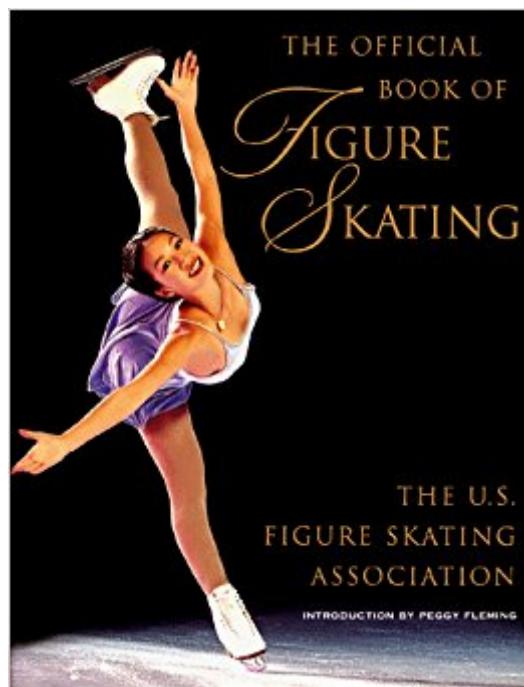


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The OFFICIAL BOOK OF FIGURE SKATING



Synopsis

For little girls and boys with a dream and a new pair of skates, for millions who can't be pried away from the television when Brian Boitano performs, for anyone who wonders just how it's done, the United States Figure Skating Association presents the first full-color, official guide to figure skating -- the second most popular sport in America after pro football. Prepared with the full cooperation of the sport's national governing body -- the USFSA -- along with its experts, coaches, and archives, The Official Book of Figure Skating is the one publication every skating fan must have. This authoritative volume celebrates all aspects of figure skating -- the speed and power, the grace and glamour, how it's done as well as who does it -- so that everyone from casual fan to beginner to budding champion can appreciate its range and beauty. Sections on history, personalities, and costumes tell the fascinating story of how skating, originating with the simple need to cross frozen water, has been transformed into a unique blend of sport, art, and entertainment. The book also reveals the experts' secrets behind choreography and conditioning, and presents dozens of skating moves described by USFSA coaches and illustrated in revealing detail. Chapters on judging and competition explain the intricacies of skating success, and some of the sport's finest athletes share memories of their greatest moments on ice. Finally, a glossary and full lists of skating champions and USFSA affiliated clubs make this book an invaluable reference for both skaters and fans. With its authoritative and comprehensive treatment, The Official Book of Figure Skating is the final word for followers of this dazzling sport. But it is also an exceptionally beautiful volume, one with an unsurpassed visual archive. Nearly 250 photographs and images, many never before seen, have been drawn from the collection of the World Figure Skating Museum and ABC Sports. Including the most recent stars in full-color action, rare photos of the men and women who built the sport, and original commissioned drawings of figure skating's most important moves -- from the Salchow to the double Lutz -- this beautiful and definitive book is as full of artistry and excitement as figure skating itself.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The cover photo of a swanlike Michelle Kwan sets the tone for the sweeping, beautifully illustrated volume behind it. It is as attractive as it is skillful, as balanced as it is smart, as seemingly effortless as it is hard-working. There's a helluva lot happening beneath its cool, glittery surface. The Official Book does duty on several fronts. It offers an authoritative illustrated history of the sport; short biographies of the most influential and important skaters; lists of U.S., Olympic, and world champions in all categories; and an extensive directory of figure-skating clubs around the country. Chapters glide easily from the evolution of the skate itself to a primer--with helpful line drawings--on how to use those skates, from simple forward "stoking" to the complex jumps and spins that enthrall audiences everywhere. There's a hilarious tour of skating's changing and fickle fashions and sections that explain how skaters create routines and exactly what they are required to put into them, the rigors of actual competition (and how best to watch it), and even one on how the often mysterious judges arrive at their often mysterious scores. As a reference book, it's useful and conclusive. As a history, it's enjoyably informative. And--most alluringly--as a celebration, it is every bit as exquisite as the sport it celebrates. --Jeff Silverman

Published in 1998, so not the most up to date, but still nice for some of the info on past skaters. Good photos.

This book was bought as a gift for a figure skating fan. It is a type of coffee table book. Quality paper and bindings were used, pictures and illustrations are beautiful. The price was right, too. I was confident that this book would be well received.

We were avid figure skaters for years. Then my wife broke her shoulder and we don't skate any more. But that's not the book's fault. I just wonder how the professional skaters survive all the falls and injuries. They must be exceptionally tough.

Some people complain that a certain book they purchased on figure skating is not "official." Well, this is about as official as you can get. Written by the United States Figure Skating Association

(USFSA), this book is jam-packed with everything any die-hard skating fan or any amateur skating fan could ever want to know. The Official Book Of Figure Skating scores major points with a cooler-than-ice intro by Peggy Fleming herself, then escalades into covering every topic including the very evolution/history of figure skating into the costumes that the top figure skaters wear today. This book is for three specific people: 1. A die-hard skating fan who loves looking at glossy pictures of her favorite stars and also loves to gush and dream about meeting them 2. The serious athlete who buys the book for help and instruction with his/her's jumps and spins, physical fitness/training advice, and help with what moves he/she needs to perform in their short and long programs 3. The average person on the block who just buys the book partly because he/she is bored and partly because he/she views it as another book on the shelf to brag about and feels that he/she could benefit with SOME knowledge of figure skating. Chapter 1 is basically a comprehensive and thorough description of the history of figure skating and how it began, while Chapter 2 describes the individual personalities that made figure skating so popular and who were so instrumental in building the foundation of what it is today. Also, woven throughout the book are one-page profiles of some of the most prolific skaters old and new, such as Tara Lipinski and Scott Hamilton. Chapter 3 gives an outline of the skate boot itself and differentiates between "good" skates and "bad" skates. Chapter 4 tells the reader how to skate and gives slow motion sketches and instructions on every figure skating move from jumps to spins and tells you how to perform them. Chapter 5 is dedicated to the proper fitness and training regimen for skaters, while Chapter 6 is probably the tween skating fan's most studied chapter: Fashion in Skating. It describes in chronological order the changes in fashion from the 1900's, World War-eras, 50's, 60's, 70's, and so on. It shows the progression and the different style and changes in costumes in the decade-eras by description and pictures. Chapters 7 and 8 are basically a guide to creating the perfect routine and what moves you are required to perform in that routine while also detailing what forms of competition you can expect to see in each field. It describes the programs that are commonly seen in each category, such as ice dancing, mens, womens, and pairs, while flashing back to some legendary programs in the past, such as Kristi Yamaguchi's and Brian Orser's. Chapter 9 gives a description of every skater's personal enemy and the system that can either make them or break them: judging. However, since this book was published in 1998, before the 2002 judging scandal, the 6.0 system has been abolished and I would recommend not reading through this chapter if you are a real skater but only reading it through for reminiscing's sake. The last items to note are the record book and the list of USFSA figure skating clubs in the U.S. The record book is just the final statement to the reader that this book covers everything figure skating from A to Z and leaves absolutely NOTHING out by giving

records of all the U.S., World, and Olympic Champions in all four categories of skating from the very beginning of each category while the list of skating clubs can be helpful if you or someone you know wants to find a USFSA club in your area to join. In conclusion, if you want to know anything about figure skating, look no further than right here. Sure, the other books with glossy photos of all the major skaters are nice and easy-on-the-eyes, but this book has the cold, hard facts on figure skating. Just as schools teach ancient to modern history in class, this book teaches the same ancient to modern history about figure skating; and I can assure you, if there was ever a "school" of figure skating, this would be the textbook. Yup, this is truly the "Official" Book Of Figure Skating!

While this book is a lovely photographic tour of a small fraction of the international skating scene, it is missing far too much information to be the encyclopedic tome it appears it was intended to be. It has an interesting format, but the interspersed skater "personality" or "memory" pages, while cute, are distracting to the informational material in each chapter. In addition, many of the most influential U.S. skaters, coaches and others involved in the sport are never mentioned or are mentioned only in passing. As an official book of U.S. figure skating, there is an overabundance of international "personalities" -- it fails to give the U.S. skating community the attention it deserves. The historical section is clever and includes good facts regarding the early development of various movements and competition requirements, but seems to gloss over the development of figure skating in the U.S., both as an organized recreational sport and later as a thriving, multimillion-dollar business. In fact, it barely mentions the popularity of skating shows and the people who made them great (i.e., Shipstad and Johnson, etc.), and never mentions the "behind-the-scenes" developments and people such as important choreographers, skating facilities or the Zamboni machine. The sections on choosing skates, the history of costumes, and how competitions work are interesting, but give only part of the story. The "instructional" diagrams are only mildly correct -- for example, the drawings fail to indicate the direction of spin in jumps, fail to indicate the importance of edges, posture and arm movements, and fail to recognize that all moves may be done on either the left or the right foot. The cost figures cited for various items such as costumes, skates, etc. are considerably low and deceiving -- figure skating, especially the cost of ice time, is a truly expensive sport. Finally, as an USFSA member for more than 25 years now, I was disappointed that this "official" book of the USFSA does not contain information on what the USFSA is and does -- it seems this book is intended more for the skating-competition-television-viewing audience than for any serious skating community. For serious skaters, the USFSA rulebook is an important volume to invest in annually, and I recommend the instructional book (with far better and complete drawings

and instructions) written several years ago by the late, great Carlo Fassi (which I can only hope is still in print).

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