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Guide to Hosting a Star 1-3 Competition Club/Skating School/Interclub

OVERVIEW OF HOSTING A STAR 1-3 COMPETITION

Hosting a Star 1-3 Competition within your club and/or surrounding area provides skaters the opportunity to perform their skills, without having to travel great distances, and allows clubs/skating schools to determine the best timing for them. The philosophy of the Star system is based on the principles within Skate Canada's Guide to Long-Term Development (LTD). This guide provides the optimal framework for how young skaters should experience their first competitions.

Skate AB | NT | NU (Section) provides this framework for clubs/skating schools to offer the Star 1-3 Competitions.

Competitions are encouraged to be one day events; however, the competition may not exceed 2 days. This will ensure the Star 1-3 Competitions stay small as intended and provide opportunities to skaters in the area. The host club/skating school must coordinate the proposed schedule with their Lead Judge's availability.

Skaters in Star 1-3 competitions are not ranked and are Assessed to a Standard.

Throughout the document "Host" refers to the host club or skating school and "Section" refers to Skate AB | NT | NU.

BENEFITS OF HOSTING

- Skaters compete locally.
- Provides an environment that is known and comfortable to the skater when introducing them to performing and competing.
- Creates a fun environment for the skaters and engages the older skaters to be involved.
- Provides the parents and older skaters an opportunity to learn how to volunteer at a competition that is fun and less stressful.
- Can be a fundraiser for the club/skating school.
- Entry costs may be lower than Section event calendar competitions

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

- Host may choose to host a Star 1-3 competition club with members of their own club/skating school or invite surrounding clubs/skating schools. It is encouraged to invite nearby Skate Canada clubs/skating schools to join your competition if space permits.
- Adhere to Skate Canada's LTD regarding travelling to competitions at the learn-to-skate stage, where skaters should not travel far distances for competitions. Skaters are encouraged to stay within their region.



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DEFINITIONS

- **Star 1-4 Judge:** an individual who has completed the Star 1-4 Judge training and are considered qualified to judge at Star 1-4 competitions and are listed on the Skate AB/NT/NU's Officials contact list.
- **Student Judges:** can be skaters or former skaters that have passed the complete Star 5 Free skate assessment and have reached the age of 14 by the date of the scheduled competition.
- **Star 1-5 Coach Assessor:** a coach who has completed the required Skate Canada Assessor training to assess Star 1-5 Skate Canada assessments in Free skate, Dance, and Skills.

REQUIREMENTS FOR HOSTING

The Host must complete or have the following:

- Obtain a sanction from the Section Office. There is a sanction form to host a Star 1-3 competition. If you decide to host a CanSkate Event at the same time, there is a joint sanction form to host both events together at a discounted rate.
- Provide Competition Announcement to the Section for approval. The announcement will be posted on the Section website (if the competition is accepting skaters from additional clubs/skating schools)
- Provide music for all Creative Expression Competitions including Star 1 Creative Expression Music.
- Provide report cards for all Star 1-3 categories.
- Provide all awards for the skaters in each category. Awards may be trophies, medals, ribbons, or something creative from the Host, but must be created and designed by the Host. Skaters are assessed to standard and not ranked.
- Have arena sound systems with microphone for announcing.
- A minimum of one qualified Star 1-4 Judge per panel is required. If a Star 1-4 Judge is not available, clubs may request to use a qualified Coach Assessor as Lead Judge for the competition. This request is submitted through the sanction form to the Section Office.
- All skaters and coaches participating in the event must be registered with Skate Canada and in good standing.



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RESOURCES AND TEMPLATES AVAILABLE

The following resources and templates are available on the Section website under Competitions>CanSkate Event & Star 1-3:

- Report Card templates
- Assessment Tabulators Guidance Sheet
- Star 1-3 Student Judges Training Guide

Additional templates will be posted to the Section website as they become available.

STAR EVENT STANDARDS FOR ASSESSMENT GUIDE

[Click here](#) to view the Star Event Standards for Assessment Guide. This document contains important information about the standards used for assessing Star categories.

PLANNING TIPS

Overall considerations for planning a Star 1-3 competition:

- Select a Competition Chair to be the lead of your competition. This is a volunteer from within the Host.
- Create a budget.
- Secure a Lead Judge and ensure you have Student Judges available for the date you have selected.
- Determine if you can invite other clubs/skating schools near by and if so, how many. This would be based on the number of skaters in your club that would be participating and the amount of ice you have allocated to the competition.
- Secure facility/ice/any meeting room space as needed.
- Select categories to offer and create the announcement. Consider offering a CanSkate Event in coordination with the Star 1-3 competition.
- Send announcement and sanction request form to the Section Office for approval.
- Determine the awards which will be provided. Ordering medals/trophies/ribbons may require a minimum of 6 weeks. Confirm with your local supplier. Awards are not available from the Section Office.
- Determine how to collect music from skaters and how music is being played. Suggestion: hand in music when skater's check-in for the competition onsite. Place music CD's into boxes labelled per category/group of skaters. Ensure skaters label their CD's. Suggestion: email mp3 to host club in advance to be put on a play list and ask the skater or coach to bring back up CD or USB.



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- Determine how to do registration. Suggestion: Clubs using uplifter, can set up registration through uplifter.
- Ensure the Host provides and communicates a schedule to the coaches and skaters.

Contact the Section Office for questions regarding the planning of your competition:
events@skateabnwtun.ca

CATEGORY SELECTION

Host may choose to offer all Star 1-3 categories, or a selection of Star 1-3 categories.

	Assessment Format	Category Options
Star 1	Assessed to standard	Element Event Team Elements Show Case &/or Creative Improv
Star 2	Assessed to standard	Program Elements Team Elements Show Case &/or Creative Improve Pattern Dance (Couples & Solo)
Star 3	Assessed to standard	Program Elements Team Elements Synchronized Skating Elements Show Case &/or Creative Improve Pattern Dance (Couples & Solo)

AWARDS

- Awards are to be provided to each skater. Skaters are not ranked.
- Award options may be: medals/ribbons/trophies/certificates. It is suggested that the award be the same for each skater. This allows the host to order the number of awards per total participants instead of per assessment level.
- Tip: place a sticker on the back of the medal or on the trophy to show the level of assessment: gold, silver, or bronze.
- Report cards must be provided to each skater.



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STAR 1-3 COMPETITION CALENDAR

- A Star 1-3 Calendar will be posted on Skate AB|NT|NU website detailing all Star 1-3 competitions being hosted.
- This assists with the Star 1-4 Judges have access to support these competitions.
- The announcement must be approved by the Section office prior to it being distributed.

HOW TO SECURE YOUR OFFICIALS PANEL

Each officiating panel must have 3 individuals: One Lead Judge and two Student Judges. Host must ensure that one qualified Star 1-4 Judge participate on each panel. Clubs/skating schools are welcome to invite any Star 1-4 official (or higher) to be the Lead Judge.

Email the Section Office to request the Star 1-4 Judge contact list to connect with an official in your area: info@skateabnwnun.ca

You must have the Lead Judge(s) secured before the sanction will be approved.

If you are not able to secure a Star 1-4 Official after connecting with the Section Office, an exception may be granted to allow a Coach Assessor to be the Lead Judge. This request is to be completed through the sanction form. We encourage you to connect with near by clubs if you wish to connect with another coach assessor. You may also use the coach eligibility tool on the Skate Canada membership site to verify which coaches have the assessor training.

HOW TO SUPPORT THE OFFICIALS DURING THE COMPETITION

Recognition of Judges

- To thank the Judge(s) with officials' credentials, it is recommended that a \$50 gift card be provided for a full day of competition (usually over 4 hours). Under 4 hours provide \$25 gift card.
- Student Judges who are volunteering from within your host club or neighboring club, may be recognized with a gift card or another gift, as determined by the host as budget permits.

Supporting the Judges/Student Judges (Officials Panels)

- All Judges and Results Tabulators must be provided a physical copy of the Star Assessment and Standards Guide.
- Provide warm meals and beverages available for the officials' panels.
- Provide a separate room for the officials' panels to prepare and warm up.
- Provide blankets or request they bring their own.

Star 1-3 Competitions (December 2023)



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- Provide padded chairs or cushions on chairs, as they may be sitting for long periods.
- Host to provide the paperwork and clipboard for each official. Judges are responsible for bringing their own pens/pencils.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS FOR HOST

Staffing Star 1-3 Competitions

Roles	Requirement	Staffing Considerations
Judge 1 (Lead Judge)	<p>Qualified Star 1-4 Judge (or higher) or Coach Assessor</p> <p>Ensures competition runs smoothly. Addresses any on-ice issues that arise during the competition.</p> <p>Provides training to the student judges prior to the competition starting.</p> <p>Able to confidently apply standards and call out element assessments as skater is performing</p>	
Judge 2	<p>Must record elements correctly and leads discussion of review of assessments as necessary. Submits sheet to mark tabulator</p>	Ensure the person assigned is able to record accurately for the person compiling results
Judge 3	<p>Must record elements and assessments for back-up purposes</p>	Participates in the review process.
Results Tabulator	<p>Takes written sheet from judge 2 and tabulates mark based on grid results</p>	<p>Must quickly refer to assessment chart to tabulate gold, silver, or bronze assessment.</p> <p>Can be a trained volunteer.</p>



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Running Star 1 Categories

Star 1 is a group element category for entry-level figure skaters. The purpose of Star 1 is to introduce skaters to performing elements in a non-competitive and fun environment. At the conclusion of each Star 1 category, skaters are given a report card and award corresponding to their overall assessment rating. Creating an atmosphere which is relaxed and encourages participation is of paramount importance.

During the Star 1 category, each group of skaters takes to the ice with their coaches to warm up elements in the designated warm-up area. After the warm-up is complete, coaches lead skaters to the assessment area where skaters take turns performing a stroking exercise, 3 jumps, 2 spins, spirals and a creative expression exercise. As soon as the first group completes the assessment of spins, the next group may enter the ice to commence their warm-up. Depending on time and resources, clubs may choose to use the full ice surface.

Star 1 may be conducted as a single panel format (3 judges), or a double panel format (6 judges) depending on ice time availability. Double panel format refers to 2 categories competing on the ice at the same time. For example, Star 1 flight A on ½ the ice, and Star 1 flight B on ½ the ice. Each flight with its own set of 3 judges.

[Procedures for Star 1 Competition](#)

Arena Set Up

One or two rows of cones along the ice may be used to designate the warm-up and assessment areas. The 3 judges will be at the boards rink side. All assessments are written on paper, so no computer equipment or power is required rink side.

Ice Captain

As each group of skaters that are being assessed completes their spin elements, the Ice Captain will invite the next group of skaters and their coaches to begin warming up in the designated area.

On-Ice Assistant

The on-ice assistant is an optional position for Star 1 Categories. Their role is to keep groups of skaters moving and organized on the ice. They also ensure the skaters are moved from the warm-up area to the assessment area in a timely fashion. The on-ice Assistant must wear skates. This is a good role for experienced Program Assistants or Coaches who may not have skaters involved in the competition.

Announcing and Music

Music for the 30-second creative expression is provided by the Host. A different selection of music should be played for each group of skaters, rotating through all the selections. Depending on the



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number of groups some music selections may need to be repeated. The music is played for the skaters twice: once to listen to prior to skating and then again to perform. Soft background music is to be played during warm-ups and element assessments. This music is to be provided by the host.

The procedure for announcing skaters in Star 1 is as follows:

1. To Start (Group 1)

“We invite the following skaters to take to the ice to warm up for the Star 1 category: (read the skater’s names). For this event, skaters will perform a stroking exercise, three jumps, two spins, a spiral exercise, and a creative routine.”

2. When Group 1 (and subsequent groups) move to the performance area:

“We will now begin our assessment for Group __ skaters: (read skater’s names).”

3. When Group 2 (and subsequent groups) enters the ice for warm-up (while previous group assesses spins):

“We now invite Group __ skaters to take to the ice for their warm-up (read skater’s names).”

[Procedures for Star 2 and Star 3 Categories](#)

Category Format

Star 2 and Star 3 introduce skaters to performing elements in a program. It is very similar to higher level competitions where there is a timed warm-up for each group of skaters followed by performances of individual programs. Judges assess each program as per regular competition-like set-up and procedure. At the conclusion of the Star categories, each skater is presented with a report card and their award corresponding to their overall assessment.

Timers are not required for Star 2 or Star 3 categories.

[Star 1-3 Awards and Presentations](#)

The Star system is designed to introduce skaters to performing and eventually competing. Ensuring that Star 1-3 is conducted in a fun, relaxed and non-competitive environment is essential. The presentation of report cards and awards is a very important part of the process for skaters and parents and this can greatly affect their overall experience. Overall assessment ratings are NOT be posted in the venue or online via social media (i.e. Club website or Facebook page).

Note: The award and report card are to be presented at the same time.



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Star 1-3 Presentation Procedure

1. Announce the name of the group that will be receiving awards/certificates.

Explain that each skater will be called forward and presented with their award and report card and parents may take a picture of their skater.

Tip: Parents should be provided the first opportunity to photograph their skater before a professional photographer.

2. Call up each skater to the podium or presentation area according to the starting order for their group.

Present each skater with their report card and award once they are on top of the podium or middle of presentation area. Do NOT announce the overall rating.

Tip: If an assistant is available, have them check with skaters on the pronunciation of their name prior to presentations. They can also help the skater onto the podium or presentation area for their presentation.

When each skater is made to feel special, they and their families leave the competition with good memories regardless of their performance. Choosing the right person(s) to perform the presentation ceremonies and create this positive atmosphere should not be overlooked.

Planning Considerations for Competition Chairperson

Scheduling Star 1 Categories: Grouping Skaters

1. Sort skaters by age and place into an equal number of groups with no more than 6 skaters per group.

Six skaters are the maximum number per group for on-ice management. Girls and boys are grouped together.

2. Review and alter groupings to keep some skaters with the same coach together.

Because coaches will be on the ice with the skaters, it can be helpful for a coach to have some of their skaters together. Regrouping should NOT result in having all the skaters from the same club together. A reason for regrouping would be Groups 1 and 2 contain skaters of all the same age. A coach has one skater in Group 1 and one skater in Group 2. Place those 2 skaters in the same group.

Category Timing

1. Group 1: 25 minutes for 6 skaters.

This includes a 3-4 minute warm up.

2. Groups 2+: 20 minutes.



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Groups 2+ will start warming up when the group before finishes assessing spins. Warm-up times are approximate and not meant to be exact.

Scheduling Star 2 Categories: Grouping Skaters

Sort skaters by age and divide into groups. It is recommended that skaters are assigned to a maximum of 12 skaters per group (flight), however, 8 is optimal as only one warm-up group is required. Although skaters are not competing against each other, groups should not be so large that skaters lose the sense of who is in their group. Girls and boys are grouped together.

Category Timing

Star 2 consists of a maximum 2:00 minute program. Warm-ups are to be 3:00 minutes in duration. A review time of 1:00 to 1:30 minutes per skater should be included to allow the judging panel time to review elements and verify well balanced program criteria have been met.

Timing Guide for Star 2 and Star 3

Star 2 Categories # of skaters	# of Warm-ups	Total Time
2	1	10 mins
3	1	15 mins
4	1	20 mins
5	1	20 mins
6	1	25 mins
7	1	30 mins
8	1	30 mins
9	2	40 mins
10	2	40 mins
11	2	45 mins
12	2	45 mins

Scheduling Star 3: Grouping Skaters

Sort skaters by age and divide into groups. It is recommended that skaters are assigned to a maximum of 12 skaters per group (flight), however, 8 is optimal as only one warm-up group is required. Although skaters are not competing against each other, groups should not be so large that skaters lose the sense of who is in their group. Girls and boys are grouped together. Groups should be kept small, no larger than 12 skaters.

Category Timing

Star 3 consist of a 2:00 minute (+/- 10 seconds) program. Warm-ups are 4:00 minutes in duration.