

QUESTION

OTHER THAN ADVANCEMENT, WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES TO JOINING AFSC?

ANSWER

USFS OPERATES ONLY AS A "PARENT" BODY, AT A NATIONAL LEVEL. LOCAL MEMBER CLUBS LIKE AFSC PROVIDE CLUB ICE TIME, CLINICS AND WORKSHOPS, EXHIBITION TIME, TEST SESSIONS, COMPETITION ELIGIBILITY, ELIGIBILITY TO PERFORM IN ICE SHOWS, AND OTHER BENEFITS. SOME ARE AVAILABLE TO AN INDEPENDENT USFS MEMBER, BUT AT A HIGHER COST.

A BOOKLET ABOUT MEMBERSHIP IN AFSC IS AVAILABLE IN THE SKATING DIRECTOR'S OFFICE. WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU AS A MEMBER.