



SYNCHRONIZED TEAM SKATING

Background:

Synchronized team skating is performed on ice by a group of 8-20 athletes and incorporates aspects of singles, pairs and ice dancing into a team sport. It is a highly technical form of figure skating characterized by speed, accuracy, intricate formations and breathtaking transitions.

Synchronized skating is the newest discipline of figure skating. It began about 50 years ago in Ann Arbor Mich., with a group of skaters, called the Hockettes, who organized to perform exhibitions at the University of Michigan ice hockey games. Synchronized skating has grown into a competitive discipline, with athletes participating in countries all over the world.

Statistics regarding Synchronized Skating Teams:

- 65,000 members of the United Skates Figure Skating nationally
- 25,000 members in the Eastern Section (Maine – Florida)
- 527 synchronized skating teams registered nationally
- 300 teams with nearly 5,000 athletes participated in the 2008 Eastern Synchronized Team Skating Championships
- Each team averages from 12-20 skaters plus alternates, coaches and team managers
- Approximately 2000 spectators attended the competition each day – including family and friends
- Because the 2009 competition is centrally located we anticipate an increase in the number of teams attending

Competitive Structure of Synchronized Skating:

Similar to the figure skating competitive levels, which begin at a Regional level and progress to National, World and Olympic Competitions; Synchronized Skating also has a competitive structure progressing from Sectional, National, and on to World Competitions. In 2010, the World Synchronized Skating Championships will be held in Colorado Springs, CO. Synchronized Skating is not yet an Olympic Sport but did debut as an exhibition sport at the 2007 Winter World University Games and will be featured as a full medal sport at the 2009 Winter World University Games in Harbin, China.

2009 Eastern Sectional Synchronized Skating Championships Competition:

The Skating Club of Morris is honored to have been chosen, by US Figure Skating, to host the Eastern Sectional Synchronized Skating Championships on January 29-31, 2009 at Mennen Arena in Morristown. This competition is held annually to crown champions in six developmental and eight competitive levels. This competition is the first qualifying level for the teams on the competitive level to eventually progress to the World Synchronized Skating Championships in Zagreb, Croatia in April 2009.

Supporting the Synchronized Skating Teams through Sponsorships:

Synchronized Skating Sectional Championships are sponsored by local skating clubs. The skating club members volunteer to work at these competitions. Financially, the competitions are totally self-supporting. The local skating clubs receive no financial seed money or other monetary compensation from US Figure Skating to offset the costs of ice rental, travel for judges, hotels for judges, and/or any other items involved with running a competition of this magnitude.

This year the financial cost to run the *2009 Eastern Sectional Synchronized Skating Championships* will be over \$220,000. To help finance the costs of the competition, the Skating Club of Morris is asking businesses and services, such as yours, to help us by being a sponsor for this competition. Attached are the levels of sponsorship available for you. We sincerely hope you will be able to help support these athletes.

We look forward to working with you as one of our sponsors. If you have any questions or concerns please contact:

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