



Guide to Coaching Credentials

This is a guide to reading a coach's resume for rink managers, skaters, and parents, in order to better understand coaching qualifications and make informed decisions when looking for a coach.

Reading a Coach's Resume

First, it is important to make sure the coach you choose has the proper credentials to coach. Credentials may include a U.S. Figure Skating or Ice Sports Industry (ISI) membership and coaches registration (includes background check), Continuing Education Requirements (CERs), liability insurance, and Professional Skaters Association (PSA) membership.

When looking at a coach's resume, personal skating achievements and the success of past students can be a good indicator of knowledge of the sport as well as the training and skills required to be a successful coach. A candidate with experience in education/leadership, or a college degree in a field related to skating or athletic training may be of value to a skating program or student as well.

The Importance of Continuing Education

With the constantly changing world of figure skating and sport science, it is important to see that coaches are continuing their education and acquiring knowledge in order to grow with the sport.

It is beneficial to look for a coach that continues to seek out educational opportunities. A good indicator of this is a PSA rating. A rating proves a continued dedication to increasing the knowledge and abilities required to develop successful athletes.

The Professional Skaters Association

The Professional Skaters Association is the official figure skating coach's education, training, and accreditation program for U.S. Figure Skating and Ice Sports Industry. Continued education of the sport, ethics, and safety are the main focus of the organization. Educational events are held across the country by the PSA each year.

Accreditation is also important to the organization. The PSA official Rating and Ranking Systems are for coaches who want to validate their skating skills and teaching experience, and are gaining world-wide recognition.

Ratings

Ratings include **both written and oral examinations** consisting of sport science & medicine, ethics, and discipline specific coaching technique information.

Ratings are an assurance to clubs, rinks, skaters, parents, and the general public that the coach they hire is technically qualified to instruct at the level in which they are rated, regardless of their background and skating achievement.

Ratings are offered at the increasingly challenging levels of Registered (*basic understanding*), Certified (*specific understanding*), Senior (*complete understanding*), and Master (*mastery understanding*), after first completing the Basic Accreditation written exam or Foundations of Coaching Course exam, and a Sport Science & Medicine exam at each level.

Ratings are offered in:

- Choreography
- Figures
- Free Skating
- Group
- Pairs
- Synchronized Skating
- Dance
- Free Dance
- Moves in the Field
- Program Director

Once a rating has been earned, a coach must maintain a minimum of 28 educational credits over a three-year period through attendance at educational events. This requirement ensures that coaches continue to educate themselves after the rating has been achieved. If a coach drops below the required 28 credits, their rating becomes inactive until the credit requirements have been fulfilled. A coach may not advertise their ratings if they are "inactive".

Credits may be received from a variety of available sources including all PSA educational programs or courses, many U.S. Figure Skating or ISI educational events, and other events by approval.

Rankings

The criteria to qualify for this program is directed toward the career accomplishments of PSA coaches **based on the performance of their skaters**. This distinguished ranking is recognized as a lifetime achievement and is awarded each year at the PSA Conference.

Rankings are listed in increasing order from I-X. For the list of requirements at each level, refer to the PSA website.

Excellence On Ice

Excellence On Ice (EOI) is a program that provides rinks and clubs with national recognition as a progressive training facility dedicated to excellence in coaching both on and off the ice. EOI clubs/facilities must have 100% PSA members on staff, all carrying personal liability insurance. EOI member rinks/clubs receive recognition in every issue of PS Magazine.

- Reference the Coaches Requirements Chart on the U.S. Figure Skating webpage for a list of requirements for coaches
- Check credentials by calling U.S. Figure Skating, ISI, or PSA
- CERs are online courses including an exam offered by the PSA and required every year for most U.S. Figure Skating coaches

PSA
skatepsa.com
 507.281.5122

U.S. Figure Skating
usfsa.org
 719.635.5200

ISI
skateisi.com
 972.735.8800



COACHING PROGRAM
 IN COMPLIANCE WITH NATIONAL STANDARDS