



Membership Handbook
2011-2012

Talbot Figure Skating Team

Members' Handbook

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WELCOME TO THE TEAM!

Talbot Figure Skating Team is a 501-3C non-profit organization dedicated to bringing quality figure skating to Talbot County and adjacent counties. The successful start of Talbot Figure Skating Team is due to the support of Kim George and the love of her skating she wants to share with all children/adults. The team enthusiasm is due to the excitement of the newly generated members. It is the only figure skating team in Talbot County Maryland and adjacent counties.

Talbot Figure Skating Team is a recreational figure skating club affiliated with the Ice Skating Institute or ISI. Its typical figure skater members range from age 4 to 18. The professional skating instructors teach basic through advanced skating skills.

Skaters are given the opportunity to sign up with the Talbot Community Center and take skating lessons. This is the skater and skater's families' responsibility. Beginning skaters are taught skating skills through group lessons using the ISI testing standards. Test sessions are scheduled throughout the season giving the skaters the opportunity to test into new levels and to earn colorful ISI test patches or badges.

Talbot Figure Skating Team's mission is to create unity amongst Talbot County Skaters. This team will educate parents and skaters on the fundamentals of skating and establish an identity to positively represent Talbot County Community Center. Social activities and team bonding will be shared while providing its members the opportunity to build lasting friendships.

Reading this handbook will help you be informed, ready to skate, and get the most out of your time and investment with Talbot Figure Skating Team.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS/PARENTS/VOLUNTEERS/SKATING PROFESSIONALS

Talbot Figure Skating Team is run by volunteers, team members, parents, skating professionals and other supporters in the community. Without all of this input, skaters would not have this wonderful opportunity.

A Board of Directors consists of elected members and generally meets monthly. The board is responsible for organizing and running Talbot Figure Skating Team's business and subsequent specialized teams. Team meetings will occur the 3rd Sunday of every month. Minutes from each general team meeting are posted on the Team Yahoo Group site after each meeting and available for all members to see.

Members will be polled on Team activity and meeting topics throughout the membership year. Decisions will be made by majority member vote by all those present at that particular meeting. Team business decisions will be made by the elected Board of Directors & Committee Chairpersons. Members in Good Standing, present at the annual election meeting will be able to nominate and vote for the next years Board of Directors and Committee Chairpersons. Since members are under the age of 18, election voting rights will be delegated to one parent/guardian of the Team member. Families with two or more members are entitled to one vote per member for election purposes.

A 'Member in Good Standing' is defined as a family that has paid all dues on time; fulfilled the volunteer policy; participated in 70% of the meetings, fundraisers and/or social events; and agrees to conduct themselves in an ethical manner and in the best interest of the Team.

The Skating Professionals are contracted by the Talbot Community Center to teach group lessons. The Talbot Community Center and the Skating Professionals organize all dates and time of group lessons and test opportunities while meeting compliance with ISI.

ICE SKATING INSTITUTE (ISI) AFFILIATION

Talbot Figure Skating Team members are also enrolled, by the Team, as members of the Ice Skating Institute (ISI). The Ice Skating Institute is an international trade association encompassing all aspects of the ice skating industry. ISI was founded in 1959 as an organization for owners, operators and developers of ice skating facilities. The mission and goals of ISI are to promote ice skating as a participant sport and recreation and to provide information for the development, construction and operation of ice skating facilities. The Ice Skating Institute is dedicated to providing leadership, education and services to the ice skating industry.

Your ISI membership provides program materials and a quarterly magazine mailed to your home. The ISI testing standards are used by our instructors. ISI rules and standards also apply at all skating competitions sanctioned by ISI. For more information, visit www.skateisi.org

MEMBER BENEFITS/FEES

Annual Membership (September 1st – August 31st)

Membership fees provide the following benefits:

ISI membership, Team T-shirt, Free monthly team meetings with education, specialized teams, clinics, and exhibition opportunities, club ice & fun social events!

Monthly team meeting topics will include, but are not limited to:

Proper equipment fit/purchase and attire - where to shop in local area
Ice etiquette
Ice utilization and good practice habits
I.S.I. testing and competitive structure
Viewing I.S.I testing standards DVD
Team functions
Volunteering/Community Service
Preparation for competition
How and when to select a private coach
Good eating habits & more!

Membership fees that you pay cover only a portion of the cost of running the Talbot Figure Skating Team. Fundraising efforts and profits from the various annual activities are critical for covering the remainder of the Team costs and help keep individual member costs as low as possible.

Additional costs you might incur personally could include the following:

- *ice skates
- *skating apparel
- *private lessons
- *test fees
- *competition expenses for entry fees and travel
- *practice ice time (freestyle)
- *refreshments
- *additional club activity fees annually

Skaters must have membership fees paid on time. Skaters will not be permitted to participate in any activities until fees are paid according to the date of membership entry.

2011/2012 Fee Schedule

Annual Registration (September 1, 2011- August 31, 2012) \$75.00*

*\$65 if you renew/join by 10/1/11 saving \$10/member. Fundraising opportunities may also be made available to assist in reducing your membership and/or group fees (i.e. Synchro, Ensemble, Jump & Spin, Exhibitions, and Home Competitions).

SKATING EQUIPMENT AND SAFETY

Skaters should come to the rink dressed in warm layers of clothing. Many wear skating dresses with warm tights or leggings and sweaters, however it is not required. Gloves and hats are recommended and are very important for young skaters' safety, comfort and warmth.

Skaters should have a well-fitted pair of leather skates that have good support for the skaters' ankles. Skates typically fit the foot like a glove and are usually a size smaller than the skaters' shoe size, recommended by most ice

pro-shops. Skate guards should be worn when going to and from the ice surface to protect the blades from getting damaged and dull. Skates should be sharpened depending on the number of hours the skates are being used per week, please consult a skating professional (coach or proshop) for advice. Skate blades should always be dried off with a dry towel after use and stored in a bag with soakers (cloth blade covers) to absorb moisture and to protect the blades from hitting together.

Parents are strongly advised to remain at the rink during lesson and freestyle/team times. If you need to leave the rink, please let another parent know in the event of an emergency.

ICE TIME & GROUP LESSONS

The Talbot Community Center allocates and schedules ice time for all skaters. This includes a combination of group lessons and freestyle ice for skaters at the beginning levels through Freestyle. Skaters are grouped for group lessons based on ability determined by their ISI test level. All skaters are welcome to freestyle ice time and receive no individual instruction unless you have paid for private lessons with skating professionals. The Talbot Community Center dictates the cost of the group lessons and the Freestyle ice time.

PRIVATE LESSONS

Skaters have an option to contract an instructor for private lessons. Skating professionals will provide these lessons. It is up to the team member/family to contact the professional instructors to see the availability of these options. The cost for private lessons is determined by the professional instructor. Ice time is determined and remains the responsibility of the professional instructors schedule and agreement. All arrangements for private lessons are strictly between the parents and the instructor and are not affiliated with Talbot Figure Skating Team.

PAID OPEN FREESTYLE SESSIONS

The freestyle sessions are listed on www.talbotcountymd.gov under recreation programs / freestyle. The schedule is posted throughout the year and is available to all skaters. The session cost of all freestyle sessions is determined by the Talbot County Community Center.

SKATING COMPETITIONS

Skating competitions are an optional activity for Talbot Figure Skating Team members. Figure skating competitions are where many teams/clubs meet to compete for awards in all ages and skating levels. Registration, payment of fees, coaching and travel arrangements are the responsibility of the member who chooses to participate. Further information concerning or arrangements for the entry into a competition can be obtained from the skaters private coach.

FREESTYLE ICE RULES

The Talbot County Community Center dictates rules for Freestyle sessions. Following are the rules TFST members should adhere to:

1. Be aware and attentive of lessons being given and the student attempting new maneuvers.
2. Keep moving while on the ice.
3. Yield to the called skater (the skater who is skating to his/her music) and the skater/s taking private lessons
4. Music Rules:
 - a) Music is played on a first come, first served basis
 - b) If time allows, music will be on a rotational basis.
 - c) You are responsible for having your music cued.
 - d) All music should be labeled with your name.
 - e) Skaters are required to pick up their music at the end of the session.

PARENT'S RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Skaters and parents need to check the members only Yahoo Group website as well as www.TalbotFigureSkatingTeam.org on the internet for up to date notices and /or changes.
2. Parents must keep their skaters informed about schedules, ice rules and handbook information.

3. All members are responsible for paying their annual membership dues on time yearly. Families (parent & skater) are required to perform a combined 15 volunteer hours per fiscal year (September through August) for the team. 10 hours are required of single parent families. In addition, we require each parent to take part in our Fall and Spring Exhibitions as well as our Winter Home Ice Competition.
4. Hours worked are to be reported in the Volunteer Hours Log Book kept and verified by a board member. At the end of the fiscal year (August 31st), unserved hours will be charged to your account at the rate of \$10 per unserved hour. Intermittent contact will be made throughout the year to keep track. Checks should be post dated for March 30, 2012.

TFST has created a list of Volunteer Opportunities to help you understand what types of jobs are needed to make the team successful. Below is a partial list to assist you in finding the one that best fits your abilities and interests.

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|---|--|-----------------------------|
| - Organizing Bake Sales | - Competition/Exhibition committee | - Equipment Swap |
| -Finding Fundraising Opportunities | -Hospitality | -Reporter for local media |
| - Working pre-arranged fundraisers | - Locker/dressing room set up/clean up | - Medical |
| -Public Skate Informational Table | -Poster/flyer distribution | -Dance / Off Ice assistance |
| - Public Skate Performance | - Awards | - Decorations |
| -Music / Lighting | -Runners | -Photography |
| -Arranging Guest Speakers for Team Meetings | - Soliciting Vendors or prizes for Raffles | - Field Trips |
| -Freestyle Monitor | -Transportation | -Miscellaneous |

TALBOT FIGURE SKATING TEAM BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2011-2012

	<u>Name</u>	<u>E-mail</u>	<u>Phone</u>
President	Cary Barnes	president@talbotfigureskatingteam.org	443-496-2400
Junior President	Corynne Smith	corynnicole1111@gmail.com	443-988-1942
Secretary	Robin Smith	info@talbotfigureskatingteam.org	410-935-4319
Junior VP	Shelby Barnes	luv2rideapps7@yahoo.com	410-745-3268
Treasurer	Lori Loker	treasurer@talbotfigureskatingteam.org	410-490-9796
Junior Secretary	Maddie Beck	thinksync97@yahoo.com	410-829-8148

TALBOT FIGURE SKATING TEAM COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS 2010-2011

	<u>Name</u>	<u>E-mail</u>	<u>Phone</u>
Competition	Cheryl Dayton	competition@talbotfigureskatingteam.org	410-819-8080
Historian	Shannon Beck	historian@talbotfigureskatingteam.org	410-822-4645
Membership	Jennifer Yost	membership@talbotfigureskatingteam.org	410-417-2067

CLUB PROFESSIONALS

Rebecca Crotti

Learn to Skate Instructor, Synchro & Ensemble Team Coach

410-924-5516

rebeccareitz@yahoo.com

Rebecca Crotti is a Learn to Skate instructor as well as a coach for the Talbot Figure Skating Team's synchronized skating teams and their ensemble group. Rebecca is a former freestyle competitor and was also a member of the University of Delaware Adult Synchronized Team who captured the silver medal at the US National Championships in 2010. She is an accredited coach through Professional Skaters Association, a gold test judge with Ice Skating Institute, and has completed Gold Medal tests through US Figure Skating. Rebecca has been trained in and offers private instruction in freestyle, field moves, choreography, and ice dancing. She has 15 years of coaching experience instructing beginner, recreational, and competitive skaters.

Larisa Frankoski

Synchro Team & Ensemble Coach & Choreographer

coachlarisa@mac.com

With 18 years of synchronized skating experience, Larisa is a 12 time U.S. Synchronized Skating Championships competitor and 6 time U.S. Figure Skating National Medalist. She served as co-captain for the University of Delaware Collegiate Synchronized Skating Team where she competed in both the collegiate and senior divisions. Larisa continued to compete on the Team Delaware Adult Synchronized Skating Team, 2010 National Silver Medalists, and 2011 National Pewter Medalists. In addition to Synchro, Larisa has trained in the disciplines of Freestyle, Ice Dance, Moves in the Field and Choreography. Larisa is a certified figure skating coach through USFS, PSA and ISI.