

Attention Testers

One of the most important services a U. S. Figure Skating club provides its members is the opportunity to test. This service is provided by a committee comprised entirely of volunteers. In order for a test session to occur, these volunteers must select a test date, secure ice time from the rink, secure judges, put out an announcement and application for the test, collect the applications and make a schedule for the test, solicit and schedule volunteers to run the test, set up for the test, provide hospitality for the judges, run the test, and finally process the paperwork to report the results of the test. This is a huge and time consuming undertaking for the volunteers.

In the middle of the long list of tasks this volunteer committee must accomplish is the task “collect applications and make a schedule for the test.” U. S. Figure Skating makes this task easier for the committee by providing a recommended order for the test schedule. The recommended order is

1. Moves Tests (highest to lowest)
2. Dance Tests (highest to lowest)
3. Freestyle Tests (highest to lowest)

This order allows for the most efficient utilization of the ice and helps greatly with the scheduling of the volunteers. It should be a relatively simple process for the test committee to take the test applications received, and then produce a schedule based on this order. Unfortunately, in Richmond, the courtesy we have extended to our testers in considering requests for exceptions to the recommended order has been abused and has become so common place, that at our last test session over one half of the test applications came in with requests for specific times to test. This practice has made scheduling the tests a very time consuming and burdensome process for the volunteers and has resulted in inefficient test schedules that are contributing to our clubs losing hundreds of dollars on each test session. We would like to continue to offer our testers the courtesy of making requests for exceptions to the recommended order when there is a true need for an exception, but if the number of these requests does not decrease dramatically, we will be forced to institute a \$25 fee per request for exception in the future. If you feel you have a true need to make a request for an exception to the recommended test order with this test application, please do so, as it is a courtesy we would like to continue to offer you. However, as you are making the request, please consider the following three questions:

1. Is my need really so great that I am willing to burden the volunteer who is making the schedule with the headache and extra work of accommodating my request?
2. Is my need really so great that I am willing to ask all of the members of the Central Virginia Skating Club and Richmond Figure Skating Club to bear the financial burden that may result from the extra ice time required to accommodate my request?
3. Is my need really so great that I would be willing to pay \$25 to make the request?

If you can answer yes to all three of these questions, please submit your request for exception guilt free. However, if you cannot answer yes to these three questions, please reconsider your decision to make a special request, because if the number of these requests does not voluntarily decrease, we will be forced institute the \$25 fee to reduce them in the future.

On a related note, you will notice that there is deadline for turning in your test application. We will be enforcing this deadline. Late test applications require the test committee to either redo any work they have already completed on the schedule or to add the tester to the end of the schedule which often results in an increase cost for the test session. Late test applications will only be accepted with the late fee included and totally at the discretion of the test committee.

Good luck on your test , and if you see a member of the test committee, please be sure to thank them for volunteering to make your test possible.