



FUSION



Alternates / Crossovers

A synchronized skating team is usually made up of 20 skaters. From these 20 skaters 16 skaters will perform the routine and the other 4 skaters will be alternates. Team size is subject to individual competition criteria and the routine requirements so some teams may be smaller in number.

An alternate is a skater who does not skate in every competition for various reasons which can include newness to team or the team just has an overflow of skaters. Our teams rotate alternates so if you are selected as an alternate on one occasion it does not mean that you will automatically be selected as an alternate next time.

At competitions the alternates are on standby to skate at the entry point to the ice with the team coach; ready in skates, full costume and makeup while the team competes. Alternates can be asked to fill in for a skater who is sick, injured, or absent. Any skater may have a problem at any time with their blades, a boot lace may come undone or even a screw could come loose at the last minute and prevented them from skating.

With all this in mind an alternate is counted as much a part of the team as the rest of the skaters as they may need to jump into the routine on very short notice, in fact right up until the team is ready to start. Alternates have a defined spot (normally shadowing a Captain) – it is the Captains role to move positions.

Why was I chosen as alternate?

There are many reasons why someone is chosen to be an alternate and the coaching team will have thought very hard about their choices. Remember the coaches are thinking of the team as whole and not just individual skaters.

The coaches and Synchro committee understand that being selected as an alternate can be very upsetting especially as you would have worked just as hard as the other skaters in the team. We will also inform the selected alternates privately before any team announcement is made. The selected alternates would still be expected to attend the regular and any additional training sessions planned to maintain the correct standard and will get the opportunity to skate within the team regularly.

Remember that being selected as an alternate does not mean you are not a competent skater or are doing things wrong. You are still a vital part of the whole team.

At a competition the coaches may at any time replace a team skater with a team alternate if they feel the team as a whole would benefit from the change, this is what the alternate is for and again this is not a reflection any of the individual skaters involved.

Crossovers:

Crossovers are chosen by the coaches by their ability to be able to learn routines of 2 different teams. The skater has the right not to skate as a crossover if they do not wish to. The Coach and Manager must be informed and the Coach, with the presence of the Manager or chaperone and parent of the skater if they wish, must discuss the concerns with the skater.

Crossovers usually take time to settle in. If they find it difficult at first it is best to give it a go for a couple of weeks before withdrawing from being a crossover.