

## All About Virtual Tests

Confused about virtual testing? Not sure if it's the right fit for you or your skater? Have questions about how it all works? Below we have compiled some FAQs about virtual tests at the Skating Club of Phoenix that should help...

### What is virtual testing, and how does it differ from in-person?

*Virtual testing is a recently approved format of taking your USFSA tests. Skaters record a video of their test: for example demonstrating their Skating Skills, or performing a program for Singles, or skating a dance level. That video is then sent to a judging panel who review it remotely, complete a USFSA judging form (the same form that would be used for in-person), and return their results. Once all results are in, the Test Chair will contact you with your result and it will be entered into USFSA.*

### Can I just send my video directly to judges?

*No, just as with in-person testing, you must register for a virtual test session through EntryEeze. The Test Chair will provide additional instructions on how to submit your video and paperwork.*

### Are there rules about the videos?

*Yes: USFSA has established specific guidelines on how the videos should be recorded. You may find these instructions on our website, on the testing page. If you are missing one of these elements your video will be rejected and you'll have to re-shoot. These are the most important things to remember when recording your video:*

- *Videos must have been recorded within 14 days of submission, and competition videos are not accepted*
- *Make sure you are not recording on a busy session! USFSA rule 4104-C-6 notes that "Virtual tests should be recorded with no more than eight other skaters on the ice, and the test candidate should be clearly identifiable"*
- *Use a newer phone or tablet to make the recording, and it needs to be in landscape (horizontal) orientation. Anything older than an iPhone 11 isn't usually high-enough quality*
- *Remember to include a date/time stamp in your video. Example: have the skater hold up a phone showing the lock screen with the date and time clearly visible. Showing the rink clock and announcing the date and time does not meet the requirements*
- *Virtual Test Placard **\*new USFSA rule effective 11/21/24\***: this must be completed and held up by the skater at the beginning of your video. Please ensure it is filled out completely and clearly displayed in the video*
- *I recommend having the skater return to in front of the camera at the end of your video to thank the judges: they really like that, and you leave them with a good impression*

### Once I have everything ready to submit how do I do that?

*SCP has a club DropBox and we will provide you with a link to a dedicated folder for your test, and you should upload your forms and video there. Once you have completed that upload we will remove your access, and provide links to that folder to the judging panel. Due to the risk of viruses/spyware etc. SCP cannot accept links to your own file-sharing site as video files are too large to scan.*

### Do I need to wait until the end of the month to submit?

*Not at all! It's actually easier for the Test Chair if you submit when you have your things ready, at any point in the month. We submit tests weekly, which is also helpful to our judges who then have tests spread out across the month, rather than receiving a bulk batch all at once.*

### Why should I choose virtual testing instead of in-person?

*While we still believe that in-person testing is generally the best option, many skaters have found virtual testing to be a great option for them. If you have a skater who gets really nervous in front of a judging panel then virtual testing could be a good choice. Virtual testing can also be a great option for higher level dance tests where it can be hard to get*

*judges locally. Or perhaps you are unable to make the dates for local tests, and you need to get a test passed, then virtual testing could help you reach that goal.*

#### Is virtual testing easier than in-person?

*Not necessarily. The judges selected are USFSA appointed judges and have completed all the same accreditation as our local area judges. According to USFSA since virtual testing began the pass rate is very similar to in-person tests.*

#### Who are the judges?

*Test Chairs may select any judges from the USFSA database who have designated themselves as available for virtual testing. This means that the entire country of judges is available, which is exciting! At Skating Club of Phoenix we often look to use judges that are not local to our area in order to provide variety for skaters.*

#### Are the judges the same each month, or different?

*They could be some of the same judges that were used the prior month, or they could be different. It all depends on the availability of the judges during each month.*

#### How long will it take to get results?

*Once submitted, judges have 7 days to review and return their results. SCP submits tests weekly (typically on the weekend).*

#### Will I get a patch if I pass?

*Skating Club of Phoenix provides patches for virtual tests for their full club members. We will either give it to you in-person at the rink, or mail it to the address on file in EntryEeze. For skaters from other clubs, please reach out to your own club to receive your patch.*

#### What else should I consider when deciding if virtual testing is right for me or my skater?

- ✪ *For virtual testing skaters can keep recording videos during their freestyle sessions until they have one that they feel is the best representation of their ability. No more worries about not landing a jump!*
- ✪ *Judges may not find it as easy to see the skating on video as opposed to in-person.*
- ✪ *During an in-person test the judges do have the option to ask a tester to re-skate an element if that could mean the difference between a pass and a retry; but in a virtual test all they have is the video you have submitted.*
- ✪ *Judges are supposed to attempt to watch the entire test in one sitting without a break, and viewed at normal speed. They can pause between elements in moves in the field tests, and between partnered and solo patterns in dance to write comments. They are also able to rewatch the video to check for missing elements.*
- ✪ *During an in-person test you typically have the ice to yourself, but many virtual tests are recorded on freestyle sessions with other skaters on the ice, so the judges could find that distracting and harder to see your performance.*
- ✪ *At an in-person test you will get your results right away. For virtual tests there is a wait time from when you submit your video and forms, to the test being submitted to the judges (SCP submits weekly), to the judges reviewing and sending back results.*