

MSC Skater Code of Conduct

Skating is a competitive sport requiring safe and courteous behaviour from all participants, both on and off the ice. Skaters need to be aware of one another to ensure safety for everyone. Although skating is primarily an “individual” sport, all skaters must act as a team and exhibit team mentality while sharing the ice.

Each skater at the Markham Skating Club (MSC) is responsible for being aware of and practicing the rules of etiquette and safety as noted in this document. This Code of Conduct must be followed in all training sessions. Also, all MSC skaters are expected to act in accordance with these rules while representing our Club at exhibitions, competitions and other events.

1) On-Ice Conduct

- a) Food, drink and gum are not permitted on the ice. Water bottles are acceptable, but must be left at the boards. Glass bottles are prohibited.
- b) Skaters are expected to be skating at all times when on the ice. They are expected to get up promptly after a fall in order to keep pathways clear for other skaters.
- c) Skaters must look in the direction of travel when skating backward.
- d) Pay attention to the position of other skaters and coaches at all times. Be especially alert for reverse jumpers, or coaches teaching with their back to you, as they may not be able to see you.
- e) When practicing routines, skaters must learn to manoeuvre around other skaters and coaches, and still complete jumps, spins and footwork successfully.
- f) The ice surface should be used for practice and not chatting. Working in small groups with coach approval is acceptable.
- g) Foul language, yelling, abusive or aggressive behaviour, including kicking or picking holes in the ice and intentional making of “snow” is prohibited.
- h) Pushing, tripping, horseplay, tag, racing or intentional interference with other skaters is not permitted on the ice or elsewhere in the arena.
- i) When standing near the boards (e.g. while taking direction from a coach), do not enter the flow of skaters without checking to make sure you’re not going to cut someone off.
- j) Proper attire must be worn on all sessions (tights and skating dress/skirt, leggings, athletic non-baggy pants). Hoodies are not appropriate as they can affect balance. Long hair should always be tied back.
- k) Skaters should not leave the ice during a session unless absolutely necessary. It is good practice to obtain a coach’s permission before leaving the ice.
- l) Skaters must clear the ice promptly at the end of the session.

2) On-Ice Right of Way Rules

First priority: Skater skating a program.

Second priority: Skater in a lesson with a coach (group or private lesson).

Third priority: Skater in a spin or jump entrance.

- a) Regardless of priority – safety must always come first. Use common sense, and regardless of who has right of way, both skaters must stop before a collision!

- b) Skaters must be aware of others and do their best to avoid collision, even if their own music is playing. Calling out “Excuse me!” or “Heads up!” will alert other skaters/coaches to get out of the way.
- c) **When a dance is played, the skater(s) with the coach who requested the dance music will skate first.**
- d) Solo or dance music will be played in the order of coach request followed by skater request. The number of times per session a skater requests music may be limited at the coaches’ discretion.
- e) **Spin in the center. Jump at the corners.** Do not linger in these areas!
- f) It is important to always be aware, cautious and considerate of everyone on the ice. Within each session, there are many different levels of skaters sharing the same ice.

3) General Rink Behaviour

- a) For insurance reasons, only registered Skate Canada members are permitted on the ice, except in a medical emergency or during certain pre-arranged Club Events (e.g. Family Skate day).
- b) Spectators, including parents of skaters, may watch from the stands or seating area.
- c) Spectators are requested to not stand by the boards. They must refrain from conversing with or offering direction to skaters on the ice. If a skater needs more direction, the coach should be consulted after the session and a plan developed to help the skater become more independent.
- d) **Young skaters and other children may not be left unattended while at the arena.** Parents/guardians of PreCanSkate/CanSkate participants must remain in attendance during the entire session.
- e) Money and valuables should not be left unattended. MSC and the Markham Village Community Centre can bear no responsibility for lost or stolen items.
- f) The gates around the ice must remain closed while sessions are in progress.
- g) As a representative of MSC, skaters should not wear any competing club’s teamwear while skating for MSC either on home ice or away.
- h) At team events and competitions, skaters are encouraged to make an effort to support their fellow skaters during their performances.

4) Disciplinary Action

If a skater violates the Code of Conduct, disciplinary action will be:

1st offence: Verbal warning by the skater’s coach or the MSC Board of Directors. The skater’s parent/guardian will be informed of the warning if the skater is under the age of majority.

2nd offence: Letter from MSC President to the skater or the skater’s parent/guardian if the skater is under the age of majority.

3rd offence: Suspension from all Club programs without compensation for 1 week. This includes all competitions and tests.

4th offence: Skater will be asked to leave the Club.

If the behaviour of a skater is considered to be in serious breach of conduct, said skater may be immediately suspended at the Board’s discretion. In cases of suspension or expulsion, no refund of any kind will be granted.