

2026-2027 SEASON

HOUSE TEAMS INFO PACKET

Program handbook for Arctic Edge Unity Synchronized Skating Teams.



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HOUSE ADULT TEAM OVERVIEW

US Figure Skating Team Definition (AEU House Adult will perform/compete at the USFS "Aspire Adult" level for 2026-2027): A team of 5-16 skaters ages 18 and over. No minimum test requirement.



2026-2027 HOUSE ADULT TEAM FAST FACTS:

- House Adult is a recreational performance and competitive synchronized skating team category that is eligible to compete in all sanctioned, non-qualifying US Figure Skating events (both local and regional)
- The House Adult division at competition is scored in competition on the CJS ("Component Judging System") where teams are assigned a numerical score for each performance.

2026-2027 AEU HOUSE ADULT SKATER PROFILE:

- Skaters participating with our House Adult team are generally passed (or skill equivalent) to a Learn-to-Skate USA Adult 3 class level thru a USFS Adult Bronze (Standard Track Preliminary) individual test level.
- Successful House Adult team skaters generally practice 1 time per week outside of synchronized skating and engage in consistent off-ice activity to improve and support their general fitness, flexibility, and mobility.

2026-2027 AEU HOUSE ADULT TEAM FACTS:

- The House Adult team accepts skaters during the annual registration period (June 1 thru Sept. 30). Skaters are welcome to experience synchro and better get to know the team/coaches during spring adult aged clinics, tryouts, and events, but are also welcome to sign-up anytime during the open registration period.
- This team is designed to serve as an ideal training environment for skaters who want to learn the foundational skills of synchronized skating, have fun skating with others, and prepare for continued synchro opportunities at the AEU House/Aspire Adult level and/or future opportunities at AEU's competitive Adult level teams.

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Section I - General Program-Wide Guidelines & Rules

Part I - Program Mission, Goals & Vision

PROGRAM MISSION - ADULT SKATING AT AEU

Our mission is to participate, in partnership with our adult skaters, to create an inclusive, skill-building, and fun environment to encourage the development of well-rounded, confident and resilient athletes that excel in all areas of life. As an organization, we are committed to the ideals of hard-work, discipline and offering skaters the privilege of being part of a team.

With a focus on personal and team development and success, we strive to nurture the valuable opportunities synchronized skating has to offer while maintaining a supportive, safe and socially stimulating environment where participants can grow and achieve both their personal and team goals.

PROGRAM GOALS - ADULT SKATING AT AEU

- i. To offer skaters a fun, and rewarding opportunity they can participate in in conjunction with regular individual skating.
- ii. Create an inclusive, socially stimulating, and skill-building environment for adult skaters to express their love of skating and performing.
- iii. Give skaters the rewarding opportunity to become a part of a team. In synchronized skating, teams are a great source of social support, motivation, and friendships.

PROGRAM VISION - ADULT SKATING AT AEU

- i. Create a comprehensive and successful offering of adult-aged teams that encourage participation, development, and competitive success for skaters of all ages, skill and experience levels (introductory thru advanced)
- ii. Draw upon the wealth of expertise and knowledge base of our organization's coaches and staff as well as those of other arena programming to continue to build a strong program that can achieve sustainable success for our participants at the local, regional, sectional, and national levels.

Part II - Program Leadership and Coaching

Erin Cullen - Program Founder, Head Coach, and Director of Synchronized Skating.

Erin has been involved with Synchronized Skating for over 30 years. She is an ISU World Championship Synchronized Skating bronze medalist, six-time international competitor & nine-time US Synchronized Skating Championships medalist. Upon the conclusion of her competitive career, she skated and coached for Michigan State University Synchronized Skating Teams. Since graduating from MSU in 2012, she has stayed deeply involved with elite synchro as an athlete representative and committee member for US Figure Skating and as a consulting coach for multiple college and Team USA teams at the elite levels before founding AEU in 2016.

Krissy Stein - Coach and Associate Director of Development.

Krissy has been involved in figure skating for over 35 years and has earned National Championship titles at the Junior and Senior levels. She was a part of Team USA for 9 years, including as a member of the US World Team in 2000. After competition, she gained experience coaching singles and as a sectional level judge. Off the ice, Stein works as a licensed Physical Therapist, bringing her clinical knowledge of movement, body mechanics, and injury prevention to her coaching. In 2025, Krissy earned an official certification as a US Figure Skating technical specialist for synchronized skating.

Chelsea Unger - Associate Director of Operations.

Chelsea has been involved with figure skating for over 30 years. She skated for several synchronized skating clubs in the Chicago area for over 10 seasons and earned Midwestern Synchro Sectional and US Synchro National medals. She has coached in the Ann Arbor area for 10+ years and has served as a coach and/or administrator with AEU since 2019.

Kimberly Reece - All Team General Support Manager. Kim has been involved in a supportive role with figure skating for the last 10 years. Her 30+ years of experience in management and leadership, focused on business operations, all things financial, strategy, human resources and system development has transferred well to our organization. She believes the core of our team is rooted in our culture and strategic and creative approach toward continuous improvement. She is passionate about creating a welcoming, positive, and supportive community with our skaters and families.

Additional Coaching Staff (Listed in alphabetical order)

Deanna Arnold - Coach. Deanna began skating at the age of 4 in freestyle, and later transitioned to ice dance. She is a six-time Gold Medalist in Moves in the Field, Freeskate, Solo Free Dance, Pattern Dance, International Pattern Dance, and Partnered Free Dance. Her coaching style incorporates an ice dance flair with a desire to see her students grow in character, confidence, and athleticism. She coaches Learn to Skate and private lessons in Novi and in the surrounding area and works with skaters of all ages and levels in skating skills, freeskate, ice dance, and synchronized skating.

Erin Buckeridge - Coach. Erin Buckeridge has been involved in figure skating for over 18 years and has competed at a national level for several seasons (including a silver medal finish in 2018). Erin B. coached at AEU from 2019-2022, took a short break to pursue her start at PT School at Central Michigan University, and returned to coaching in 2024. Erin is currently pursuing a doctorate in physical therapy (completion set for May of 2026). She looks forward to expanding her knowledge of coaching a sport she loves while incorporating rehabilitation techniques to build a healthy and strong environment for skaters to grow to their fullest potential.

Samantha Goldberg - Coach. Sam has been involved with figure skating for over 20 years. She grew up skating on the east coast with a number of synchronized skating teams, and is a 4-time national medalist. Sam competed internationally as a member of Team USA and at the collegiate level with the University of Michigan. Sam is a member of the SkateSafe committee with USFS and is a certified US Figure Skating technical specialist for synchronized skating. Outside of skating, Sam has a Masters of Social Work and works as a psychotherapist with children, adolescents, and adults in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Erika Root - Coach. Erika has been skating for over 25 years and has always been passionate about synchronized skating. At 15 she began assisting with her local learn to skate program and has been involved with coaching figure skating on and off ever since. She has also coached power skating skills with several local Michigan hockey teams. Erika was an early member of Adrian College Varsity Collegiate Synchronized Skating Team and was named captain during her senior year.

Part III - General Team Rules and Guidelines

The Arctic Edge Unity Head Coach/Director and Coaches have set forth the following rules to maintain appropriate standards of a high-performing synchronized skating organization:

Viewing Practice Sessions

Unless otherwise indicated, all practice sessions during the team season are considered “Closed” (i.e. guests are welcome to view their skaters through the lobby window/viewing areas, but are encouraged to remain out of the direct bleacher/ice areas). Closed practices help coaches and staff maintain team cooperation and ensure that skaters can stay focused during their training time.

Attendance Policy

Skaters are encouraged to be in attendance at all training sessions whenever possible. If an absence or tardiness from a training session is unavoidable, communication should be made with a program coach/staff as soon as possible. ***When building a routine in synchronized skating, consistent skater positions during training are important to the safety of all involved (i.e. skaters get used to the specific way each skater holds on to them and absent skaters can create changes to skater spacing needed to intersect through one-another, etc).***

The goal of our House Teams is to have every skater participate in all performances/competition events, but safety remains our number one priority. Excessive training absences leading up to a performance or event may result in a skater not being able to participate in that specific performance or event for safety/preparedness reasons. The program Director and House Team coaches will determine the definition of “excessive” as it relates to a skater’s ability to safely perform the position needed and communication will be made in advance if this consideration needs to be made.

Behavioral Standards

The safety, development, and success of our skaters is our top priority and any behavior that has the potential to jeopardize these priorities will be addressed swiftly and in a meaningful way. Furthermore, all members of the team are expected to listen to and obey all skating and behavior-related instructions given during training and/or competitions. Full attention and respect is to be given to the program director, all team coaches, team managers and other organizational volunteers.

As a part of a team, skaters should be aware that they no longer represent only themselves. Team members are expected to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner during all team activities, including training, performances/competition, or any team events. This behavioral standard should be kept in mind not just during in-person interaction, but also when posting online, on social media and in other digital mediums.

Part IV - Performance & Competition Expectations & Guidelines

All Arctic Edge Unity teams will perform and/or compete throughout the season. All team participants are expected to abide by a basic set of expectations for competitions and performances.

Arrivals at Performances or Competitions

All skaters/families will receive a detailed schedule and packing list before all official competitions and/or performances slated for their team(s).

Skaters are expected to arrive at all events at the time set forth in their detailed schedule wearing the designated hairstyle/makeup communicated by coaches in advance (additional details regarding arrival and readiness will be communicated via email to each team closer to the time of performances/competitions).

Special Note for Families of Skaters: We are all ambassadors for Arctic Edge Unity, and the Arctic Edge of Canton. Your behavior directly reflects upon our skaters and our entire skating club/synchronized skating organization. ***Don't forget, you represent Arctic Edge and Arctic Edge Unity wherever you go, whatever you do! It is expected that, along with the skaters, parents/families also practice these principles of good sportsmanship and civility in all team activities, performances, and/or competition events.***

Section II - Team Scheduling Information - House Adult Synchro Team

Part I - House Teams Pre-Season Activity Schedule

OPTIONAL/RECOMMENDED EVENTS FOR REGISTERED HOUSE TEAM SKATERS			
MONTH	DATE	EVENT	Details
JUNE 2027	Tent. Sunday, June 7, 2027	All-Team Season Kickoff Picnic @ Cass Benton Park in Northville	Time TBD - Will be shared by May 15
JULY 2027	TBD later July Weeknight	AEU Glow Skate Social FUNdraiser & Open Skate Event	Date/Time TBD - Will be shared by June 1

Part II - House Teams Regular Season Training Schedule

PROJECTED HOUSE TEAM TRAINING SCHEDULE - OCTOBER THRU FEBRUARY		
<p><i>Please note, all fall/winter schedules are not confirmed with arena management until June/July of each year. Times below provide an accurate BLOCK of time - Pre-registered skaters will be notified with exact times once they are confirmed over the summer and no later than August 1.</i></p>		
OCTOBER 2027	Sundays Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25	1-1.5 Hours of Training Time between 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. <i>Note: Once time has been set, it will be the SAME time weekly (no change week-to-week)</i>
NOVEMBER 2027	Sundays Nov. 1, 15, 22, 29	1-1.5 Hours of Training Time between 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. <i>Note: Once time has been set, it will be the SAME time weekly (no change week-to-week)</i>
DECEMBER 2027	Sunday, Dec. 13	1-1.5 Hours of Training Time between 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. <i>Note: Once time has been set, it will be the SAME time weekly (no change week-to-week)</i>
DECEMBER BREAK - NO TRAINING DECEMBER 14-January 2		
JANUARY 2027	Sundays Jan. 3, 10, 24, 31	1-1.5 Hours of Training Time between 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. <i>Note: Once time has been set, it will be the SAME time weekly (no change week-to-week)</i>
FEBRUARY 2027	Sundays Feb. 7, 14, 21	1-1.5 Hours of Training Time between 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. <i>Note: Once time has been set, it will be the SAME time weekly (no change week-to-week)</i>

Part III - Tentative Performances and/or Competition(s)

Note: "Tent." denotes unconfirmed date and/or time from organizers

TENTATIVE PERFORMANCE AND COMPETITION EVENTS

AEU Season Kickoff Exhibition @ Arctic Edge	Tent. Sunday, November 1 or 15, 2026	Arctic Edge of Canton
Arctic Edge Holiday Show	Tent. December 12, 2026	Arctic Edge of Canton
Winter Friends & Family Showcase	Tent. Sunday, January 3, 2027	Arctic Edge of Canton
Tri-State Synchronized Skating Competition	Tent. February 6 or 13, 2027	Location TBD
AEU End-of-Season Show	Tent. February 21, 2027	Arctic Edge of Canton

**Additional exhibition opportunities may be added to the schedule as they arise. All additional performances would be either at Arctic Edge or in the local vicinity (e.g. Campus Martius Detroit, Learn-To-Skate events, Hockey Games, etc.)*

Section III - Financial Overview - House Adult Team

Part I - General Financial & House Team Payment Guidelines

As a member of a House Team at Arctic Edge Unity, these are the general guidelines to ensure skater and team success:

- Skaters/Participants will submit a one-time \$65, non-refundable deposit fee at the time of registration to reserve their position. **Note: \$25 of this initial payment will be applied/credited to your skater's first invoice for October 1.**
- House Team participants will be billed in three (3), roughly six-week installment invoices to cover all expenses for their season. For the 2026-2027 season, the invoicing schedule is below:
 - **FIRST INVOICE:** due October 1, 2026
 - **SECOND INVOICE:** due November 9, 2026
 - **THIRD INVOICE:** due January 4, 2027
- All team fees and payments are due upon receipt and should be paid in a timely manner (no later than 7 days of invoice receipt). This ensures your skater has their personal share of essential team and training expenses covered and can fully participate in their team's activities for the month.

Part II - Financial Specifics - House Adult Synchro Team

ITEMIZED EXPENSES PER SKATER	PAYMENT SCHEDULE	FEE AMOUNT
<p><u>House Adult SYNCHRO TEAM PROGRAM FEE</u></p> <p>3-Part Team Fee includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All practice Ice costs • Coaching (on-ice and off-ice instruction) • USFS Registration Fees • Competition/Performance Entry Fees (incl. Both team & individual fees) • Costumes for competitions and performances (skaters will be able to keep their costumes at the end of the season) • Exhibition and Show Costs • Music expenses (cutting, editing, competition discs, etc) • General operational expenses (accounting, administrative, staff, etc). 	<p>INVOICE 1 - OCT 1 INVOICE 2 - NOV 8 INVOICE 3 - JAN 3</p> <p><i>3 Payments Total</i></p>	<p>\$178</p>
<p>Not included: Optional/Recommended Team Training Jacket (can be used multiple seasons) - Est. ~\$60-70</p>		

Part III - Payment Methods

Preferred Payment Method 1: SportsEngine

Invoices can be paid directly through the SportsEngine portal using a debit or credit card or a bank account. There is a small transaction fee (typically 2-4%).

Preferred Payment Method 2: Zelle

Submit payment via Zelle, using your online banking website/mobile app or the Zelle app, to recipient AEUBilling@gmail.com Arctic Edge Unity Synchronized Skating Teams. Zelle does not charge a fee to send or receive money, however, we recommend confirming with your bank or credit union that there are no fees for Zelle transactions.

Optional Payment Method 3: Check: Submit written or bank-issued checks payable to “Arctic Edge Unity.” Place checks in the silver locked “synchro skating” mailbox to the left of the rink front desk or mail to:

**Attn: Arctic Edge Unity Synchronized Skating
Arctic Edge of Canton
46615 Michigan Ave
Canton, MI 48188**

Optional Payment Method 4: Cash or other Methods (Bank/Wire Transfer, SKATE Fundraising, etc.)

If you plan to use an alternative payment method outside of methods 1, 2 or 3, please contact our bookkeeper at AEUBilling@gmail.com to ensure receipt, accurate payment dates from banking/financial institutions and any documentation requirements.

Additionally, you may request full season billing if you prefer to pay for the season in one lump-sum payment upfront using any payment method listed, or if you'd like to setup an automatic recurring monthly payment plan through SportsEngine.

Part IV - Fundraising

Though not required to participate in fundraising activities, House Team Skaters are welcome to participate in AEU sponsored fundraising initiatives throughout the season to offset their invoice costs. As a 501c3 non-profit organization, we will plan to offer and support multiple fundraising events and activities that families can participate in during the season. Additionally, we are always looking for new, promising, and lucrative fundraising and sponsorship opportunities. *Please reach out directly to arcticsynchro@gmail.com if you have any fundraising ideas or would like to get more involved.*