

Alpena Figure Skating Club



**Member Handbook
2011 – 2012**

WELCOME!

Welcome to the Alpena Figure Skating Club (AFSC). This handbook outlines basic AFSC procedures and expectations. Our governing body, USFS, will be mailing you their own regulation booklet after registration. The AFSC will be hosting a mandatory "Right to Know" parent meeting on September 29th to address any questions on the information contained within this booklet. Or, as always, feel free to contact your board members or any committee chair as listed in the pages that follow.

Thanks to member participation, our club continues to grow and change. The club provides each member with assistance in achieving their skating goals. In that process, the club continues to encourage the instruction, practice and advancement of the members in: basic skills, moves, dance, freestyle and the thrill of performing!

SEASON SCHEDULE

The 2011-2012 season runs 21 weeks beginning Monday, October 3, 2011. Our season will conclude with this year's ice show, *Bedtime Stories* on March 16 and 17, 2012. Please see the attached calendar for details and holiday schedules. All skating classes are offered on Mondays and Thursdays.

SNOW DAYS - *We still skate when the schools close.* The only time we do not skate is if Northern Lights Arena closes. Also, listen to the local radio stations for cancellations.

NOTES FROM THE TREASURER

Our skating season is divided into three sessions. Any of the three sessions may be skated. To participate in the ice show, you must skate in Session 1 or 2 and Session 3. Session 3 is entirely show practices. All skaters are required to skate BOTH Mondays and Thursdays through Session 3. The cost of each session must be paid prior to beginning the next session. All fees must be completely paid in full prior to skating in the show. If a skater has outstanding fees, they will not be allowed to skate in the ice show.

Please make note of this important payment change and budget yourselves accordingly. Payments can now be made at the 'check-in' table on the 1st & 3rd Monday and 2nd Thursday of each month, directly to Shannon Datema, Treasurer. Payments can also be mailed directly to her at:

Shannon Datema
c/o AFSC
3146 US23 S
Alpena, MI 49707

There are pre-addressed envelopes available each night at the 'check-in' table as well.

FINANCIAL AID

Financial aid forms can be obtained from the Board. Financial aid is decided by the Executive Board and is confidential. Please note you will be required to pay for the costumes and USFS dues and recipients may be asked to volunteer when help is needed.

AFSC FUNDRAISING

In an effort to keep your skating costs low, the club does conduct fundraisers throughout the year. It is imperative that we act together to combat continued rising costs and expenses. Specific information for each fundraiser can be found below or in the Club Calendar.

The fundraisers you can look forward to for the 2011/2012 season are including, but not limited to:

AFSC Spiritwear - ongoing - contact: Kim Modrzejewski

Beach Body - ongoing - contact: Kerrie Schaedig

Rada Cutlery - October 17th - November 14th - contact: Anisa Johnston

Butterbraids - January 16th - February 2nd - contact: Tammy Stone

Family Bowling Night - TBD

OPEN INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARENTS

There is always a variety of "things to do" for parents of the Club. We often are looking for extra hands on a multitude of different jobs. Please peruse the information listed below and Jump In at any time.

Board Meetings - First TUESDAY of the month - everyone welcome!!

Fundraising: Tammy Stone, Chair

Practice Ice: Tracker Needed!

Show Jobs: your help is crucial and will be invited specifically in January.

Show Music: Stacy Gerhart, Chair

Show Costumes: Chair TBD

Grant Writing - Contact Kim Modrzejewski

CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS and CALENDAR

Alpena Figure Skating Club communication is handled mostly through the e-mail you provided at registration. If you do not have e-mail, you need to make arrangements with Paul Coleman, Corresponding Secretary, to receive phone calls regarding club announcements. If you have not received an initial "confirmation email" by October 6th, please contact Paul to verify your correct email address.

There is a table in the Lobby which holds the skaters "mailboxes". We ask that you check these at every practice for important paperwork and information. *We are now utilizing the Bulletin Board at the entrance of Rink 2 for vital communication as well. Be sure to check it often!!*

A Club Calendar of this year's skating schedule will be available on the club web site www.alpenafigureskatingclub.org, and posted in our NEW communication board by the entrance of Rink #2 as well as attached here. Any changes in the schedule will be posted on the web site, sent out via email, and of course posted both at the table and on the Bulletin Board. Last minute changes beyond our control, such as cancellation of lessons, will be communicated through a PHONE TREE, as well as posted on our website.

If your phone number or e-mail address changes throughout the season, it is your responsibility to notify Paul Coleman, our Corresponding Secretary. *Your board is making painstaking effort to "cover all bases" in ways of getting you vital information. Please help us by doing your part. Check your mailboxes at the rink, your email, the web and Check our Bulletin Board often!!*

ON THE ICE

- Skaters are asked to arrive at the rink 15 minutes early to be ready to be on the ice at the beginning of the session.
- Skaters will be on the ice only during their scheduled class. Avoid business at the concession stand, bathrooms, etc., during class time. We want skaters utilizing their ice time.
- Attendance will be taken before each lesson. We would like to know if missed lessons are due to illness, lack of interest, or a problem with the club. Please call a board member.
- No gum, candy, or food of any kind is allowed on the ice.
- Keep the ice safe - pick up anything that is dropped.
- Tuck laces inside skates to prevent falls caused by loose laces catching on the other skate.
- NO abusive language, foul language, rough housing, temper tantrums, or tardiness will be tolerated.
- Skaters should be dressed for comfort and warmth, especially the younger ones. PLEASE wear gloves. It is hard to skate well with your hands up your sleeves. Jeans are prohibited as it is difficult to move on the ice as needed.
- Bobby pins or pointed hair accessories are prohibited.

TESTING FOR ADVANCEMENT

AFSC uses the USFS Basic Skills Program criteria for instruction and testing. Accomplishment of these requirements is determined through testing procedures as facilitated by our professional coaches. Initially, returning skaters will be placed in the last skill level attained in the previous year's testing. This season, skaters will be "tested" during the week of October 3rd, 2011; December 8th, 2011; and January 23th, 2012.

Test results will be in your skater's mailbox the week following their evaluation. Should you wish to speak with either of the coaches regarding placement, please make arrangements through our Coach Liaison.

EQUIPMENT

SKATES - Skates may be purchased at a variety of sports stores or rented at NLA. Please check out our classified section on our website for used skates. We recommend that you DO NOT buy poor quality or plastic boot skates. These boots do not have enough support and the blades are not a good quality metal. **Proper skates and fit make the difference in the ability of the skater.** If in doubt, please meet with the owner of the skate shop, Rene, at the arena.

DRYING TOWEL - A good absorbent towel should be kept right in the skate bag so it is always available. Wet blades rust very quickly.

SKATE GUARDS - Skate guards are an absolute necessity. Blades need to be protected with skate guards when walking on surfaces other than ice. Please do not walk on cement or carpeting in the arena without skate guards as this dulls the blades and you'll need to have them sharpened again. It also damages the carpet. Do not store the skates with the guards on. Use soakers when storing.

SOAKERS - Soakers are recommended for skate blades when skates are being stored to prevent rusting and pitting. After drying the blade, put the soakers on until the next time skates are worn. This helps absorb any remaining moisture and protects the blade.

TIGHTS - The coaches recommend form-fitting attire on the ice (not jeans) for ease of movement, safety and proper evaluation. The most popular brand of tights are made available to you at wholesale prices which are available at the check-in table.

DISCIPLINE

All skaters and their parents are required to read and sign the Code of Conduct prior to beginning instruction. For minor or early occurrences of infraction to the Code, parents will be notified if an Instructor, Board Member, or Facility Operator has disciplined their skater.

A discipline slip will be sent home to the parent. You (the parent/guardian) will be required to sign the slip and to present it to the instructor and/or Executive Board Member at the next skating session, before the skater will be allowed back on the ice. For more serious or multiple occurrences, the skater may be suspended from participation in Club activities until a decision is made by a Code of Conduct Committee. Any damage of property done to the Northern Lights Arena will be subject to repair costs by the person or persons causing the damage and four hours of community service as required under the Northern Lights Arena Code of Conduct.

PRACTICE/PRIVATE ICE

Practice/Private ice is available to **ALL** skaters. **Prepaid** practice/private ice is **\$8 per 50 minutes** and is scheduled on Mondays and Thursdays from 7 - 7:50 p.m. Practice/private ice that is not prepaid is \$15 per 50 minutes. Prepaid means the skater has registered for the practice/private ice at the beginning of any 7-week session. AFSC has elected to not cover any part of the practice ice fees this year therefore, participants will be required to fundraise any additional funds necessary to cover the ice fees for that hour.

PRIVATE LESSONS

Private lessons can be taken during the practice ice times as well. Skaters desiring lessons can contact one of the AFSC Board approved instructors for lesson times and fees. The list of private instructors is posted on our bulletin board located at the entrance of Rink 2.

ANNUAL ICE SHOW

AFSC performs an ice show at the end of our skate season. Participation by the skaters is voluntary. Each skater will perform in the skill level group achieved in December even though they may achieve a higher skill level at a later date in the season. With so much show information needed to be disseminated to our membership, we have created a separate Annual Ice Show Handbook which will be distributed at a **MANDATORY** parent meeting January 16th, 2012.

THE ELROY DOWNING AWARD

Every year the Elroy Downing Award is presented to one (or more) skater(s) selected by the AFSC Board who possesses the following qualities **throughout the season**:

1. The skater must be devoted and dedicated to the sport.
2. The skater must show sincere effort to achieve excellence in the sport.
3. The skater must reflect a positive and healthy attitude.

Please note, anyone may nominate a skater for the award, not just instructors and board members. If you feel someone is deserving of this award, watch the bulletin board for dates that the nomination should be made and make your nomination. This award is announced during the Ice Show. The skater receives a plaque and has their name added to the trophy that is in the showcase at NLA.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Dawn Skerski, President 464-6910
dskerski@alpenafigureskatingclub.org

Stacy Gerhart, Vice President 379-2774
sgerhart@alpenafigureskatingclub.org

Shannon Datema, Treasurer 356-9641
sdatema@alpenafigureskatingclub.org

Paul Coleman, Corresponding Secretary 464-1276
pcoleman@alpenafigureskatingclub.org

Tammy Stone, Recording Secretary 356-8910
tstone@alpenafigureskatingclub.org

Amy Gagnon, 657-6842
agagnon@alpenafigureskatingclub.org

Marie Grochowski, 356-4389
mgrochowski@alpenafigureskatingclub.org

Anisa Johnston, 255-0743
Ajohnston@alpenafigureskatingclub.org

Laura Ledesma, 358-9289
lledesma@alpenafigureskatingclub.org

Kim Modrzejewski, 379-2942
kmodrzejewski@alpenafigureskatingclub.org

Karrie Schaedig, 356-3198
kschaedig@alpenafigureskatingclub.org

Debra Smith
dsmith@alpenafigureskatingclub.org

Tammy Weier, 340-0511
tweier@alpenafigureskatingclub.org

Cece Bullen, 350-2919
cbullen@alpenafigureskatingclub.org

SANCTIONS AND TESTING REGISTRAR:

Cece Bullen - Sanctions and Test Chairperson, Membership Chair for USFS Basic Skills, PSA Associate, Professional Member of USFS Sports Medicine Society.

Phone: 989-350-2919

Amy Gagnon - Sanctions and Test Co-Chair

PROFESSIONAL COACHING STAFF:

Teri Dziubinski

MaryEllen Hansford

ADULT VOLUNTEER INSTRUCTORS:

Stacy Dawson

Staci LeBlanc

STUDENT ASSISTANTS:

Several students volunteer their time to help the Basic Skills groups. They must have reached at least Freestyle 5 and be 12 years of age or older to help. Skaters who are interested in this should sign up on registration night with the President or Coach Liaison.