

# NATIONS' CUP and GOLD CUP

2026 Interclub Competition



**April 23-26, 2026**

Munn Ice Arena  
509 Birch Road, East  
Lansing, Michigan 48824

Sanction #36770

Nations' Cup and Gold Cup 2026 is an interclub competition organized and conducted under Rule 107, paragraph 15 of the ISU General Regulations.

The Organizing Committee (OC) of Nations' Cup and Gold Cup 2026 is the Ice House Skating Academy, a skating club affiliated to ISU Member The United States Figure Skating Association (USA).

The United States Figure Skating Association has issued a sanction to Ice House Skating Academy granting its member club exclusive authority to be the Organizing Committee (OC) and host of the Nations' Cup and Gold Cup 2026 Interclub Competition.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

**The 9<sup>th</sup> Nations' Cup will be held April 23-26, 2026 in Lansing, Michigan, U.S.A. at Munn Ice Arena, located on the campus of Michigan State University.**

This international interclub event is sanctioned by the International Skating Union and United States Figure Skating.

The competition will be conducted in accordance with the current [Ballet/Theatre on Ice International Guidelines](#) except as noted herein. Current guidelines for Ballet/Theatre on Ice competition can be found at: <https://www.usfigureskating.org/skate/skating-opportunities/theatre-on-ice>

The selection path for participating teams to Nations' Cup Interclub competition and Gold Cup Interclub competition is determined by the team's home country's Federation.

- **Each participating country can register up to four (4) teams in each category, except for Open which allows for a maximum of six (6) teams.**
- All skaters selected to the Nations' Cup Interclub competition & Gold Cup Interclub competition must meet the eligibility criteria for the [ISU Regulations \(ISU Rule 102\) and the International Theatre On Ice regulations](#)
- The category of each team is defined by the guidelines set forth in this announcement.

**Competition Dates: April 23-26, 2026**

**Competition Rink:**

**Munn Ice Arena (on the campus of Michigan State University)**

509 Birch Road, East  
Lansing, Michigan 48824

The rink measures 200 feet long and 85 feet wide (61 x 24 meters)

Concessions will be available Thursday through Sunday

ALL OFFICIAL PRACTICE ICE WILL BE HELD AT MUNN ICE ARENA

UNOFFICIAL PRACTICE ICE WILL BE AVAILABLE AT MUNN ICE ARENA AND AT BIGGBY COFFEE ICE CUBE LANSING

**Biggby Coffee Ice Cube, LANSING**

2810 Hannah Blvd. East  
Lansing MI 48823

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Event Coordinator Contacts: Ice House Skating Academy**

Heather Olson : [nationscup2026@gmail.com](mailto:nationscup2026@gmail.com)

Patrick O'Neil: [PatrickHONeil@aol.com](mailto:PatrickHONeil@aol.com)

**U.S. Figure Skating Contacts :**

National Vice-Chair, Theatre On Ice : John Cole, [jhabcole@aol.com](mailto:jhabcole@aol.com)

Manager, Figure Skating Programs : Casey Mallory, [skatingprograms@usfigureskating.org](mailto:skatingprograms@usfigureskating.org)

Product Support for EMS (online registration questions), [productsupport@usfigureskating.org](mailto:productsupport@usfigureskating.org).

## **ENTRIES/REGISTRATION:**

**ALL ENTRY FORMS MUST BE SUBMITTED through EMS.**

**DEADLINE: All entries must be received no later than January 31<sup>st</sup> 2026**

The OC, in conjunction with the Chief Referee, reserves the right to limit the size of an event and cancel or combine events if there are too few entrants. If only one team enters an event, they will compete under the same conditions as teams in other events and will be judged in the same manner.

No refund will be issued after the close of entries on January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026.

**Please Indicate your intention to participate in the competition no later than December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 23:59 Eastern Standard Time so the OC can plan accordingly for your attendance via GOOGLE FORM.**

Final entries will be submitted on or before January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026, at 23:59 Eastern Standard Time

## NOTES:

All teams are required to register online via the U.S. Figure Skating Event Management System (EMS). Anyone listed as a Team Manager or Coach for a team in their Members Only Team Profile will be able to access the registration system. Registration for the competition is not considered final until online payment has been received. Online payment via credit card is the only form of accepted payment for registration in EMS.

### **Foreign Teams: Follow the steps here to register:**

<https://public.3.basecamp.com/p/XQYik4pC9CUPxXzsmLhUxi2t>. Contact

[ProductSupport@usfigureskating.org](mailto:ProductSupport@usfigureskating.org) for additional instructions on how to register for this competition.

1. Go to [www.usfsaonline.org](http://www.usfsaonline.org)
2. Use your personal member number and password to login.
3. Click the BLUE “EMS Event Management System” button in the middle of the Members Only landing page.
4. Choose “Competition Registration – Teams” from the menu
5. Click the “Register Now” button next to the competition name.  
NOTE : Only the competitions for which your team(s) are eligible will appear.
6. Walk through the on-screen registration process which will include :
  - a. Team Selection : identify which team you are registering for the competition
  - b. Team Verification : confirm the team’s information is accurate
  - c. Registration Overview : review general information about the competition & registration
  - d. Event Selection : Confirm the event you are registering the team for is accurate
  - e. Competition Roster Selection : Click the “Update Roster” button. A pop-up window will appear with all skaters listed in your Main Roster from your Team Profile in Members Only. Check the box next to a skater’s name to add them to the competition roster.
  - f. Coach Information : Only the coaches who will be attending this competition should be listed. You will only be able to add coaches who are also listed in your Team Profile in Members Only. Click “Update” to add attending coaches. This information can also be updated from your EMS Team Portal.
  - g. Team Service Personnel (Team Manager) Information : Only the team service personnel who will be attending this competition should be listed. You will only be able to add team service personnel who are also listed in your Team Profile in Members Only as a Team Manager or Team Service Personnel. Click “Update” to add attending TSP. This information can also be updated from your EMS Team Portal.
  - h. Prop Crew Information : Only the prop crew who will be attending this competition should be listed. You will only be able to add prop crew personnel who are also listed in your Team Profile in Members Only. Click “Update” to add attending prop crew. This information can also be updated from your EMS Team Portal.
7. Payment via credit card will be required to complete your registration as it is the only accepted form of payment for registration in EMS. All registrations are not considered complete until an invoice confirmation via email has been received.

**NOTE :** Payment must be submitted individually for each team’s registration. If you are planning on registering multiple teams in a short period of time, it is recommended that you contact your credit card company to prevent anti-fraud systems from being activated.

Unofficial practice ice will be sold via EMS until February 28, 2026. Each team may pre-purchase a **maximum of 6** unofficial practice ice sessions.

Additional unofficial practice ice sessions will be available for purchase on the [website](#), on a first come, first serve basis beginning March 15, 2026.

### How to Purchase Practice Ice :

1. Purchase Practice ice via EMS for the total number of segments requested
  - a. The practice ice tab will become available during the pre-purchase window. The total number of segments your team purchases cannot be guaranteed. Any segments that cannot be scheduled by the OC will be refunded to the team.
2. Complete the [Mandatory Team Information Form](#) located on the [website](#) to provide more practice ice scheduling detail for the OC.

### ENTRY FEES:

**C.E. & Performance (Combined fee): \$825USD per team**– Includes one 10-minute official practice for CE and one 12-minute official practice for the Free Performance in the competition rink. Music will be played twice during the CE Official Practice session and one time during the FP Official Practice session.

### **PAYMENT for Entry Fees:**

All payments must be made by via EMS no later than **January 31<sup>st</sup> 2026**.

### **PAYMENT for Pre-Purchased Unofficial Practice Ice:**

All payments must be made by via EMS no later than **February 28<sup>th</sup> 2026**.

### **PAYMENT for Team Meals, Welcome Party, Seminar Registration, Scenery Storage:**

All payments must be made by via [website](#) no later than **February 28th, 2026** .

### **MANDATORY TEAM FORM:**

The [Mandatory Team Form](#) must be completed via the [website](#) no later than **February 28th, 2026** .

### **TEAM PHOTOS:**

All teams must submit a team photo by the entry deadline of **January 31st 2026** to be included in the official program.

Photos must be submitted by email at [nationscup2026@gmail.com](mailto:nationscup2026@gmail.com) in the following format : JPEG file no greater than 300 dpi named "<Team Name> <Category>.jpg"

## **PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS :**

The official event program will contain a written description of the Choreographic Exercise and the Free Performance, which must be provided by the team via the [Mandatory Team Form](#) no later than **February 28, 2026**.

The descriptions may not exceed 40 words in length.

## **MUSIC:**

All teams are required to provide their own music for all events, as appropriate.

**Competition music for all events that require music must be submitted electronically via EMS by the music deadline of March 31, 2026 at 23 :59 PM EST.**

- 1) File Format : MP3 (the online system will automatically check this)
- 2) Bit Rate : 192 kbps or higher (this will be checked by the music chairperson and they may request you upload a corrected file)
- 3) Sample Rate : 44,100 kHz (this will be checked by the music chairperson and they may request you upload a corrected file)
- 4) Leaders and trailers (the silence or "dead space" before and after the actual start and end of the program music) may not exceed two (2) seconds. We prefer that there be NO leaders or trailers at all. Excessive leaders and trailers may disrupt the playing of the music during competition.

**Teams must also bring a copy of their competition music on a appropriate support as a backup** in case of technical difficulties. Please keep additional copies of your music readily available for both practice ice and rink side during competition events.

## **SCENERY / PROPS / COSTUMES :**

All teams must be aware of International Guidelines for scenery, props and costumes. The International Guidelines can be found at: <https://www.usfigureskating.org/skate/skating-opportunities/theatre-on-ice>

### **SCENERY/PROP STORAGE:**

Storage space is available for purchase.

Scenery will be sitting on the ground, inside of the ice arena, at the rear of the facility. The rental fee is \$50.00 USD for 5x10 or \$100.00 USD for 10x10 and must be purchased through the [website](#) by **February 28, 2026**.

## **LIABILITY AND REFUNDS:**

**LIABILITY:** In accordance with the US Figure Skating bylaws, Ice House Skating Academy and Munn Ice Arena assume no responsibility for injury and damages incurred during the competition.

**REFUNDS:** THERE WILL BE ABSOLUTELY NO REFUNDS, for any reason, after the competition entry deadline of January 31, 2026.

**INSURANCE:** IT IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED THAT ALL TEAMS PURCHASE TRIP CANCELLATION INSURANCE.

Neither Ice House Skating Academy nor Munn Ice Arena will not be responsible for any losses incurred by teams in cases of emergency or acts of God.

## **2026 CHOREOGRAPHIC EXERCISE – ELEMENTS:**

**Theme: Time**

**Choreographic Process: Repetition**

**Gesture: Suspend**

## **COMPETITION RULES:**

### **GOLD CUP**

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>REQUIREMENTS</b>	<b>PROGRAM DURATION</b>
ADULTS	All skaters must have reached the age of 18 by July 1st of the competition year.	C.E. 2:30 +/- 10 seconds FP: 4:30+/- 10 seconds
OPEN	All skaters must have reached the age of 8 by July 1st of the competition year.	C.E. 2:30 +/- 10 seconds FP: 4:00+/- 10 seconds

Adult and Open teams may have a roster from 8 to 28 skaters.

The maximum number of skaters on the ice for CE and FS is 24 and the same number of skaters must compete in the CE and FS but 4 skaters who are on the roster may change between the 2 programs.

## NATIONS' CUP

CATEGORY	REQUIREMENTS	PROGRAM DURATION
SENIOR	All skaters, except a maximum of 4, must have reached the age of 15 by July 1 <sup>st</sup> of the competition year. Concerning the 4 skaters out of this criteria they need to have reached the age of 12 years by July 1 <sup>st</sup> of the competition year.	C.E. 2:30 +/- 10 seconds FP: 5:30+/- 10 seconds
JUNIOR	All skaters, except a maximum of 4, must have reached the age of 11 but not have reached the age of 19 by July 1 <sup>st</sup> of the competition year. Concerning the 4 skaters out of this criteria, they may be outside the age range by 3 years maximum: 8 years old minimum for the youngest, less than 22 years old for the oldest by July 1 <sup>st</sup> of the competition year.	C.E. 2:30 +/- 10 seconds FP: 5:00+/- 10 seconds
NOVICE	All skaters, except a maximum of 4, must have reached the age of 8 but not have reached the age of 15 by July 1 <sup>st</sup> of the competition year. Concerning the 4 skaters out of this criteria, they may be outside the age range by 3 years maximum: 5 years old minimum for the youngest, less than 18 years old for the oldest by July 1 <sup>st</sup> of the competition year.	C.E. 2:30 +/- 10 seconds FP: 4:30+/- 10 seconds

Novice, Junior and Senior teams may have a roster from 12 to 24 skaters.

The maximum number of skaters on the ice for CE and FS is 20 and the same number of skaters must compete in the CE and FS but 4 skaters who are on the roster may change between the 2 programs.

## **PRACTICES:**

**All official practice ice will be assigned by event group.**

**All teams in an event will practice in the same block of time.**

### OFFICIAL PRACTICE:

**CE: One official 10-minute practice session.** Music will be played two times.

**Free Performance: One official 12-minute practice session.** Music will be played one time.

Official practice will be on the competition rink (Munn Ice Arena) and is included in the entry fee. Scenery and props will be allowed on official practice ice.

Music submitted to [EMS](#) prior to the competition will be played from a computer for all official practice sessions, but a backup support is required.

**Official Practice ice will begin Thursday April 23, 2026 for Gold Cup teams and Friday April 24, 2026 for Nations' Cup teams at Munn Ice Arena, 509 Birch Road, East Lansing, MI**

## **UNOFFICIAL PRACTICE ICE:**

TEAMS MAY ONLY PURCHASE PRACTICE ICE SOLD BY ICE HOUSE SKATING ACADEMY. PRACTICE ICE WILL BE AVAILABLE BEGINNING TUESDAY APRIL 21, 2026. If you require ice on Monday, April 20, please let the Event Coordinators know and they will secure ice for you.

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**Unofficial practice sessions** will be available at **two facilities:**

- **Munn Ice Arena (the competition ice surface)**
- **Biggby Coffee Ice Cube**, East Lansing, Michigan (not being used for any competition events)

The two venues are approximately **four (4) miles apart**.

**Munn Ice Arena** (on the campus of Michigan State University) 509 Birch Road, East Lansing, Michigan 48824

**Biggby Coffee Ice Cube East Lansing** is located at 2810 Hannah Blvd, East Lansing, Michigan, 48823

**\$350USD per 25-minute session.**

Music will be allowed.

Teams are **limited to 6 pre-paid unofficial sessions.**

Additional unofficial sessions will be sold beginning March 15, 2026, on a first-come, first-serve basis if available. Payment for additional unofficial practice sessions must be made before the session takes place via the [website](#) or onsite electronic payment.

Music submitted to EMS prior to the competition will be played from a computer for all unofficial practice sessions, but a backup support is required.

***No scenery will be allowed on unofficial practice ice.*** All unofficial practice sessions will be assigned on a first come first serve basis.

## **MEDICAL AND DOPING:**

Medical staff will be present during competition and official practice times at Munn Ice Arena.

The Anti-Doping tests will be coordinate in accordance with the current rules of the World Anti-Doping Agency. (AMA)

## **SCHEDULE:**

The official practice ice and competition schedule will be emailed and posted to all coordinators. The schedule will also be available to each team in their confirmation packet upon arrival. **The schedule will be released 30 days prior to the start of the competition.**

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE (\*Please note that the schedule MAY CHANGE due to the number of entries)**

### **Tuesday, April 21, 2026**

Unofficial practice sessions will be available.

### **Wednesday, April 22, 2026**

Unofficial practice sessions

International Seminar

Draw Ceremony for Gold Cup teams

Official's Dinner

### **Thursday, April 23, 2026**

Team Leader Informational Meeting

Judges Meeting

Gold Cup – Official practice Adult and Open (CE)

Gold Cup - Competition Adult and Open (CE)

Official Practice American Adaptive Teams (1&2)

Draw Ceremony for Nations' Cup teams

Exhibition American Adaptive Teams (1&2)

Nations Cup - Victory Ceremony Adaptive Teams (1&2)

Competitors' Welcome Party

### **Friday, April 24, 2026**

Gold Cup - Official practice Adult and Open (Free Performance)

Nations Cup - Official practice Novice (CE)

Gold Cup - Competition Adult and Open (Free Performance)

Nations Cup - Competition Novice (CE)

Gold Cup – Victory Ceremony Adult and Open

### **Saturday, April 25, 2026**

Nations Cup - Official practice Junior and Senior (CE)

Nations Cup - Official practice Novice (Free Performance)

Official Practice – Adaptive Teams (3 & 4)

Nations Cup - Competition Junior and Senior (CE)

Nations Cup - Competition Novice (Free Performance)

Exhibition American Adaptive Teams (3 & 4)

Nations Cup - Victory Ceremony Novice & Adaptive Teams (3&4)

### **Sunday, April 26, 2026**

Nations Cup - Official practice Junior and Senior (Free Performance)

Nations Cup - Competition Junior and Senior (Free Performance)

Nations Cup - Victory Ceremony Junior and Senior

During the competition, official notices will be found on the [website](https://www.lansingsports.org/theatre-on-ice/).  
<https://www.lansingsports.org/theatre-on-ice/>

## **MEETINGS :**

### **International Seminar judges, coaches and choreographers:**

Wednesday April 22, 2026 from 08:00 AM to 6:00 PM

Place: TBD Please see the [website](#) for further information.

Registration fees for this Seminar are \$65.00 (includes lunch). See [website](#) for further information.

### **Judges Meeting:**

Thursday April 23, 2026 (Time to be determined by the Chief Referee)

Place : Munn Ice Arena

A round table meeting to debrief could be organized on Sunday April 28, 2026 after the competition, but remains to be organized.

## **DRAW CEREMONY & WELCOME PARTY :**

**The draw is scheduled on Wednesday April 24, 2026 for Gold Cup teams and on Thursday April 25, 2026 for Nations' Cup teams.**

A competitor's party will be organized on Thursday April 25, 2026. Time and place are to be determined. Please see the [website](#) for more details

## **CREDENTIALS :**

**The registration desk will open from 8:00AM on Wednesday April 24, 2026** and will remain open throughout the competition hours. The registration table will be clearly marked and located just inside the entrance of Munn Ice Arena.

**ONLY TEAM MANAGERS ARE TO REGISTER THE TEAM.**

**TEAMS MUST ARRIVE AT THE RINK AT LEAST ONE HOUR BEFORE THE EVENT.**

At registration, team credentials will be given to each Team Manager when confirmed that any payment due has been settled.

### **CREDENTIALS:**

All skaters and alternates listed on roster will receive ALL ACCESS credentials.

1 Team Manager per team will receive ALL ACCESS credentials.

2 Coaches or Choreographers per team will receive ALL ACCESS credentials.

2 Crew members per team will receive complimentary « SCENERY AREA » credentials.

Additional crew members are allowed but must have a ticket.

**ONLY ALL ACCESS CREDENTIALS HOLDERS ARE ALLOWED INTO THE LOCKER ROOM AREA OF THE ARENA.**

## **AWARDS:**

Medals will be awarded to all team members for 1st through 3rd place.

The winning team in each category will be awarded a trophy.

Awards will be presented on the ice after the last event of the day concludes.

## **JUDGING INFORMATION:**

### **Judges panel designation:**

Apart from the Referee, two judges (certified Ballet/Theatre on Ice) will be chosen from each of the countries sending teams to compete in the 2026 Gold Cup & Nations' Cup Interclub Competition.

In case of insufficient number of judges, the founder countries will be authorized to complete it.

The Referee and Assistant Referee for each category of the competition are chosen by the Chief Referee and Assistant Referee

The judge's panel will consist of 10 officials:

1 Referee

1 Assistant Referee

7 Judges

1 Ice Referee

**JUDGING SYSTEM:** The computer system is provided by the hosting organization. Judging will be based on a 10.0 scoring scale. Only TOI certified judges will be used for these events. The Chief Referee's interpretation of the rules will be final.

**JUDGES LOCATION:** The judges' stand is located in the middle of the long side of the rink, isolated from the public, at a sufficient height to allow correct observation of the different elements during the execution of the program.

A map of the rink will be placed on the [website](#).

**SEATING LOCATIONS:** The main seating is on one side of the arena, with overflow on the ends of the arena. Teams may orient scenery and performance to audience and judges accordingly.

## **COVERAGE OF OFFICIAL'S EXPENSES:**

The organizer covers the expenses of the invited Judges from the airport to the place of competition, as well as their return to the airport.

The organizer will provide and cover expenses of the foreign and domestic judges during 5 days and 6 nights (from Tuesday April 21, 2026 evening to Monday April 27, 2026 morning).

The federation is responsible for arranging their judges' flights and sending the flight information to the Organizing Committee at [nationscup2026@gmail.com](mailto:nationscup2026@gmail.com).

Officials will need to arrive on Tuesday April 21, 2026 as meetings will begin on Wednesday morning.

All extra expenses incurred by any official due to the extension of stay, before or after the period described above, will be under his/her responsibility. All meals will be covered during the duration of the competition at either the rink or the hotel.

## **EVENT TICKETS:**

Online ticketing for the event will be available beginning February 15, 2026. until the day of the competition. Please see [website](#) for details

A ticket office will also be set up at the entrance to the ice rink throughout the competition.

### **Ticket Prices :**

\$100USD	Adult All Event Ticket
\$75USD	All Event Ticket (Children under 12, Seniors 65 years and older, Military with ID)
\$30USD	Adult Daily Ticket
\$20USD	Daily Ticket (Children under 12, Seniors 65 years and older, Military with ID)

## **TRAVEL INFORMATION:**

**Each team is responsible for its own transportation, food and hotel accommodations.**

### **ACCESS:**

By plane: (DTW is the largest and easiest airport to fly in and out of)

#### **Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport (DTW)**

(this is the largest airport in the area and the easiest for teams to fly in and out of)

#### **Capital Region International Airport**

Lansing, Michigan  
(small airport, 6 gates)

#### **Bishop International Airport**

Flint, Michigan  
(small airport, 12 gates)

### By car:

There will be parking available at both Munn Ice Arena as well as Bigby Coffee Ice Cube. Munn Ice Arena is on the campus of Michigan State University. As such, parking lots will be designated for participants. Please see the [website](#) for a map and detailed information.

## **ACCOMODATIONS:**

**TEAMS :** Each team is responsible for contacting Gayle Aprill of [Champ Sports Travel](#) to arrange accommodations. Any team not utilizing Champ Sports Travel will incur a \$400.00 fee at the time of on-site registration.

**OFFICIALS :** The official hotel is **The Graduate East Lansing (Hilton Property), 133 Evergreen Ave, East Lansing, MI 48823 517-348-0900**

**Accommodations for all officials will be made via the Organizing Committee.**

## **MEALS:**

**TEAMS:** Team meals will be available near Munn Ice Arena beginning Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please refer to the [website](#) for details.

## **FORMS :**

Teams must complete the [Mandatory Team Form](#), located on the [website](#) by February 28, 2026.

## **Appendix of Dates :**

### **December 15, 2025**

[Intention to Participate Form](#) Due

### **January 31, 2026 :**

Entry Deadlines AND payment via EMS (no exceptions)

Team Photo submitted to [nationscup2026@gmail.com](mailto:nationscup2026@gmail.com) labeled with team name and level

### **February 15, 2026 :**

Event Tickets go on sale

### **February 28, 2026 :**

Pre-purchased unofficial practice ice deadline via EMS

[Mandatory Team Form](#) deadline

Program Description deadline (via [Mandatory Team Form](#))

International Seminar Registration and payment deadline (via [Mandatory Team Form](#))

Payment for Team Meals, Welcome Party, Scenery deadline (via [Mandatory Team Form](#))

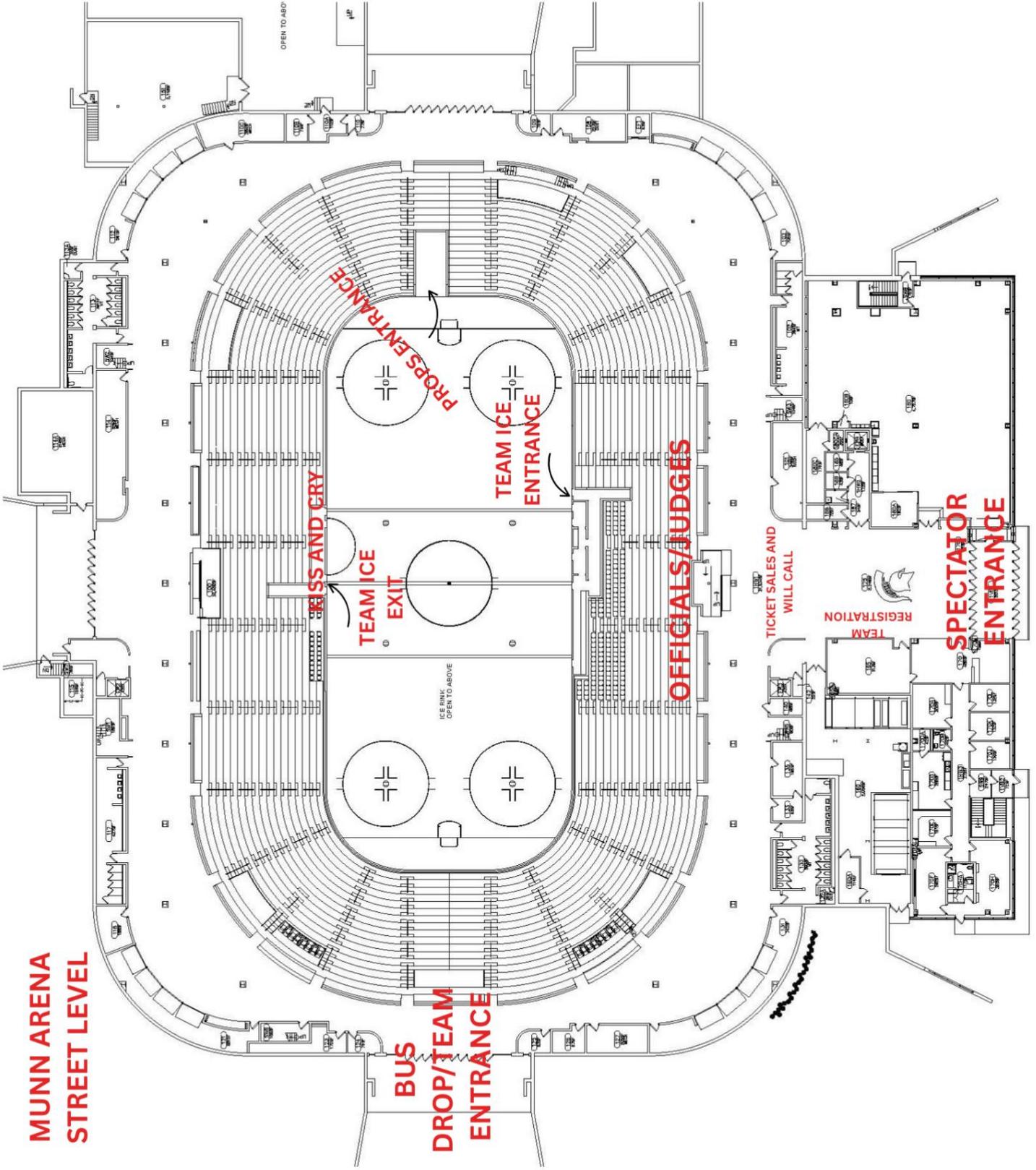
### **March 15, 2026 :**

Additional Practice Ice available for purchase via [website](#)

### **March 31, 2026 :**

All music must be submitted via EMS

**MUNN ARENA  
STREET LEVEL**



# MUNN ARENA LOWER LEVEL

