

BASIC ICE USAGE ETIQUETTE AND SAFETY

This document is intended to be used as a guide for clubs and programs. Clubs and programs may edit, implement, and enforce this document as they see fit.

Basic rules governing all behavior

1. Please respect the rights of others.
2. Please respect the arena's property and the property of others.

Specific rules governing free skating sessions

- The maximum number of (depending on the size and level) skaters will be allowed on each session.
- Sign in at the box office and pay for each session before stepping on the ice.
- No breakable containers are allowed rink side. Drinks are allowed on or below the railing. Food is not permitted near the rail or on the ice.
- Please pick up all belongings (including dirty tissues, water cups, bottles, etc.) at the end of each session.
- Parents, skaters not in the session or other spectators should not loiter at the rail or benches. This is unsafe and interferes with a constructive training session.
- Coaching by parents from the bleachers, benches or railing is not allowed at any time. Parents will be asked to leave the arena if this happens.
- The benches by the ice are to be used by the skaters and coaches only.
- If skaters must talk to someone off the ice, even if for a brief time, they need to get off the ice to do so or the skater will be asked to leave the ice.

It is important for everyone's safety that all skaters stay aware of other skaters on the ice. Try to anticipate their patterns as you decide your own pattern.

- If you are a less experienced skater, please be extra careful to stay aware of other skaters and to look ahead of where you are skating to see what others are doing or are about to do.
- If you are an experienced skater, please be patient with the less experienced skaters. Remember – you were new to freestyles at one time, too.
- Please be understanding if someone gets in your way.
- Remember to look both ways before leaving the railing or skating across the ice.
- Keep moving while on the ice, as it is dangerous for both you and other skaters to stand still during a session. It is especially important not to stop in the middle of the ice or any of the jumping corners.

Right of way

1. The skater doing a routine to music has the right of way. Orange vests and colorful belts are provided to help identify the skater whose music is being played. Please stay aware of which skater is doing their routine and do your best to stay clear of their pattern. Please wear the vest or belt when you play your music to help other skaters know you are skating your routine.
2. Skaters taking a lesson have the right of way over general skaters in the session.
3. Skaters on the harness also have the right of way. Please be careful of the harness area.

Music

1. Program music will be played on a rotational basis. This will be done on the honor system, with the responsibility left to the skaters and coaches.
2. After a skater's music has been played, their music or another program may be put at the end of the line to re-enter the rotation. Dance music can take the place of program music.
3. Not everyone will be able to play their music on full sessions due to lengths of programs.
4. Coaches may put the music of the student they are teaching ahead of other skaters. Everyone should appreciate this policy when they are in a lesson enjoying this privilege and graciously accept this policy when they are the ones being asked to wait in line.
5. Please do not stop and restart your music if others are waiting in line.
6. Please handle the music equipment with extreme care.

Prohibited Behavior

- Kicking, digging holes, scraping or stomping the ice with your blades and kicking the railings are prohibited. Any skater engaging in this behavior will be asked to leave the session immediately.
- Being verbally abusive to anyone at the rink is prohibited and a violation of U.S. Figure Skating's SkateSafe® policies. Any skater engaging in this behavior will be asked to leave the session immediately and may be referred to the club's SkateSafe® Compliance Chair or U.S. Figure Skating's SkateSafe® Program.
- Deliberately challenging, scaring or intentionally blocking another skater is prohibited. Bullying or harassment of any kind is a violation of U.S. Figure Skating's SkateSafe® policies. Any skater engaging in this behavior will be asked to leave the ice immediately for an indefinite period of time and may be referred to the club's SkateSafe® Compliance Chair or U.S. Figure Skating's SkateSafe® Program.
- Videotaping anyone other than yourself or your own skater is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated. Anyone engaging in this behavior will be asked to leave the arena for an indefinite period of time. Videotaping for the purpose of intimidating or otherwise harassing a skater/coach/parent may be referred to the club's SkateSafe® Compliance Chair or U.S. Figure Skating's SkateSafe® Program.

Clearing the ice

When the ice-resurfacer horn sounds, all skaters and coaches must leave the ice immediately. If you are skating to your music, please stop skating immediately, turn off music, and clear the ice – no exceptions.