



2026 ISU John Nicks Pairs International Challenger Series

Norwood, MA, USA

September 11 & 12, 2026

ANNOUNCEMENT

2026 John Nicks Pairs Challenge

An International Senior Competition

for

Pair Skating

organized by

U.S. Figure Skating

Norwood, MA, USA

September 11-12, 2026

A competition as part of the



Challenger Series in Figure Skating 2026/27

under the authorization of the

INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION

1. GENERAL REGULATIONS

The **John Nicks Pairs International Pairs Competition** will be hosted by The Skating Club of New York, in partnership with The Skating Club of Boston, the nation's two largest and most prestigious figure skating clubs, and will be held in Norwood, MA. The competition will be conducted in accordance with the ISU Constitution 2025, Competition & Event Regulations 2026, Sports Rules Single & Pair Skating and Ice Dance 2026, and the relevant ISU Communications.

Participation in the **John Nicks Pairs International** is open to all Competitors who belong to an ISU Member, and qualify with regard to eligibility according to Competition & Event Regulations 2026, Article 7.2, provided their ages fall within the limits specified in Article 9.3.1, and they meet the participation, citizenship and residency requirement in Article 8 and ISU Communication 2526 or any update of this Communication.

In accordance with Article 8 and ISU Communication 2526, all Skaters who do not have the nationality of the Member by which they have been entered or who, although having such nationality, have in the past represented another Member, must produce an ISU Clearance Certificate. Passports of all Skaters, as well as the ISU Clearance Certificate, if applicable, must be presented at the accreditation of the event for verification.

All competitors must be entered through their respective ISU Member Federation.

2. ISU CHALLENGER SERIES IN FIGURE SKATING

The **John Nicks Pairs International** is part of the Challenger Series in Figure Skating 2026/27 and will be conducted in accordance with additional requirements as specified in the General Announcement for the Challenger Series in Figure Skating 2026/27 as well as ISU Communication 2780.

If the requirements specified in the above-mentioned documents are fulfilled, the event will count towards ISU World Standing Points, Minimum Total Technical Score, Challenger Series in Figure Skating Ranking and Prize Money.

There is a limitation for the Skaters/Couples to three (3) participations in the events of the Challenger Series in Figure Skating. Participation in any of the ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating events or ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating events does not limit participation in events of the Challenger Series.

CHALLENGER SERIES IN FIGURE SKATING RANKING AND PRIZE MONEY

At the end of the Challenger Series in Figure Skating, after the last event of the season has been concluded, the two highest final scores in up to three different Challenger Series in Figure Skating events of each Competitor/Couple will be added and taken into consideration to form a Challenger Series in Figure Skating Ranking, which will be published on the ISU website.

The top three placed Skaters/Couples of the annual Challenger Series Ranking in Figure Skating after the last event of the Challenger Series in Figure Skating will receive ISU Prize Money as outlined in the General Announcement for the Challenger Series in Figure Skating 2026/27 as well as ISU Communication 2780.

3. TECHNICAL DATA

PLACE	Main arena: Tenley E. Albright Performance Center at The Skating Club of Boston 750 University Avenue, Norwood, Massachusetts (The rink is an indoor ice-rink with the ice surface of 200' x 100', air-conditioned and heated)
	Practice arena: Tenley E. Albright Performance Center (an indoor ice-rink with the ice surface of 200' x 100', air-conditioned and heated)
	Main and Practice Rink are in the same rink

PAIR SKATING

Short Program

The required elements to be skated are those listed in ISU Sports Rules Single & Pair Skating and Ice Dance 2026, Rule 620, paragraphs 1 and 2 for 2026/27.

Duration: 2 min., 40 sec. +/- 10 sec.

Free Skating

In accordance with ISU Sports Rules Single & Pair Skating and Ice Dance 2026, Rule 621 and the respective ISU Communication. Special attention should be paid to the “well balanced program” and the element value.

Duration: 4 min., +/- 10 sec.

4. ENTRIES

4.1 General

All Entries must be made by the ISU Member concerned based on the regulations for the Challenger Series in Figure Skating 2026/27.

All entries for the **John Nicks Pairs International**, must be done through the **ISU Online Registration System (ORS)** by the deadline indicated. Hotel and travel information should also be entered into ORS, as well as bank information. Declarations will need to be uploaded to the ORS as well.

4.2 Preliminary Entries

The preliminary entries must reach the Organizer by latest: **Thursday, August 6, 2026** by entering the information through ORS.

4.3 Entries by Name

4.3.1 Entries of Competitors

Limitations of entries per ISU Member: maximum 3 entries per Member

The Entries by names must be made via the ISU Online Registration System (ORS):

<https://fsk-ors.isu.swisstiming.com>

and will be submitted via the ORS simultaneously to the:

The Skating Club of New York
59 Chelsea Piers, Suite 5925
New York, NY 10011
e-mail: events@thescny.org

and to:

ISU Office
e-mail: entries@isu.org

not later than: **Friday, August 14, 2026 –20:00 ET**

4.3.2 Entries of Judges

Each participating ISU Member has the right to nominate one judge per discipline who has at least the qualification "Judge for International Competitions".

In case of too many nominated judges, the organizer will draw the panel of judges immediately after the closing date for the entries. The result of such draw will be communicated to all ISU Members involved in writing immediately after the conclusion of such draw.

The Entries of Judges must be made via the ISU Online Registration System (ORS) not later than: **Friday, August 14, 2026, 20:00 ET.**

Each panel of Judges will consist of at least 7 Judges. In exceptional cases and if there is no possibility to compose a panel with at least 7 Judges, the ISU Vice-President Figure Skating may exceptionally authorize the panel in question to have a minimum of 6 Judges.

In case that at the time of the competition more Judges will be available and entered as required to compose the panels of Judges in one or more disciplines, the Organizing Member in consultation with the ISU will conduct on site, a draw for the panel of judges in the discipline in question for the first segment. The Judges, not drawn for the first segment will be seated for the second segment.

The panel for the second segment (Free Skating / Free Dance) will in this case be completed by an open draw amongst the Judges serving in the first segment of the discipline in question.

4.3.3 Entries of Team Members

Official entries of Team Leaders, Assistant Team Leaders, Team Officials, Team Medical Staff, Coaches and the partner or relative of a Judge will be accepted. Accreditation will be provided to those who are officially accepted by the Organizer.

Please be advised that only one Coach per Skater will be accredited. An Assistant Team Leader will be accepted for Teams having six (6) and more Skaters. Only two (2) Team Officials of each Member, including the Member President, provided that they are Council Members, Technical Committee Members or Members of the Head Office of their Federation, will be accredited. Not more than one (1) Team Doctor and one (1) Team Physiotherapist will be accepted as the Team Medical Staff, for which the organizer requests the right to have a medical certification (document) presented before accreditation. An accompanying person to a Judge will only be accepted for accreditation if this person is a partner in life or a relative of the Judge. The Member Federations guarantee that the requested accreditation of Team Members will correspond to their function within the team and the Federation.

The names of all team members must be submitted via the ISU Online Registration System (ORS) and must reach the Organizing Committee and the ISU Office not later than **Friday, August 14, 2026 –20:00 ET.**

4.4 Entry Fee

With the entry to the competition, the entry fee must be paid as follows:

USD 125.00 per pair team

The entry fee will not be refunded in case of withdrawals for any reason.

If requested in advance, member federations will be allowed to wire funds directly to The Skating Club of New York. Please email events@theskny.org transfer information.

Payment is required by **Monday, August 17, 2026**, for entry fees. Failure to pay entry fees in full may result in removal from the competition.

5. APPOINTED EVENT OFFICIAL

This Challenger Series in Figure Skating event will follow the requirements of the General Announcement for the Challenger Series in Figure Skating 2026/27 as well as CER Article 14.2.1, ISU Communication 2780 and principles of Rule 420, paragraph 5.a) of the ISU Sports Rules Single & Pair Skating and Ice Dance 2026 for appointing the Event Officials.

The members of each individual Technical Panel (Technical Controller and the Technical Specialists) will not be from the same ISU Member. At least two Technical Panel members will have the qualification "ISU", however one of the three members may have the qualification "International".

The Referee will have at least the qualification "International" and could be of the same ISU Member as one member of the Technical Panel (Technical Controller and Technical Specialists).

The Data Operator and the Replay Operator will have at least the qualification "International".

6. MEALS, LODGING AND TRAVEL EXPENSES

The organizer will provide and cover the expenses for rooms and meals for all Referees, the Technical Controllers, the Technical Specialists, the Data and Replay Operators and the Judges participating, beginning with dinner on **Thursday, September 10, 2026** until breakfast on **Sunday, September 13, 2026**

Should any of the above-mentioned persons arrive at the hotel before or stay longer than the period described above, their room costs and expenses will be the responsibility of the individual and must be paid on arrival.

The Organizing Committee will cover the costs for travel expenses for all Referees, the Technical Controllers, the Technical Specialists, and the Data and Replay Operators.

In accordance with the General Announcement for the Challenger Series in Figure Skating 2026/27 as well as ISU Communication 2780, all Referees, the Technical Controllers, the Technical Specialist, the Data and Replay Operators and Judges officiating in the "senior" competitions of a Challenger Series in Figure Skating event will, at the expense of the organizing ISU Member, receive pocket money of USD 250.00 or the equivalent in the local currency. Any Official officiating besides in the "senior" category also in another category (for example junior), will at the expense of the organizing ISU Member, receive an additional amount of USD 120 (or equivalent in another currency) of pocket money per additional day of service.

7. PRACTICE

Official practice for Competitors begins on **Friday, September 11, 2026**. The detailed schedule will be issued at the time of registration.

Additional practice ice will be available for purchase after the schedule is published.

8. MUSIC / PLANNED PROGRAM CONTENT

In accordance with Rule 343 in the ISU Sports Rules Single & Pair Skating and Ice Dance 2026, the following method to submit the Competitor's music to the Organizing Committee must be followed:

- the ISU Member is responsible for submitting their Competitor's music as a direct attachment to an email to the Organizing Committee events@thescny.org until **August 28, 2026**.

Please note: some music files might exceed the size of a regular email. In this case, an email-based transfer service that allows to send large files could be used to send the file to the OC.

- each submission shall be labelled with the name of the ISU Member, name of the category, segment, and the name(s) of the competitor(s):

Example:

SUI_Pairs_SP_MUSTERMANN-Erika_MUSTERMANN-Max

SUI_Pairs_FS_MUSTERMANN-Erika_MUSTERMANN-Max

- the music files must be sent as **WAV or MP3** file formats. Any other format is not acceptable.

Please note: Files in MP3 format may have a significant difference in the music quality when reproduced. The Organizing Committee in this case is not responsible if the music quality is insufficient.

- Each Competitor must have their own backup drive (USB Stick) for each program in the format of a WAV or MP3 file.
- The exact running time of the music (not skating time) must be communicated to the Organizing Committee when submitting the music and shall be certified by the Competitor/Coach/Team Leader at the time of registration.
- During the 1st Official Practice, the music will be played as indicated in the Practice Schedule and will allow to verify the correctness of the submitted music. If there is an issue with the music, the Team Leader/Coach may be allowed to change the music by presenting an acceptable reproduction to the Organizing Committee's Music Team (USB Stick with file format of WAV or MP3 file).

If the music files have been submitted within the above-mentioned deadline to the Organizing Committee, then the music team of the Organizing Committee is entirely responsible for the correct execution of the music. In case of issues with submitted music files, the Organizing Committee may request, at the time of registration, a secondary copy of the music files. In case the music files have not been submitted in time to the Organizing Committee, the skater(s) must present their music at the latest at the time of registration on the above-mentioned means and in the defined format.

Please note: CDs will **not** be accepted by the Organizing Committee.

ISU Members/Skaters are reminded that, for them to use music to accompany their routines, the following 'Music Accompaniment' rights/licenses are required:

- the right to edit or adapt music into a mix, if more than one song is being used.
- the right to set choreography to the music, often referred to as a 'Grand Right', which is the right to perform musical compositions and recordings within the context of a "dramatic work" or choreography.
- the right to create any copies of the music that may be needed for training and competition purposes, also known as the 'mechanical rights'.

For a music to be fully cleared for these uses, these rights need to be cleared for each and every track used in each mix that contains a license (backed by a warranty and legal indemnity) for appropriate territory(s) that covers both the master rights of the recording artist and the publishing rights of each individual writer and composer of the track.

If music information is not complete and/or the music is not provided, accreditation will not be given.

The Planned Program Content must also be entered by the ISU Member or the Skater(s) on the dedicated ISU platform. It is mandatory that the Program Content information be filled in precisely by each Skater/team in English using the terminology for the elements listed in the respective ISU Communication.

Program Content Forms

All Program Content Forms must be emailed to events@thescny.org by August 28, 2026. Label each file with Last Name & First Name of the Partner who registered the team, Country_Event Name SP (or FS).

9. ARRIVAL OF PARTICIPANTS / TEAMS

- The nearest airport to The Skating Club of Boston is the Boston Logan International Airport (BOS) with a distance of 43 km to the official hotel.
- Amtrak Train: University Park Train Station

All Referees, the Technical Panel (Technical Controllers, Technical Specialists, Data & Replay Operators), Judges, Competitors, Team Leaders, Team Officials, Team Medical Staff and Coaches are requested to announce to the Organizing Committee as soon as possible but no later than **Friday, August 7, 2026**, the name of the airlines, flight numbers, dates and times of arrival or any other information concerning The detailed travel information needs to be submitted via the ISU Online Registration System (ORS).

10. OFFICIAL HOTELS

Courtyard by Marriott Westwood

64 University Avenue, Westwood, MA 02090

Rate: \$204/night + taxes. Breakfast is NOT included.

Deadline to book: August 18, 2026.

Book through link

<https://app.marriott.com/resview2?id=1782418239649&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

Courtyard by Marriott Norwood/Canton

300 River Ridge Drive, Norwood, MA 02062

Rate: \$189/night + taxes. Breakfast is NOT included

Deadline to book: August 24, 2026

Book through link

<https://app.marriott.com/reslink?id=1780509263694&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

The deadlines to reserve rooms are listed above, however the hotel block may sell out before then. All payments will be made directly with the hotel.

11. ACCREDITATION

The official accreditation for Teams is planned at **The Skating Club of Boston at 750 University Avenue, Norwood, Massachusetts upon arrival.**

Accreditation as a Team Member will be given to all entered Judges, Competitors, and one Team Leader per participating team, one Coach per Competitor, a maximum of two Team Officials of ISU Members (including the Member President), provided that they are Council Members, Technical Committee Members or Members of the Head Office of their Federation, and a maximum of two medical persons. Accreditation will only be granted to persons in those various functions if officially entered and named through their ISU Member. **The ISU Member certifies with the signed entry form the indicated functions within the team of all team members. Any misuse of any function will be sanctioned by the ISU/OC.**

Accreditation will be given to appointed Event Officials and Guests.

Chaperones will not receive accreditation.

All event or daily ticket offerings will be available at scboston.org/tickets before the event and on-site at the arena.

12. RESULTS

The marking system (ISU Judging System) as described in ISU Sports Rules Single & Pair Skating and Ice Dance 2026, Rule 352 and Rule 353 be used.

13. PRESENTATION OF MEDALS AND PRIZES

The three best placed Skaters/Couples in each event will be announced and honored. Gold, silver and bronze medals will be presented to the medalists. The national anthem of the winner will be played and the flags of the medal winners hoisted.

14. INSURANCE / LIABILITY

In accordance with Article 17.3, it is the sole obligation of each Member participating in ISU Events, to provide medical and accident insurance for their athletes, officials and all other members of the Member's team. Such insurance must assure full medical attendance and also the return of the ill or injured person to the home country by air transport or by other expeditious. It is an internal matter of each ISU Member to decide the issue who shall pay the premium for such insurance.

The ISU and the Organizing Committee assume no responsibility for or liability with respect to bodily or personal injury or property damage incurred by Competitors or Officials in connection with the event.

15. EXHIBITION

There will not be an exhibition.

16. MEETINGS FOR ISU EVENT OFFICIALS AND JUDGES

All Referees, Technical Controllers, Technical Specialists, Data and Replay Operators and Judges are responsible to make their travel arrangements in order to be able to attend the respective event related meetings. If any other party makes the flight arrangements, the Referees, Technical Controllers, Technical Specialists, Data and Replay Operators and the Judges are responsible to check if such arrangements are in line with the detailed schedule as mentioned under paragraph 18.

17. INFORMATION AND VARIOUS

For information, please contact the Organizing Committee:

The Skating Club of New York
59 Chelsea Piers • Room 5925
New York, NY 10011
website: www.thescny.org
e-mail: events@thescny.org

Competition Rink Contact Information

The Skating Club of Boston
750 University Avenue
Norwood, MA 02062 USA
Attn: Kelly Flaherty, Director, Events
email: events@scboston.org

18. EVENT SCHEDULE

Thursday, September 10, 2026	All day 18:00	Arrival of teams Unofficial Practice Ice Available
Friday, September 11, 2026	12:30 13:15 TBA TBA TBA 17:20	Skater Draw Senior Pairs Official Practice Team Leaders Meeting Technical Panel Meetings Referees and Technical Controllers Meeting Judges Draw and Meeting SENIOR PAIRS – Short Program
Saturday, September 12, 2026	11:25 15:15	Senior Pairs Unofficial Practice SENIOR PAIRS – Free Skating Program Victory Ceremonies Technical Panel Review Meeting Judges Round Table Discussion

Please note:

This schedule is subject to change and will be updated in accordance with the final number of entries.

Practice Ice:

Thursday Unofficial Ice: Will be by signup via Google signup and/or registration and must be paid by credit card or USD.

Friday Official Practice: Will be assigned once entries have closed.

Saturday Unofficial Ice: Sessions will be assigned in reverse order to allow for same amount of rest prior to competition. Payment will be taken via the Google signup and/or at registration and must be paid by credit card or USD.

FORMS AND DEADLINES

Number	Form	Format	Deadline
N/A	Preliminary Entry Form	ORS	August 6, 2026
N/A	Composition of Delegation	ORS	August 14 2026
N/A	Entry Form for Competitors	ORS	August 14, 2026
N/A	Entry Form for Judges	ORS	August 14, 2026
N/A	Hotel reservation request- Officials Only	ORS	August 7, 2026
N/A	Team Travel Form	ORS	August 21, 2026
Form X	Visa request form	Indicate if you will have this form	July 28, 2026
N/A	Press Information	ISU Portal	Valid for season 26/27
N/A	Competition Music Information	ISU Portal	August 28, 2026
N/A	Program Content Form	ISU Portal	August 28, 2026