

US skaters launch GoFundMe for Olympics support

BY MIRANDA SIWAK
Us Weekly

U.S. figure skating pair Emily Chan and Spencer Howe are asking for financial support as they gear up to compete at the 2026 Olympics.

“Hi friends! We wanted to extend our gratitude to everyone following our journey and the support and love we’ve received,” Chan, 34, and Howe, 29, wrote in a joint Instagram post published Wednesday, Jan. 21. “It really means so much to us and motivates us everyday. We are home training and super excited to leave for Milan very soon.”

The statement continued, “As we published earlier this year, Spencer and I have a GoFundMe to assist us offset our training expenses. If you would like to contribute, we would greatly appreciate the help in preparing this last week heading to the Olympics!”

Chan and Howe created the campaign in February

2025 before the U.S. Figure Skating organization announced the official team for the upcoming Olympics in Italy.

“Figure skating has been our passion for as long as we can remember. Skating isn’t just a sport to us - it’s a way to express creativity, discipline, and resilience,” the pair wrote in a description on their GoFundMe page. “We’ve dedicated years to training, performing, and competing, and we’ve been fortunate to represent our club and country at national and international events. Pursuing this sport at an elite level comes with many challenges, and one of the biggest is the financial burden.”

The skaters added, “Coaching expenses, choreography, travel and training all add up, and while we work hard to support ourselves, the costs continue to grow. We’re reaching out for support to help us continue chasing our goals and pushing our limits. Your contributions will go di-

rectly toward essential expenses.”

According to Chan and Howe, any donations go toward paying professional coaches, securing private ice time, developing choreography and any off-the-ice training and conditioning.

“Any amount you contribute makes a meaningful difference, and even if you’re unable to donate, sharing this fundraiser would be incredibly helpful,” the athletes wrote.

“Your support allows us to keep growing as athletes and performers, and we’re beyond grateful for everyone who believes in our journey.”

Chan and Howe were named to the U.S. Olympic roster earlier this month, alongside fellow pairs team Ellie Kim and Danny O’Shea. The Amer-



JAMIE SQUIRE Getty Images

Emily Chan and Spencer Akira Howe perform during a Making the Team event of the 2026 United States Figure Skating Championships on Jan. 11, 2026, in St. Louis, Mo.

ican figure skating lineup also includes Amber Glenn, Alysa Liu, Isabeau Levito, Ilia Malinin, Andrew Torgashev, Maxim Naumov, Madison Chock, Evan Bates, Emilea Zingas, Vadym Kolesnik, Christina Carreira and Anthony Ponomarenko.

With just weeks to go before the Olympics,

Chan and Howe’s GoFundMe has raised more than \$5,000.

“We wanted to thank you so much for supporting us in this Olympic journey! We made it, and every single one of you helped us get there,” Chan wrote in a separate Wednesday update. “We are leaving in one week,

and every bit of assistance helps us. We just wanted to express our gratitude from our hearts. See you all very soon in Milan!”

The pair are making their Olympic debuts at the 2026 Winter Games, which begin February 6.



Imagn Images

Ducks defenseman Jackson LaCombe will join the U.S. Olympic team in Italy following an injury to Florida’s Seth Jones.

LaCombe replaces Jones on Olympic hockey team

Field Level Media

Anaheim Ducks defenseman Jackson LaCombe was tabbed to replace the Florida Panthers’ Seth Jones on the U.S. Olympic roster on Wednesday.

USA Hockey announced the change and confirmed Jones’ inability to participate due to injury when the tournament begins next month in Milan, Italy.

This past May, LaCombe helped the U.S. capture its first gold medal at the IIHF World Championship since 1933.

LaCombe, 25, has 31 points (six goals, 25 assists) through 49 games this season with the Ducks, who drafted him in the second round in 2019.

“Just got a call last night from (U.S. general manager) Bill (Guerin),” said LaCombe on Wednesday, “and, obviously, it was an unfortunate situation that happened (Jones’ injury), but he just told me I was on the team now.

“Obviously, anytime you get to do that, it’s so special, and I would take so much pride in wearing that jersey and being part of it.”

Jones, 31, was named to the Olympic team on Jan. 2 but has not played since an errant shot struck him in the collarbone that night in the Winter Classic outdoor game.

Panthers coach Paul

Maurice addressed Jones’ status on Tuesday, one day before the change by USA Hockey.

“There was originally a week-to-week idea,” Maurice said of the injury. “Then it was 2-4 (weeks) or whatever, but it will be the full extent of that.”

LaCombe will play a depth role on an American blue line anchored by Quinn Hughes of the Minnesota Wild and Zach Werenski of the Columbus Blue Jackets, both Norris Trophy finalists last season.

The other U.S. defensemen are Brock Faber of the Wild, Charlie McAvoy of the Boston Bruins, Noah Hanifin of the Vegas Golden Knights, Jake Sanderson of the Ottawa Senators and Jaccob Slavin of the Carolina Hurricanes.

The U.S. takes on Latvia, Denmark and Germany in the Olympic round-robin phase from Feb. 12-15.

The U.S. hasn’t won the Olympic gold medal since 1980 when the famous “Miracle on Ice” team defeated the Soviet Union in the title game at Lake Placid.

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