



# Paradice Skating Academy Competition 2026

Sanctioned by the NZIFSA

## Announcement

We are excited to announce the annual Skating Academy competition at Paradise Botany rink for 2026! This is an opportunity for Skating Academy skaters of all levels and ages from both Paradise Botany and Avondale to participate in a variety of returning and new competition categories.

**Venue:** Paradise Botany rink, 490 Ti Rakau Drive, Auckland.

**Date:** 11 October 2026, competition begins at 4:15pm.

**Entries:** Open on 28 August, 2026. Entry and payment is via your existing student PIMS log in. Link here: <https://store.paradice.co.nz/top-up-search-member.php/> FAQs and further information will be available on [www.paradice.co.nz](http://www.paradice.co.nz)

**Entry Fees:** \$35 per skater, per event, for all categories, including individual and group events. Entry also includes free skating for the competitor and one friend at the conclusion of the competition.

**Spectators:** Entry is free for spectators. A free skate will be held at the conclusion of the competition, with each competitor able to bring one friend to skate with them.

**Entry closing date:** 11:59pm, 25 September 2026.

**Late entries:** Will be at the discretion of event organisers if ice time allows.

**Judging:** For Categories A–D, results will be determined by majority opinion of the judges, taking into account the technical and artistic aspects of each performance. SkateFest is participation-focused and will not be ranked competitively.

**Music:** Applicable to categories A) and D) only, music must be submitted in the format requested by the event organisers. Further information will be posted online at a later date.

**Official Photography:** Professional figure skating photographer Olga Levien has generously agreed to attend the competition to photograph every skater and event. Packages of her perfectly edited photos are available to pre-order online at <http://www.levienphotography.com/figure-skating>

### Categories and eligibility:

Please note that entries in each category may be separated by age and/or KiwiSkate level, depending on the number and age/level of entrants. Skaters may enter **more than one category** across Categories A) to E), but may only enter **one** Skating Academy Programme category (B1–B5).

**CATEGORIES:****A) Theatre on Ice:**

Open to skaters of all ages and levels who are current students in the Skating Academy. Skaters perform a programme in a group of 4 or more with no required elements to their own choice of music on the full ice surface, limit of 5 minutes in length.

**B) Skating Academy Programmes:**

All levels in this category will skate a preset programme (with preset music) for their level. Level 1-4 will skate on 1/3 of the ice, while level 5 will skate on 1/2 of the ice. This is open to all skaters who are current students in the Skating Academy, but can only enter in the level aligning to their current KiwiSkate level assessment on their Paradise account at the time of entry submission. Programme content, example videos, and music files for practice will be available online.

**B1. Level 1:** open to Tiny Tots (under 6 years old and not passed Beginner), and pre-beginner (over 6 years but attending Tiny Tots or equivalent level) KiwiSkate skaters.

**B2. Level 2:** open to Beginner and Elementary KiwiSkate level skaters.

**B3. Level 3:** open to Basic and Novice 1 KiwiSkate level skaters.

**B4. Level 4:** open to Novice 2 and Advanced KiwiSkate level skaters.

**B5. Level 5:** open to Free Skate 1-3 KiwiSkate level skaters.

**C) Synchronised:**

As per NZIFSA guidelines for synchronised skating grades. Full ice surface. Open to all synchronised skating grades.

**D) Artistic:**

A fun and creative category for skaters who want the opportunity to create and perform their own programme. Open to current Skating Academy skaters of all ages and levels. Skaters may enter as a solo, pair or trio. Programmes may be up to 1 minute 30 seconds and are performed on 1/3 of the ice, to music of the skater's choice. There are no required elements, and costumes, props, characters and other creative ideas are encouraged — inflatable costumes are welcome too! Judges will consider artistic expression, creativity and entertainment rather than technical difficulty. Entries for both D1 and D2 will be split into Novice 1 and below, and Novice 2 and above.

**D1 Solo Artistic:** Skaters perform individually. Skaters competing in Skate School Novice 1–Advanced grades may enter this category with their existing routines.

**D2 Pair or Trio Artistic:** Skaters perform as either a pair or trio.

**E) SkateFest:**

Open to Skating Academy skaters from Tiny Tots through to and including Novice 1. SkateFest is a fun and supportive category where skaters take part in a series of short skating challenges, which may include gliding, balance, stopping, jumping, spinning and other age- and level-appropriate skills. Each skater will have the opportunity to attempt several challenges and earn ribbons for their participation and achievements. Entries will be split into three groups: Beginner and Elementary; Basic; and Novice 1. For this event, the judge will be on the ice to guide and support skaters through the challenges. The focus is on **participation, confidence and skill development rather than competitive ranking**, with plenty of opportunities for every skater to demonstrate their skills and earn a ribbon.

**Further information:** Please see information to follow shortly regarding programme learning and practice time, costuming, detailed schedule of events, participant information, etc. on [www.paradice.co.nz](http://www.paradice.co.nz).

For questions and enquiries please contact [bree@paradice.co.nz](mailto:bree@paradice.co.nz).