



2026-27 Steel City Blades Parent Meeting

Welcome & Introduction

- Beth Sutton, Skating Director
- SCB President and Board Members

RMU ISC & Steel City Blades Organizations

US FS Membership: Pittsburgh Figure Skating Club

SCB Coaches and Staff:

- Cari Manchester
- Katrina Wright
- Ericka Solomon
- Rosie Lynch, Natalie Sobel, Misaki Kobayashi & Annie Volk

Determining the Teams

USFS Rules & SCB Skater Positions

Steel City Blades Synchro Rules:

- Attendance Policy & Procedures
- Code of Conduct
- Expectations

Practice Schedules

- Regular Season & Summer Boot Camp
- Additional Summer Practice - All Skaters

Team Attire

Practice, Competition, & Travel

Timeline for Team Rosters, Commitment Payments, etc.

Tentative Competition & Exhibition Schedule

School & Work Absences

Fees - Paul Glatzhofer, SCB Treasurer

- Monthly Ice & Coaching Fees (RMU)
 - Fee Based on Position
- Steel City Blades Monthly Fees

SCB Travel Cara Hawthorne, Vice Chair

Fundraising Opportunities, SCB Board

Question and Answer Session



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Robert Morris University Island Sports Center's

Synchronized Skating Academy Mission Statement

The RMU ISC Synchronized Skating Academy's (SSA) mission is to train and develop quality team figure skaters who will attend Qualifying and Non-Qualifying Competitions, encouraging teamwork and sportsmanship. The SSA will supporting individual skaters as they seek to achieve their individual potential and teams of skaters as they seek to achieve their full potential as a team. It is also the mission of the SSA to train team skaters in the proper skills so they may pursue competitive synchronized skating teams at the collegiate levels upon graduation from high school.

RMU Island Sports Center & Steel City Blades Organization & Pittsburgh Figure Skating Club

The Robert Morris University Island Sports Center Synchronized Skating Academy consists of the Steel City Blades Competitive Synchronized Skating Teams in addition to the Synchronized Skating Developmental Team: The Steel City Stars.

The RMU Island Sports Center Synchronized Skating Academy, Teams and its Coaches are under the direction of RMU ISC Skating Director, Beth Sutton and the Synchronized Skating Academy staff.

The RMU ISC Synchronized Skating Academy Competitive Teams are supported by a volunteer parent organization (Steel City Blades) who assists in Team recruiting, planning and implementing travel arrangements, club activities and fundraising opportunities. The Steel City Blades has a volunteer parent board consisting of: Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Treasurer, Fundraising Chair, Secretary & Team Managers for each SCB Team.

The Steel City Blades (SCB) Teams and its skaters are members of the Pittsburgh Figure Skating Club (PFSC,) which is a member club of the national governing body of figure skating, United States Figure Skating (US FS.) The Pittsburgh Figure Skating Club designates RMU Island Sports Center as its "home club ice" and its members, in good standing, are eligible to participate US Figure Skating sanctioned, competitions shows and testing sessions.

All US FS synchronized skating teams (ie: SCB) are required to be members of a US FS Club in order to participate in the US FS sanctioned events and competitions. The Steel City Blades teams represent the Pittsburgh FSC therefore; all skaters (full, cross skaters, alternate & trainees) must be members of the Pittsburgh FSC for the current skating season. The membership season is July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027. **Membership details will be available in late May at: www.pittsburghfsc.com**

The RMU ISC Developmental Synchro Team (Steel City Star) and its skaters are members of the US FS Learn to Skate USA program through RMU Island Sports Center.



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US FS Age Requirement and Team Levels Determined By SCB Coaching Staff

The skater's age for the U.S. Figure Skating teams is determined by their age on July 1st. In the 2026-27 season, US FS has implemented new skating skills test requirements for individual skaters, based on Team level. The skating skills requirements must be met, for each individual skater, by July 31, 2026.

The Teams' levels will be determined by the Synchronized Skating Staff and Skating Director after tryouts have occurred. The competitive level of the Team(s) will be based on several criteria including, the number of skaters who commit to their Team following tryouts, the age of the skaters & their individual US FS skating test levels. **A skater's team placement is not solely determined by the skater's individual tests or skills, but how his/her skills contribute to the goals and development of a specific team as a whole.**

The Synchronized Skating Staff has the right to place a skater on a Team which they feel is appropriate for the individual skater and will benefit the Team as a whole or has the right to deem a skater an alternate if the skater's skills do not meet the requirements of the Team.

Steel City Blades Team Skater Positions

Full Team Member: Full Team Members are skaters selected by the coaching staff to be the main body of the team. Full Team Members will pay full fees for ice and coaching, in addition to all fees associated with team travel, competition, and other events. Full Team members may be placed on alternate status due to lack of attendance, lack of required skating development or other disciplinary incidences

Full "Alternates": Full Alternates are skaters that act as understudies for Full Team Members and have met the required Team test & skill levels as set forth by the coaching staff but may need to improve their individual or team skills to be a "full" team member. In light of this, Full Alternates are charged a reduced rate of 60% of the ice and coaching fees. You are not guaranteed to become a full member or compete.

Crossover Skater: ("Cross Skater") Per US Figure Skating Rule 2826 an individual skater may skate on more than one, but not more than two, synchronized skating teams, as long as the teams are different levels. Crossover skaters are responsible for attending all practices for both teams they are rostered on. In the event of conflicting practice times, the coaching staff will advise the skaters as to which practice they will attend.

Full Member Trainee: A full member on a Steel City Blades team maybe asked to be a trainee on a higher level SCB Team. A full member trainee is responsible for 100% of all fees associated with the skater's Primary team at Full Team Member Status but will pay a fee of \$35/session for additional training ice and coaching fees for the full member trainee team, when they practice with the trainee team. Ex: Full Red Team Skater is asked to be a trainee for the Blue Team.

Trainees: Trainees are skaters who at the discretion, of the coaching staff, will train with a designated Team. Trainees are skaters who do not qualify as a Full Team member or Full Alternate position due to lack of test and/or skill requirements. Trainee skaters will not be eligible to compete with the Team. Trainees will be required to attend all team practices. All trainees will be charged a flat monthly rate to cover ice & coaching fees for their designated training sessions. While trainee will attend all practices, there will be times that the trainee will be asked to observe team programs, particularly when the team is preparing for a competition or exhibition. If applicable, based on age, test & skill level, the trainee will be required to be a full member of the Steel City Stars or Steel City Blades teams.

All skaters will be responsible for purchasing team practice attire: full, full alternate, cross skaters & trainees will be required to purchase all team attire associated with their team(s.) Full, alternate & cross skaters will be required to purchase competition outfit.



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ALL Team practices are MANDATORY

Due to the nature of synchronized skating, missed practices are not only detrimental to the individual skater, but the entire team. A missed practice is any scheduled team practice that a skater is not present for any 30 minute or more period due to an expected (i.e. family commitment, school activity) or unexpected (i.e. illness, injury, traffic/accident, funeral) circumstance.

What to do if you expect a conflict with practice...

- If you expect to have a conflict with a mandatory team practice, an e-mail or text must be submitted no less than two weeks prior to the missed practice, to your Team Head Coach **AND** Team Manager for approval.

What to do if you unexpectedly have a conflict with practice...

- If you unexpectedly miss a mandatory team practice, an e-mail or text must be submitted before the missed practice to your Team Head Coach **AND** Team Manager.

If the missed practice occurs at the last practice before competition...

- **The SCB coaching staff or head coach will meet with the skater to decide if it is in the best interest of the team to allow for the skater to participate in the competition.**

Make-Up Lesson Policy

- Any time a skater misses a practice, expected or unexpectedly, a 30-minute lesson may be scheduled with the SCB Coaching Staff. All make-up lessons will be determined and arranged by the head coach.
 - You are NOT permitted to cancel a regularly scheduled lesson with your private lesson coach for your make-up lesson.
- Coaching fees will be \$35/Skater for each 30-minute make-up lesson in addition to RMU ISC ice fees
 - Coaching fee will be paid directly to the coach at the time of the lesson and ice fees will be paid directly to RMU ISC at the time of the make-up lesson, skaters must provide ice time receipt to the ice monitor at the time of the make-up lesson.
- If more than one skater is scheduled for a make-up lesson, each skater will pay the required ice fee (to RMU ISC) and coaching fee (to the Coach), the coach will collect \$35/30-minutes from each skater, additional fees above the coaches fee (\$35) will be given to the Steel City Blade treasure. (2-3 skaters MAX per make-up lesson)

Tardiness to Practice

- Tardiness is defined as...any period of time less than 30-minutes of unapproved absence from a mandatory team practice.
- Each team manager requires skaters to report to them at least 15-minutes prior to the start of practice
- If skater is tardy at any mandatory team practice, they will be required to deposit \$1 for each minute of tardiness to the team piggy bank.



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Code of Conduct

General Guidelines:

Per GR 1.02 Code of Conduct, the following codes of conduct applies to all participants in activities hosted, supported, sponsored or engaged in by U.S. Figure Skating including but not limited to competitions, exhibitions and training camps.

The RMU ISC FSAcademy & SCB Organization are committed to creating a safe and positive environment for members' physical, emotional and social development and ensuring that it promotes an environment free of misconduct.

The Skater, Parent, Board Member & Coaches Codes of Conducts have been established by US FS to ensure the safety of all members participating in its activities on and off of the ice at RMU ISC, any SCB and/or US FS sanctioned event.

All skaters, parents/guardians, board members and coaches will be provided a US FS approved code of conduct for the season to sign and return to SCB. Not abiding by these codes of conduct may result in appropriate disciplinary action or suspension from the SCB and/or RMU ISC.

Expectations

What is expected of skaters?

- Be present and on time for all activities
- Pay attention & be respectful to and take direction from coaches and team manager
- Continue progress individual skating skills during required weekly lessons with private coach
- Be supportive and positive with teammates, coaches, and team managers
- Practice synchro program and skills throughout the season, not just during synchro practice
- Member of Pittsburgh Figure Skating Club

What is expected of parents?

- Ensure skater is on time and prepared for all team events
- Attend competitions if possible (most families send a parent with the skater)
- Volunteer to help with team fundraising opportunities and committees
- Foster a cohesive, supportive environment for the team & fellow SCB families & Board Members
- Stay current with financial obligations



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2026 -27 Tentative Practice Schedule

Final Schedule will be confirmed once Teams have been determined.

Summer Sessions

Monday Synchro Skills

June 8 - July 27: 4:00 - 5:50 PM

August Synchro Boot Camp*

July 31 - August 6

All Teams Exhibition 8/6

August Practices*

Wednesdays:

August 12, 19, 26: 4:00 - 6:50 PM

Red: 4:00-5:00 PM

White: 4:50-5:45 PM

Ice Cut: 5:45-5:55 PM

Blue: 5:55-6:50 PM

Regular Season Schedule

Sundays

Olympic Arena: September - March

WHITE TEAM

2:15-2:45 PM - Off-Ice Team Training

3:00-4:00 PM - On-Ice Team Training

RED TEAM

4:00-5:20 PM - On-Ice Team Training

3:15-3:45 PM PM Off-Ice Team Training

BLUE TEAM

5:20-5:30 PM Ice Cut

5:30-6:50 PM On-Ice Team Training

7:00-7:30 PM - Off-Ice Team Training

Tuesdays

Stadium Rink: October - Mid-March

RED TEAM

4:30 - 5:35 PM - On-Ice Team Training

5:45 - 6:15 PM - Off-Ice Team Training

BLUE TEAM

5:45 - 6:50 PM - On-Ice Team Training

7:00 - 7:30 PM - Off-Ice Team Training

Additional Practice:

Fee Applies: \$35/hour

*When necessary additional Team practices may be scheduled, Advanced Notice Provided.

Additional practices are not included in season monthly ice & coaching fees



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SCB Team Attire

On-Ice Practice Team Apparel: Olympic or Clearview Arena

- team warm-up jacket or SCB sweatshirt
- team vest
- designated Team practice top
- black team skating pants
- girls must have hair in a neat ponytail

Off-Ice Practice Team Apparel

- official SCB Team warm-up outfit
- black shorts or skating pants
- SCB t-shirt or top
- clean, athletic tennis shoes
- girls must have hair in a ponytail

On-Ice Practice Team Attire: Stadium Arena

- team warm-up jacket or SCB sweatshirt
- team vest
- designated Team practice top
- black team skating pants
- SCB t-shirt
- black gloves with grips and/or hand warmers kept in jacket pockets
- optional black head band to keep ears warm
- girls must have hair in a neat ponytail
- coach will permit additional fitted layers due to inclement weather

Competition Attire

- competition outfit and accessories
- tights (ordered as designated through the Steel City Blades)
- clean, taped or polished skates with clean laces as designated by coach
- designated hair style (unless excused from wearing by the Coach)
- make-up applied by glam squad and approved by TM and Coach
- no fingernail polish, unless required as a part of Team make-up
- no jewelry
- deodorant must be used by all skaters at each competition and in the case of sleeveless dresses, appropriate hygiene is expected

Travel Attire

- official SCB team warm-up jacket with practice top or team t-shirt* & black practice pants
- official SCB team outerwear (jacket and vest)
- clean, athletic, tie tennis shoes - No fashion tennis shoes converse or Uggs

**No jewelry is permitted at any time during a team practice, exhibition, or competition*

If a skater appears at practice without the appropriate team practice apparel, they will be asked to deposit \$1 into the team piggy bank for each missing or additional item.

For example, if a skater appears at off-ice practice with earrings, a bracelet, and UGG boots, they will be asked to deposit \$1 for the jewelry and \$1 for not having athletic tennis shoes. The Team Managers control the "Team Piggy Bank" and may use the funds towards their Team at their own discretion.



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SCB Tryout & Start of Season Timeline

April & May

- April 27 & 29: Workshops for Tryouts
- May 1: Tryouts will be closed: No viewing by parents, family or friends
- April 27: PARENT MEETING: 6:00-7:00 PM - Salt Lake City/Lake Placid Room
- May 1: **Fee, Fundraising & Fun: 6:30 PM** Parent meeting to learn about opportunities to help offset Steel City Blades costs.
- May 9: Teams to be determined by SCB Coaching Staff. E-mail notice with Team placement and skater position will be announced via e-mail no later than **Friday, May 9**
- Team Manager Nominations will begin at the time of Team Announcements and TMs will

Team Commitment

Skater Team Commitments & Steel City Blade commitment fee due (to SCB), 48 hours following team announcements. Once commitment fee has been paid, skater is obligated to their team for the 2026-27 season and all payment & fees associate SCB & RMU ISC for 2026-27 season.

June - November

June 1st: 1st RMU ISC Monthly Installment due for the 2026-27 season

(1st of 9 monthly installments) Payments to RMU ISC: June 2026 - February 2027

June 8th-July 27th: Summer Synchro Skills Workshops: Mondays 4:00 - 5:50 p.m.

June: Team Practice Attire will be measured and ordered - Time TBA

July 1st: Pittsburgh FSC Memberships Due (To Pittsburgh FSC)

July 15th: 2nd Installment of Steel City Blades Monthly Payment to be made to: Steel City Blades (Due to SCB on the 15th of each month)

July 31- August 6: Summer Choreography Boot Camp: **MANDATORY** All Skaters Must Attend

August 12, 19, 26: 4:00 - 6:50 PM - Mandatory Summer Team Practice - **Team schedules TBD**

Competition Dress/Outfit Measurements to be taken (possibly earlier - TBA)

Parent Meeting TBA

September: Synchro Season Begins!!!

October: Opening Exhibition

November: Competition Season Begins!



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Tentative Competition & Exhibition Schedule

2026-27 Event Schedule

This is a tentative schedule of competitions and events for the 2026-27 season. Schedules for each Team will be finalized as competition participation is determined and event hosts confirm US Figure Skating Sanctions & Dates.

Competitions are mandatory for all Team skaters: full members, cross skaters and alternates.

October 18, 2026
All Teams & Steel City Stars
Kick-off to Competition Season Exhibition!
RMU ISC

October 24-25, 2026
All Teams
Stars & Stripes Invitational
Woodbridge, VA

November 2026
All Teams & Steel City Stars
Diamond Classic
Mentor, Ohio

November 2026 TBD
All Teams
Essex Synchro Classic-TBD
West Orange, NJ

December 5-6, 2026
ALL Teams
RMU ISC Dress Rehearsal & Holiday Show
RMU ISC

January TBD 2027
All Teams
Colonial Classic - TBD
Lowell, MA

January 18 - 23, 2027
All Teams
Eastern Sectional Championships
Reading, PA

February 2027
All Teams + Steel City Stars
Reflections Competitions
Hershey, PA

March 14, 2027
Last SCB Sunday Practice - TBD

March 21, 2027
All Teams- MANDATORY
Shamrock Skate Exhibition
RMU ISC

March or April
Tentative Date for SCB Banquet

April 2027 (Late April)
Steel City Stars Only
Abby Yeagley Memorial Competition
Penn State

Skaters & parents may be required to miss school & work, due to competition schedules. RMU ISC has a school excuse letter for skaters, which is often helpful to skaters for excused absences or explained absences for the student athlete.

Additional Exhibitions may be scheduled throughout the season and will be mandatory for all teams skating, advanced notice will be provided.

*Competition Dates &
Team Schedules will be
finalized as details
become available from
US FS.*



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SCB FAQ Summary

What is synchronized skating?

Synchronized skating “synchro” is the fastest-growing segment of figure skating, and has been called “the future of figure skating.” Teams of 8-20 skaters perform a program to music while executing intricate synchronized maneuvers and formations. Synchro skaters develop speed, skill and agility on ice, while engaging in the positive camaraderie of a team sport.

How are teams selected?

The teams’ levels are determined by the SCB synchronized skating coaching staff at tryouts. The competitive level of the teams is based on several criteria, including skaters’ skills, skating skills level, ages and USFS **required** test levels, in conjunction with US FS requirements for each team level. Skaters are notified of offered Team placement and position via email no more than one week following tryouts.

When do I have to make my a commitment to my Team?

Once the Teams have been announced and skaters have been notified of their positions, skaters will have 48 hours to make their commitment to the Team. Once skater commitments are finalized, the 2024-25 Team fees will be confirmed.

What is the practice schedule and time commitment for Steel City Blades?

The Steel City Blades training program includes on- and off-ice coaching in areas of conditioning, skating skills and synchro performance, as well as dedicated team building activities. See document with detailed Summer Training, August Boot Camp & Practices, Regular Season Practice Schedule

What is the cost of the season?

See handout from SCB Treasure, Paul Glatzhofer

Each season, costs vary depending on the number of competitions and team levels. Fees are payable in monthly installments.

Please note that fees shown do not include travel in your own car, meals and hotels.

I don't know if we can afford synchro, is there anything we can do?

Yes, Steel City Blades offers multiple optional fundraising opportunities that can help reduce your costs. Please see an SCB board member for more information.

Why must my skater attend all practices and events?

Synchro is a sport that requires precise spacing as well as complex connections and intersections with teammates, so a missing skater impacts the practice for the entire team. For that reason, all practices are mandatory. In the event a skater must miss a practice, a \$35 makeup lesson will be required in the week following the missed practice, in addition to RMU ISC freestyle ice fees for scheduled make-up lesson. Lessons will be scheduled with synchro coach.

Please keep in mind, however, that while the individual make-up lesson helps the absentee skater learn any moves or steps that were missed during practice, the individual lesson does not benefit the entire team or make up for lost team interaction.

100% attendance at practices should be each skater’s goal.

If it sounds like synchro is the sport for you and your skater, please join us on the ice!

If you have any questions or concerns, SCB board members, coaching staff and skating director are happy to respond.