



Talbot

FIGURE SKATING CLUB



SYNCHRO & PRODUCTION

HANDBOOK



Talbot Figure Skating Club
PO Box 1083

Stevensville MD 21666

www.talbotfigureskatingteam.org



What is a synchronized team?

Synchronized Skating is a fun and rewarding experience for all ages. It involves eight to twenty-two skaters performing various formations in unison to music. The objective is for the skaters to perform as one unit rather than individually. They can incorporate various skating formations such as circles, pinwheels, lines, blocks, and intersections. Synchronized Skating offers skaters the opportunity to participate in a group activity and make new friends. Synchronized teams allow participants to strengthen their own individual skating skills while at the same time enjoying the atmosphere of a team sport. Skaters will benefit from the accomplishments of the team and will be able to share in the experience and energy of a dynamic group. Achieve goals as a team, and everyone wins! For more information on the types of team divisions, please visit the ISI website.

What is a production team?

Skaters of all ages and ability can participate in this theatrical team event. This is a creative and artistic program usually based on a story or theme, using costumes, props and technical skating to enhance the production performance. This team event is for groups of eight or more skaters. Teams will be judged on the performance value of the program. There are no required maneuvers and no technical score for this event at competition. The team uses music along with elaborate costumes and props to enhance the theme while creating an entertaining performance. Team competitive category is based on the number of skaters on the team. And..it's fun!

Team Practices

All team practices will be held at the Talbot Community Center Ice Arena. Practice is held every Sunday evening from 6:45 pm to 8:45 pm. It is the skater's responsibility to practice individually in addition to synchro or production practice.

If practice is held at another location, the skater and the skater's family will be notified of the time and location of the special practice at least a week in advance.

Communication

Our primary means of communication between the Talbot Synchronized & Production Skating Teams, coaches, and parents is via email. Please check your email often for updates and news. For this reason, it is very important that we have your correct email address. It is sometimes helpful to create an email account to be primarily used for skating activities.

The club maintains a private Facebook group which you'll be invited to join for the season. TFSC administrators use this space to post reminders and information that might be useful. But email is the source of official communication. All members are welcomed to post relevant questions or information in the Facebook group, but we expect that no team members will use the TFSC Facebook group to advance any commercial interests or personal interests unrelated to skating.

Coaches

Coaches make all decisions regarding team member selection for both synchro and production teams.. Only coaches will be responsible for enforcing team expectations or rules during on or off ice practices.

Team Placement

Team placements will be made by TFSC coaches based upon a skater's age, skating skill level, prior season team commitment, and good sportsmanship (if applicable). A skater's financial commitments from a previous season must be fulfilled before a skater will be offered a slot on any Team this season.

| <u>Synchronized Skaters</u> | <u>Production Skaters</u> |
|--|---|
| <p>The level and division of the teams varies each season. To be eligible for TFSC's synchronized skating team, skaters should have had some type of previous professional instruction (through enrollment in a Learn to Skate program or through private lessons) and must be willing to meet all other team requirements.</p> <p>Skaters who are not able or ready to participate on the synchronized skating team are encouraged to participate with Talbot Figure Skating Club's Production Team and/or in Talbot County Parks & Recreation's "Learn to Skate-Showtime" program for additional skill building and performance opportunities.</p> | <p>Talbot Figure Skating Club's Production Team has a spot for everyone. Skaters of any age and any level of skating ability are welcome. All skaters, parents, friends, and siblings are invited to join the Production Team. No minimal level of skating or skill is required. Members are encouraged to participate in a Learn to Skate program and/or private lessons, but it is not mandatory.</p> |

Swing Skaters

In some circumstances, individual skaters may be asked by coaches and TFSC to participate on more than one synchronized skating team. In those situations, swing skaters (on more than one team) will pay the same synchro fees as if they were on only one team. Swing skaters are, however, responsible for paying for their dresses for all the synchro teams on which they are a member.

Swing skaters are expected to attend all practices for each of their teams, and to participate with all their teams at shows and competitions. TFSC and its coaches will make every effort to ensure that swing skaters have sufficient time to change costumes between synchro performances during shows and competitions.

Team Expectations

All skaters on the team are required to be a member in good standing of the Talbot Figure Skating Club including current ISI membership. **Parents and skaters are both required to sign the release on the final page of this handbook stating that you have read and understand these rules.** You will receive a copy of the rules via email.

Attendance

| <u>Synchronized Skaters</u> | <u>Production Skaters</u> |
|--|--|
| <p>Synchronized skating teams are a sport that requires commitment, loyalty, and accountability from our families. In order for our skaters to perform skills safely and be successful, a HIGH level of commitment is required. On-ice and off-ice practices should be a high priority to you, and skaters need to be attentive and respectful of each other and the coaches during this valuable time. A skater who misses more than three practices may be dismissed from the team.</p> <p>All skaters must be participating in some form of instruction during the current season: ISI Learn to Skate, private lessons, or both. All skaters should be practicing on their own at freestyle sessions throughout the season.</p> | <p>Attendance and promptness for on-ice and off-ice practices are expected for the Production Team program to be successful. Participation in home performances and competitions will depend on the coach's discretion based on attendance at practices both on and off the ice.</p> |

Skaters should notify the coach ahead of practice time if they cannot attend a practice. Listed below is the contact information for our TFSC Synchro and Production coaches. Please send your coach an email when you know of a practice that you will be absent.

Rebecca Crotti - sk8rcrotti@gmail.com

Katie Ewers - ktewers@gmail.com

It is important for a skater to review his or her routine before a competition. Therefore, a skater may not be allowed to participate in an event if they have missed the final practice before a performance.

If there is a behavior problem that interferes with practice, the skater/skaters involved may be asked to leave the ice. This will be considered an absence.

Skaters who have been diagnosed with an injury are asked to come and watch practice from the side if possible.

Dressing for Practice

| <u>Synchronized Skaters</u> | <u>Production Skaters</u> |
|---|--|
| <p>Skaters will be asked to wear leggings or yoga pants (preferably black) with either the designated team shirt or a solid black shirt. Additional practice apparel and accessories will be available for optional purchase. No hoodies are allowed. Hair should be in a ponytail or braid and out of the skater's face. Sneakers are required for off-ice practices. Gloves of any kind are not allowed for safety reasons.</p> | <p>Specific practice attire will be communicated once a skater's role(s) is assigned for the season. Skaters must wear clothes that allow for the easy addition/removal of production costumes. Sneakers are required for off-ice practices.</p> |

For off-ice practices:

- skaters are asked to wear black clothing and/or TFSC apparel for all off-ice practices
- wear clothes that allow easy movement
- no hoodies or bulky clothing that will interfere with linking with synchro teammates or wearing production costumes
- sneakers are required (no boots or crocs).

For on-ice practice:

- Skaters should dress in light layers. Oversized sweatshirts, hoodies, heavy or bulky tops, or jeans are not allowed.
- Skaters should **not** wear gloves during synchro practice, unless advised to do so by coaches.
- Hair must be pulled back so that it is out of the skater's face (bun or short ponytail preferred) and off of skater's shoulders.

If a skater is wearing attire that is deemed inappropriate for practice, a coach will provide feedback for any changes that need to be addressed.

Periodically, TFSC will schedule Spirit Nights during practice (i.e., come in Halloween costumes). We hope all skaters will participate in these fun, community-building nights, but attire for these nights still needs to allow for skaters' safe movement (i.e., they need to have full vision, be able to move, not have anything dragging on the ice, etc.)

Dresses, Costumes, Hair and Make-Up

| <u>Synchronized Skaters</u> | <u>Production Skaters</u> |
|--|---|
| <p>All synchronized skaters will receive a dress, two pairs of tights, accessory(s), and make-up that corresponds to their theme. Skaters will pay for their own synchro dresses and will be billed during the season.</p> <p>Skaters may not eat or drink (except water) while wearing their dress.</p> <p>All skaters are required to wear the established hair and make-up style for the season. <u>In some cases, skaters may be asked to wear false eyelashes, extra make-up, large accessories, and/or artificial hair or hair extensions if needed to establish the synchronized look of the team.</u></p> <p>Most often, skaters will be required to wear a “synchro” bun for a season’s look. If hair is too short to create the bun, hair will be slicked back and secured. In some instances, an artificial bun may be provided to facilitate a hair accessory and adhere to the synchronized requirement.</p> <p>*Information will be provided in the future on how to create the bun if this is the required hairstyle.</p> | <p>Production skaters will be given costumes and props according to their roles in the routine. They will be responsible for their items the entire time they are at practice, at competitions, and at exhibitions. Costumes and props will be labeled and stored separately for each skater. These props do not go home with skaters. At the beginning of each practice or performance, production skaters will need to put on their first costume and skate all of their remaining items out to the ice to be placed in the given area “backstage”. When finished with practice or a performance, each skater will remove their items from the ice and store their items for the next event.</p> |

Competitions & Exhibitions

Competitions are scheduled between February and May. Dates will be provided when finalized within our District.

Additional exhibition-like performances may be added at TCCC such as a performance at a Valentine’s Skate. You will be notified once confirmed.

The skaters and families of Talbot Synchronized Skating & Production Teams are expected to positively represent the goals of the team and the mission of ISI at all times. As ambassadors of the sport of figure skating, good sportsmanship is expected during every practice and event. Except when otherwise advised, parents will be expected to be responsible for their skater(s) at all times.

Despite the stressful nature of competition, all skaters should do their best to remain composed, gracious, and positive regardless of the judges’ decisions. Skaters must show respect for judges at all times. Learning to manage success as well as disappointment in a positive way is a critical learning opportunity for team sport participants.

Skaters are also asked to attend all other teams' performances in a competition. At times, this may not be possible due to scheduling conflicts. However, the support of all our teams is crucial to team spirit and motivation and we ask that you do the best you can to make it to the arena to cheer on all Talbot teams.

Financial Commitments

Final costs are calculated **AFTER** all team placements have been finalized. The annual bill for ice and coaching fees will be split equally between all team members for all synchronized and production teams. Fees are **NON REFUNDABLE**. If your skater cannot complete their commitment to a team for any reason, you will be responsible for the **full amount of your membership** at the date of withdrawal.

Potential Cost Offset

'Synchro & Production Team Only' fundraising may be required to reduce overall team and individual costs. Additional fundraising opportunities may be offered to offset your team synchro fees for the current season as well. All fundraising earned will be reimbursed by the end of each event. Credit balances from fundraising cannot be reimbursed in cash and must be used by the end of the current skating season.

Volunteer Commitments

All parents/families will be asked to participate to make the most of our valuable ice time and to ensure a successful season. **It will take all skaters and families working together to make it work.** At the start of the season, we will ask that you volunteer to assist in one specific area for the season. Please be ready to assist at each practice, exhibition and competition in your area.

Beyond the commitments with the Talbot Figure Skating Club, parents/guardians of the skaters on the synchronized and production teams will be asked to assist in various ways during the season's practices, exhibitions, and/or competitions. There will be additional opportunities for parent volunteer positions such as wardrobe/costume creations, production prop creation, assembly/dismantle, and transportation, etc.

Questions?

E-mail to:

Bernadette Golt – spirit@talbotfigureskatingteam.org

Rebecca Crotti – sk8rcrotti@gmail.com

Acknowledgement Page

To be completed and returned by the first practice of the season.

Initial next to each section and sign below indicating you and your skater have read and accept the terms of the season and understand the requirements of the Talbot Synchronized Skating & Production Team Handbook, which governs your skater's participation on the Synchronized and/or Production Skating Teams, specifically:

_____ Missing more than three practices may be dismissed from the team. Should that occur, NO REFUNDS will be given.

_____ I have read the teams' practice and competition dress policy.

_____ Communication for Synchro & Production Teams, coach(es), and parents is via email. I will routinely check and be prompt to respond.

_____ My skater and I are expected to positively represent the goals of the team and the mission of ISI at all times.

Team Member Name Printed (*name the skater wants to be called*)

Team Member Signature

Date

For skaters younger than 18 years old:

Parent Name Printed

Parent Signature

Date

