



# Showcase Simplified: and explained:

Showcase events are offered at many competitions. While Free Skate programs are focused on completing jumps and spins, Showcase focuses on entertainment and expressing the music. There are no extra points for doing the hardest jumps.

## What's the difference between Free Skate and Showcase?

**One of the easiest ways to tell if a program is a FreeSkate program or a Showcase is if the skater is using a prop of some sort.**

'Prop' is defined in the 2025-2026 Showcase Guidelines as: a movable or portable object, distinct from the skater, scenery, and costumes; used in a production, and similar entertainments, to further the action or presented story.

So if the skater is dancing about with a top hat and cane, you can be sure it's a Showcase program.

## So what CAN I use as a prop?

**There's pretty much no limit to what could be a prop.**

We've seen hula hoops, yo-yos, brooms, ironing boards, skeletons, a lawn chair, a pillow & blanket, juggling scarves, a lasso, stuffed animals, coffee cups, trash cans, vacuum cleaners, and basketballs.

It could also be an article of clothing (a bathrobe, jacket, hat etc) that a skater puts on/takes off during their program.

## Special rules for props:

- 1 Skaters have to be able to transport the props on and off the ice by themselves. Make sure you can fit it through the door onto the ice.
- 2 No weapons (real or fake). No guns (or gunshot sound effects), projectiles like bows & arrows or slingshots. No cannons or swords.
- 3 No smoke, fire, dry ice, liquids, bubbles or anything that could alter the ice surface or other skaters or the audience
- 4 No glass, mirrors, or other breakable items.
- 5 No living things (people or animal) can be used as props

## How many showcase events are there?

**A lot!** Each competition gets to decide which events they put on so double check the competition announcement. Here's a list (with explanations on the next page)

- \* Emotional Performance
- \* Choreographic Artistry
- \* Lyrical Pop
- \* Character Performance
- \* Comedic Impressions
- \* Inflatables
- \* Interpretive
- \* Themed Event

## What about costumes?

**Costumes can be much more theatrical in showcase programs.**

We've seen skaters wear the official princess costume they wore for Halloween, swimsuits, face paint, and capes. They may be dressed as bacon, a pickle, or an astronaut complete with a helmet. Just make sure the costume does not impede the skater's movement or vision, they still have to perform athletic feats out on the ice.

## And Music?

**Anything goes for music. Music choice is extremely important** and the options are limitless. Instrumentals, music with lyrics, spoken word poems, and sound effects. There's usually Disney and Broadway - but you can also let your creativity shine. Always double check your time limits though; they're not always the same as your Free Skate program.

**NOTE: Please be careful with your music editing. Don't make people's heads turn for the wrong reasons. For ideas and information visit:**

[www.skatecrate.club/music-matters](http://www.skatecrate.club/music-matters)



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*Also*

You can skate with your friends! Even if you're not the same level in skating, you can create a program together.

Just enter the level of the most advanced skater.

**Duets and Trios:** skate with your friends, lip synch and use props.

**Mini Production Ensemble:** 4-8 skaters,

**Production Ensembles:** 9 or more skaters

## Different kinds of events in Showcase - defined for you

**Emotional Performance:** should express depth of emotion. These programs are often more serious and sad, but remember, there are many other emotions besides sad.

**Choreographic Artistry:** This is the category with the most rules - music cannot have lyrics or spoken word, jumps and spins are very limited, and costumes must be only ONE (1) single color. This event is only open to Juvenile and above or Adult Masters.

**Lyrical Pop:** skate to your favorite song with lyrics. No props allowed here.

**Character Performance:** portray a character on the ice. Be sure to lip synch to your music and bring a prop if you want.

**Comedic Impressions:** your goal is to make the audience chuckle throughout your program. Bring props and lip synch if you want.

**Inflatables:** Have you always wanted to skate in an inflatable costume? There's an entire event for that!

**Interpretive:** Not for the faint of heart! Skaters hear a surprise piece of music a couple times and then have to make up a program to it on the spot.

**Themed Event:** This was a new event that started in the 2023-2024 season, and the theme changes every year. We have had Pop Star, Motown, and Divas of the 80s and 90s as themes so far.

## Combined Events

### DID YOU KNOW?

Men and women may compete against each other in Showcase.

**COMPETITIONS MAY DECIDE** to combine Lyrical Pop, Character Performance, and Comedic Impressions into one event. In fact, this is common at small events. Double check the competition announcement if you have questions

## What's allowed, required or not permitted

	lyrics	lip synching	props
<b>Emotional Performance</b>	allowed	not permitted	allowed
<b>Choreographic Artistry</b>	not permitted	not permitted	not permitted
<b>Lyrical Pop</b>	required	not permitted	not permitted
<b>Character Performance</b>	required	required	allowed
<b>Comedic Impressions</b>	permitted	permitted	allowed