

2025-2026 Skate Ontario Qualifying Structure Sectional Championships

For the 2025/2026 season, the following qualifying system will be used for entry into the 2026 Skate Ontario Sectional Championships. This qualifying system applies for athletes who are competing in Pre-Novice, Novice, Junior and Senior, in the Men, Women, Pair and Partnered Ice Dance categories.

Athletes will qualify for both the 2026 Skate Ontario Sectional Championships using the following criteria:

1. Active for Life athletes who have previously competed in Adult categories in events prior are not eligible to compete in Podium Pathway events, including but not limited to the Sectional Series.
2. **Qualifying Declaration: The Qualifying Declaration is only required to be completed by Pre-Novice and Novice athletes in all disciplines.** There is no required Declaration Form to be completed by Junior and Senior athletes.
3. **Qualifying Scores:** For Junior and Senior categories, scores from the August and October Skate Ontario Sectional Series events will be used for the 2025-2026 qualifying process.
For Pre-Novice and Novice categories, scores from the October and November Skate Ontario Sectional Series events will be used for the 2025-2026 qualifying process.

All athletes that competed in a Pre-Novice – Senior category in any of the 2025-2026 Sectional Series Events, will automatically have their scores tracked to qualify to the respective 2026 Skate Ontario Sectional Championships.

The highest overall score at the Sectional Series events listed above from each athlete and/or team, will be used to create the final ranking order for qualification in each category and discipline to both the 2026 Skate Ontario Sectional Championships.

- The overall score is the combined total score of the Short Program/Rhythm Dance/Pattern Dance and the Free Program from the same event.

****If a category does not exceed the maximum number of entries, there will be no required score needed to compete at either of the 2026 Skate Ontario Sectional Championships****

Only 2025 Skate Ontario Sectionals Series event scores may be used as part of the 2025-2026 Skate Ontario Sectional qualifying process. The only exception to this is when an athlete and/or

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team is assigned to a travel team by Skate Canada. In this situation only, the score from the selected event may be used as their Sectional qualifying score.

Please note that there is no minimum score requirement for either of the 2026 Skate Ontario Sectional Championships. In the absence of a Minimum Technical score, Skate Ontario reserves the right to ensure athletes assigned to both the Skate Ontario Challenge team and Skate Canada Trophy team are at an appropriate competitive level for those events.

A minimum technical score [outlined by Skate Canada](#) is still required for the 2025-2026 Skate Canada Challenge, the 2026 Canadian National Skating Championships, and the 2025-2026 Skate Canada Trophy.

Please note there are no changes to the Qualifying Minimum scores from the 2024-2025 season to the 2025-2026 season.

The Qualifying Minimum Score (QMS) must be achieved in the same discipline and at the same level or at a lower competitive level than the one the skater plans to compete in at Skate Canada Challenge and/or Skate Canada Trophy.

Scores from any STARSkate free program may also be used to meet the required QMS.

Ex. If an athlete is moving up from Novice to Junior for the 2025–2026 season, and they achieved the Junior QMS while competing at the Novice level during the 2024-2025 season, the athlete will have met the QMS for Junior. In this case, the QMS was achieved at the Novice level but still meets the requirement for the Junior level.

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Maximum Entries per Category for the 2026 Skate Ontario Junior/Senior & Pre-Novice/Novice Sectional Championships

The maximum number of entries per category will be as follows:

Women Singles:

Senior- Maximum of 36 entries

Junior- Maximum of 36 entries

Novice- Maximum of 42 entries

Pre Novice- Maximum of 42 entries*

There will be an Invitational Event option available for Pre-Novice Women only, at the 2026 Sectional Championships, for those who rank outside of the maximum number listed above after the October & November Skate Ontario Sectional Series Events. The Free program scores from the Invitational Event only will be used to qualify to the 2026 Skate Ontario Provincial Championships.

Men Singles:

Senior- Maximum of 36 entries

Junior- Maximum of 36 entries

Novice- Maximum of 36 entries

Pre Novice- Maximum of 36 entries

Partnered Ice Dance:

Senior- Maximum of 30 teams

Junior- Maximum of 30 teams

Novice- Maximum of 30 teams

Pre Novice- Maximum of 30 teams

Pair:

Senior- Maximum of 24 teams

Junior- Maximum of 24 teams

Novice- Maximum of 24 teams

Pre Novice- Maximum of 24 teams

*Extraordinary circumstance considerations related to the 2025-2026 Sectional Qualifying structure may be granted by the Director of Sport in consultation with the Skate Ontario Executive Director for **Junior and Senior athletes only**. Athletes in the Skate Canada Trophy pathway will not be eligible for Extraordinary circumstance consideration for the 2026 Pre-Novice/Novice Sectional Championships.*

Considerations will only be granted in extraordinary circumstances where the athlete has demonstrated worthiness for such consideration. Such an exception will generally be related to medical conditions. Requests for an exception should be made in writing to the Director of Sport by October 24, 2025, the request must contain a description of the grounds upon which it is being requested as well as a Return to Play Plan.