



Membership Handbook
2009

Talbot Figure Skating Team

Members' Handbook

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page</u>
Welcome	3
Board of Directors/Parents/Volunteers/Professionals	3
Ice Skating Institute (ISI Affiliation)	4
Members Benefits/Fees	4
Skating Equipment & Safety	5
Ice Time & Group Lessons	5
Private Lessons	6
Paid Open Freestyle Sessions	6
Skating Competitions	6
Annual Ice Show	6
Freestyle Ice Rules	6
Parent's Responsibilities	7
Board of Directors	8
Committee Chairpersons	8
Club Professionals	8

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 current figure skater members range from age 6 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. Team meetings will occur the 3rd Sunday of every month. Minutes from each general team meeting are posted on the website 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 guest speakers, education
opportunities, & fun social events!
Reduced or free clinic sessions

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.

2009/2010 Fee Schedule

Annual Registration (September 1, 2009- August 31, 2010) \$60.00*

*Fundraising opportunities are available to reduce your membership cost up to \$30.

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 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 too:

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 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.
4. Families (parent & skater) are required to perform a combined 15 volunteer hours per fiscal year (September through August). 10 hours are required of single parent families. 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, 2010.

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.

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

TALBOT FIGURE SKATING TEAM BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2009-2010

	<u>Name</u>	<u>E-mail</u>	<u>Phone</u>
President	Cary Barnes	president@talbotfigureskatingteam.org	443-496-2400
Junior President	Kim George	kdg_132@yahoo.com	410-820-1246
Vice President	Tracy Elzey	vicepresident@talbotfigureskatingteam.org	410-476-3122
Junior VP	Amanda D'Ambrosio		410-758-1393
Treasurer	Robin Poole	treasurer@talbotfigureskatingteam.org	410-820-1010
Secretary	Robin Smith	secretary@talbotfigureskatingteam.org	410-935-4319
Junior Secretary	Shelby Barnes		410-745-3268

TALBOT FIGURE SKATING TEAM COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS 2009-2010

	<u>Name</u>	<u>E-mail</u>	<u>Phone</u>
Competition	Cheryl Dayton	competition@talbotfigureskatingteam.org	410-819-8080
Membership	Shannon Beck	membership@talbotfigureskatingteam.org	410-822-4645
Fundraising	Teresa Ruiz	fundraiser@talbotfigureskatingteam.org	410-758-1320
Historian	Joyce Smith	historian@talbotfigureskatingteam.org	410-822-2362

CLUB PROFESSIONALS

Rebecca Reitz Crotti
Learn to Skate Instructor, Synchro Team Coach
410-924-5516
rebeccareitz@yahoo.com

Rebecca has 12 years of coaching experience instructing beginner, recreational, and competitive figure skaters. She is skilled in the disciplines of Learn to Skate, Field Moves, Freestyle, Synchronized, Choreography, and Power Skating as well as Ice Dancing. Rebecca is a former ladies freestyle competitor and is currently a member of the Adult Synchronized Skating Team at the University of Delaware. She is a member of the Professional Skaters Association, United States Figure Skating, and the Ice Skating Institute. She is an accredited coach through PSA, a gold test judge through ISI, and has completed Gold Medal Tests through USFS.