



2020 Skate America Media Information

Key Dates

Media credential portal made available: Thursday, Oct. 1

Media credential allocations made: Rolling (process will begin on Monday, Oct. 5)

Official practice: Thursday, Oct. 22

Start of competition: Friday, Oct. 23

End of competition: Saturday, Oct. 24

Media Contacts

Michael Terry

Director, Communications

mterry@usfigureskating.org

C: 404-790-6453

Marissa Pederson

Manager, Communications

mpederson@usfigureskating.org

C: 651-274-9602

Media Access Guidelines

U.S. Figure Skating has worked diligently over the past few months to ensure there will be ample coverage opportunities available to media outlets wishing to cover 2020 Skate America. Like many other sports leagues, 2020 Skate America will feature a “bubble” with very strict guidelines for anyone who will be accessing the arena to ensure the health and safety of athletes, coaches, officials and everyone involved with the event. There will be two types of media credentials issued for those wishing to cover 2020 Skate America.

- **Group 1 media credential holders** will have access to the Orleans Arena, but in doing so will be required to enter the “bubble” and follow all protocols that are required. Those holding a Group 1 credential will be required to adhere to the bubble’s rules and restrictions (outlined below). Photographers will have limited event-level access to take print/digital outlets, will be able to watch competition and practice in venue, but all interactions with athletes and coaches will be conducted virtually. **There will be no person-to-person access with athletes, coaches or officials.** Only a very limited number of Group 1 media credentials will be distributed. These media credential holders must

test negative for COVID-19 via the bubble testing procedures before entering Orleans Arena. The testing process will require a self-isolation period while waiting for test results; this may take up to 48 hours.

- **Group 2 media credential holders** will not have access to the Orleans Arena and will be covering the event virtually. Those holding a Group 2 Credential will not be permitted into the bubble and will not have access to the Orleans Arena under any circumstances.

Additional Bubble Details for Group 1 Media Credential Holders

Group 1 media credential holders will be required to adhere to all event bubble rules and restrictions in order to maintain a media credential. Failure to follow the protocols outlined here, or further shared throughout the event, will result in immediate loss of credential privileges and may impact future media credential requests. A full listing of rules and restrictions are listed later in this document. Some important key points follow:

- Group 1 media credential holders are required to receive a negative COVID-19 test in order to enter the Orleans Arena. Tests will cost approximately \$150 and will be at the cost of the outlet. Credential holders will be tested upon arrival and are required to quarantine in their room until a negative test is achieved. Media members should arrive at least 48 hours prior to the day they wish to enter Orleans Arena (credentialed media may not access the arena before official practices on Thursday, Oct 22). If a positive test is received, the media credential holder will be retested at the cost of the outlet. Should the credential holder test positive again, additional quarantine costs will be at the outlet's expense.
- Media credential holders will be required to stay at the Orleans Hotel as a condition of accreditation within the official competition room block. The hotel rate is [Weekdays (Sunday-Thursday) \$45+\$24.99 resort fee+tax] and [Weekend (Friday and Saturday) \$95+\$24.99 resort fee+tax]. Group 1 media credential holder rooms will be billed to their respective outlet.
- Group 1 media credential holders will be required to participate in the competition dining program. The cost will be \$150 per-person, per-day, and will be billed to the respective outlet. There will be three meals provided per day.
- Group 1 media credential holders will be required to wear a face covering at all times while inside the Orleans Arena. The only exception will be during meal times.

Seating: Photographers will have limited event-level access with assigned shooting positions. There will be an adjacent photographer's work area. There will be appropriate social distancing measures in place. Representatives from **print and digital outlets** will have assigned, individual work areas within the bowl, which are not to be swapped or exchanged throughout the duration of the event. There will be appropriate social distancing measures in place. Face coverings are required at all times in the Orleans Arena.

Media Coverage Opportunities

In an effort to reduce interactions among different groups of credential holders, all interaction with athletes and coaches will take place in virtual settings, regardless of whether an outlet holds a Group 1 or Group 2 media credential.

Covering Practice and Warmups

- There will be no traditional mixed zone at this event. Those wishing to interview skaters in the virtual mixed zone after a practice session should email Michael Terry (mterry@usfigureskating.org) AND Marissa Pederson (mpederson@usfigureskating.org) at least one hour before the practice session. U.S. Figure Skating Communications staff will facilitate interviews after practice in a **virtual mixed zone** (Zoom). These mixed zone sessions will be archived and available for on-demand viewing.
- U.S. Figure Skating will make **practice video b-roll** available for media use (with credit and adherence to media usage guidelines) upon request. Please email your requests to Michael Terry (mterry@usfigureskating.org) AND Marissa Pederson (mpederson@usfigureskating.org) by 12 p.m. PT on Wednesday, Oct. 21.
- U.S. Figure Skating will make **practice photos** available in a timely manner for media use (with credit and adherence to media usage guidelines) within the U.S. Figure Skating photo bank. For specific requests, please email Michael Terry (mterry@usfigureskating.org) AND Marissa Pederson (mpederson@usfigureskating.org) by 12 p.m. PT on Wednesday, Oct. 21.
- There will be no post warm-up interviews.

Covering Competition

- U.S. Figure Skating will make competition **video b-roll** available in a timely manner for media use (with credit and adherence to media usage guidelines). For specific requests, please email Michael Terry (mterry@usfigureskating.org) AND Marissa Pederson (mpederson@usfigureskating.org) by 12 p.m. PT on Wednesday, Oct. 21.
- U.S. Figure Skating will make **practice and competition photos** available in a timely manner for media use (with credit and adherence to media usage guidelines) within the U.S. Figure Skating photo bank. For specific requests, please message U.S. Figure Skating Communications staff (not all requests will be able to be made).
- Like in practice, a **virtual mixed zone** (Zoom) will be available to all media credential holders. All athletes will “come through” the mixed zone after receiving scores. Group 1 credential holders will be able to tune in from the media workroom at the Orleans Arena. A member of the U.S. Figure Skating communications staff will moderate the virtual mixed zone. These mixed zone sessions will be archived and available for on-demand viewing.
- **Virtual press conferences**, which will feature the top-3 finishers after the short program and the medalists after the free skate, will be available virtually to all media credential holders (Zoom). They will take place after the short program and free skate for all four disciplines. Questioners will be seen via video by athletes. Press conferences will be moderated by a member of the U.S. Figure Skating Communications Staff. These press conferences will be archived and available for on-demand viewing.

- All **one-on-one media requests** will be facilitated on a case-by-case basis and will be conducted virtually. Please email Michael Terry (mterry@usfigureskating.org) AND Marissa Pederson (mpederson@usfigureskating.org) with specific requests.

Mixed Zone and Press Conference Etiquette

- All media credential holders will be able to access the mixed zone and press conference through a provided link. Once in the Zoom room, those wanting to ask a question will be asked to notify the moderator by using the chat function. The moderator will call on those wanting to ask a question.

Health and Safety Guidelines

A full event handbook will be available prior to the event. Below are some key guidelines and restrictions that those applying for Group 1 media accreditation should be aware of.

U.S. Figure Skating, in coordination with our assigned Chief Medical Officer and local medical partner University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV) Medicine, will institute a Health & Safety Plan as outlined below to ensure the safest possible environment for all participants and the flexibility to adjust daily as needed.

Step 1 – Advance communication, education and COVID-19 screening

U.S. Figure Skating has direct contact ability with all persons attending 2020 Skate America. As such, we will be communicating and implementing the following:

- 14 days from arrival: All persons will be required to start daily health screening using the Healthy Roster Safer Play App (see below for more information). Health Screens will be monitored by members of U.S. Figure Skating's Sports Medicine Team. In addition, all persons are requested to start to reduce public interactions to lower the risk of being exposed to COVID-19.
- 7 days from arrival: All persons are requested to reduce further public interactions to lower the risk of being exposed to COVID-19.

Step 2 – Arrival, quarantine and testing

All persons will arrive at the Orleans Arena to be checked in to the event as follows:

- Verify green screen on Healthy Roster App. *If a red screen is displayed, the individual will have to follow-up with the local medical team or the medical liaison to determine next steps in follow-up care or further testing.*
- Temperature checked.
- PCR Test will be administered by UNLV Medicine.
- Event orientation will be mandatory for all persons.
- Accreditation will be provided.
- Hotel check-in will take place at arena.
- Once all the steps above occur, all persons will be required to quarantine in hotel room at the Orleans Hotel until a negative test result is returned. The estimated wait time is 24-48 hours.

Step 3 – Daily monitoring and restricted access

In addition to arrival procedures, the following will be implemented to ensure a “closed event” as required by the Nevada Gaming Commission, which has jurisdiction over all casino properties including the Orleans Hotel and Arena.

- All persons will be required to present their valid event accreditation at designated entry doors and will have their temperature checked daily and/or each time they enter facility.
- Temperatures will be logged and anyone recording a temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher will be required to quarantine and referred to local medical services. They may require a new COVID-19 PCR test.
- If a person receives a positive test, that person will receive a second test to rule out a false positive result.
- If positive after the second test, person will be required to quarantine and may be subject to a 14-day quarantine prior to flying per state law.
- All persons will be required to wear a face covering at all times while in the Orleans Arena and the Orleans Hotel common areas (entryways, hallways and elevators) as they travel to their room.

Bubble Restrictions

No persons may enter any common areas of the Orleans Hotel Casino Property, including, but not limited to the following:

- Hotel restaurants
- Casino
- Gift shop
- Coffee shop
- Gym and pool
- Movie theatres
- Bowling alley

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: I have friends/family in Las Vegas and would like to visit/have dinner with them. Can I do that?

A: No. Once you are admitted to the event bubble, no external persons may interact or visit with you at the hotel.

Q: Am I able to visit local drugstores or convenience stores for snacks?

A: No. If you exit the bubble for any reason other than a pre-approved reason due to an emergency, your accreditation will be removed and you will be considered in violation of the event protocols. We recommend you bring any and all special needs or preferred snacks.

Q: If I choose not to eat in the event dining room can't I just order room service or use a service like GrubHub?

A: No. The Orleans Hotel is not currently offering room service due to COVID-19 protocols. In addition, you are not allowed to order GrubHub as the delivery personnel is outside the event bubble and it would present a health risk to all event personnel. Please note we will allow a takeout option for food from the event dining room so that you can take food to your room.

Q: Can I leave and then re-enter the bubble due to other work assignments?

A: No, once you enter the bubble, we require you to stay until you depart. Any person seeking a return to the bubble will be required to test and quarantine before re-entering the bubble. This must be approved ahead of time.

A failure to adhere to 2020 Skate America safety protocol will result in removal of accreditation for the event.