

How do they decide where I skate in the show?

By Carol Timm

Many skaters ask this question, so this article includes the process coaches use to place skaters in the annual Silver Skates Ice Revue. Now you can read the requirements, set your goals, sharpen your blades and get out there on the ice!

Skaters need not be LMFSC members to skate in the show, because it is a City of Minnetonka All Season Skating School event. However, any skater who wishes to participate in the show **MUST** be enrolled in a Winter Session class. This requirement also includes all skaters who participate in synchronized skating, and who want to be in their synchro number in the show. All group show numbers are assigned according to the highest group class test (Basic 1 through Advanced FS) or US Figure Skating Freestyle test (Pre-Preliminary through Senior) that the skater has passed by the end of the calendar year preceding the show. For example, in the 2022 show, all skaters in STOMP OUT LOUD had passed Free Skate 5 and all skaters in PROUD MARY had passed USFS JUNIOR Freestyle or higher by December 31st, 2021. Occasionally, there are too many or too few skaters at the same level, or there is too large of an age discrepancy at the level for an effective group number. In these cases, the groups may be divided by age or two levels may be combined.

All solos, pairs, trios, groups of four, “features”, “spotlights” and “characters” (like the Markees or Piglet in the 2022 show) are considered SPECIAL NUMBERS. This includes any gold test number or number in addition to your group number or synchro.

To be considered for a special number, skaters must be:

- Actively skating as an individual skater and/or pursuing USFS tests. (See lettering policy or skating 3x per week)
- Enrolled in the All Season Skating School for BOTH FALL and WINTER sessions.
- In attendance at no fewer than 6 times at the same class per session.

To be cast in a special number, skaters must be:

- Passed US Figure Skating NOVICE freestyle or higher, OR
- Have accumulated a sufficient number of test and/or competition points.

The point system is described below.

Any skater who has passed US Figure Skating Novice Freestyle or higher will be given a solo in at least one performance. Any MN State and/or US Championship Series **FINAL ROUND** medalist in a **WELL BALANCED** freeskate event will qualify for a special number in at least one performance. Also, any individual skater who qualifies for Nationals during the previous calendar year will be given a solo in at least one performance.

THE POINT SYSTEM:

Points are given for Freestyle and Moves tests passed during the previous calendar year as follows:

Preliminary Moves	2	Intermediate Moves	10
Preliminary Freestyle	2	Intermediate Freestyle	15
Pre-Juvenile Moves	3	Novice Moves	15
Pre-Juvenile Freestyle	5	Novice Freestyle	20
Juvenile Moves	5	Junior Moves	20
Juvenile Freestyle	10	Senior Moves	25

For competitions, points are given for top six places in freestyle or championship events as follows. For the 2023 ice revue, points from January through December of 2022 are considered. We have equalized the points with Excel and Well-Balanced events by the elements required at each level. (i.e. both Well-Balanced Pre-Preliminary and Excel Juvenile require an axel.) Points are not considered until the skater is competing at a level that an axel is allowed.

Points are awarded as follows:

Type of Event		Level	1 st place	2 nd place	3 rd place	4 th place	5 th place	6 th place
Well-balanced		Pre-Pre	6	5	4	3	2	1
Excel	Pre Plus & Juvenile							
Excel	Pre Juvenile Plus		10	8	6	4	3	2
Well-balanced		Pre	12	10	8	6	4	2
Excel	Juvenile Plus & Int							
Well-balanced		Pre-Juv	18	15	12	9	6	3
Excel	Inter Plus & Novice							
Well-balanced/IJS		Juv	24	20	16	12	8	4
Excel	Junior							
Well-balanced/IJS		Int	30	25	20	15	10	5
Excel	Senior							
Well-balanced/IJS		Nov	36	30	24	18	12	6

Skaters can earn double points for any TOP 6 placements in **WELL BALANCED** events at a qualifying competition (i.e. US Championship Series Competition) or the Minnesota State Championships. The three competition placements that give the highest point value will be used to determine each skater's competition point totals.

Here is an example: Susanna Skater started out the 2022 calendar year competing as a well-balanced Pre-Juvenile lady. She placed 3rd in Duluth and 4th at Braemar. She also passed her Intermediate moves and Juvenile Freestyle tests over the summer. Competing as a Juvenile lady, she also placed 5th at a US Championship Series event and first at St. Cloud. Her points are calculated as follows:

- Duluth (3rd place in Pre-Juvenile Well Balanced) 12 points
- Braemar (4th place in Pre-Juvenile Well Balanced) 9 points*
- USFS Intermediate Moves 10 points
- USFS Juvenile Freestyle Test 10 points
- US Championship Series (5th in Juvenile WB) 16 points (8 points are doubled due to qualifying event)
- St. Cloud (1st place in Juvenile Well Balanced) 24 points

*We would drop Susanna's Braemar points because it is the lowest points from her competition events since ONLY THREE competitions can be used. Therefore, Susanna's point total would be 12+10+10+16+24= 72 points.

PLEASE NOTE: Before casting show numbers is considered, the entire show is written by the coaching staff. Casting begins by placing all skaters passed their Novice Freestyle followed by those skaters with the highest number of points. **NOT ALL SKATERS who earn points will get a special number.** Coaches may "cut off" special numbers where there is a distinctive break in the number of points overall. For instance, three skaters each earn 30 points may be cast as a trio, while the next skater in line, who has 22 points, may not get a special number. If other special numbers exist after casting using the point system, coaches may decide at their discretion to cast graduating seniors or other skaters. Since the make up of the show dictates how many SPECIAL spots are available, there is no specific CUT OFF POINT or a certain number of points that guarantees a special number in the show.

If you think you might be eligible for a special number in the show, you must do the following:

- Register and attend at least 6 skate school classes (of the same class- not 6 total) during both Fall and Winter sessions
- Compete throughout the year in Freestyle events!
- Continue to work on US Figure Skating Freestyle and Moves tests... the higher the test, the more points awarded!