

2026-2027 Skate Ontario Events Streamlined Application to Host Package

FOR CLUBS/SCHOOLS WHO HOSTED 3 OR MORE EVENTS FROM ANY SERIES
SINCE JULY 2017



Sectional, Synchro & Provincial Series

Deadline to submit online application to host: March 8, 2026

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Purpose

To host a meaningful and athlete-focused competitive experience in a fun, fair and safe environment and to work in partnership with Skate Ontario to establish consistency in the delivery of all competitions across the province of Ontario.

Overview

Skate Ontario supports the growth and development of Skate Ontario athletes on the Podium and STAR pathways. In preparation for the 2026-2027 Events Season, Skate Ontario is opening the Bid Application process for the awarding of select events in the 2026-2027 season. This streamlined bid application is for interested partner clubs and schools that have hosted three or more events since the 2017-2018 season.

This document outlines the requirements that will be considered, and the process Skate Ontario will follow to award events in the Sectional, Provincial, and Synchro Series. The Bid Application requires the completion of an online form application.

Proposed 2026-2027 Event Calendar

The structure of the events calendar is based on Sport for Life and Skate Canada Long Term Development (LTD) principles. Each stage of development has a focused set of principles that we have considered to maximize the growth and development of the Skate Ontario athletes on the Podium and STAR pathways. A balance between appropriate event timing, number of events, training time, and recovery time required has been carefully considered in the design of the 2025-2026 schedule to ensure there are opportunities for skaters of all ages and in all geographic areas.

Anchored Events

Skate Ontario is fortunate to have a number of experienced host clubs and schools who have run very successful events that align with our guiding principles and Sport for Life and the LTD. **The following events are anchored and undergo a separate confirmation process and as such, are not included in this bid package.**

| Sectional Series | Synchro Series | Provincial Series |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| August 14-16, 2026 – Kitchener-Waterloo | December 11-13, 2026 Woodstock | November 13-15, 2026, Erin Adult Only |
| October 15-18, 2026- Barrie | February 5-7, 2027 - Oakville | November 20-22, 2026-Keswick |
| | | November 27-29, 2026 - Sudbury |
| | | November 27-29, 2026 -Nepean |
| | | December 18-20, 2026-Stratford |

| | | |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| | | January 8-10, 2027-Sault Ste. Marie |
| | | January 20-22, 2027-Milton |
| | | February 5-7, 2027-Brampton |
| | | February 12-14, 2027-Gloucester |
| | | March 2027-Thunder Bay |

*Sectional Series September bid application is complete and will be hosted in Ottawa September 18-20, 2026

*The Junior & Senior Championships bid application is complete and will be hosted in Komoka November 5-8, 2026

* Provincial Championships bid application is complete and will be hosted in Wasaga Beach March 19-21, 2027

NOTE: THIS BID PACKAGE IS FOR CLUBS/SCHOOLS WHO HOSTED 3 OR MORE EVENTS FROM ANY SERIES (excluding Bring on the Fun) SINCE JULY 2017)

Based on your geographical location, a host club or group of clubs or skating school can bid on the following events:

| SERIES | LOCATION | DATES |
|---|--|----------------------|
| Sectional Series | | |
| Sectional Series – December Pre-Novice & Novice Sectional Championships | Flexible** | December 3-6, 2026 |
| Provincial Series | | |
| Provincial Series | Flexible** | October 2-4, 2026 |
| Provincial Series | Thunder Bay Area | December 18-20, 2026 |
| Provincial Series | Eastern Ontario- may include areas from Whitby east to the Greater Ottawa Area | January 8-10, 2027 |
| Provincial Series | Windsor Area | January 29-31, 2027 |
| Provincial Series | Timmins & Surrounding Area- may include areas from Timmins north to Hearst | January 29-31, 2027 |
| Provincial Series | Southwestern Ontario- may include Kitchener-Waterloo & London areas | February 19-21, 2027 |

| | | |
|---|------------|---------------------|
| Adult Championships | Flexible** | March 5-7, 2027 |
| Synchro Series | | |
| Synchro Series – January (Regional Championships) | Flexible** | January 22-24, 2027 |

Note: If there is an event that does not receive a bid, Skate Ontario will endeavor to find a host club or school. If one cannot be found, the event may be cancelled.

****FLEXIBLE** – the location must meet eligibility requirements as outlined in this package

Event Specific Details

- Skate Ontario will determine the minimum and maximum number of skates per event
- Minimum and maximum number of skates will be determined on a 14-hour day schedule (8:00am – 10:00pm)
- Practice ice opportunities may be organized outside the 8:00am – 10:00pm event schedule each day
- Categories for each event will be determined by Skate Ontario
- Successful host clubs will have guaranteed pre-registration spots for skaters, at the event the club(s) is hosting
- The host club is not required to host the event at their home club arena
- It is acceptable for two or more clubs to work together on a bid
- Bids may still be considered even if your club falls just outside the identified geographic location or date. Contact Michelle Hunsley, Manager, Events, prior to submitting your bid application
- Skate Ontario reserves the right to alter the dates and geographic location of events

Hosting Requirements

Eligibility

To be eligible to submit a bid, the club, skating school or clubs must meet the following:

- Be in good standing with Skate Canada
- All members of the applicant’s Board of Directors are registered, in that capacity, with Skate Canada. The bid submission will require a list of the applicant’s Board of Directors.
- The applicant has an active account with an updated profile in the Skate Ontario Members’ Lounge.
- The applicant has satisfied Skate Ontario’s Member Accountability Requirements as outlined in the Skate Ontario Membership MOU.

Preference may be given to applicants who fulfill the following requirements:

- The applicant has achieved, at a minimum, engaged status in the CanSkate Excellence Program.
- The applicant has achieved, at a minimum, engaged status in the STAR 1-5 Excellence Program.
- The facility has a hard-wired internet connection in the facility that we can use for the entirety of the event.

The bid application process provides an organized framework that supports the:

- Process of planning and scheduling
- Allocation of resources
- Development of volunteers
- Building of community
- Exposure for skating
- Production of strong, lasting relationships between Skate Ontario, host clubs and venues

Minimum Requirements

The following minimum standards are required to host a Sectional, Provincial, or Synchro Series event. The full list of hosting requirements is in the Skate Ontario Competition Manual.

- Ice availability for proposed event dates
- Guarantee that ice can be released 7 weeks prior to event start date
- Meet the minimum and maximum pad requirements (Appendix 1)
- Meet the minimum and maximum day requirements (Appendix 1)
- Accept the terms of the finance model
- Agree to use the Skate Ontario online event registration system
- Ensure hotel is within a 20-minute drive from venue and has capacity for up to 30 rooms per night for officials
- Have a Local Organizing Committee that is comprised of at least (LOC leads may fill more than 1 role): Host Club Chair, Volunteer Coordinator, Logistics Coordinator, On-Site Registration Coordinator.
- Strong volunteer base to fill all positions required over the duration of the event. Host club(s) will be responsible for recruiting all volunteers, excluding officials (judges, technical panel, data specialists, technical representative, live streaming personnel where applicable). Refer to Skate Ontario Competition Manual for all volunteer roles and duties.
- Demonstrated commitment from the host club (See Appendix 5)
- Meet Skate Ontario Screening Policy requirements. (See Appendix 6)

Local Organizing Committee

The 2026-2027 events will be executed and organized in partnership between the host club, Skate Ontario, and the organizing committee*. Skate Ontario's mandate is to ensure that all events hosted in Ontario meet the quality standards of Skate Ontario and Skate Canada. Each Sectional, Provincial, and Synchro Series event will be supported by a Skate Ontario Events staff member.

*Organizing committee consists of the following individuals (LOC leads may fill more than 1 role):

- Skate Ontario Single Point of Contact (SOSPOC)
- Host Club Chair
- Volunteer Coordinator
- Logistics Coordinator
- On-Site Registration Coordinator
- Music Coordinator
- Hospitality Coordinator
- Technical Representative(s)
- Chief Data Specialist
- Computer Data Specialist
- Event Technician (specific events only)

Volunteer Screening Requirements

Starting in the upcoming 2026–2027 season, all event volunteers will be required to complete a volunteer screening process. The type of screening will vary based on the specific volunteer role. Skate Ontario recognizes that this is a new requirement and that it may introduce additional work for LOCs. To support this transition, SO will offer Volunteer Screening information sessions, including process recommendations and resources, to help LOCs complete and track screening requirements effectively.

Please read the Skate Ontario Screening Policy for Volunteers and Officials – Appendix 6.

Venue Specifications

To ensure successful hosting of the event, there are minimum venue specifications required to support the operation. The complete list of requirements is listed in the following appendices:

- Officials' Stands – Appendix 3
- Sounds System – Appendix 4

Preference may be given to bids where the facility has a hard-wired internet connection in the facility that we can use for the entirety of the event.

The streamlined application also requires confirmation that nothing has changed with the venue since the last event hosted by the club/school or a description of any changes.

Finance Model

A hosting agreement outlining the roles and responsibilities of each party will be signed between Skate Ontario and the host club. The hosting agreement will also include all eligible and ineligible revenues and expenses that will determine the calculation of the net profit. Skate Ontario and the host club will each receive 50% of the net profit from the event.

For categories of revenues and expenses, see below.

| Revenues | Expenses |
|---|--|
| Entry Fees Admissions Other Revenues – Sponsorship/donations – on a case-by-case basis per hosting agreement | Officials – Travel/accommodations/meals Venue – Ice time/other related venue charges Video Replay – Cost for Service Provider Equipment Shipping Equipment Rentals Medals Medical Services Other Expenses |

In the unlikely event a financial net loss is predicted after the closing of event registration; Skate Ontario reserves the right to cancel the event.

In the unlikely event the event incurs a financial net loss, Skate Ontario will absorb this loss. In this case, the host club will only recover direct expenses related to the event.

Skate Ontario has implemented an entry number/entry fee model that requires a minimum number of entries per event. To minimize the risk of incurring a financial loss, an event will not run if the minimum number of entries is not achieved by the entry deadline.

Skate Ontario will pay all expenses directly to suppliers, service providers, officials, and any other direct event expenses. In cases where the host club arranges for the purchase and provision of hospitality supplies (at the amount provided for in the budget), Skate Ontario will reimburse the club and record that payment as an event expense in the final financial report. Skate Ontario will not be providing any “up front” monies to the host club, including a float for hospitality.

Budgets will be drafted by Skate Ontario for discussion with the host club and will be vetted and amended (if necessary) by the organizing committee and approved by the Skate Ontario Chief Operating Officer.

The Host club may have the right to undertake fundraising activities, vendor agreements, practice ice sales and retain 100% of net profits generated from those activities, subject to approval of the Skate Ontario Chief Operating Officer.

Evaluation

Selection Committee

Skate Ontario has established a selection committee who will evaluate the submitted bids and award the 2026-2027 events to the successful host clubs.

Bids must clearly demonstrate that your club is prepared and committed to hosting a meaningful and athlete-focused competitive experience in accordance with the criteria outlined herein.

Criteria

- All bid applications will be reviewed and evaluated
- Applications will be considered based on venue requirements, geographic locations, and event dates
- In the instance there are no applications submitted for an event, Skate Ontario will endeavour to find a host club/skating school. If a host club/school cannot be secured, the event may be removed from the Events Calendar

In the selection of Host Club(s), Skate Ontario will evaluate bids based on the following criteria:

| | |
|---|------|
| 1 – Mandatory Documents/Documents Submitted | 30% |
| 2 – Venue | 30% |
| 3 – Judges Stands | 15% |
| 4 – Financials/Costs | 15% |
| 5 – Letter of Commitment | 10% |
| | 100% |

Bid Application Timeline & Process

| | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Bid Applications Open | January 26, 2026 |
| Bid Applications Close | 11:59 pm EST on March 8, 2026 |
| Bids will be reviewed and evaluated by the bid committee and will be ranked | By March 27, 2026 |
| Shortlisted applicants will be contacted to review bid and discuss next steps if required | By April 3, 2026 |

| | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Final decisions for Sectional, Synchro & Provincial Series events will be made and communicated to successful host clubs | By April 17, 2026 |
| Calendar for Sectional & Synchro Series will be confirmed | By May 29, 2026, at the latest |
| Calendar of all Provincial events will be confirmed | By mid-July, 2026, at the latest |

Deadline for Submission

Online bid applications must be submitted by 11:59 pm EST on March 8, 2026. Late submissions will not be considered.

Information Sessions

There will be an online information session held on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at 7:00 pm ET. This session will guide clubs through the bid package documents and online application process. Clubs will also have an opportunity to ask questions. This information session will be recorded and posted on the Skate Ontario website for your reference.

- Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at 7:00 pm ET

Pre-registration is required: [Bid Process Information Session](#)

Volunteer Screening Information Sessions

There will be online information sessions for successful applicants to cover new requirements for volunteer screening.

Submitting your Bid Application

Bid applications will only be accepted through the following link: Skate Ontario 2025-2026 Events Bid Application (emailed submissions or submissions sent via regular post will not be acknowledged or accepted).

If a Host Club(s) is applying to more than 1 event, only 1 application is required to be submitted. If a Host Club(s) is applying for multiple events in the same Series at different venues, bid applications will need to be submitted for each venue location.

1. Prior to completing the [Streamlined Bid Application for Sectional, Synchro and Provincial Series](#), please review the following:
 - a. All documents and appendices included in the Skate Ontario Events Bid Application Package
 - b. Skate Ontario Competition Manual
 - c. 2026-2027 Proposed Event Calendar

2. Complete a letter of commitment from host club (Appendix 5)
3. Submit the online bid application and all required documents

Application Documents to Submit

The following documents are required to complete and submit your Bid Application. All documents will be uploaded into the online Application Form.

1. [Streamlined Bid Application for Sectional, Synchro and Provincial Series](#)
(Questions listed in Appendix 2)
2. Description of Venue’s music sound system, may include photos for clarity (refer to Appendix 4 for details)
3. Letter of Commitment from Host Club(s) (refer to Appendix 5 for details)

Files must be saved with the following file format: Hostclub_docname

Example: Skateclub_LetterOfCommitment

Any of the following formats will be accepted; PDF, DOC, DOCX, JPG, JPEG

Contact Skate Ontario Events Team

Contact Michelle Hunsley mhunsley@skateontario.org if you have any questions, such as:

- Questions about requirements
- If your club/school wants to host but may not fit all the requirements
- If your club/school wants to host an event but the dates don’t work (i.e. ice conflict)

Appendix 1: Number of Days & Ice Pad Requirements

| Series | Proposed Dates | Number of Days | Number of Pads |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Sectional Series – December | December 3-6, 2026 | 4 | 2 |
| Synchro Series – January | January 22-24, 2027 | 3 | 1 |
| Provincial Series | October 2-4, 2026 | 3 | 2 |
| Provincial Series – Thunder Bay Area | December 18-20, 2026 | 2-3 | 1 |
| Provincial Series – Eastern Ontario | January 8-10, 2027 | 3 | 2 |
| Provincial Series – Windsor Area | January 29-31, 2027 | 3 | 2 |
| Provincial Series – Timmins & Surrounding Area | January 29-31, 2027 | 2 | 1 |

| | | | |
|--|----------------------|---|---|
| Provincial Series – Southwestern Ontario | February 19-21, 2027 | 3 | 2 |
| Adult Championships | March 5-7, 2027 | 3 | 2 |

Appendix 2: Events Application Questionnaire

Please find below the list of information you will need to gather to complete your online application for a 2026-2027 Skate Ontario Events Application. Once you have the required information, please complete the application by the deadline: March 8, 2026.

The application for clubs and schools who have hosted 3 or more events from any event series since July of 2017 can be found here on January 26, 2026: [Streamlined Bid Application for Sectional, Synchro and Provincial Series](#)

If you have any questions at all please reach out to Michelle Hunsley, Manager, Events at mhunsley@skateontario.org

APPLICANT INFORMATION

- Skate Canada Club/Skating School or Organization name
- Contact person name
- Role in Club/Skating School
- Telephone number
- Email address
- List of past events hosted
- Estimated number of skaters from applying host club(s) that would compete in the hosted event
- A list of the club's Board of Directors.

EVENT SPECIFIC INFORMATION

- Event(s) you would like to bid for
- Host club agrees to run the event on the dates specified

VENUE INFORMATION

- Venue Name
- Venue Address (Street/City/Postal Code)
- Ice cancellation policy – include dates and fees associated; Guarantee that ice can be released 7 weeks prior to event start date
- Number of pads available for event dates selected
- Has anything changed with the venue (number of dressing rooms, meeting rooms, use of lobby area etc.)
- Describe your club's current music set-up and what your music playing capabilities (i.e., are you able to play CDs or is another method preferred)
- Confirmation that Skate Ontario is able to patch into the Venue internet (hardline not wireless) for livestreaming purposes OR confirmation that Skate Ontario will be able to bring in an Internet Drop (at Skate Ontario's cost) to Livestream the event at Skate Ontario's discretion. The target upload/download speed is 100mbps.
- Select what type of audio connection you have

OFFICIALS' STANDS

- Identify if your club owns or has access to an officials' stand designed for the specified Venue
 - a. If NO, please select the following response that best suits your Venue:
 - i. We plan to rent officials' stand(s)
 - ii. We plan to build officials' stand(s)
- What permits, if any, are required by venue to build judge stands

FINANCIALS – COSTS

- Quote from the Venue taxes included. Quote must include:
 - Estimated hourly ice costs
 - Estimated setup & teardown costs
 - Estimated meeting room costs, if applicable
 - Any mandatory venue requirements that have additional costs that are not included in above rates (i.e., Zamboni Drivers, Lobby Space, Glass Removal, etc.)
- Estimated Cost for Officials' Stands – Must include materials, labour, rental costs, municipal permits

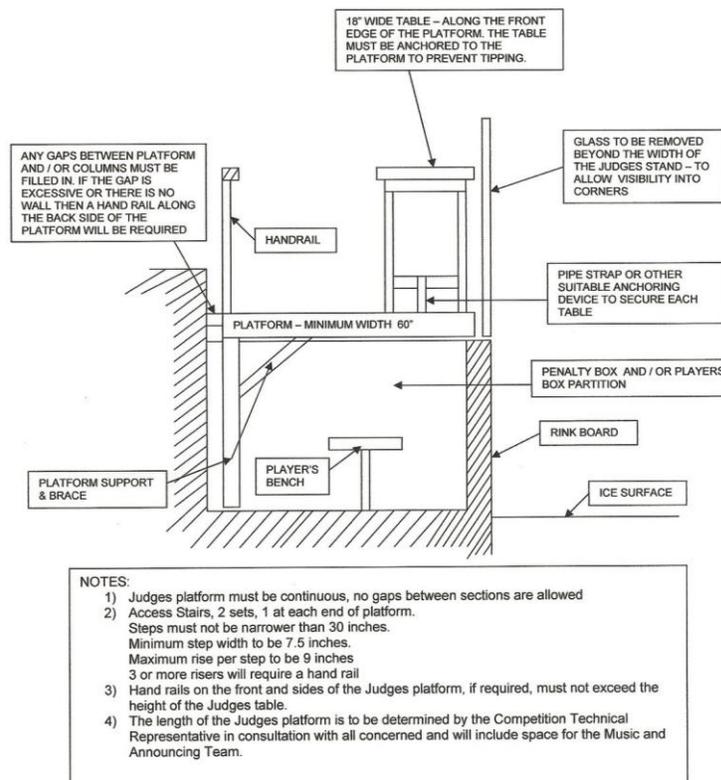
HOSPITALITY / LOCAL ACCOMMODATIONS

- What is the expected service provider for hospitality? (Club Volunteers, Catering Company, Venue required Catering Company)
- Hospitality Costs (Food) – 3 meals per competition day for 30-60 people and snacks throughout the day
- Recommend 1-3 local hotels within 20 minutes of the Venue to host officials.

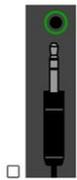
Appendix 3: Officials' Stands Specifications

- The officials' stand must be situated at the edge of the ice surface, placing the judges and technical panel at a height sufficient to allow for a clear view of the ice surface (ensure any plexiglass panels around the boards will not impact the field of view)
- Ensure the view of the entire ice surface will not be impeded by any plexiglass panels around the boards
- Officials' stand must be sufficiently long enough (48'-65') to enable each official, including judges, technical panel, data specialists and event technicians (music player and announcer) to have a separate chair for his/her use with enough space to enter and exit behind the table
- Ensure officials' stand can hold tables up to eight feet in length and 18 to 24-inches wide (48-inch width tables are not acceptable)
- Ensure tables are securely fastened to the stand platform
- Ensure hand railings are connected to the stairs

The following diagram specifications are not mandatory but are intended to be referenced as best practices. Building specifications are subject to the venue.



Appendix 4: Sound System Information



Connector



Connector



Here are examples of common music connectors used at rinks. Please provide a photo of the music connector available at your rink.



Connector



Appendix 5: Letter of Commitment from Host Club

The letter of commitment from the host club must include the following information:

- Explain why your club wants to host an event
- Outline how hosting an event will benefit your club
- Demonstrate that your club will commit to recruiting the required number of people to support an event
- Explain how hosting an event will create a meaningful event experience for local athletes
- Briefly describe any previous event hosting experience (if applicable)
- Confirm understanding and acceptance of the finance model
- Signed by an authorized representative of the club

Appendix 6: Skate Ontario Screening Policy for Volunteers and Officials

To view the Policy on the Skate Ontario website, please [click here](#).