

November 10, 2013



Letter to all skaters and their families who were unable to register for the 2013 Holiday Season Competition

For the first time in recent memory, the club had to close entries before the published entry deadline. Because this is an unusual occurrence, we want to explain some of the factors that led us to make this very difficult decision. We understand that you may be disappointed if you could not register this year, and we hope that you will join us next year.

There are two main constraints that prevent the club from expanding the competition. The first constraint is that we applied for and received a competition sanction from US Figure Skating for a one-day event. It should also be noted that the US Figure Skating officials who committed several months ago to work this competition did so with the understanding that it was a one-day competition (as did the parents and coaches who signed up to compete). The second constraint is the lack of additional ice time on Saturday. Lengthening the competition on Saturday is not possible because the ice after 6pm has been reserved for a university event and is not available.

Knowing that our ice time was fixed, the referee had previously calculated that no more than 200 starts could be accommodated with the available ice time. When the starts exceeded 200 early Thursday morning (after receiving a spurt of 65 new starts on Tuesday and Wednesday), the decision was made to close registration. Unfortunately, there is no accurate way to predict how many starts will be received (and when they will be received) - it can differ dramatically from year to year.

The competition announcement states that entries may be limited based on date received in the event entries exceed available ice time, and as a result, no preference can be given to home club members under any circumstances. Please understand that if the online registration had been kept open until Friday's published deadline, those skaters registering after Thursday morning would still be unable to compete simply because we don't have the time. Keeping registration open beyond our capacity also creates additional administrative work for the registrar in following up with all of the "registered too late" skaters and their coaches.

It was not an easy decision to make. There are lessons learned for everyone. As a club, we have learned that we should notify all potential competitors (both home club and out-of-club, out of fairness to all competitors) as soon as possible via the registration website if it even seems that the competition might reach capacity. As competitors, skaters and their families have learned that they risk being shut out of a competition if they delay registering until the last few days.

We have 109 skaters currently registered (with approximately 200 starts), so the competition is going to be a busy one. It will be a challenge to keep everything running smoothly, but we have great volunteers who will make it happen, and simply put, this competition would not exist at all without our volunteers.