



## Excel Program Club Webinar Questions & Answers

All information for Excel is posted on the Excel program page of U.S. Figure Skating's website.

### General Questions

Question	Answer
Are competitions with Test Track after September 1st "grandfathered" in?	Any competition occurring after September 1 that was sanctioned prior to the announcement of Excel will still be able to run Test Track events. Any event held after September 1 that does not already have a sanction should use Excel events.
Are the Excel level requirements posted on U.S. Figure Skating's website?	You can find the technical requirements and additional Excel information on the Excel page of usfigureskating.org . Select the "Programs" dropdown and click on Excel.
Are there any age limits?	Skaters for all levels must be under 21 as of July 1, 2019.
Are there any plans to include short program for the higher levels in the future?	As this is a pilot season, we are currently offering only freeskate options. We can certainly discuss this option after the completion of the first season.
Are these charts final for this season?	Yes, the charts have been finalized for the season and posted on our website.
Can a skater do a well balanced short and an Excel level freeskate?	Yes, skaters can enter in a well-balanced short and excel level freeskate at the same competition. Skaters may not enter a well-balanced freeskate and an excel level freeskate at the SAME competition.
Can someone skate Intermediate well-balanced and Junior Excel? Many Intermediate skaters have all doubles except double axel, so the Intermediate and Novice Excel levels don't align.	Skaters may skate at their current test level or may skate up one level. An intermediate skater can choose to enter an excel event at either Intermediate or Novice.
What is the implementation date?	Excel will be implemented September 1, 2018 - any competition occurring after that date can include it in their announcement.
Does this mean only well balanced will attend regionals after this year?	Our hope is that all nonqualifying competitions at Regionals will include the Excel levels, but that is up to each individual LOC.
For planning nonqualifying competitions; do you expect the Excel Plus and Int thru Senior to draw off skaters from the higher Well Balanced events?	We expect that there may be some transition from well balanced to Excel; skaters who are not consistently placing near the top of well balanced events may opt to compete in Excel, given the opportunities for success that they may not find in well balanced.
How will this affect State Game competitions ?	State Games Competitions are encouraged to use Excel events, but are not required to do so.
In addition to the PowerPoint Presentation that will be available to use for an information session, will there be a sample flyer that could be used to help with marketing it to the coaches and parents?	Yes, there will be an informational flyer posted on the Excel program webpage.
What steps will be taken to eliminate confusion between the Excel program and a fairly well known and large Eastern section synchro program called Team Excel (Boston, MA)?	Should confusion arise, information about the new Excel program can be found on the US Figure Skating website under Programs tab. Email addresses for further questions about Excel are posted on that webpage.
Why are the requirements for Excel Pre-Prel & Excel Preliminary the same?	For the pilot season we attempted to keep some of the lower levels, similar to those previously offered in test track to create more ease in the transition. Based on feedback throughout the year, the required elements can be revisited for the following season.
Why do Excel Plus levels end at Juvenile?	At the lower levels, Plus indicated that the technical requirements are above test requirements; at Intermediate level and above, the technical requirements are all above test requirements, so there is no need to differentiate.
Why restrict using Excel to only 3 competitions per region?	Limitations on Excel are only in regards to the number Series competitions that serve as qualifiers for the National Festival; Excel levels can be offered at every nonqualifying competition and skaters can enter as many competitions throughout the year as they choose.
Will Excel be offered at the non-qualifying portion of regionals this year?	The inclusion of Excel is at the discretion of the LOC, but is our hope that each regional nonqualifying event will include Excel!
Will Excel events using IJS scoring be allowed to have freeskate scores used to pass freeskate tests?	Not at this time, since this is the initial year. Test refresh is currently only available for well balanced events.
Will testing begin to mirror the Excel program?	Not at this time. The testing structure and Test Refresh are separate from the Excel program.
Will there be lists of clubs holding Excel competitions?	We will post the list of designated Series competitions; any nonqualifying competition can include Excel events (and we hope they all will!), so we will not maintain a list of those. If a local competition does not include Excel events, contact the competition chair to see if they might be willing to add them.
Will this be available at high school competitions?	Any nonqualifying competition is welcome to include Excel levels; both High School and intercollegiate competitions are planning on including Excel!

### Judging & Scoring

Are there any changes in judges' levels for events?	No, all judges qualified to judge at non-qualifying competitions will be able to judge excel events.
Are there plans in the future to only run Excel under IJS?	Not at this time; if in the future 6.0 becomes obsolete, then potentially all Excel levels may switch to IJS. Ultimately, we want to ensure it as easy as possible for nonqualifying competitions to include Excel in their competition.
This program can be used with the 6.0 judging system, correct?	Yes, only competitions that are designated as part of the series must be run IJS for designated levels. Other competitions who hold excel events may run all levels as 6.0 or IJS.
Will regular technical panel officials be required for Plus events using IJS?	Yes, a regular technical panel must be used for all excel events held using IJS.

### Excel Series

After the initial year, do you anticipate expanding the Excel Series to competitions outside of the January - May window?	Changes to the Series will depend on feedback received from this first year and any needs for modification.
Are the designated Series competitions for the National Festival stand alone competitions, or can Excel events as part of a larger nonqualifying competition be used?	They can be either; clubs that already host a competition are welcome to include Excel levels for the Series into their existing competition, or they can choose to host a stand-alone Excel competition.

Can Excel IJS scores from competitions prior to Jan 2019 be included to qualify for the national festival?	Unfortunately, no. Skaters must compete at designated Series events in order to qualify for the National Festival.
Do skaters have to stay in their region for Series competitions to qualify for the National Festival, or can they compete at any Series competition and have it count?	Qualification will be based on section; skaters must compete in their section. Additional details will be available in the Series Handbook, which will be posted later this summer.
For the Series, will there be a cost to register as a participant?	Yes, there will be a nominal registration fee for the Series; finalized details will be available in the Series Handbook, which will be posted on the Excel program webpage later this summer.
From an accounting perspective, will accountants need to send a summary report for excel events like we do for showcase and solo dance to headquarters at the end of competitions participating?	Yes, the process will run similar to Solo Dance and Showcase; details will be in the Excel Series Handbook that will be posted.
How many Series competitions would a skater in Excel need to compete at in order to get recognized at/qualify for the National Festival?	Skaters must compete in at least two events in their section; additional details will be available in the Excel Series handbook posted later this summer.
Please define a Series.	The Excel Series is a set number of nonqualifying competitions that are designated as qualifiers for the National Festival.
Please describe how a skater qualifies for the National Festival.	The excel series handbook will be posted this summer and will outline in detail how a skater can qualify for the National festival.
When do you plan to post the dates and locations of the Series competitions? Will the regions be the same as those used for the qualifying structure?	We are currently accepting applications for competitions who wish to be part of the series. Once competitions have been designated, the list will be posted in the fall of 2018. Regions and sections of the country will be defined the same way they are for the qualifying structure.
Will the Excel Series include showcase events?	The Excel Series only includes the Excel freeskate levels.

### National Festival

For the Festival, why are the Beginner/High Beginner levels included, but not No Test?	<a href="#">Only Excel levels are included in the National Festival: No Test is part of the well balanced track. You can see see the visual breakdown of levels and tracks in the Singles Chart.</a>
How many skaters are invited from each section to compete at the National Festival?	For Beginner - Juvenile, the National Festival is open invitation; for the Plus levels and Intermediate - Senior, the top 6 in each section will qualify to the National Festival. The Series Handbook posted later this summer will detail how skaters qualify.
Who will "run" the national festival, i.e., pay for ice rental, etc.?	The LOC/hosting club will run the national festival, with support from U.S. Figure Skating.
Why was early June selected for National Festival dates?	While we recognize that no single date works for everyone across the country, we thought early June would be a fun event for skaters to look forward to at the end of the school year and before some skaters take the summer off for vacations, camp, etc.