

LEARN TO SKATE USA - SNOWPLOW SAM SYNCHRO & SYNCHRO SKILLS 1-3 (effective July 1, 2019)

The synchronized competition program is also part of the Learn to Skate USA program. The Compete USA competition program is for Learn to Skate USA level skaters who are interested in a first competition or “team” experience, taking the Synchro 1-4 badges a step further. Synchro Skills teams compete at Learn to Skate USA competitions and nonqualifying synchronized skating competitions around the country.

Required elements – Each level has specific required elements that must be completed:

LEVEL	CIRCLE	LINE	BLOCK	WHEEL	INTERSECTION
SNOWPLOW SAM SYNCHRO 5-12 skaters, majority under 7 years old Maximum 2 minutes 10 seconds	One circle, which must contain a forward inside or outside edge 1 foot glide and/or 2 foot glide. May have backwards skating.	One line, skated forward, which must cover half ice to full ice.	One block, skated forward, which must cover half ice to full ice, and must have only 1 configuration.	One wheel, skated forward, in any shape.	One intersection: Two lines facing each other, 2-foot glide at point of intersection.
SYNCHRO SKILLS 1 8-16 skaters, majority under 9 years old Maximum 2 minutes 10 seconds	One circle, which must contain a two foot turn. Must contain a forward inside and/or forward outside edge glide. Stroking from backward to forward is permitted.	One line, which must cover half ice to full ice and may include forward and/or backward skating.	One block, which must cover half ice to full ice, and must have only 1 configuration.	One wheel of the team’s choice with backward pumps.	One intersection: Two lines facing each other, 2-foot or 1-foot glide at point of intersection.
SYNCHRO SKILLS 2 8-16 skaters, majority under 12 years old Maximum 2 minutes 10 seconds	One circle, which must contain a forward 3-turn and must contain a backward inside and/or backward outside edge glide.	One line, which must cover full ice and may include forward and/or backward skating.	One block, which must cover the ice and must have 1 or 2 configurations.	One wheel of the team’s choice with backward pumps and/or chasses.	One intersection: Two lines facing each other, 2-foot or 1-foot glide at point of intersection.
SYNCHRO SKILLS 3 8-16 skaters, majority at least 12 years old Maximum 2 minutes 10 seconds Minimum of two different hand holds	One circle, which must contain a mohawk and must contain a backward inside and/or backward outside edge glide.	Line element, which includes a change of configuration (1 line to 2 lines or 2 lines to 1 line), and must cover full ice and must include forward and backward skating.	One block, which must cover the ice and must have 2 different configurations.	Wheel element of the team’s choice with backward pumps, chasses, and/or crossovers.	One intersection.

The emphasis of the Learn to Skate USA synchronized skating competition is on mastering the Synchro Skills of synchronized skating:

- Unison of body alignment, and learning to guide with the head.
- Control of rotation in wheels and circles & straight lines in lines, blocks and intersections.
- Learning how to transition within elements with ease and clarity.
- Learning skills that will be the foundation for higher levels while incorporating skills from Basic 1-6 and Free Skates to strengthen skating skills.
- Demonstrate ability to recognize and skate to the tempo of the music.

Restrictions in Snowplow Sam Synchro and Synchro Skills 1:

- Additional elements are not allowed (the team must do only their required elements).
- Teams may only use hand-to-hand, shoulder-to-shoulder and choo-choo holds.
- Wheels and circles may not travel, change rotational direction or change configuration.
- Lines may not pivot.
- Snowplow Sam Synchro teams: backwards skating is allowed, but not required, in the circle and is not permitted in any other elements or transitions.
- Teams may not do steps higher than Basic 6.

Restrictions in Synchro Skills 2:

- Additional elements are not allowed (the team must do only their required elements).
- Wheels may not travel, change rotational direction or change configuration.
- Circles may not change rotational direction or change configuration. Traveling is allowed, but not required.
- Lines may not pivot.
- Synchro Skills 2 teams may not do steps higher than Free Skate 2, with the exception of split jumps, stag jumps and split falling leaf jumps.

Restrictions in all levels: All of the synchronized skating “illegal elements” found in Rule 9160 and 9170 of the U.S. Figure Skating Rulebook. All Snowplow Sam and Synchro Skills levels are not allowed to do jumps of one revolution or more.

Please reference <http://usfsa.org/programs?id=84096&menu=synchronized> for most up-to-date Learn to Skate USA Synchronized Skating rules



SNOWPLOW SAM SYNCHRO & SYNCHRO SKILLS 1 – 3

In order to safely practice and compete at the various levels, it is strongly recommended that skaters have mastered the elements of the Learn to Skate USA level at which they are skating (see program requirements).

Eligibility Rules: All skaters on the team must either be full U.S. Figure Skating members or members of the Learn to Skate USA program. All Learn to Skate USA Synchronized Skating teams must be registered with U.S. Figure Skating and have a team number.

Skaters on the team may have passed the pre-preliminary or preliminary moves in the field, freestyle, and/or dance test, but no higher.

Skaters on the team who have passed higher than the preliminary (pre-juvenile and above) moves in the field, freestyle, and/or ice dance test(s)* are ineligible to compete in Snowplow Sam Synchro & Synchro Skills 1-3.

The skater's test level is as of the competition entry deadline.

No skater may compete on multiple Learn to Skate USA synchronized skating teams.

Age/Number of Skaters: Varies based on the level. The ages for Learn to Skate USA synchronized skating teams are as of the preceding July 1. If the majority of the team is younger than the listed age, consider skating “up” to the level that best meets the skaters’ skill levels.

Each Synchro Skills team may have between 8-16 skaters. A Snowplow Sam Synchro team may have between 5-12 skaters. Teams may have a maximum of four alternates listed on their roster, in addition to the maximum number permitted on the ice for their respective level.

Costume Rules: Learn to Skate USA synchronized skating teams should follow **Rule 9020 Clothing and Equipment** (U.S. Figure Skating Rulebook) when selecting their clothing for competition.

Compliance for Instructors/Coaches: To be credentialed as a coach at a Compete USA event, individuals coaching a synchronized skating team are required to have:

- Learn to Skate USA Instructor membership OR U.S. Figure Skating full membership
- SafeSport training completed (for coaches 18 year old and over)**
- Background check successfully passed (for coaches 18 years old and over)
- Learn to Skate USA Instructor Certification completed (for coaches under 18 years old)

*Clarification regarding ice dance tests: skaters may pass two of the three required dance tests for the pre-bronze level and still be eligible to compete in Snowplow Sam Synchro & Synchro Skills 1-3. Once a skater has passed all three of the required pre-bronze dance tests, the skater is ineligible to compete in Snowplow Sam Synchro & Synchro Skills 1-3.

**SafeSport training is available through www.usfsaonline.org for full members of U.S. Figure Skating (through Learn to Skate USA portal for instructors). There is no cost to this training.