

**BLADELINES
JANUARY 2023**

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!!

HOLIDAY SHOW APPRECIATION & CONGRATULATIONS

To all our skaters and coaches who made the annual Holiday Ice Show a HUGE success! THANK YOU!!! A special shout out to Craig R. Gray for his announcing prowess.

Order your photos from the show here:

<https://sethjamesphotography.shootproof.com/gallery/Ice-Show/>

Order your video from the show

here: https://anc.apm.activecommunities.com/pcc/activity/search/detail/774?onlineSiteId=0&from_original_cui=true

FAREWELL & BEST WISHES

The BFSC is sad to see Pelham Civic Center Director, Steve St. John, leave the facility for a new position in Michigan, where he will be closer to family. He has been a partner with the club board and advocate for the figure skating and hockey communities while initiating positive changes at the facility. He will be missed. An interim director from VenuWorks will be in place until a new director is appointed.

BFSC MEMBERS GRADUATE

Audrey Harper and Aly McDougal both graduated in December 2022 amidst the busy holiday season. Congratulations!!!!

Audrey graduated Summa Cum Laude, Alpha Chi, from Belmont University with a BA in Publishing and a Minor in Design Communications.

Coach Aly McDougal graduated from the University of Alabama at Birmingham with a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology.

We are so proud of your many accomplishments! Wishing you both the best in all your endeavors ahead.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The BFSC can always use more help to provide the best offerings and communication about what is going on around the facility. If you would like to become involved or can offer your expertise in marketing, communications, graphic design, please contact Keir Breitenfeld, BFSC president kdbbham@gmail.com

We are gearing up to host the Magic City Ice Classic May 7-10 and are very proud to be part of the USFSA sanctioned Excel Series. Basic Skills Compete USA events will also be offered at MCIC.

To make Magic City a huge success, we will need all hands on deck. The Local Organizing Committee is forming now. PLEASE JOIN US!! For more information or to sign up email Monica Powers monicapowers4@yahoo.com or birminghamfigureskatingclub@gmail.com
Thank you!

BULLS NIGHT, Friday, January 13, 2023

The Birmingham Figure Skating Club and the Birmingham Bulls, SPHL Professional Hockey team, are kicking off the New Year together! Join us for BFSC's night out with The Bulls, and our first of-its-kind fundraising partnership. On Friday, January 13, the Bulls take on the Evansville Thunderbolts, which happens also to be Star Wars night! Fun for the whole family!

All of our club members can help BFSC raise money by selling tickets to the game and/or volunteering during the game. The Bulls will contribute a percentage of each ticket sold and club members can also volunteer to usher or work in concessions. Club members who volunteer earn \$12/hour for the BFSC. The more, the merrier! We want to see BFSC everywhere that night!

Ticket Selling: Whoever you sell tickets to will pay you directly for the ticket. In turn, you order the tickets via Entryeze (all BFSC members have an account). The tickets option will be located under the dropdown box under Merchandise. Ticket price is \$20. Ticket purchasers will pick up tickets at the PCC will-call ticket window. Please keep an accounting of those names who purchased from you so we may provide a will-call list to the Bulls for game night.

To Volunteer: Please click on the link below for the sign-up genius. Concessions and ushering are two key areas of need and we need at least 20 BFSC members to participate. Volunteers need to arrive at 4:30 pm and plan to stay until game is over.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0444aca82ca0f94-volunteer#/>

It is so important for our club to take advantage of these fundraising opportunities throughout the upcoming year! It helps us host events that support our amazing skaters and coaches! Let's go enjoy a great night of hockey and a great way to kick off BFSC 2023!

TEST SESSION, Sunday, January 15, 2023, 7 am - 1 pm

We look forward to seeing our skaters show the judges what they can do!

CONGRATULATIONS TO PRISCILLA FOWLER, BFSC TEST CHAIR

The BFSC is delighted to learn that Priscilla has been accepted by USFSA to begin trial judging. This is the first step for an individual who is interesting in becoming a judge. In order to earn an official judging appointment, one must first become a trial judge and participate in test sessions and/or competitions to judge the tests/events. Trial judges' scores don't affect the results but their judging sheets are reviewed and compared to the scores of the official panel to evaluate their level of knowledge and readiness to judge. Judges volunteer their time and expertise to promote the sport and provide extremely important feedback and encouragement to skaters at all levels. A skater herself, Priscilla is a wonderful advocate and understands how challenging the sport is. Thank you Priscilla and we look forward to seeing you in the judges stand!

NATIONAL LEARN TO SKATE DAY, Sunday January 15, 2023, 2 - 4 pm

Send all your friends to come out to the facility for a free skating clinic run by our great BFSC coaches and teaching assistants! Includes free skate rental. Fun for all!

Questions? Call Susie Gray at 205.620.6448 ext. 265 or email sgray@pelhamalabama.gov

SPECIALTY CLASSES & PROGRAMMING

Check out PCC offerings and sign up! These classes are offered by the Pelham Skate School & Aspire Academy and be pro-rated for late enrollments, and walk-on rates are available. We offer discounts for siblings and multiple class enrollments. Questions? Call Susie Gray at 205.620.6448 ext. 265 or email sgray@pelhamalabama.gov

PLAN AHEAD

2023 REGIONAL COMPETITIONS – DISCUSS WITH YOUR COACHES!

Save the Dates and Watch for Registration Announcements!

March 10-12, Magnolia Open, Atlanta Figure Skating Club
April 14-16, Skate Nashville, Nashville Figure Skating Club
May 5 – 7, Magic City Ice Classic, Excel Series, Birmingham Figure Skating Club
July 7-9, Dogwood Classic, Triangle Figure Skating Club of North Carolina
July 19 - 22, Skate Detroit, Detroit Skating Club
July 27 - 30, Charleston Open, Figure Skating Club of Charleston
July 31 – August 6, National Showcase 2023, The Skating Club of Boston, Norwood, MA
August 4 - 6, Scott Hamilton Invitational, Nashville, TN
August 25 - 27, Atlanta Open, Atlanta Figure Skating Club
September 8 - 10, John Smith Memorial Competition Charlotte, NC

Visit USFSA for a comprehensive listing of local, regional, and national competitions!

EXCEL SERIES 2023

The Excel Series launched in 2019 to offer athletes the opportunity to continue testing and developing their skills while showcasing their strengths at events. The Excel Series is a great entry into competitive skating and a steppingstone to the qualifying series should skaters wish to pursue it. Available at nonqualifying competitions, including designated Excel Series competitions, Excel free skates consist of required elements different from the well-balanced track to help boost skaters' strengths and offer competitive experiences. New Excel Series information, including the list of Excel Series competitions for 2023, is now available on the [Excel Series Information page](#) in USFS Members Only.

Note that our Basic Skills Skaters are eligible to participate. Please talk to Susie Gray for more information. A coaching package will be available for those first-time competitors who wish to participate but do not have a private coach.

Skater registration on EMS opened December 8, 2022. The 2023 Excel National Festival will be held July 13 - 16, 2023, in Austin, TX

UAB COLLEGIATE SKATING

Are you a UAB Student who figure skates? Several of our collegiate skaters already practice during our morning freestyle times before class so come on out to skate together! There is an organizing group gathering names of students who are interested in creating a Collegiate Figure Skating Team.

Please contact Susie Gray, Director of Skating at sgray@pelhamalabama.gov

U.S. FIGURE SKATING SKATESAFE PROGRAM

Effective September 15, 2021, U.S. Figure Skating rebranded its SafeSport Program to the U.S. Figure Skating SkateSafe Program. While the name may have changed, the mission to promote a safe and healthy environment for all members and volunteers of U.S. Figure Skating has not.

U.S. Figure Skating strives to provide a safe environment for its members that is free of misconduct and harassment. The association will not tolerate or condone any form of abuse, harassment, or misconduct of any of its members including athletes, coaches, officials, directors, employees, parents, volunteers, or any other persons while they are participating in or preparing for a figure skating activity or event conducted under the auspices of U.S. Figure Skating. All forms of misconduct are unacceptable and in direct conflict with U.S. Figure Skating rules.

The U.S. Figure Skating SkateSafe Program addresses the following types of misconduct:

- Sexual misconduct
- Physical misconduct
- Emotional misconduct
- Bullying, threats, and harassment
- Hazing
- Willfully tolerating misconduct

All individuals, regardless of membership with U.S. Figure Skating, are encouraged to report suspected ethical violations and violations of SkateSafe. For more information visit <https://uscenterforsafesport.org/about/our-story/> or to report a concern visit <https://uscenterforsafesport.org/report-a-concern/>

Thanks for reading!

PS -- If you have questions or suggestions you may reply directly to this email.