2025 Leading Edge Series

Skate AB I NT I NU (Section) is pleased to announce the return of the Leading Edge Series for the 2024-2025 skating season.

Focus of the Leading Edge Series

The Leading Edge Series is designed to reward consistency of competition results over the entirety of the Skate AB I NT I NU skating season. Following the Section Competition Calendar restructure during the 2023-24 season, the Leading Edge Series format has been revised to better align with the goals of LTD (Long Term Development). Going forward, the Leading Edge Series will calculate each skaters' average score from all eligible competitions in which they compete a freeskate program within a season.

As we move into the 2024-2025 season our focus is to continue to educate coaches and skaters about LTD (Long Term Development), which provides the fundamental structure for skaters balancing their training and competitions.

The intention of the Leading Edge Series in this regard is not for skaters to attend as many competitions as possible to improve their ranking, but to best determine a competition plan which balances competition and training over the course of the season which might best support skaters for optimal performances.

Implementation for 2024-2025 Season

The Leading Edge Series for the Podium Pathway will commence at the 2024 Combined Winter Invitational and for the Star Pathway at the 2024 Combined Spring Invitational. Both Leading Edge Series Pathways will conclude at their respective Championships (Sectional Championships or StarSkate Championships).

The scores from the 2024 Combined Winter Invitational, 2024 Sunsational and 2024 Wild Rose will be compiled and posted to the Skate AB I NT I NU website to show the current standings for each Pathway.

Changes to the 2025 Leading Edge Series

- **Freeskate Scores:** Only freeskate program scores will be tabulated for the skater's Leading Edge score. Podium Pathway skaters no longer need to complete a combined event in order for their score to qualify for the Leading Edge Series. Skate AB I NT I NU skaters who complete freeskate programs at any eligible competitions will be awarded points towards their Leading Edge scores.
- **Average Score:** The average score will now be tabulated, in place of adding only the top three scores. A skater's Leading Edge score will now reflect their average freeskate program score across all eligible competitions in a given season, calculated by dividing the cumulative freeskate program total score by the total number of eligible competitions completed. Skaters will be eligible for the Leading Edge Series once they have obtained a minimum of two (2) freeskate program scores within a common skating category.
- **New categories:** Juvenile U10 Men and all Star 5 men and women categories are now included in the Leading Edge Series.

Leading Edge Series Categories (women and men are recognized as separate categories):

Podium Pathway	**Star Pathway**
● Juvenile U10 Women & Men	● Star 5 U10 Women & Men
● Juvenile U12 Women & Men	● Star 5 U13 Women & Men
● Juvenile U14 Women & Men	● Star 5 13&Over Women & Men
● Pre-Novice Women & Men (freeskate)	● Star 6 Women & Men
● Novice Women & Men (freeskate)	● Star 8 Women & Men
● Junior Women & Men (freeskate)	● Star 10 Women & Men
● Senior Women & Men (freeskate)	● Gold Women & Men

Leading Edge Series Competitions:

Podium Pathway	**Star Pathway**
● Combined Winter Invitational	● Combined Spring Invitational (Sunsational)
● Combined Spring Invitational (Sunsational)	● Combined Summer Invitational (Wild Rose)
● Combined Summer Invitational (Wild Rose)	● Star Series #1
● Podium Pathway Fall Invitational	● Star Series #2
● AB I NT I NU Sectional Championships	● Star Series #3
	● Combined Winter Invitational
	● Star Series #4
	● Star Territorials
	● AB I NT I NU StarSkate Championships

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. **Who is eligible for the Leading Edge Series?**
   Skaters who are registered with Skate AB I NT I NU for the 2024/25 skating season are eligible to compete in the Leading Edge Series. Eligible skaters who complete freeskate programs at the Leading Edge Series competitions listed above in either Podium Pathway or Star Pathway categories will be automatically awarded points towards their Leading Edge Series score.

2. **Do skaters need to register for the Leading Edge Series?**
   No – eligible skaters will be automatically registered for the Leading Edge Series by Skate AB I NT I NU upon obtaining a freeskate program score at an eligible Leading Edge Series competition. In order to be eligible to participate in the Leading Edge Series, skaters must complete a minimum of two (2) freeskate programs within the same skating category.

3. **How are the scores tabulated to determine standing in the Leading Edge Series?**
A skater's Leading Edge Series score will be calculated by averaging the freeskate program scores across all eligible competitions.

   Examples:
   - If a skater completes two (2) eligible Leading Edge Series competitions, the total freeskate score from both competitions will be averaged to produce their Leading Edge Series score.
   - If an athlete completes four (4) eligible Leading Edge Series competes, the total freeskate score from all four (4) competitions will be averaged to produce their Leading Edge Series score.

4. **Can a skater use scores from out of province or non-Leading Edge Series competitions towards their Leading Edge Series score?**
No – only the Skate AB I NT I NU competitions listed above are eligible for Leading Edge Series scores.

5. **If a skater changes categories or pathways during the skating season, which category will their Leading Edge Series score be tabulated for (ex: a skater competes in Star 6 at Sunsational and Wild Rose, then competes in Juvenile U10 at the Fall Invitational and the Sectional Championships)?**
A skater's Leading Edge Series score will be tabulated for each category they compete in separately. As such, it is possible for an athlete to participate in more than one (1) Leading Edge Series category within the same skating season.

6. **Can a skater use scores from a lower level category towards a higher level?**
No – Leading Edge Series scores are not transferable between categories or pathways.

7. **If a category at an eligible competition is an exhibition skate, will the skater's score still be tabulated for the Leading Edge Series?**
Yes – as long as a skater obtains a freeskate program score, it will be tabulated towards their Leading Edge Series score.

8. **Can a skater be eligible for the Leading Edge Series if they only compete in one competition?**
No – a skater must complete a minimum of two (2) eligible competitions within the same skating category to be eligible for the Leading Edge Series.

9. **What if a category has only one (1) skater in the final standings?**
The Leading Edge Series award will still be presented to that skater.

10. **When will the medallists of the Leading Edge Series be awarded?**
    The top three (3) skaters in each Leading Edge Series category will receive their awards at their respective Championships. Should a skater place in the top three (3) in multiple categories, they will be recognized in the highest category in which they placed.

11. **How will skaters and coaches be able to track their progress in the Leading Edge Series?**
    Skate AB I NT I NU will post and update the Leading Edge Series standing for each category on the Section website as soon as possible following the conclusion of each eligible competition.

    It is recommended that skaters and coaches track their progress to ensure their scores are accurately reflected in the Series. If a tabulation error is noted in a skater's score, please email the Section Office at events@skateabnwtnun.ca.

12. **Can a skater be withdrawn from the Leading Edge Series?**
    Yes – if a skater chooses not to participate in the Leading Edge Series, their coach may request for the skater to be removed from the Series for the duration of the skating season by emailing events@skateabnwtnun.ca. This request must be submitted no later than one (1) week prior to the start of their respective Championships competition.