

# Membership Handbook

*Talbot*

FIGURE SKATING CLUB



# Talbot Figure Skating Club

## Members' Handbook

### **WELCOME TO THE CLUB!**

You are now a part of the only figure skating club on the eastern shore of Maryland!

Talbot Figure Skating Club is a recreational figure skating club affiliated with the Ice Skating Institute or ISI. We help our members to connect with coaches; advance their skating skills through team opportunities; and cultivate relationships with other skaters in the process.

Talbot Figure Skating Club's mission is to create unity amongst advancing skaters and to guide them on their skating journey. This club will help to educate parents and skaters on the fundamentals of skating as well as establish a path to fulfill their skating goals. Through social activities and team bonding, TFSC will also provide its members the opportunity to build lasting friendships.

This handbook is a valuable tool for finding information about the club and its activities. We sincerely wish that you keep it on hand and refer to it whenever needed. Of course, TFSC board members and coaches are always here for you. So, please feel free to ask us anything!

### **ICE SKATING INSTITUTE (ISI) AFFILIATION**

Talbot Figure Skating Club members are 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 coaches and instructors. ISI rules and standards also apply at all skating competitions sanctioned by ISI. Skaters will use their ISI membership numbers when registering for most figure skating competitions. For more information, visit [www.skateisi.org](http://www.skateisi.org)

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS/PARENTS/VOLUNTEERS/PROFESSIONALS**

The Talbot Figure Skating Club 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.

TFSC's Board of Directors consists of volunteers and generally meets monthly. The Board is responsible for organizing and running Talbot Figure Skating Club's business and subsequent specialized teams. Team business decisions will be made by the Board of Directors, professional coaches & Committee Chairpersons where appropriate.

## **TALBOT FIGURE SKATING CLUB CURRENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Bernadette Golt, President	<a href="mailto:Spirit@TalbotFigureSkatingTeam.org">Spirit@TalbotFigureSkatingTeam.org</a>
Cynthia Greaves, Vice President	<a href="mailto:VicePrez@TalbotFigureSkatingTeam.org">VicePrez@TalbotFigureSkatingTeam.org</a>
Janine Banghart, Treasurer	<a href="mailto:Treasurer@TalbotFigureSkatingTeam.org">Treasurer@TalbotFigureSkatingTeam.org</a>
Kristen Wheaton, Secretary	<a href="mailto:Secretary@TalbotFigureSkatingTeam.org">Secretary@TalbotFigureSkatingTeam.org</a>
Cari Leith, Assistant Secretary	

A successful season for TFSC depends upon the active involvement of parents/guardians in supporting the team's efforts. We welcome any parent/guardian that would like to take a more active role in supporting the work of the Talbot Figure Skating Club. Roles are available in leading critical fund-raising efforts, planning team exhibitions and competitions, and more. Please contact [Spirit@talbotfigureskatingteam.org](mailto:Spirit@talbotfigureskatingteam.org) for more information.

## **MEMBER BENEFITS/FEES**

All skaters who plan to participate on a TFSC synchronized skating or production team, as well as any skater who plans to participate in TFSC exhibitions as a soloist or as part of a couple or ensemble, or who compete on behalf of TFSC, need to be active members of the Talbot Figure Skating Club and pay the annual membership fee for the season. TFSC Annual Membership runs from September 1 through August 31 each year. (ISI Membership year runs from September 1 through August 31 each year as well.)

## **Talbot Figure Skating Membership Benefits**

**Annual ISI Membership (valid through August)**

**Club Ice Freestyle Prices & Access to our Punch Card Discounts**

**Annual TFSC Club T-Shirt**

**Access to our Talbot Figure Skating Exhibitions**

**Compete as a TFSC Member at Competitions**

**Access to Team Parties and Events**

Skaters must pay membership fees on time. All invoices must be paid upon receipt to keep things moving smoothly throughout the season. If invoices are not paid in a timely manner, late fees may be incurred and in some extreme cases skaters may not be able to participate in certain events.

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

Fundraising opportunities may also be made available to assist in reducing your membership and/or group fees (i.e. Synchronized/Production skating teams, Ensemble groups, Jump & Spin teams, Exhibitions, and Home Ice Competitions). Fundraising credits apply only to the current skating year and do not carry over beyond August 30th of the current season. Note that a skater's fundraising credits will carry over to the next season if the TCCC rink closes prematurely due to Covid.

### **SKATING OPPORTUNITIES**

TFSC provides a variety of ways that skaters can develop their skills and enhance their experience on the ice at Talbot Community Center, but we encourage skaters to take advantage of all the opportunities that meet their needs, including enrolling in Talbot Parks & Recreation offerings and/or working with a private coach, as discussed in more detail below.

<b>Training Options at Talbot Community Center</b>		
<b>Talbot Figure Skating Club</b>	<b>Talbot County Parks &amp; Recreation</b>	<b>Skaters and Skaters' Family</b>
Talbot Synchronized Teams	Learn to Skate Group Lessons	Work with a Private Coach
Talbot Production Teams	TCCC Freestyle Sessions	Develop Solo / Duet Programs
Club events and parties	Edges & Power Skating Classes	Receive extra one on one instruction
Club Membership Includes: *Access to solos at the Winter and Spring Shows; *Access to Competitions *Club Ice practice time at a reduced rate	TCCC Showtime	Talbot Ensemble Teams

**GROUP LESSONS**

The Talbot Community Center allocates and schedules ice time for all skaters. Group lessons are available for skaters from beginning through freestyle levels through the county’s Learn to Skate program. Skaters are grouped for group lessons based on ability determined by their ISI test level. The Talbot Community Center dictates the cost of the group lessons. Please refer to their website for the most accurate information.

<https://talbotparks.org/skating/>

**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, and skaters are generally required to pay for both ice time and the coach’s fee for private lessons... Ice time is determined and remains the responsibility of the professional instructor’s schedule and agreement. TFSC private coaches may choose to use TFSC Club Ice as well as TCCC freestyle ice. All arrangements for private lessons are strictly between the parents and the instructor. See our club website for a list of TFSC coaches approved to instruct on our club ice sessions and the contact information for each.

<http://talbotfigureskatingteam.org/our-coaches>

## **TCCC FREESTYLE SESSIONS**

The Talbot County Community Center posts their Freestyle schedule throughout the year and is available to all skaters. This is a great opportunity for skaters to practice their skills and routines. The session cost of all their freestyle sessions is determined by the Talbot County Community Center. Please refer to their website for the most accurate information on times, costs, and rules.

<https://talbotparks.org/skating/>

## **TFSC CLUB ICE**

Various times in the season the club has purchased club ice for parties, freestyle sessions, synchronized skating practices and miscellaneous activities. Please refer to the updated calendar of events for the season on TFSC's website. TFSC members can skate at Club Ice Freestyle sessions at a discounted rate. Club members can also purchase non-transferable Club Ice punch cards that provide TFSC members with a more discounted rate for each Club Ice session.

## **SKATING COMPETITIONS**

Figure skating competitions are where many teams/clubs meet to compete for awards in all ages and skating levels. TFSC plans to run one competition at the Talbot Community Center each season, as do several other teams in Maryland, Delaware, and Virginia. Registration, payment of fees, coaching and travel arrangements for any competition are the responsibility of the member who chooses to participate. (All TFSC Synchro and Production teams will have their registrations completed for them by team coaches or board members.) Further information concerning or arrangements for the entry into a competition will be shared via email with all of our members and can also be obtained from a skater's private coach.

## **SKATING EXHIBITIONS**

Talbot Figure Skating Club plans to host two Exhibitions during each season. The schedule for these exhibitions will be announced to TFSC members as soon as they are approved by TCCC.

TFSC's synchro and production teams, as well as TCCC's Showtime group, are expected to be available to perform in these exhibitions, and the costs for their participation are included in team-specific fees.

TFSC skaters are also invited to perform in team exhibitions as a soloist, duet/couples, or in organized ensembles. Skaters will be asked to register for solo/duet/small group performances approximately six weeks prior to these shows and will be charged a performance fee per show. Because we have a limited amount of ice time for each exhibition, performances will be accepted on a first-come/first-served basis.

## **SKATING EQUIPMENT AND SAFETY**

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

**All TFSC members and family members will be required to adhere to any and all safety regulations established by TCCC during the course of the season. Refusal to follow TCCC regulations can lead to a member being suspended from TFSC.**

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. For a list of pro-shops and/or recommended skate brands, please see your coach or anyone on the TFSC board.

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 pro-shop) for advice. (Talbot Community Center does offer skate sharpening.) 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.

It is strongly recommended that parents 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.

## **BULLYING POLICY**

Bullying of any type will not be tolerated. If a skater is caught bullying another member or making fun of a teammate, the parent of the skater or the skater will be notified immediately that they must stop the behavior. If the skater is caught bullying a second time, that skater will be asked to leave the club. TFSC promotes teamwork and friendships among skaters. Bullying of any type will not be condoned.

## **PARENT'S RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. TFSC asks all skaters and parents to please routinely check their primary email account used to register their membership and [TalbotFigureSkatingTeam.org](http://TalbotFigureSkatingTeam.org) on the internet for up to date notices and /or changes. If you use Facebook, please also like the “TFST Families” group.
2. Parents will be responsible to keep their skaters informed about schedules, ice rules, practices, and handbook information.
3. All members must pay their annual membership dues upon receipt of their invoices.
4. We need your help! Parents are needed to volunteer at team events (i.e. team practices, fundraisers, exhibitions, and/or competitions, etc.) to help our team succeed. Below is a partial list of Volunteer Opportunities to assist you in finding the one that best fits your abilities and interests.
  - Finding & Working Fundraisers
  - Learn to Skate Informational Table
  - Music / Lighting
  - Poster/flyer distribution
  - Awards
  - Soliciting Vendors or prizes for Raffles
  - Reporter for local media
  - Photography
  - Field Trips
  - Production Manager / designers / builders