



## **LSA YOUTH SYNCHRONIZED SKATING TEAM CONTRACT: 2011-2012**

Skating on a competitive synchronized skating team requires you to make a personal commitment to the team and its members, as well as your individual skating. A team can only function as a unit with all of its members working together to achieve success. One person's lack of commitment can hinder that unit. Synchronized skating can be very rewarding, as you will meet new people and travel to different cities. You will have an opportunity to share your love for the sport with your teammates and that can be an amazing experience. However, this success will not come without dedication, hard work, self-discipline, and perseverance. The commitment that you have in bettering your individual skating, the dedication you have to your teammates and coaches, and the work you put into practices will set you on the road to success. We welcome you to the LSA synchronized skating program and wish you a year full of successful opportunities and learning experiences.

### **I. ELIGIBILITY**

- All skaters must be eligible members of U.S. Figure Skating (i.e. Full Members).
- All skaters must be members in good standing of Louisville Skating Academy.
- All skaters must participate in try-outs (unless pre-approved absence) to be held May 12, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. at Iceland.
- Beginner Team skaters must be under age 11 as of July 1, 2010. No test is required. Open-Juvenile Team skaters must be under age 17 as of July 1, 2011 and must have passed at least the Pre-Juvenile Moves in the Field test.
- All skaters must take private lessons from a coach of his or her choice who is a member in good standing of U.S. Figure Skating and the Professional Skaters Association (PSA). Additional weekly practice requirements for each team are outlined within the "LSA Synchronized Skating Try-out Application" for youth team skaters.

### **II. PRACTICE**

**PRACTICE ICE:** All skaters are expected to be on time for all scheduled practice. Practice will begin in June and are scheduled for Wednesdays at 12:00 p.m. during the summer session (see summer training schedule). Regular weekly practice during the school year is tentatively scheduled on Thursday evenings for the open juvenile team and Saturday mornings at different times for the open juvenile and beginner teams.

Prior to special events, additional practices may be added. Please be to the rink at least 15 minutes before scheduled practice time.

**BEHAVIOR:** Progress can be made only in a cooperative and respectful practice environment. There will be no socializing on the ice and no derogatory comments to teammates/coaches during practice sessions. Those that engage in these behaviors will be asked to leave the ice for the rest of the practice session. Skaters will be expected to listen to coaches, be attentive to directions and be ready to move quickly into their positions. Those that are not attending to directions may be asked to leave the ice.

**ATTENDANCE:** Attendance at all practices is imperative for the success of this team. Skaters are expected to attend all scheduled practices. Skaters that miss the last home scheduled practice before a competition may be placed as an alternate for that competition.

**ATTIRE:** For every practice, skaters are required to wear specific practice attire as designated by the team coaching staff and as described herein. **SKATERS MAY NOT WEAR JEWELRY FOR PRACTICE OR COMPETITION AND MAY NOT WEAR COLORED NAIL POLISH FOR COMPETITION.**

### III. TEAM ROSTER AND ALTERNATE STATUS

Team rosters will be posted on the LSA website, [www.skatelouisville.org](http://www.skatelouisville.org), shortly after try-outs. The number of skaters on each team and participating in each event will be determined by the coaching staff. The maximum number of skaters allowed in certain competition events is determined by USFS.

If the criteria listed below are not met by a skater with any of the teams, such skater may be placed on alternate status for purposes of an upcoming event.

- 1) **Attendance** - All scheduled practices are mandatory. Attendance will be taken into consideration in selection of alternates.
- 2) **Skating skill** - Members are required to keep up with their skills and strive for excellence with their own individual skills.
- 3) **Knowledge of program** - Skaters are required to review the steps and program on their OWN time. The team will be able to grow faster and maintain momentum throughout the season.
- 4) **Attitude and behavior** - Skaters are asked to give respect to their teammates, as well as their coaches during ALL practices and competitions. Moreover, skaters are asked to pay attention to instruction and maintain a positive attitude, as well as follow all rules as set by the coaches throughout ALL practices and competitions.

### IV. COMPETITIONS and OTHER EVENTS

The coaches will determine the competitions and events for each season. A tentative schedule is listed below. This schedule may change at the discretion of the coaching staff. It is very important to understand that this team is part of a synchronized skating program that involves several teams and many competitive individual skaters. The coaches will make competition decisions based on the best interest of the entire program. By signing this contract, you are agreeing to participate in all of the team events.

- Dr. Richard Porter Synchronized Classic (Ann Arbor, MI): December 2 - 5, 2011
- Mid-American Championships (Fraser, MI): January 13-15, 2012
- USFS Midwestern Sectional Championships (Plymouth, MI) January 26-28, 2012  
(Open Juvenile only)
- LSA Synchronized Sensation /Skate-a-Palooza (Show at Iceland) -February 25, 2012

### V. BEHAVIOR AND APPEARANCE AT EVENTS

Skaters are required to be at ALL scheduled competitions. This includes all off-ice practice, on-ice practices, team lunches and dinners, and the competition itself.

Skaters are required to wear their Louisville Skating Academy warm up jacket while at the arena during competitions. Skaters are also asked to look neat in appearance.

Skaters are asked to cheer on all other LSA teams performing in a competition when no other scheduling conflict exists. The support of our teams is crucial to team spirit and motivation and we ask that you do the best you can to make it to the arena to cheer on others from LSA.

Skaters are asked to display good sportsmanship at ALL times. Synchronized skating is about teamwork and cooperation. Be encouraging to fellow competitors and support all who are in attendance.

Official team chaperones will stay with the competitors during all competitions. Skaters may be required to sit with the team, even if their parents attend. The team will need to be focused on the event.

It will be the team manager's job to enforce all off-ice rules at the competition and to communicate any violations to the coaches.

## **VI. TRAVEL**

Skaters on the teams will be required to travel. Team members and parents/guardians will be required to sign a travel and medical release form.

Hotel and transportation arrangements will be made by the team manager and the coaching staff. Arrangements may involve the team traveling together with only chaperones. Parents are encouraged to attend events but may be asked to travel, sleep and eat separately. In addition, skaters may be asked to sit as a team separate from parents at the events.

When traveling overnight, skaters will be required to follow a bedtime curfew and other team travel rules. The coaches and team managers will set and enforce these rules.

## **VII. COSTUMES, PRACTICE ATTIRE AND EQUIPMENT**

Skaters are required to have their own skates and maintain them regularly, including sharpening the blades.

Competition outfits for the season will be purchased by the team and are included in the annual fee. The coaches and team costume committee will be responsible for competition outfits. The coaching staff will have final approval regarding costumes.

Girl team members will be required to purchase certain tights. Skaters will be notified as to the style and manufacturer and will be required to purchase a pair which will be kept by the team managers. Team managers will notify skaters when a replacement pair is required.

Practice attire must be purchased separately. Skaters will be required to purchase team practice attire which will be outlined at the start of the season. *All synchronized skaters are required to purchase the official LSA warm up suit.*

Hair and make-up will be decided by the coaches and overseen by the team manager. Skaters will be required to have their hair and make up done by assigned volunteers for all competitions.

### **III. FUNDRAISING**

LSA engages in fundraising events throughout the year including shows, competitions, sponsor drives and much more. Synchronized skaters must support these events as the funds are used to subsidize the synchronized skating program.

In addition, participants in the synchronized skating program may be asked to participate in specific fundraising activities if the need arises.

### **IX. FEES**

The fees to participate in the LSA youth synchronized program for the 2011-2012 season which runs from June 2011 through February 2012 are listed below. Such fees are due from each skater who attends try-outs and is assigned to a team roster. For those skates assigned to a team, \$100 of the "try-out fee" will be allocated toward the first payment. Fees are non-refundable.

Team fees include practice ice time, coaching fees, competition entry fees, music editing, costumes, USFS team registration, certain travel and hotel expenses for the team members and miscellaneous supplies. Fees do not include practice attire, LSA warm up suits or competition tights. LSA may assess individual team members additional hotel and travel expenses but will make its best effort to keep these costs to a minimum.

Beginner Team: \$940 payable in four installments of \$235 each, payable on or before the 15<sup>th</sup> day of June, August, October and December.

Open-Juvenile Team: \$1,600 payable in four installments of \$400 each, payable on or before the 15<sup>th</sup> day of June, August, October, and December.

### **X. DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES**

A skater may be terminated immediately from the team for theft, lying, unsportsmanlike behavior, or any other behavior deemed by the coaches to be a detriment to the team. Upon immediate termination, the coach will conduct a meeting with the skater, parent and team manager to explain the circumstances relating to such termination.

A skater can receive written warnings for violation of any section of this contract. It will be the coaches' responsibility to enforce this contract. It will be the team manager's responsibility to communicate any violations to the coaches. Further, upon final decision by the coaches, the skater may face the possibility of termination from the team for repeated violations. The following procedure will be implemented when warning or terminating a skater from the team.

- A. 1<sup>st</sup> *Offense* - Skater will be given a written warning to be signed by skater and parent/ guardian and returned to the coach.
- B. 2<sup>nd</sup> *Offense* - Skater will receive second written warning during a coach/skater/parent/team manager conference.
- C. 3<sup>rd</sup> *Offense* - Termination from team

**XI. AGREEMENT and WAIVER**

**LSA YOUTH SYNCHRONIZED SKATING TEAM CONTRACT: 2011-2012**

I have read and understand the above conditions and agree to abide by the rules of the LSA youth synchronized skating program. I agree to pay the amounts due on or before each due date as outlined in this contract. I understand that skating privileges (access to ice sessions & permission to test or compete) will be suspended until amounts due are paid.

**Waiver**

I am aware that the sport of ice skating and related off-ice training and conditioning poses dangers and risks of injury. I also understand that my or my child's participation in this sport and in LSA skating and off-ice training and conditioning sessions, which may include skaters of varying experience, skills and abilities, places me or my child at greater risk of injury than choosing not to participate. I understand that I or my child, or others skaters on the ice, may need to practice skills where speed, power, and difficult, dangerous jumps, spins, spirals and moves are required. I understand that there will be times when skaters are skating backwards, spinning or practicing other maneuvers where it may not be possible to see clearly and stop their maneuver in time to prevent a collision with a skater who has crossed his or her path. I agree that I or my child have a responsibility to maintain a lookout for and to avoid a collision with skaters in such maneuvers. I understand that the coaches on the ice are not employees or agents of Louisville Skating Academy ("LSA") and that a coach cannot guarantee my or my child's safety. I am solely responsible for assessing, at all times, whether the conditions of the practice ice session, off-ice training session, the arena and ice surface are safe or suitable to my or my child's experience, skills, and abilities, and for exiting the session or arena and choosing not to participate if I deem conditions unsuitable.

In consideration for my participation in LSA activities, I hereby release LSA and their officers, directors, members, volunteers, contractors and employees as well as independent contractor coaches ("Released Parties") from all claims, demands, losses and damages, and from any liability resulting from any injury incurred while participating in any LSA activities and programs whether or not caused by the negligence or other fault of the Released Parties. In the event I am or my child is injured or incapacitated while participating in these activities or programs, I hereby give LSA permission to seek necessary medical assistance for me or my child. I agree that my provision to LSA of emergency contact phone numbers of persons who can be contacted on my behalf in the event of an emergency is voluntary and is merely for my convenience and in no way obligates LSA to keep such information up-to-date. I acknowledge that LSA substantially relies on volunteers, including other members and parents of skaters, to help oversee many of LSA's activities and I agree that LSA's attempt to gather emergency contact information does not impose liability on LSA related to any act or omission in the event of an emergency of any kind. I agree that the responsibility to assure my or my child's safety remains with me at all times.

I AGREE THAT I HAVE READ THIS WAIVER AND RELEASE, HAVE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO ASK ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT IT THAT I MAY HAVE AND THAT MY SIGNATURE BELOW INDICATES MY AGREEMENT TO ALL OF ITS TERMS.

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Parent/Guardian

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Date

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Skater

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Date