

## For Immediate Release

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## RI to Host 2020 U.S. Synchronized Skating Championships

Event Projected to Bring 3,000 People, \$2.8 Million in Direct Spending to the Ocean State

Providence, RI, - December 10, 2018 – Warwick Mayor Joseph Solomon, RI Sports Commission (RISC) Executive Director John Gibbons and Warwick Figure Skaters President Jack McGinn announced today that Rhode Island will host the 2020 U.S. Synchronized Skating Championships. The event will take place at the Dunkin' Donuts Center from Feb. 25 through March 1, 2020. The Warwick Figure Skaters will serve as the host organization and practices will take place on their home ice, Thayer and Warburton Arenas, in the Mickey Stevens Sports Complex.

"The Warwick Figure Skaters are nationally known and are a great source of pride in our community," said Mayor Solomon. "As the official practice complex for the skating championship, we look forward to hosting the skaters, their families, coaches and fans in Warwick, and showcasing the many dining, entertainment and lodging options our City has to offer."

RISC projects that the championships will have a direct spend impact of \$2.8 million. About 3,000 athletes, their families, and coaches are expected to consume close to 5,000 hotel rooms nights in Providence and Warwick.

"We have a longstanding relationship with U.S. Figure Skating, having hosted this event in 2008 and 2015," said Gibbons. "I think it speaks to the quality of our destination and the caliber of our hospitality community that we are able to earn this lucrative repeat business.

The event crowns U.S. champions across eight divisions of synchronized skating. About 90 teams are projected to compete.

The Rhode Island Sports Commission is a division of the Providence Warwick Convention & Visitors Bureau whose mission is to enrich the Rhode Island economy and community through the attraction, promotion and development of sporting events and associated meetings. For more information, visit <u>GoSportsRI.com</u>.