

From Basic to Mastery: An Overview of the PSA Ratings System

PSA Mission Statement: *Dedicated to providing continuing education and accreditation to ice skating professionals in a safe and ethical environment.*

The PSA Ratings process requires a substantial amount of time and effort from coaches. Below is a brief description of available Ratings. For further information, go to www.skatepsa.com, click on Ratings.

Beginning the Ratings Process - Basic Accreditation or Foundations of Coaching

The first step in the Ratings System is to take a Basic Accreditation (BA) online exam or the Foundations of Coaching Course (FCC).

The Difference between Rating Levels

Once you have passed the BA or FCC you can choose to continue the rating process by taking oral exams. These oral exams are offered at four increasingly difficult levels in ten disciplines:

REGISTERED Basic Understanding	CERTIFIED Specific Understanding	SENIOR Complete Understanding	MASTER Mastery Understanding
The Candidate must demonstrate good, thorough, yet basic knowledge and experience covering the curriculum at this level.	The Candidate must demonstrate a higher knowledge of teaching technique at this level with experience covering the content at this level.	The Candidate must demonstrate superior knowledge with excellent technical skills and confidence in all areas of expertise.	The Candidate must demonstrate exceptional knowledge, teaching skill and experience - the highest level of testing and competency.

Sport Science and Medicine online exams are a component for each rating at all levels. They can be taken in any order but you must have completed the level to correspond with the oral exam level.

Discipline Choices

To be Rated in a discipline, a coach must successfully complete all rating requirements for that specific discipline. A coach may be rated in multiple disciplines. The following are the ten disciplines to choose from:

FREE SKATING - FIGURES - DANCE - FREE DANCE - PAIRS - GROUP - PROGRAM DIRECTOR - CHOREOGRAPHY - SYNCHRONIZED SKATING - MOVES IN THE FIELD

Ratings are Permanent

Once a Rating is attained, it is for life. However, in order for the Rating to remain active, the coach must continue their education through PSA educational programs. All rated professionals are required to maintain 28 educational credits for every three year period. Credits may be received from a variety of available sources including all PSA educational programs, plus limited credits from U.S. Figure Skating, ISI, ISU, USOC and Skate Canada pre-approved events.