



## Dunedin Ice Skating Club On-Ice Conduct and Safety

Reviewed May 2021

<b>Aim</b>
To implement a safe and enabling skating environment that is the shared responsibility of DISC, the skater and coach.
To provide a safe, smooth-running skating session that allows all skaters the opportunity to progress towards their individual skating goals.

All parents and care givers (of skaters under the age of 18), skaters and coaches are required to sign their acceptance of and agreement to abide by these protocols before DISC Club ice can be used.

### **DISC Club Ice Definitions:**

- *Open Sessions: Club members have restricted or unrestricted access to the ice. This might mean a wide variety of age, experience and capability sharing the ice.*
- *Invitational ice: ice allocated to a particular level of skating and the invitation defines who may take the ice at that time as a club member.*
- *Development ice: DISC run group classes actively managed by the coaches of the respective development class.*
- *Skaters: Includes Ice Dance couples, Pairs teams, Solo skaters, Synchronised skaters (no more than 2 joined together during open ice).*
- *Program: Defined as a routine with music performed by a skater wearing an armband or bib.*

### **Open Ice - Unrestricted access**

Skaters are only permitted unrestricted access to DISC open sessions if they:

- Have achieved Kiwi Skate level Novice 1 or equivalent skating ability.
- Have signed and adhere to the on-ice conduct and safety policy.
- Only attend nominated sessions where appropriate as per their term booking.

### **Open Ice - Restricted access**

Restricted access for skaters who do not meet the unrestricted criteria must be applied for by a skater's coach to the DISC Committee.

Restricted access may be given in the following circumstances:

- Solo skater: must be accompanied by a coach (as approved by the DISC Committee) for the duration of their time on the ice. This must be a ratio of 1 skater to 1 coach. The coach is fully responsible for the safety and wellbeing of their skater and also other skaters who come who come into close proximity. The coach must nominate which sessions they wish to skate in their application.
- Small groups: with a maximum ratio of 1 coach to 3 skaters may be permitted. This must be for an exact specified time (e.g. Saturday morning 6:30 – 7:00am) and in a defined portion of the rink that will be communicated to all other skaters using ice at the same time. The coach is fully responsible for the safety and wellbeing of their skater and also other skaters who come who come into close proximity.
- Exemptions may be given by the Committee for other situations e.g. empty ice due to skaters being away for a competition / camp. In all cases a coach must be present.
- DISC Committee responsibilities. The DISC Committee will determine if an unrestricted access request is safe and will advise all other users of open ice that restricted (beginner) skaters may be present in a given session.

### **Rink Conduct**

All skaters, coaches, parents and caregivers present at DISC sessions must abide by the following:

#### **A. *Respect each other***

Skaters are expected to be friendly and courteous to all other skaters, coaches and parents. Respectful behaviour is expected at all times both on and off the ice. Senior and established skaters are encouraged to be understanding of newer and younger skaters and to assist them in understanding these protocols.

#### **B. *Respect all coaches and officials.***

Coaches are expected to maintain Dunedin Ice Skating Club On-Ice Conduct and Safety Protocols and are asked to monitor safety during DISC Open, Invitational and Development sessions. Suggestions offered by coaches and officials are to be received with respect and courtesy.

### C. **Zamboni/Ice Grooming**

No skating whilst the Zamboni is in use. Skaters may not enter the ice surface until the Zamboni is completely off the ice and the rink-side doors to where the Zamboni parks are shut. A coach or ice monitor will give permission to enter the ice surface.

### D. **Respect the session.**

- 1) **Pay attention.** look in both directions before entering the ice or skating away from the boards, check behind before changing direction. Be aware of skaters at the start of a jump or spin, and do not cross their path. Respect their right of way of skaters wearing program or lesson bands.
- 2) **Follow the Open Session traffic flow.** During open sessions, figure skaters practice programs, aspects of routines and skills including jumps, spins and patterns. Skaters should always be moving on the ice unless receiving instruction from a coach. Skaters should stand by the long sideboards if stationary;
  - Conversations and games happen off-ice.
  - Avoid bunching at the hockey box.
  - Skaters working together in groups who are not in a lesson need to do so attentively to the safety of others. Skaters may be asked to stop if this type of activity becomes a distraction to other skaters.
- 3) **GET UP IMMEDIATELY AFTER A FALL** unless injured or need assistance.
- 4) **During a program\*\* wear an armband (or bib).** If you are in the midst of your program a courteous “excuse me” will alert new or inattentive skaters. Skaters should not yell for another skater to get out of their way unless it is to avoid immediate danger.
- 5) **Apologise if you interfered with another skater’s practice.** Regular interferences may be judged as deliberately disruptive or careless behaviour and subject to disciplinary action.
- 6) **Bring a good attitude to every session regardless of your frustrations (either with yourself, your parents, your coach or other skaters and coaches).**
- 7) Any **display of negative behaviour** (e.g. stomping, dragging your toe-pick, skating aggressively without regard to others, skating to intimidate and using foul language) can result in immediate removal from the ice.

### E. **Right of Way Rules**

All skaters and coaches need to be aware of skaters at all-times:

1. *Mid-spin skater* - A skater mid-spin has the right of way to finish their spin over all others.
2. *Program skater* - The skater whose program music is playing and who is wearing the bright coloured arm band (or bib) has second priority of right-of-way. This skater with coloured arm-band always has a priority of the skating direction.
3. *Lesson skaters* - A lesson skater has the third priority for right-of-way (This includes skaters in the harness).
4. Do not skate between members of an Ice dance couple, Pairs team or Synchronised team.
5. Abuse or exploitation of the right of way rules may result in disciplinary action.

#### **F. Music rules**

Music should only be played from the rink side equipment following the principle that music alternates:

1. A skater's program will be queued on the first come first serve basis.
2. Programs may not be restarted unless there is a music malfunction or the music player is free (including coaches).
3. Music alternating means:
  - A coach may only cut in line twice during a 30 minute session.
  - A non-lesson skater may be bumped one spot in line before the program music is played when the need arises. A coach cuts the line in order such as 1 lesson, 1 non-lesson program, 1 lesson, 1 non-lesson program.
4. Non-lesson skaters may request music every 15 minutes unless other arrangements are made, or ice conditions allow.
5. Only coaches are permitted to use the Bluetooth function.

These rules are subject to common sense modifications (i.e. number of skaters on the ice and/or skating to music) as determined by coaches and/or DISC ice monitors. An ice monitor is an appointed position to provide support to flow, and Health & Safety processes.

#### **G. Speed Session Specific ON ICE Protocols**

1. No skater is allowed on the ice during practice without the appropriate safety gear: Helmets, gloves, knee pads and all skin from neck down to be covered.
2. Skaters may not enter the ice surface until the Zamboni is completely off the ice and a coach has given permission to enter the ice surface. Unless a coach is present and on the ice, no skater is to enter the ice surface.
3. Mat protection will be at coaches' discretion. If mats are required, then no skating is allowed while mats are being put up or taken down. Mats may be setup while the Zamboni is on the ice at the rink's discretion.
4. Non skaters must wear appropriate foot ware such as Yak Traks or rubber grip sole covers when on the ice. If walking on the ice is necessary, stay on the perimeter of the ice surface as close to the boards/mats as possible.
5. The coaches have control of the ice surface and dictate when skaters are allowed on the track or on the ice surface. Skaters may be asked to temporarily or permanently leave the ice surface during a practice if their behaviour is interfering with the practice or jeopardizing the safety or enjoyment of other skaters.
6. Skaters are not to lean on the rink boards while other skaters are on the track, nor are they to cross the track. Water bottles should be kept at centre ice to minimize crossing the track.
7. Leaving and entering the ice surface during practice is not encouraged. Skaters may only exit or enter the ice surface while skaters are on the track with permission of the coach. Entering the ice during practice can create situations where skaters may collide or interrupt practice.
8. Coaches are responsible for monitoring the number and speed of skaters on the track and for ensuring that the number/range of speed of skaters on the track at any time maintains the safety of the skaters.
9. Parents must remain at the rink with children under the age of 14 unless they have

notified the coach and identified another parent to take responsibility for the skater in case of injury.

#### **H. Other**

1. No skater is to enter the ice surface if alone in the rink. At least one adult must be present when the ice is in use, and be aware of Health and Safety processes for the club/stadium.
2. No cell phones on the ice. Note coaches are permitted to have cell phones on the ice for filming lessons etc.
3. Skating with headphones on during open sessions is not permitted.
4. Wear appropriate fitting sporting attire. Ear muffs, hats and hoods are not acceptable as they affect both vision and hearing.
5. Long hair needs to be secured away from eyes.
6. Eating, drinking (other than water) and chewing gum is not permitted on the ice.
7. Parents are encouraged to watch and be supportive from the rink lobby (refer to Parent/Caregiver/Supporter's code of conduct).

#### **I. Sanctions**

- Any skater who does not follow these protocols may be asked to leave the ice for the remainder of the session with no refund.
- Skater's conduct will be referred to Committee for discussion, additional action may be considered.
- DISC Committee members and/or coaches have the authority to remove a skater or parent from the ice or building for violations not limited to safety, rudeness and/or aggressive behaviour.
- In the case of on-going unacceptable behaviour, DISC will follow this process:
  1. First infraction. Verbal warning to skater.
  2. Second infraction. Written warning to parent/guardian.
  3. Third infraction. Removal from the ice for 24-hour period.
- DISC may terminate the right of a skater to skate on DISC ice if all other sanctions fail to result in a skater's change of conduct.

***To accept and agree to abide by these protocols to skate on DISC Club ice, please sign and submit the following online form.***

<https://www.cognitoforms.com/DunedinIceSkatingClub1/disconiceconductandsafetypolicy>