



U.S. FIGURE SKATING STYLE GUIDELINES



U.S. FIGURE SKATING STYLE GUIDE

This style guide is specifically intended for writing purposes to create consistency throughout the organization to better streamline the message U.S. Figure Skating conveys to the public.

U.S. Figure Skating's websites and its contributing writers should use this guide in order to adhere to the organization's writing style. Not all skating terms/events are listed here. We adhere to Associated Press style (exceptions are noted).

If you have questions about a particular style, please contact Kara Raney (kraney@usfigureskating.org).

THE TOP 11

Here are the top 11 most common style references.

U.S. Figure Skating

Abbreviate United States with periods and no space between the letters. The legal name of the organization is the U.S. Figure Skating Association, but in text it should always be referred to as U.S. Figure Skating. USFSA and USFS are not acceptable.

U.S. Figure Skating Championships, U.S. Synchronized Skating Championships, U.S. Collegiate Figure Skating Championships, U.S. Adult Figure Skating Championships

These events are commonly referred to as "nationals," "synchro nationals," "collegiate nationals" and "adult nationals," but the official names of the events are the U.S. Figure Skating Championships (second reference: U.S. Championships), the U.S. Synchronized Skating Championships (second reference: U.S. Synchronized Championships), the U.S. Collegiate Figure Skating Championships (second reference: U.S. Collegiate Championships) and the U.S. Adult Figure Skating Championships (second reference: U.S. Adult Championships).

one space after periods

"...better than it was before," Chen said. "I enjoy skating so much more now."

lowercase certain skating terms

The following words should not be capitalized: gold, silver, bronze, medal, medalist, champion, short program, free skate, men's, ladies, pairs, dance, senior, junior, novice, intermediate, juvenile, moves in the field, freestyle, preliminary, solo, free dance, international, masters, adult. (See individual entries for more information.)

said

When attributing a quotation, the person's last name comes first followed by the word "said" ("Yes," Terry said.) as this is a subject/verb construction. (You wouldn't say "said I" but "I said.") Use the word said, and not says, states, stated, exclaimed, described, etc., to be consistent. (Exceptions can be made in feature stories.)

early quote attribution

Mention who is speaking early in a long quotation, usually after the first sentence or phrase. Do not wait until three sentences into the quote to introduce who is speaking. ("Coming back has been better than it was before," Brown said. "I enjoy skating so much more now.")

free skate

Free skate is two words and is lowercase. Free skate is to be used rather than "long program." We use free skate, not free skating, when referring to the program.

numbers

Spell out numbers zero through nine; use figures for 10 and above. Ordinals: spell out first through ninth, and starting with 10th use numerals. Use numerals when the number modifies a unit of measure, money, proportions, dimensions, speed or percentages (3 years old, 5 inches, \$4, 9 mph, 3 percent). Spell out distances and units of time unless it involves a fraction (four miles, eight years, 3 1/4 hours, 4 1/2-minute free skate). This is our own style, an exception to AP style.

capitalization

Please see entry for detailed information on when to use capital letters and when to use lowercase. Always capitalize Axel, Biellmann, Lutz and Salchow as they are people's names.

email, website and online

We spell email (not hyphenated), website (lowercase, one word) and online (one word, no hyphen). (We previously used e-mail, but have made the transition to the nonhyphenated version.)

international judging system

It is not called "code of points," "new judging system" or "ISU judging system." Use "international judging system" on first reference. "IJS" is appropriate for internal audiences who will understand the acronym.

A

abbreviations and acronyms

Use abbreviations sparingly. When in doubt, spell it out. These abbreviations may be used in moderation (notice no periods are used): AM, FM (radio), USA (and other well-known acronyms), PR (public relations), TV (television) and ZIP (zip code). Necessary abbreviations: A.D., B.C., a.m., p.m., fax, OK (not okay), PC (no periods, no spaces), Ph.D. (we prefer bachelor's degree and master's degree to B.A., M.S., etc.), St. (for saint; spell out when referring to person who was a saint; St. Louis was named for Saint Louis), U.S. and vs. There should be no spaces between initials in a name (T.S. Eliot). See individual entries for an organization or program's appropriate abbreviation or acronym. See state names for state abbreviations. Abbreviate "avenue," "boulevard" and "street" in numbered addresses.

Academic Scholarship Program

Second reference: ASP.

addresses

In complete addresses, use the postal abbreviations for states (Denver, CO, not Denver, Colorado). Always include a ZIP code with a complete address. Abbreviate "Avenue" (Ave.), "Boulevard" (Blvd.) and "Street" (St.) in complete addresses. Spell them out when used with only a street name. Abbreviate North, South, East and West in complete addresses (with periods, N., S., etc.). Use numerals for numbered streets, unless the number is less than 10 (56 N. 10th St., 20 First St.)

adjectives

See the "hyphen" entry for guidelines on handling compound modifiers used before a noun. See the "comma" entry for guidelines on punctuating a series of adjectives.

adult

Adult should not be capitalized when referring to an adult skater, adult competition category (masters open, championship adult gold, adult bronze) or adult-level test (She passed her adult pre-silver dance test.).

Adult International Competition

See "ISU Adult International Competition" entry.

Adult Nationals

See "U.S. Adult Figure Skating Championships" entry.

adverbs

See the "hyphen" entry for guidelines on constructing a compound modifier with an adverb.

African-American**ages**

Always use numerals (14, not fourteen). Ages expressed using the word "year" will always have hyphens (A 14-year-old boy; the event is for 14-year-olds). When the word "years" is used, no hyphens are needed. (He is 14 years old.) An age used after a name should be set off by commas. (Emily, 13, skates on the novice level.) Use numerals (5) for ages.

a.m., p.m.

Lowercase, with periods, and have a space between the time and a.m. or p.m. (10 a.m.) "The event is from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m." or "The event is from 7-9 a.m."

and/ampersand (&)

The word "and" is preferred to the ampersand due to AP style, unless it is part of a company's official name (World Figure Skating Museum & Hall of Fame) or space is a concern. When referring to pairs and dance teams, use and between the names (Cain and LeDuc), not a slash or an ampersand (not Hubbell/Donhue, Chock & Bates). There are reasonable exceptions to this rule.

Annual Congress on Sports Medicine and Sports Sciences of Figure Skating

This is the official name of the event. Second reference: Annual Sports Medicine and Science Congress. When referring to it as "the congress," "congress" should be lowercase.

apostrophes

Do not use an apostrophe to pluralize numerals. (The scores were mostly 5.6s for presentation. She is in her 30s.) Do not use an apostrophe to pluralize words as words. (His speech had too many "ifs," "ands" and "buts." This is an exception to the dictionary.) DO use an apostrophe for omitted figures (the early '90s), but not to make it plural (not 90's). DO use a reverse apostrophe when abbreviating dates (80s, not '80s). DO use an apostrophe to make single letters plural. (He learned the three R's and brought home A's on his report card.) A basic rule: always use "'s" if the word does not end in the letter s (there are, however, many exceptions to this rule). When referring to men's, ladies or pairs results, these words are part of descriptive phrases. If you can turn the phrase around and insert "for" between the words, it's a descriptive phrase and does not need the apostrophe or "'s": ladies results (results for ladies) pairs short program (short program for pairs). You have to use an "'s" with "men's" because the plural form of man (men) does not end in "s". If you can turn the phrase around and insert "of" or "belonging to" between the words, it does need an apostrophe: skaters' costumes (costumes of or belonging to the skaters).

at-large**attribution**

See "last names" entry.

Axel

The name of this jump is always capitalized because it is named after Axel Paulsen. Single, double or triple preceding Axel is not capitalized.

B

backward

Not "backwards"

Biellmann

Spin name is capitalized because it is named after Denise Biellmann.

Board of Directors

Capitalize Board of Directors but not officers or "the board."

boys

Male competitors at the juvenile level and below are referred to as boys.

books

Use italics for the names of books, magazines, newspapers, movies, paintings, drawings, statues, pamphlets and long musical compositions, such as operas (this is an exception to AP style).

bronze

Do not capitalize the word bronze in reference to a medal or as an adult skating level category.

bylaw

C

camel spin**capitalization**

Avoid unnecessary capitals. Use a capital letter only if you can justify it by one of the principles listed here. If there is no relevant listing in the style guide for a particular word or phrase, consult the dictionary. Avoid words in all caps to show emphasis. An alternative is using italics.

proper nouns (unique identification for a specific person, place or thing): Timothy, Kwan, America, Saint Paul, Olympics.

proper names (when common nouns are an integral part of the full name for a person, place or thing): Colorado River, West Virginia, First Street. Lowercase these common nouns when they stand alone in subsequent *references*: the river, the street. Lowercase the common noun elements of names in all plural uses: First and Second streets, Colorado and Mississippi rivers.

popular names: Capitalize some places and events that lack officially designated proper names but have popular names that are the effective equivalent (North Dallas, Deep Ellum).

derivatives (words that are derived from a proper noun and still depend on it for their meaning): American, Christian, English, Shakespearean. Lowercase words that are derived from a proper noun but no longer depend on it for their meaning: french fries.

sentences: Capitalize the first word in a sentence.

compositions: Capitalize the principal words in the names of books, movies, plays, poems, operas, songs, radio and television programs, works of art, etc.

titles: Capitalize formal titles when used immediately before a name. Lowercase formal titles when used alone or in constructions that set them off from a name by commas. Use lowercase at all times for terms that are job descriptions rather than former titles (Troy Schwindt, director, publications or Director, Publications Troy Schwindt; U.S. Figure Skating President Samuel Auxier or Samuel Auxier, U.S. Figure Skating president).

abbreviations: Capital letters apply in some cases: USA, STAR, etc.

miscellaneous:

- Capitalize names of directions when they designate a region, but lowercase when they indicate compass direction. See the “directions and regions” entry. Capitalize the word “Region” or “Section” when referring to a U.S. Figure Skating region/section (South Atlantic Region).
- Do not capitalize or italicize “a” or “the” in the front of the name of an organization, newspaper or magazine, unless it is part of the title (The New York Times, the Saturday Evening Post).
- Capitalize racial distinctions in the formal sense (Native American, Asian) but lowercase for less formal references (black, white).
- In headlines and titles, capitalize the first letter of each word, excluding articles and prepositions.
- Capitalize trademark terms such as Kleenex, Coke, Xerox. We don’t require the registration sign following the trademarked terms. Use generic terms where possible: facial tissue, soft drink, photocopy.

Challenge Cup

Formerly known as the International Challenge Cup.

Challenger Series

See ISU Challenger Series.

champion

Do not capitalize (U.S. champion Nathan Chen).

championship titles

When referring to medalists at the U.S. Championships, refer to them in the following ways: U.S. champion, U.S. junior silver medalist, etc. The word “senior” is not necessary when referring to a championship-level champion; however, the words “junior,” “novice,” “intermediate” and “juvenile” are necessary to clarify those levels. (Note: Beginning in 2019-20,

there will no longer be novice, intermediate or juvenile champions)

Do not use the word “national” in the title (incorrect: U.S. national champion Jason Brown). It’s not necessary to use the words “men’s” or “ladies,” as it should be obvious by the name of the person. However, it is important to use ice dancing or pairs, as it distinguishes between the two disciplines. For example, Alexa Scimeca and Chris Knierim are the 2015 U.S. pairs champions. Use this reference instead of saying Scimeca and Knierim are the 2015 national senior pairs gold medalists (or champions).

Examples:

U.S. junior champion Gabriella Izzo

(not: National junior ladies gold medalist Alysa Liu)

2019 U.S. champion Nathan Chen

(not: 2019 National championship men’s gold medalist Nathan Chen)

U.S. ice dance champions Madison Hubbell and Zachary Donohue

(not: National senior dance gold medalists Madison Hubbell and Zachary Donohue)

U.S. junior silver medalist Dinh Tran

(not: National junior men’s silver medalist Dinh Tran)

Champs Camp

Official name is U.S. Figure Skating Champs Camp. Second reference: Champs Camp.

Charitybuzz

One word.

Charlotte

Capitalize “Charlotte” because it is a person’s name. A Charlotte is a move in which a skater skates backward on the ice and extends one leg straight up and bends down, dragging his or her hand on the ice.

choctaw

Lowercase.

coach, captain

Do not capitalize coach or captain (coach Vicki Korn, co-captain Dacia Crum) as they are job descriptions, not titles. When referring to a specific team’s captain or coach, use the team name as an adjective rather than a possessive — without an apostrophe (Haydenettes coach Saga Krantz, not Crystals’ coach Shannon Peterson).

Collegiate Championship Award Program**colon**

Capitalize the first letter of a statement following a colon only if that statement makes a complete sentence. (She completed three double jumps: the toe, the loop and the Salchow.) Colons that fall at the bottom of a page should be edited to be a period. (It looks bad to have a colon leading the reader’s eye to something that isn’t delivered until the next page.)

combination jumps

Hyphenate combination jumps to connect the jump names (triple Lutz-double toe, triple loop-half loop-double toe).

Combined Report of Action**commas**

- Do not put a comma before the conjunction in a simple series (red, white and blue). Put a comma before the concluding conjunction in a series, however, if it would be confusing without it, or if there is a complex series of phrases. (I had orange juice, toast, and ham and eggs. The main points to consider are whether the athletes are skillful enough to compete, whether they have the stamina to endure the training, and whether they have the proper mental attitude.)
- Use a comma if the subject of each clause is expressly stated. (We visited Greensboro, and we attended the U.S. Championships.) But no comma when the subject of the two clauses is the same and is not repeated in the second. (We are visiting Omaha and plan to see the U.S. Championships.)
- A nonessential clause must be set off by commas.

- An essential clause must not be set off from the rest of a sentence by commas. Essential clauses cannot be eliminated without changing the meaning of the sentence. Nonessential clauses can be eliminated without altering the basic meaning of the sentence. (Essential: Skaters who placed first in their level were invited to the exhibition. Nonessential: Susie, who turned 15 last week, was excited about her gold medal.)
- Use commas to separate a series of adjectives equal in rank. If you can insert the word “and” between the adjectives, use a comma. (The soft, mysterious music.)
- Do not use a comma when the last adjective outranks its predecessors because it is an integral element of a noun phrase, which is the equivalent of a single noun (a cheap fur coat).
- Use a comma to introduce a complete one-sentence quotation within a paragraph. Do not use a comma at the start of an indirect or partial quote.
- Use commas to offset the names of states and nations used with city names. (He’s from Colorado Springs, Colorado, and traveled to Barcelona, Spain.)
- When a phrase refers to a month, day and year, set off the year with commas. (Jan. 1, 2004, came quickly.)
- Commas always go inside quotation marks.

Committees

Capitalize names of U.S. Figure Skating committees including the word “Committee” (Sports Sciences and Medicine Committee).

Competitive Skaters Assistance Program

Second reference: CSAP.

competitive test track

Lowercase. Second reference: test track.

composition titles

Use italics for books, magazines, newspapers, movies, paintings, drawings, statues, pamphlets and long musical compositions, such as operas (this is an exception to AP style). Do not, however, italicize “SKATING magazine,” but do use all caps for the official name: SKATING.

Put quotation marks around TV program titles, CD titles, songs, radio programs and poems (“Malaguena,” “The West Wing”).

Do not use quotation marks or italics for books that are catalogs of reference (Encyclopedia Britannica). Capitalize the principal words in titles, including prepositions and conjunctions of four or more letters. Capitalize an article (the, a, an) or words of fewer than four letters if it is the first or last word in a title.

compound modifiers

When a compound modifier — two or more words that express a single concept — precedes a noun, use hyphens to link all the words in the compound except the adverb *very* and all adverbs that end in *-ly* (a junior-level skater, a better-qualified skater, her off-ice training program, a well-known man, a full-time job, an easily remembered rule). Don’t hyphenate these words if they’re not part of a compound adjective (She skates on the junior level. He works full time.) But when a modifier that would be hyphenated before a noun occurs instead of the noun “to be,” the hyphen is retained to avoid confusion. (The man is well-known. The children are soft-spoken).

counterclockwise

crossover(s)

One word, lowercase — can be a noun or an adjective.

D

dance

Lowercase references to dance, rhythm dance, free dance, ice dancing or ice dance. (Chock and Bates placed first in the rhythm dance.) “Ice dancing” or “ice dance” are both appropriate on first reference.

dances

Lowercase the names of dances if they are generic references and not a specific name of a dance (waltz, polka, blues, march). These typically describe the rhythm of the dance. Capitalize the name of the dance if it’s a specific name (Westminster Waltz, Tango Romantica, Midnight Blues, Quickstep).

dateline

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colorado (June 25, 2019) -

dash

The em dash (—; shift + alt + hyphen) is used 1) to denote an abrupt change in thought in a sentence or an emphatic pause (Weiss ended up sixth — his top placement since finishing third at the 2000 World Championships.), 2) to set off the full phrase when a phrase that otherwise would be set off by commas contains a series of words that must be separated by commas (He listed qualities — intelligence, humor, independence — that he liked in an executive.) and 3) before an author’s name at the end of a story if there’s no byline at the beginning (— Troy Schwindt). Put a space on both sides of a dash in all uses. The em dash is often overused. Don’t send a dash to do a comma’s work!

dates

Always use numerals, without st, nd, rd or th (July 4, not July 4th). Use AP abbreviations for months. No comma when listing the month and year alone. See “months” and “years” for further examples.

days of the week

Capitalize days of the week. Do not abbreviate.

department

Capitalize the names of U.S. Figure Skating departments, including the word “Department” (Membership Development Department). If the word department is not used, don’t capitalize the other words. (Susi Wehrli, senior director, membership, was at the meeting.)

death spiral

directions and regions

In general, lowercase north, south, northeast, northern, etc., when they indicate compass direction. Capitalize these words when they designate regions. (He drove west. A storm developed in the Midwest and moved toward the East Coast. She has a Southern accent. He represents the North Atlantic Region.) Capitalize the word “Region” or “Section” if referring to a U.S. Figure Skating region/section by name (Eastern Section). Capitalize compass points when used in denoting widely known sections (Southern California).

director

Capitalize “director” when it acts as part of a title (Director of Publications Troy Schwindt). Do not capitalize it when the person’s name comes first and the title follows as a descriptive phrase (Troy Schwindt, director, publications). The same rule applies for all titles including chair, president and team leader.

E

Eastern Adult Sectional Figure Skating Championships

This is the appropriate first reference. Second reference: Eastern Adult Sectional. Eastern Adults is not appropriate (unless it's in a direct quote).

Eastern Synchronized Skating Sectional Championships

This is the appropriate first reference. Second reference: Eastern Synchronized Sectional. Eastern Synchros is not appropriate (unless it's in a direct quote).

eligible

See "Olympic eligible."

ellipses

Avoid ellipses if possible. They're not necessary in every place where part of a quote is omitted. Avoid deletions that would distort the meaning. An ellipsis may be used to indicate a space on either side of the periods. If the ellipsis follows a complete sentence, place a period at the end of the sentence before the ellipsis and follow it with a regular space and an ellipsis. ("I didn't think it was hard. ... I didn't think it was challenging.") When material is deleted at the end of one paragraph and at the beginning of the one that follows, place an ellipsis in both locations. Do not use ellipses at the beginning and end of direct quotes. ("It was exciting to turn around and see a standing ovation," Ellis said. Not "... it was exciting to turn around and see a standing ovation ...," Ellis said.) Use ellipses for an omission at the beginning or in the middle of a quoted sentence. Avoid using them at the end of a sentence.

email**e-newsletter****envelope**

First reference: U.S. Team Envelope (capitalized). Generic references to team envelope should be lowercased.

Excel Series and Festival**ex officio****European Figure Skating Championships**

First reference: ISU European Figure Skating Championships 20XX. Second reference: European Championships. Europeans is acceptable but not preferred. Euros is not used.

F

figure test

Not figures test.

flip**footwork****forward**

Not "forwards"

Four Continents Figure Skating Championships

The appropriate first reference is the ISU Four Continents Figure Skating Championships 20XX. Second reference: Four Continents Championships. Third reference: Four Continents.

fractions

Spell out amounts less than one in stories, using hyphens between words (two-thirds, four-fifths, seven-sixteenths). Use numerals for precise amounts larger than one (3 1/2, not three and a half; four years, but 4 1/2 years).

free skate

Free skate is two words, lowercased. Free skate is to be used rather than the previous name "long program" (unless in a quote). Do not abbreviate as "FS." Note: The ISU calls it free skating, but for us it's the "free skate," even when used as an adjective.

free dance**freestyle**

We do not use this as a replacement for free skate.

Friends of Figure Skating

A fan-based membership. Should be referred to in this way, making sure to include the "s" on "Friends." (Become a Friends of Figure Skating member or be a "Friend," capitalized.) Should never be abbreviated "FOFS."

fundraising/fundraiser

One word.

G

girls

Female competitors at the juvenile level and below are referred to as girls.

gold

Do not capitalize gold when referring to a gold medal or gold test.

Governing Council

Capitalize Governing Council but not "meeting" when referring to U.S. Figure Skating's annual Governing Council meeting. Capitalize all first letters when referring to it as "2018 Governing Council Annual Meeting."

Graduating Seniors Program**Grand Prix Series**

See "ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series."

grade of execution

Lowercase. Plural is grades of execution. Appropriate references: grade of execution; GOE; grades of execution; GOEs.

grass roots, grass-roots

Two words when used as a noun (from the grass roots to the elite level) and as a compound word (with hyphen) as an adjective (developing the sport from the grass-roots level to the national level).

Group

Capitalize when referring to the level of a lift (Group 4 lift).

H

hand-in-hand

Use dashes in both noun and adjective uses.

headquarters**homepage****home-school, home-schooled****hyphen**

Use hyphens to form a single idea from two or more words. See the “compound modifier” entry for how to hyphenate two or more words that express a single concept. Look up specific words in the dictionary that have prefixes or suffixes to know whether they are hyphenated or not.

A suspensive hyphenation is used in this form: He received a 10- to-20-year sentence in prison.

Unless the word formed could be misunderstood or is hard to read in solid form, all words formed with these prefixes are spelled without hyphens: pre, intra, sub, re, pseudo, post, extra, super, un, supra, over, infa, pro, non, co, under, ultra, aut, semi

Example: Nonqualifying competition

- Be careful when joining prefixes to words. Don't do it if it creates a new, different or strange word (re-create, pre-existing, re-cover).
- Spell words ending in “writer” solid (no hyphens): speechwriter, newswriter, scriptwriter, ghostwriter.

I

ice dance**icenetwork**

The official name of the defunct website (note the lowercase “i” at the beginning.) It should be referred to as “icenetwork” and not “icenet-work.com.” It is appropriate to capitalize “icenetwork” in headlines, at the beginning of sentences, etc. The website ceased operation on July 1, 2018 and was replaced by the U.S. Figure Skating Fan Zone, NBCSports.com/figure-skating and the Figure Skating Pass on NBC Sports Gold.

individual member

Lowercase. References an individual membership.

in-season

Hyphenated as a noun or adjective. This refers to a skater's competitive skating season, usually from fall to spring.

interclub

Lowercase, not hyphenated.

intermediate

Lowercase when referring to a level or an event category.

international

Lowercase (an international event, international assignments). The exception is if international is part of a proper name.

International Skating Union

This is the official name of the organization. It is acceptable to use ISU (no periods) on all references including the first.

Internet

Always capitalize.

international judging system

Second reference: IJS. This system is NOT called code of points.

ISU Adult International Competition

Appropriate second reference: Adult International Competition.

ISU Challenger Series

Appropriate second references: Challenger Series.

ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series

Appropriate second references: Junior Grand Prix Series, Junior Grand Prix, JGP. Not ISU Junior Grand Prix Series.

ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final

Appropriate second references: Junior Grand Prix Final, JGP Final.

ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final

Appropriate second references: Grand Prix Final.

ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series

Appropriate second reference: Grand Prix Series. It is not necessary for the word “senior” to precede Grand Prix Series. Not ISU Grand Prix Series.

it

A team is a singular item and should be referred to as “it.” (Miami University captured its fourth silver medal.) But with a plural name, such as the Haydenettes or the Hockettes, can be referred to as “their.” (The Haydenettes won their 23rd U.S. title.)

italics

Italicize letters representing letters and words representing words (Mind your p's and q's. Upon is often unnecessary; on will do.

- The plural portion of an italicized word is left in roman. (*The News-weeks I read seem balanced.*)
- Italicize thoughts attributed to thinkers. (*I'm too lazy to turn over, he thought sleepily.*)
- Italicize foreign words and phrases only if they are so uncommon that they are not in an American dictionary.
- Punctuation following italics is only italicized if it is part of the italicized phrase. (He thought, *What should I do? Have you read Gone With the Wind?* (Question mark not italicized))

it's, its

It's is a contraction for “it is” or “it has.” (It's been a long time.) Its is the possessive form of the pronoun. (The company lost its assets.)

J

Joyce Komperda Athlete Support Fund

Second reference: Joyce Komperda Fund.

judge

Lowercase unless it's part of a title for a court judge. (Jane Jones, the U.S. judge, gave the skater a +1 GOE. As a world judge, she has presided over numerous competitions.)

judge-in-charge**jumps**

The names of jumps are lowercased except for Axel, Salchow and Lutz — these are capitalized because they are people's names. See "combination jumps" for how to hyphenate these jumps.

junior

Lowercase when referring to a level or an event category (a junior-level skater, the junior men's event). Appropriate references for the junior-level event include: junior (lowercase) U.S. Championships or U.S. Championships on the junior level/in the junior division. (She won the gold medal in the junior ladies event at the U.S. Championships. They won the junior ice dancing title. I attended the U.S. Championships on the junior level and saw rising stars.) See "novice" for referring to novice-level event at the U.S. Championships. Capitalized when referring to an event such as the World Junior Championships. (World Junior champions Hawayek and Baker.)

Junior Grand Prix Final

First reference is prefaced by ISU. Appropriate second reference: JGP Final.

Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series

First reference is prefaced by ISU. Appropriate second references: Junior Grand Prix Series, JGP Series.

juvenile

Lowercase juvenile when referring to a level or an event category. (They competed in the juvenile pairs event.) On the juvenile level, refer to "girls" and "boys" rather than "ladies" and "men." Pre-juvenile is lowercased and is hyphenated.

K

kiss and cry

(Do not use "&" sign)

L

ladies

Lowercase. (Gracie Gold won the ladies free skate.) When referring to ladies results, "ladies" is part of a descriptive phrase. If you can turn the phrase around and insert for between the words, it's a descriptive phrase and does not need the apostrophe or "'s": ladies results (results for ladies), ladies short program (short program for ladies). If you can turn the phrase around and insert "of" or "belonging to" between the words, it does need an apostrophe: ladies' costumes (costumes of or belonging to the ladies).

last names

State a person's full name on first reference, then use only his/her last name. (Taylor Dean is the assistant editor. Dean enjoys the job.) Exception: If one or more people with the same last name are equally mentioned in the story (e.g., brother and sister pairs team), use their first names after stating their full names. (While fellow skater Richard Gillam rushed to help Steve, Danielle was left to think the worst.) If the story is primarily about one sibling and another sibling is mentioned only briefly, use the last name to refer to the primary subject and the first name of the other. (Bell claimed the junior silver medal, while Morgan placed 18th in the senior ladies event.)

layback**Learn to Skate USA****levels**

Lowercase references to the word level or levels of skating. (She is a novice-level skater. He skates on the intermediate level.) Capitalize "Level" when referring to levels of difficulty in the international judging system, and use numerals for the numbers associated, i.e. Level 1, Level 2, Level 3, Level 4. Do not hyphenate the level of difficulty in the IJS if it is modifying a specific element, i.e. Level 4 step sequence.

LOC

This stands for local organizing committee. It is lowercase when spelled out but capitalized when abbreviated.

long time, longtime, long term, long-term

(They have been pairs partners for a long time. She was a longtime U.S. Figure Skating judge and referee. Long term, he'd like to pursue coaching. He described his long-term goals.)

loop**Lutz**

This jump is named for its inventor Alois Lutz and is therefore capitalized in all cases.

M

masters**master's degree**

Preferred reference. Avoid MBA if possible.

medalist(s)

We spell this with one "l" (ignore spell checks that suggest two "l"s).

media, media guide

In the sense of mass communication, the word is plural. (The news media are resisting attempts to limit their freedom.) We lowercase references to the U.S. Figure Skating media guide.

Members Only site

Secure website (www.usfsaonline.org) for U.S. Figure Skating members. Always capitalized, no hyphen between "Members" and "Only."

Memorial Fund

Capitalize.

men, men's

Male competitors at the intermediate through senior levels are referred to as men. You have to use an "'s" with men's because the plural form of man (men) doesn't end in "s." (Start the men's short program. We watched the men skate. I like the men's costumes.)

Michelle Kwan Trophy

The trophy skaters receive when they win the SKATING Magazine Readers' Choice Skater of the Year Award.

mohawk

Lowercase.

Midwestern Adult Sectional Figure Skating Championships

This is the appropriate first reference. Second reference: Midwestern Adult Sectional. Do not refer to as Midwestern Adults (unless it's in a direct quote).

Midwestern/Pacific Coast Synchronized Skating Sectional Championships

This is the appropriate first reference. Second reference: Midwestern/Pacific Coast Synchronized Sectional. Do not refer to as Midwestern/Pacific Coast Synchros (unless it's in a direct quote).

months

Capitalize the names of months in all uses. When a month is used with a specific date, abbreviate Jan., Feb., Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov. and Dec. (Jan. 3 was the coldest day of the month. His birthday is April 12.) Spell out when using alone or with only a year (October 2014). When using only a month and a year, do not separate the year with commas. When referring to a month, day and year, set off the year with commas. (On Feb. 25, 2003, we reached our goal.)

more than

See "over, more than" entry.

moves in the field

Lowercase. Hyphenate if used as an adjective. (They practiced moves in the field and stroking. She passed her senior moves-in-the-field test.)

movies

Italicize the names of movies (and books, newspapers, magazines). This is an exception to AP style. (She skated to music from *Pirates of the Caribbean*.)

museum

Lowercase at all times unless part of World Figure Skating Museum & Hall of Fame.

music

Capitalize and put in quotation marks names of songs, CDs and descriptive titles for orchestral works ("The Feeling Begins" by Peter Ga-

briel, Bach's "Suite No. 1 for Orchestra," "Rhapsody in Blue"). Italicize long musical compositions, such as operas, plays, musicals, etc., that the songs may be from ("All that Jazz" from *Chicago*, a medley from *Ragtime*). In subsequent references, lowercase symphony, concerto, etc.

N

names

See "last names" entry.

national championships

When referring to other countries' national championships, there is no need to use the word "National" in the name. They should be called "2008 French Championships," "2008 Japanese Championships," etc. Referring to these events as "French Nationals" or "Japanese Nationals" is not acceptable.

National Collegiate Championships

This should not be used. This is the former name of the U.S. Collegiate Championships.

National High Performance Development Team

The team is composed of the top four juvenile, intermediate and novice singles skaters per section and top nine juvenile, intermediate and novice pairs and ice dance teams from their respective U.S. Finals.

National High Performance Development Camp

This is the first activity for the National High Performance Development Team that takes place just after the U.S. Figure Skating Championships.

National Showcase

Only appropriate reference. Showcase alone is not capitalized.

National Skating Month

Do not refer to this as NSM in stories (spell out), but it's OK to abbreviate on forms and in certain web instances. Celebrated in January.

National Solo Dance Final**National Qualifying Series**

The National Qualifying Series is a group of competitions that meet an established standard and are held across the country between June 1 and Sept. 15. Singles, pairs and ice dance athletes compete in a self-determined number of these competitions with only their highest total score from a single competition counting toward the overall National Qualifying Series rankings. At the conclusion of the National Qualifying Series, the top six ranked singles athletes per level, per section, earn a bye to their designated Sectional Singles Final; while the top three ranked pairs and ice dance teams in the country per level earn a bye to the U.S. Pairs Final and U.S. Dance Final, respectively. Never use the abbreviation NQS.

nationals

The appropriate term is the U.S. Figure Skating Championships (second reference: U.S. Championships). It's OK to use nationals only in a quote, but do not capitalize it. See "U.S. Championships" entry.

National Get Up Day

U.S. Figure Skating founded National Get Up Day in 2017 to provide a platform to celebrate Get Up stories in communities around the country and to urge others to Get Up. The Registrar at National Day Calendar® declared National Get Up Day to be celebrated annually on Feb. 1.

NBC Sports**NBC Sports Network****NGB**

Capitalize this as an abbreviation for national governing body. Do not capitalize national governing body when spelled out.

no hold block

nonprofit

One word, no hyphen.

nonqualifying

One word, no hyphen.

novice

Lowercase (They won the novice title this year.). The novice-level event at the U.S. Championships should not be referred to as the U.S. Novice Championships. Appropriate references for the novice-level event include: novice (lowercase) U.S. Championships or U.S. Championships on the novice level/in the novice division. (She won the gold in the novice ladies event at the U.S. Championships. They won the novice ice dancing title at the U.S. Championships.)

numbers/numerals

Spell out numbers zero through nine; use numerals for 10 and above. Ordinals: Spell out first through ninth — starting with 10th, use figures. Spell out a numeral if it begins a sentence; recast the sentence if necessary. One exception — if the numeral identifies a calendar year. (Thirty-six skaters were entered in the event. 1994 was a good year.)

- *Exception:* Use numerals when the number modifies a unit of measure, money, proportions, dimensions, speed or percentages (5 inches, \$4, 8 1/2 x 11 sheet of paper, 70 mph, 3 percent, page 47).
- Spell out distances and units of time unless it involves a fraction (four miles, two years, 3 1/4 hours, 4 1/2-minute free skate). This is an exception to AP style.
- For millions and higher, use numerals and spell out the word (6 million, 25 billion), except for casual references (I'd like to make a billion dollars).
- When writing numbered rankings, it should be written No. 1 or No. 13, not #1 or number 13.
- Use 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc., when referring to figure tests (6th figure test).

O

offseason

No hyphen. This refers to the time between competitive figure skating seasons (typically the summer).

OK

Olympic eligible

Used to define skaters or competitions that meet the requirements and follow the rules of U.S. Figure Skating and/or the ISU. "Olympic eligible" is used instead of the word amateur. Use Olympic eligible as two words if by itself, but hyphenate it if it's used as a compound modifier. (She will remain Olympic eligible. They are Olympic-eligible athletes.)

Olympic Winter Games

The full name is the Olympic Winter Games LOCATION YEAR.(Olympic Winter Games PyeongChang 2018). Appropriate second references: Olympic Winter Games, Olympic Games. Inappropriate: Winter Olympic Games, Winter Olympics, PyeongChang Olympics, PyeongChang Games, etc.

Olympic and Paralympic Training Center

Second reference: OPTC.

Olympic Village

Opening Ceremony, Closing Ceremony

Capitalize when referring to ceremony at the Olympic Games or events. Never Opening Ceremonies.

over, more than

Over refers to spatial relationships. (The plane flew over the city.) More than is used with numerals and amounts. (Their salaries went up more than \$20 a week. More than 250 people attended the event.)

overrotate, underrotate

P

Pacific Coast Adult Sectional Figure Skating Championships

This is the appropriate first reference. Second reference: Pacific Coast Adult Sectional. Do not refer to as Pacific Coast Adults (unless it's in a direct quote).

pairs

We use this as plural (She is a pairs skater vs. She is a pair skater). When referring to a pairs team, list the lady's name first followed by the man's. Use the word "and" between the names (Alexa Scimecca-Knierim and Chris Knierim).

parentheses

In general, avoid parentheses by using commas or dashes unless absolutely necessary. Within quotations, use parentheses to clarify what someone is referring to that might be confusing otherwise. ("I had a hard time (at the U.S. Championships) because of my injury.") If adding words that were implied by the speaker, put it in brackets ("After my performance, I was happy to have [skated cleanly]). Items in parentheses can be taken out and the quote will still make sense; what's in brackets can't be taken out without distorting the sentence.

part time, part-time

Hyphenate when used as a compound modifier. (She works part time. She has a part-time job.)

percentages

Use the word percent (not the symbol %) in text. Use figures for percentages (5 percent). Repeat percent with each individual figure. (He said 10 percent to 30 percent of the people may not vote.)

Ph.D.

Pilates

Pilates is always capitalized because it's named after Joseph Pilates.

p.m./a.m.

powerstroking

pre-gold, pre-silver, pre-bronze

Lowercase and hyphenate (exceptions to AP style).

prefixes

See separate listings for commonly used prefixes. Generally, do not hyphenate when using a prefix with a word starting with a consonant. Three rules are constant, although they yield some exceptions to first-listed spellings in Webster's: 1) Except for "cooperate" and "coordinate," use a hyphen if the prefix ends in a vowel and the word that follows begins with the same vowel. 2) use a hyphen if the word that follows is capitalized. 3) Use a hyphen to join doubled prefixes (pre-preliminary).

preliminary, pre-preliminary, pre-juvenile

Lowercase. Hyphenate the words with an additional "pre" at the beginning of the level (exception to AP style).

premier/premiere

Premier means first in status or importance; principal or chief. Premiere is a first public performance.

preseason

Professional Skaters Association

Second reference: PSA.

program components**punctuation/quotation marks**

The period and the comma always go within the quotation marks. The dash, the semicolon, the question mark and the exclamation point go within the quotation marks when they apply to the quoted matter only. They go outside when they apply to the whole sentence (He asked, “How long will it take?” But: Who sings “All You Need Is Love”? outside quotation marks). Do not use a comma or period after an exclamation point (“Yikes!” she said. Not “Yikes!”, she said.)

Q**quotation marks**

See the “punctuation/quotation marks” entry.

Use single quotation marks only around quoted material already within quotes. (Jane said, “This was a year of ‘hurry up’ and ‘settle down,’ but next year we will start fresh.”)

quotes

When attributing a quotation, it should be a subject/verb construction, putting the person’s last name first followed by the verb — “Schwindt said” (subject/verb) not “said Schwindt” (verb/subject). However, if there is a description about the person following their name, put “said” first, followed by their name and the description. (“Evy and Mary helped instill the drive for me to do this,” said Lind, who also works with Anne Militano. “This is a perfect stepping stone for athletes,” said Jeff DiGregorio, co-coach of ladies champion Kelsey Drewel. “I like figure skating,” said U.S. champion Jason Brown. Not U.S. champion Jason Brown said.) Also, the majority of the time we use “said” after a quotation, versus exclaimed, described, etc. See “said” entry.

R**re-elect, re-election****Readers’ Choice Skater of the Year Award**

The official name of this award is SKATING magazine Readers’ Choice Skater of the Year Award. Second reference: Readers’ Choice Award. The recipient receives the Michelle Kwan Trophy.

regard

The proper construction is “with regard to,” not “in regard to.” No “s” is required at the end of “regard.” “Regards” is a salutation.

regionals

Refers to qualifying season that was last used during the 2018-19 season. Always lowercase. (After regionals, we took a break. After the South Atlantic Regional, we took a break.) Here are the correct names (first reference) of all of the former regional events:

- New England Regional Figure Skating Championships
- North Atlantic Regional Figure Skating Championships
- South Atlantic Regional Figure Skating Championships
- Eastern Great Lakes Regional Figure Skating Championships
- Upper Great Lakes Regional Figure Skating Championships
- Southwestern Regional Figure Skating Championships
- Northwest Pacific Regional Figure Skating Championships
- Central Pacific Regional Figure Skating Championships
- Southwest Pacific Regional Figure Skating Championships

regions

See the “directions and regions” entry.

Regional Singles Challenge

The first event of the U.S. Qualifying Season, these are open-entry competitions that take place in all nine regions. Competitors advance out of these based on placement. On second reference, they can be referred to as **Singles Challenge** or when referring to a specific event, (e.g.) **New England Singles Challenge**. Medalists from these events are referred to as (e.g.) **New England Singles Challenge** senior gold medalist.

- South Atlantic Regional Singles Challenge
- Eastern Great Lakes Regional Singles Challenge
- Northwest Pacific Regional Singles Challenge
- Southwestern Regional Singles Challenge
- Southwest Pacific Regional Singles Challenge
- New England Regional Singles Challenge
- North Atlantic Regional Singles Challenge
- Upper Great Lakes Regional Singles Challenge
- Central Pacific Regional Regional Singles Challenge

RISE

The name of a documentary film project about the 1961 U.S. World Team. All references: ***RISE*** (bold and italic)

road

Do not abbreviate in addresses.

rock ‘n’ roll**Ron and Gayle Hershberger Award**

Awarded annually to the top performing junior skater at U.S. Championships, rotating disciplines.

Ron and Gayle Hershberger Fund for Athlete Support

Second reference: Ron and Gayle Hershberger Fund.

Rostelecom Cup

Also known as Cup of Russia. Use Rostelecom Cup in all written uses. Cup of Russia is appropriate in direct quotes.

Rulebook

Capitalize U.S. Figure Skating Rulebook. Lowercase rulebook.

run-through**S****said**

When attributing a quotation, the person’s last name comes first followed by the word “said” (“Yes,” Ellis said.) as this is a subject/verb construction (you wouldn’t say “said I” but “I said”). We use the word said and not says, states, stated, exclaimed, described, etc., to be consistent. (There are exceptions in feature stories.) “Said” comes before the name, if there is an identifier following the name (“Use the website,” said Ellis, who has been the web content coordinator for nearly two years.)

Salchow

This jump is named for its inventor Ulrich Salchow and is therefore capitalized in all cases. Do not abbreviate (Sal or Sow).

Scholastic Honors Team

See “U.S. Figure Skating Scholastic Honors Team” entry.

season (figure skating)

Refer to the figure skating competition year as the season (July 1–June 30, corresponding to the membership year). This is the 2019–20 season. It encompasses the end of 2019 and the beginning of 2020. Include the entire year on the first side of the en dash and the last two numerals of the second year on the other side.

seasons

Lowercase spring, summer, fall, winter and derivatives (such as springtime) unless part of a formal name (Olympic Winter Games, Troy Summer Skate competition).

sectionals

Refers to qualifying season that was last used during the 2018-19 season. This is lowercased unless combined with the name of a specific section, then it's capitalized. (After sectionals, we took a break. After the Eastern Sectional, we took a break.) Here are the correct names (first reference) of all of the sectional events (including adult and synchronized):

- Eastern Sectional Figure Skating Championships
- Midwestern Sectional Figure Skating Championships
- Pacific Coast Sectional Figure Skating Championships
- Eastern Adult Sectional Figure Skating Championships
- Midwestern Adult Sectional Figure Skating Championships
- Pacific Coast Adult Sectional Figure Skating Championships
- Eastern Synchronized Skating Sectional Championships
- Midwestern/Pacific Coast Synchronized Skating Sectional Championships (held concurrently)

Sectional Ice Dance Challenge

The first event of the U.S. Qualifying Season for ice dancers, these are open-entry events that take place in each of the three sections. The events are held in conjunction with the Regional Singles Challenges and rotate among the regional events in their respective sections. Competitors advance out of these based on placement. On second reference, they can be referred to as **Ice Dance Challenge** or when referring to a specific event, (e.g.) **Eastern Pairs Challenge**. Medalists from these events are referred to as (e.g.) **Eastern Ice Dance Challenge** junior gold medalist.

- Eastern Sectional Ice Dance Challenge
- Midwestern Sectional Ice Dance Challenge
- Pacific Coast Ice Dance Challenge

Sectional Pairs Challenge

The first event of the U.S. Qualifying Season for pairs skaters, these are open-entry events that take place in each of the three sections. The locations rotate among the nine regional events. Competitors advance out of these based on placement. On second reference, they can be referred to as **Pairs Challenge** or when referring to a specific event, (e.g.) **Eastern Pairs Challenge**. Medalists from these events are referred to as (e.g.) **Eastern Pairs Challenge** senior gold medalist.

- Eastern Sectional Pairs Challenge
- Midwestern Sectional Pairs Challenge
- Pacific Coast Pairs Challenge

Sectional Singles Final

The second event of the U.S. Qualifying Series for singles skaters. Based on placement, skaters advance from this event to either the U.S. Figure Skating Championships or the National High Performance Development Team, depending on level, minimum technical qualifying score and placement.

- Eastern Sectional Singles Final
- Midwestern Sectional Singles Final
- Pacific Coast Sectional Singles Final

semicolon

Use semicolons to separate elements of a series when individual segments contain material that also must be set off by commas. (He leaves a son, John Smith of Chicago; two daughters, Jane Smith of Wichita, Kansas, and Mary Smith of Denver; and a sister, Martha.) Note that the semicolon is used before the final "and" in such a series. Use a semicolon when a coordinating conjunction such as "and," "but" or "for" is not present. (The package was due last week; it arrived today.)

senior B

First reference. Also may be referred to as senior B international. Second reference: senior B.

short program**side by side, side-by-side**

(They spun side by side. Their side-by-side spins were perfect.)

silver

Do not capitalize silver when referring to a silver medal or silver test.

Skate America

Never use the word "the" before it. When the event has a title sponsor, first reference is always 20XX (Sponsor Name) Skate America. Second reference: 20XX Skate America, Skate America

SkateFest**SKATING magazine**

Capitalize the entire word when referring to SKATING magazine.

SKATING Magazine Archive

Second reference: the Archive. Note: This is an exception to our style.

SKATING Magazine Readers' Choice Skater of the Year Award Michelle Kwan Trophy

This is the official name of the annual fan award SKATING gives out. Second reference: Readers' Choice Award.

Skating Spectacular

This is the exhibition of champions at the conclusion of Skate America and the U.S. Championships. If Smucker's continues its sponsorship, first reference is Smucker's Skating Spectacular.

Snowplow Sam

Official mascot of U.S. Figure Skating. It is acceptable on second reference to call him Snowplow but using full name is preferred.

Social Media

Facebook (facebook.com/usfigureskating)

Instagram (instagram.com/usfigureskating)

Pinterest (pinterest.com/usfigureskating)

Twitter (twitter.com/USFigureSkating) @USFigureSkating

YouTube (youtube.com/usfigureskating)

spaces

Use one space after all punctuation, on either side of an em dash and on either side of an ellipsis. There is no instance in text when there will be two spaces (or more) in a row.

Special Olympics**speed skating**

Two words (AP style) unless referring to US Speedskating.

Sports Medicine and Science National Network

The Sports Medicine and Science National Network is a directory of sports medicine and science specialists who have experience working with figure skaters and other competitive athletes. It is acceptable on second reference to call it the National Network.

sports sciences and medicine**spread eagle****S.T.A.R.S.**

S.T.A.R.S. stands for Standardized Testing of Athleticism to Recognize Skaters. The full name should be written out on first reference. Second reference: S.T.A.R.S.

S.T.A.R.S. Combine

A series of off-ice physical challenges that measure fitness in three key areas. All references: S.T.A.R.S. Combine. Please note, when used alone, combine should be lowercased.

Stars on Ice

Do not use SOI.

state names

State names are no longer abbreviated per Associated Press style (Colorado Springs, Colorado; Albany, New York). They are spelled out when they stand alone (She flew to Colorado from Texas). Use the postal abbreviations (CO, CA) only with a full address that includes a ZIP code. In text, place one comma between the city and the state and another comma after the state. (Cleveland, Ohio, hosted the event.) Do not abbreviate any of the Canadian provinces in text. (Use postal abbreviations for provinces in full addresses.)

straightline footook**student-athlete**

Hyphenate this term to show that it's one person fulfilling both roles.

Subcommittee

Capitalize names of U.S. Figure Skating subcommittees, including the word Subcommittee (Basic Skills Subcommittee).

synchro nationals

See "U.S. Synchronized Skating Championships" entry.

synchronized skating

Lowercased. Since synchronized team skating is redundant, the use of the word "team" has been phased out. Try to avoid the use of synchro, but it is acceptable in some instances.

T**take off, take-off**

(Remember your positioning as you take off. Bend the take-off leg.)

team leader

Capitalize this title if it's before someone's name, but not if it comes after their name. (U.S. Team Leader Tina Lundgren worked hard. Millier, U.S. team leader, said it was a good event.)

Team USA**teams**

Technically a team, such as the Haydenettes, is a singular item and should be referred to as "it," but this often doesn't sound correct. If the team name is plural (the Colonials), use "their." (The Hockettes won their first silver.) If the team name is singular (the Chicago Jazz), use "it." (Miami University continued its domination.) Alternatively, add the word "team" so "it" sounds correct. (The Fraser Eclipse team won its third competition of the year.)

When referring to the team's captain or coach, use the team name as an adjective rather than a possessive, without an apostrophe. (Hockettes coach Jane Jones, not Crystallettes' coach Shannon Peterson). Capitalize "team" when referring to the U.S., World, World Junior or Olympic Team. (Nathan Chen made the U.S. World Team.)

team envelope

This is a funding structure used by U.S. Figure Skating for its athletes and plays a part in international assignments awarded to skaters. Capitalize unless used in a generic way. (U.S. Figure Skating Team Envelopes; Team A Envelope athletes; the team envelope system; Information about the team envelopes is on the website.)

technical controller

Lowercase. This is an official in the international judging system who is part of a five-member technical panel.

technical elements technical notification**technical specialist**

Lowercased. This is an official in the international judging system who is part of a five-member technical panel. There is also an assistant technical specialist on the technical panel.

teenager**telephone and fax numbers**

The preferred format is: 719.635.5200.

tests

Lowercase all references to test levels (ISI freestyle test).

Theatre On Ice

Capitalized. Theatre is spelled this way, not theater (exception to AP style). TOI as an abbreviation is an acceptable second reference, although Theatre On Ice is preferred throughout.

three-turn**time**

Use numerals except for noon and midnight. Times should be listed as figures and with a.m. or p.m., lowercase with periods (4 p.m.).

titles

For job titles, capitalize them if it precedes the person's name (Creative Director Andrea Morrison) but lowercase when the title is after the name, usually offset by commas (Anne Cammett, U.S. Figure Skating president, spoke to the crowd.) See "composition titles" entry for book titles, songs, etc.

toe

Lowercase. (She completed a double toe.)

toward (not towards)**Trophée Eric Bompard**

Second reference: Trophée Bompard. This event was formerly called Trophée Lalique. This was an ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series event held in France each fall.

try out, tryout

Use two words as a verb; use one word as a noun or adjective. (Let's try out for the team. She said the tryouts were difficult.)

TV shows

Put the names of TV shows in quotations. (She was on "Today.")

twizzle(s)

Lowercase.

U**Underway**

As of 2013, the AP recognizes underway as one word. The project is underway. The naval maneuvers are underway. The season is underway.

Universal Sports Network**U.S. Adult Figure Skating Championships**

The appropriate first reference is U.S. Adult Figure Skating Championships. Second reference: U.S. Adult Championships. "Adult nationals" not appropriate unless it is used in a direct quote (lowercase it).

U.S. Collegiate Figure Skating Championships

This is the correct name for the National Collegiate Championships. We do not abbreviate this. Second reference: U.S. Collegiate Championships.

U.S. Figure Skating

The legal name of the organization is the U.S. Figure Skating Association, but in text it should always be referred to as U.S. Figure Skating. USFSA and USFS are not appropriate.

U.S. Figure Skating Championships

This event is commonly referred to as "nationals," but that is not the official name of the event. The appropriate first reference is 20XX U.S. Figure Skating Championships. If there is a title sponsor, the first reference is 20XX Sponsor U.S. Figure Skating Championships (first reference must include sponsor name AND the words "Figure Skating"). Second reference: U.S. Championships.

U.S. Figure Skating Community Development Grants

Formerly known as the Robert V. Hauff & John F. Dreeland Foundation Community Development Grants.

U.S. Figure Skating Dr. Scott Nadler Memorial Excellence in Sports Science and Medicine Award

Second reference: Dr. Scott Nadler Memorial Award. Third reference: Nadler Award.

U.S. Figure Skating Fantasy Skating

Second reference: Fantasy Skating.

U.S. Figure Skating Fan Zone

Fan Zone is always two words.

U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame

This is housed at the U.S. Figure Skating headquarters along with the World Figure Skating Museum & Hall of Fame.

U.S. Figure Skating headquarters

Second reference: headquarters

U.S. Pairs Final and U.S. Ice Dance Final

The second event of the U.S. Qualifying Series for pairs skaters and ice dancers. Based on placement, skaters advance from this event to either the U.S. Figure Skating Championships or the National High Performance Development Team, depending on level and minimum technical qualifying score.

U.S. Figure Skating National Pairs Camp

Capitalize when referred to as U.S. Figure Skating National Pairs Camp. Lowercase national pairs camp.

U.S. Figure Skating SafeSport Program

Second reference: SafeSport Program. Note: The USOPC Safesport program has a lower-case “p.”

U.S. Figure Skating Scholastic Honors Team

This is the appropriate first reference for the U.S. Figure Skating program for high school juniors and seniors who maintain a high GPA while competing on at least the novice level. Second reference: Scholastic Honors Team.

U.S. Intercollegiate Team Skating Championships

The four colleges with the most points in each collegiate conference are invited to compete at this event.

U.S. Junior Figure Skating Championships

This national event for intermediate and juvenile skaters was held separately from the U.S. Championships through the 2011-12 season. Beginning with the 2012-13 season, all five U.S. Figure Skating levels competed under the auspices of U.S. Championships. The event no longer exists and will no longer be referred to as a stand alone event. Second reference: U.S. Junior Championships. Inappropriate references are: Junior Nationals, JNs or JN. This is not to be confused with saying junior U.S. Championships (meaning the junior level of the U.S. Championships). See “junior” entry for how to refer to this.

U.S. Synchronized Skating Championships

Second reference: U.S. Synchronized Championships. Synchro Nationals is not acceptable.

U.S. Synchronized Skating Training Festival

Second reference: Synchronized Training Festival.

U.S. Qualifying Season

The U.S. Qualifying Season begins in October with Regional Singles Challenges, Sectional Pairs Challenges and Sectional Ice Dance Challenges. It continues in November with Sectional Singles Finals, U.S. Pairs Final and the U.S. Ice Dance Final, and ends in January with the U.S. Figure Skating Championships and the naming of the National High Performance Development Team. This series was updated prior to the 2019-20 season.

U.S. Qualifying Structure

The U.S. Qualifying Structure refers to both the National Qualifying Series and the U.S. Qualifying Season. The conclusion of the U.S. Qualifying Season is the U.S. Championships or being named to the National High Performance Development Team.

United States

To abbreviate: use U.S. (no space). U.S. can be used as both a noun or an adjective. Use periods to offset.

United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee

Second reference: USOPC.

United States Olympic and Paralympic Training Center

Second reference: USOPTC.

V

vice

Use two words, no hyphen (vice president, vice chair). Capitalize vice president only as a formal title before a name. (First Vice President Heather Nemier spoke to the crowd. Nemier, U.S. Figure Skating first vice president, spoke to the crowd.)

W

warm up, warm-up

Use two words as a verb but hyphenate them as a noun or adjective. (Let’s warm up. She didn’t have a good warm-up. I like my warm-up routine.)

Washington, D.C.

We use the AP style for Washington, D.C., and D.C. should have commas on either side of it (as shown here) if the sentence continues. Never use “Washington” when referring to the U.S. capital.

website

One word, lowercased. Capitalize “Web” when used alone (the Web) or as a modifier (Web page, Web feed).

weights

Use numerals. (The baby weighed 7 pounds, 9 ounces.)

who, whom

Use who and whom for references to human beings and animals with names. Use that and which for inanimate objects and animals without names. “Who” is the word when someone is the subject of a sentence, clause or phrase. (The woman who rented the room is gone. Who is there?) Use “whom” when someone is the object of a verb or preposition. (The woman to whom the room was rented is gone. Whom do you wish to see?)

workout, work out

(Her workout consists of yoga and Pilates. I’m going to work out.)

World Figure Skating Championships

First reference: ISU World Figure Skating Championships YEAR. Second reference: World Championships, Worlds (acceptable but not preferred). Not ISU World Championships.

World Figure Skating Museum & Hall of Fame

World

Capitalize the word “World” if referring to the World Championships, but not a reference to the world, meaning the earth. (He is a two-time World medalist.) Also, “world judge” should be lowercase as it does not only refer to the World Championships.

World Junior Figure Skating Championships

First reference: ISU World Junior Figure Skating Championships YEAR.
Second reference: World Junior Championships, World Juniors (acceptable but not preferred). Not ISU World Junior Championships.

World medalist

World Synchronized Skating Championships

First reference: ISU World Synchronized Skating Championships YEAR.
Second reference: World Synchronized Championships. Avoid the use of World Synchros. Synchro Worlds is not appropriate.

World Team, World Junior Team

Capitalize "Team" when referring to these groups.

World Team Trophy

First reference: ISU World Team Trophy YEAR. Second reference: World Team Trophy

World Wide Web

www

Retain this part of a website address in text, but usfigureskating.org is an exception. Using the "www" should be decided on a case-by-case basis.

Y

yearlong

years

Use numerals, without commas (1985). Use an "s" without an apostrophe to indicate spans of decades or centuries (the 1990s, the 1800s). Years are the lone exception to the rule in numerals that a figure is not used to start a sentence. (2002 was a good year.)

CITIES/STATES/COUNTRIES

As of 2014, AP no longer abbreviates state names. The following are the mail code abbreviations in parentheses:

| | | | | |
|------------------|----------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Alabama (AL) | Hawaii (HI) | Massachusetts (MA) | New Mexico (NM) | South Dakota (SD) |
| Alaska (AK) | Idaho (ID) | Michigan (MI) | New York (NY) | Tennessee (TN) |
| Arizona (AZ) | Illinois (IL) | Minnesota (MN) | North Carolina (NC) | Texas (TX) |
| Arkansas (AR) | Indiana (IN) | Mississippi (MS) | North Dakota (ND) | Utah (UT) |
| California (CA) | Iowa (IA) | Missouri (MO) | Ohio (OH) | Vermont (VT) |
| Colorado (CO) | Kansas (KS) | Montana (MT) | Oklahoma (OK) | Virginia (VA) |
| Connecticut (CT) | Kentucky (KY) | Nebraska (NE) | Oregon (OR) | Washington (WA) |
| Delaware (DE) | Louisiana (LA) | Nevada (NV) | Pennsylvania (PA) | West Virginia (WV) |
| Florida (FL) | Maine (ME) | New Hampshire (NH) | Rhode Island (RI) | Wisconsin (WI) |
| Georgia (GA) | Maryland (MD) | New Jersey (NJ) | South Carolina (SC) | Wyoming (WY) |

Domestic cities that stand alone:

| | | | | |
|------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|------------------|
| Atlanta | Dallas | Las Vegas | New York | Salt Lake City |
| Baltimore | Denver | Los Angeles | Oklahoma City | San Antonio |
| Boston | Detroit | Miami | Philadelphia | San Diego |
| Cincinnati | Honolulu | Milwaukee | Phoenix | San Francisco |
| Chicago | Houston | Minneapolis | Pittsburgh | Seattle |
| Cleveland | Indianapolis | New Orleans | St. Louis | Washington, D.C. |

International cities that stand alone:

| | | | | |
|-----------|----------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|
| Amsterdam | Geneva | Kuwait City | Munich | Shanghai |
| Baghdad | Gibraltar | London | New Delhi | Singapore |
| Bangkok | Guatemala City | Luxembourg | Panama City | Stockholm |
| Beijing | Havana | Macau | Paris | Sydney |
| Beirut | Helsinki | Madrid | Prague | Tokyo |
| Berlin | Hong Kong | Mexico City | Quebec City | Toronto |
| Brussels | Islamabad | Milan | Rio De Janeiro | Vatican City |
| Cairo | Istanbul | Monaco | Rome | Vienna |
| Djibouti | Jerusalem | Montreal | San Marino | Zurich |
| Dublin | Johannesburg | Moscow | Sao Paulo | |

The following are the correct spellings and abbreviations for the ISU member nations:

| | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Andorra (AND) | Croatia (CRO) | Hong Kong (HKG) | Monaco (MON) | Singapore (SIN) |
| Argentina (ARG) | Cyprus (CYP) | Hungary (HUN) | Mongolia (MGL) | Slovakia (SVK) |
| Armenia (ARM) | Czech Republic (CZE) | Iceland (ISL) | Montenegro (MNE) | Slovenia (SLO) |
| Australia (AUS) | Denmark (DEN) | India (IND) | Morocco (MAR) | South Africa (RSA) |
| Austria (AUT) | Democratic People's Republic of Korea (PRK) | Ireland (IRL) | Netherlands (NED) | Spain (ESP) |
| Azerbaijan (AZE) | Estonia (EST) | Israel (ISR) | New Zealand (NZL) | Sweden (SWE) |
| Belarus (BLR) | Finland (FIN) | Italy (ITA) | Norway (NOR) | Switzerland (SUI) |
| Belgium (BEL) | France (FRA) | Japan (JPN) | Philippines (PHI) | Thailand (THA) |
| Bosnia-Herzegovina (BIH) | Georgia (GEO) | Kazakhstan (KAZ) | Poland (POL) | Turkey (TUR) |
| Brazil (BRA) | Germany (GER) | Latvia (LAT) | Puerto Rico (PUR) | Ukraine (UKR) |
| Bulgaria (BUL) | Great Britain (GBR) | Lithuania (LTU) | Republic of Korea (KOR) | United States of America (USA) |
| Canada (CAN) | Greece (GRE) | Luxembourg (LUX) | Romania (ROM) | Uzbekistan (UZB) |
| China (CHN) | Grenada (GRN) | Malaysia (MAS) | Russia (RUS) | |
| Chinese Taipei (TPE) | | Mexico (MEX) | Serbia (SRB) | |

NAME SPELLINGS

There are names of several skaters, coaches and competitions we have decided to spell differently than some other outlets.

Examples: Rafael Arutunian (Arutyunyan)

Yu-Na Kim (Yuna Kim, Kim Yu-Na)

Julia Lipnitskaia (Yulia Lipnitskaya)

Evgeni Plushenko (Evgeny)

Ondrej Nepela Memorial (Nepala)

Elizaveta Tuktamysheva (Tuktamysheva)

Marina Zoueva (Zueva)