

Freestyle Ice Etiquette Policy

For everyone's safety and to ensure that all skaters can make the most of their ice time, the following basic guidelines must be observed. Each individual is responsible for contributing to a safe environment for all. Every skater pays the same rate for their ice time, so no one is entitled to special treatment or priority based on their skill level. Respect, awareness, and shared responsibility are essential for a positive and productive experience on the ice.



Freestyle Eligibility

Freestyle sessions are designated for competitive figure skaters who are actively training. These sessions are not public skating and are limited to skaters who bring their own skates and have passed at least Freestyle 1 through ISI or Pre-Preliminary Skating Skills through USFS.

Skaters may also use this time to work one-on-one with a private coach; however, all private lessons must be arranged in advance with a qualified coach and are paid for separately, directly to the coach according to their individual rates and contracts.

Check-in

Skaters must pay for every Freestyle session in advance and are required to check in at the cashier booth, where they must also sign the Freestyle Waiver. If a skater plans to stay for multiple sessions, all sessions must be paid for before the start of the first session.

Personal belongings must be brought into the arena and placed along the exterior side boards; due to our Bag Policy, items may not be left in the lobby during skate time. Any belongings left in the lobby will be collected by staff for later retrieval. Only non-breakable containers are allowed on the rink. Drinks with lids may be placed on or below the boards, and food is not permitted. At the end of each session, all personal items must be picked up and any trash, including tissues, cups, and bottles, must be properly disposed of.

Courtesy

It is essential to respect the rights of other skaters and remain constantly aware of your surroundings. If you find yourself skating among others with significantly greater or lesser skill levels, take extra care to avoid collisions and maintain a safe distance.

Courtesy on the ice also extends to respecting the facility and its staff. Always clean up after yourself by placing trash in the proper receptacles, bring all personal belongings into the arena rather than leaving them in the lobby, and treat all coaches and rink employees with kindness. Remember, without a well-maintained rink and dedicated coaches, we wouldn't have the opportunity to skate. So take pride in your facility and help care for it.

Right of Way Guidelines

Right of way belongs to the skater who may not see the potential for a collision. While it's important to give space to those performing programs or taking lessons, safety must always come first. Having your music playing does not give you the right to put others at risk or cause a collision.

Lessons: During lessons, skaters may be focused on their coach rather than their surroundings, so be especially aware of who is in a lesson and allow them extra space.

Programs: When a skater is running a program, fatigue and complex choreography can make it harder for them to adjust or avoid others. Learn to recognize which music belongs to which skater and familiarize yourself with common patterns in their routines to better anticipate their movements. When a skater is skating their program, they do have the right of way. Although not required, there are bright colored belts in the penalty box that can be worn to show other skaters that you are skating your program. Please only wear one when skating a program or virtual testing.

Spins: Spinning skaters are effectively blind while in motion, so it is critical not to skate near them. Always give enough space for spinners to safely transition between positions—what starts as a sit spin may quickly change to an upright or camel spin, requiring more room.

Falls and Injuries

If you fall, get up as quickly as possible. Other skaters will have a much harder time seeing you when you're low to the ice, which increases the risk of a collision. Do not stay down any longer than necessary. If you see someone else fall and suspect they may be injured, do not try to move them unless you are certain it won't cause further harm. **If you believe the injury is serious, the best course of action is to have someone stand guard near the injured skater to warn others and prevent collisions, and immediately get a qualified adult or staff member to assist.** To help keep the skater warm and comfortable while waiting for help, place a warm-up jacket, sweatshirt, or blanket over them or under their head if available.

Do Not Try to Run or Hide

Trying to “outrun” a faster skater will not help you get out of their way—in fact, it can make things more dangerous. Instead, move in a direction that takes you out of their path while keeping them in your line of sight. Also, hiding in corners or staying only at one end of the rink is not an effective way to stay out of the way. These areas often interfere with jump patterns and make it harder for other skaters to train safely.

Do Not Stand Around

Always keep moving while on the ice. Standing around to chat not only wastes valuable ice time, but also creates an obstacle that other skaters must navigate around, increasing the risk of collisions and disrupting training. Please save socializing off the ice to help maintain a safe and productive environment.

Patching Holes

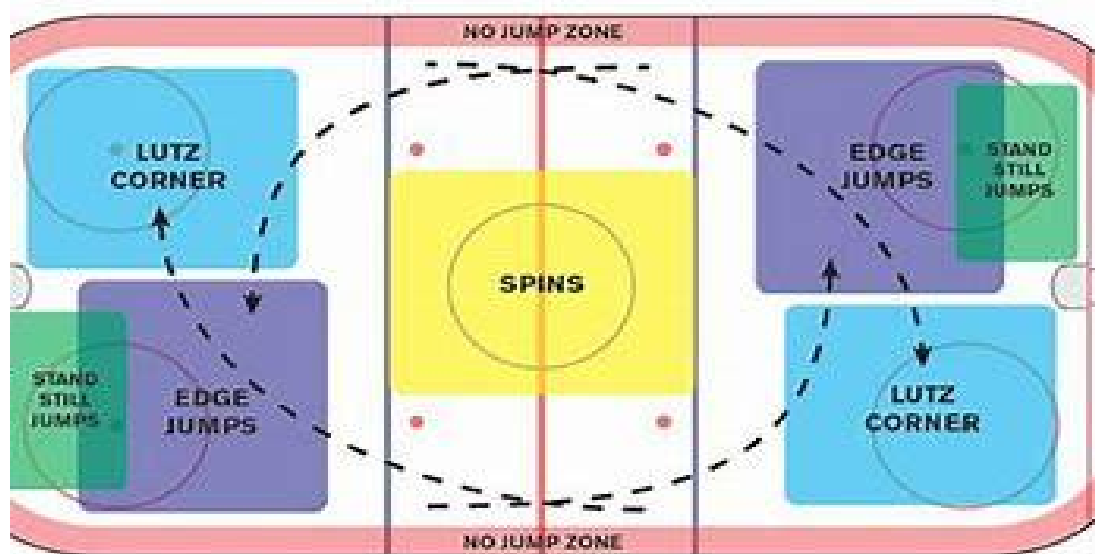
Skaters who are working on toe jumps or who create holes in the ice during their training are responsible for patching them up at the end of their session. To ensure the ice remains safe and smooth, skaters must fill any holes with water, allowing them to freeze and restore the surface for others. This helps maintain the quality of the rink and ensures a safe environment for everyone.

Phones

Cell phones are only permitted on the ice to film yourself, play music, and take virtual lessons from our staff coaches. Any other use of cell phones on the ice is not permitted.

Know Where Jumps Occur

Avoid standing, spinning, or teaching in the Lutz corners or near the boards where edge jumps are commonly executed. The approach to a Lutz jump is long and blind, meaning the skater performing it likely won't see you in their path. It's important to remember that skaters who jump lefty, use the opposite corners from most right-handed jumpers. Always be aware of your surroundings and look both ways just like you would when crossing a street or driving a car to help prevent accidents.



Props

Props are to be kept near the boards unless the skater is actively performing their routine. Small props that may not be visible by all skaters must be accompanied by a coach at all times.

Coaching

Coaching at Vacaville Ice Sports is only permitted by staff coaches who are trained, hired, and currently employed at the rink, and who have provided all necessary training and insurance-related documents. Parents and other skaters are not allowed to coach. Parents, please do not stand in the entryway.

Virtual lessons can only be conducted by our full-time staff coaches. Virtual lessons from outside coaches are strictly prohibited and should be reported to the General Manager or Skating Director immediately. Skaters participating in virtual lessons from non-staff coaches will be asked to leave and will no longer be permitted to skate at Vacaville Ice Sports. This policy is in place because we cannot verify the insurance or training documents of non-staff coaches, and it ensures the safety of all skaters and coaches.

Music

Program music will be played on a rotational basis. Skaters can sign up for the aux chord or Bluetooth speaker using the whiteboard, and remember to erase your name after you've skated. Please avoid stopping and restarting your music if there are others waiting in line, and always handle the music equipment and cords with care.

Coaches may skip skaters in the music line, but they must alternate with skaters (coach, skater, coach, skater, etc.). Coaches are also allowed to use Bluetooth speakers at a low volume if they are not in the official music line, as long as it does not interfere with the main program music being played.

Prohibited Behavior

Kicking, digging holes, scraping, or stomping the ice with your blades, as well as kicking the railings, are strictly prohibited. Verbal or physical abuse towards anyone at the rink is not tolerated and violates U.S. Figure Skating's SkateSafe policies. Deliberately challenging, scaring, or intentionally blocking another skater is also prohibited. Bullying or harassment of any kind is a serious violation of our policies. Any skater engaging in these behaviors will be asked to leave the session immediately, without a refund. We may take further action by reporting such behavior to U.S. Figure Skating's SkateSafe Program.

Clearing the Ice

When the Zamboni doors open or when your paid session is over, all skaters and coaches must leave the ice immediately. If you are skating to your program music, stop skating right away, turn off the music, and clear the ice. Make sure to take all your belongings with you. There are **no exceptions** to this rule.