



Excusing Absences for United States Figure Skating Test Sessions and Competitions

- The purpose of this proposal is to request excused absences for Watertown Figure State Club (WFSC) student athletes who participate in United States Figure Skating (USFS) test session activities and competitions for advanced level skaters.
- Just as traditional school sports allow excused absences for junior varsity and varsity athletes, WFSC grants the same recognition to any advanced skater in 7th grade or above, who has passed a formal USFS pre-preliminary skating skills and singles OR passed the preliminary level dance test set.
- Advanced team student athletes are encouraged to work toward achieving WFSC lettering by participating in three public events during the season and completing 70 or more hours on WFSC ice.
- All advanced team student athletes must maintain good standing in conjunction with the Watertown School District's policy for athletic participation, in terms of academics and substance use.
- U.S. Figure Skating athletes have the option to continue up the ladder to towards National or International events, and students in this school district participate in U.S. Figure Skating sanctioned events. Participation in skating activities will result in absence during events and travel to and from such activities, the same as other sports currently recognized by the school district.

For such absences to be excused, parents and athletes must comply with the following:

- **Advance Notification:**
A WFSC Executive Board Member must provide advance notice of the scheduled test session activities or competitions to excuse the absence.
- **Maintaining Academic Standing:**
Students will be responsible for making up any missed assignments or tests within a reasonable time frame.
- **Parental or Guardian Approval:**
Approval from a parent or guardian is required for each absence related to figure skating test sessions, professional training development activities, or competitions. Parents/guardians reserve the right to withdraw the student from participation in events, at their discretion.
- **Verification of Participation:**
Verification of participation in the event must be submitted upon return, such as a letter from a coach, event schedule, or official competition results, if requested by the school district.

By excusing absences for USFS test sessions and competitions for our advance level skaters, the school will promote a balanced and supportive environment for student athletes, encouraging both academic excellence and extracurricular achievement, in equitable fashion for figure skating as compared to other approved athletic sports recognized by the school district. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Watertown Figure Skating Club