

Clubs Matter

Figure Skating Camps

Hosting a training camp is another great program that can benefit your skating members. The purpose of a camp is to 1) Enhance the skaters' overall development and 2) Encourage and educate skaters through active participation in a positive group environment.

Normally camps are divided into three tracks — skaters, coaches and parents — to serve the different needs of the participants, and should be inclusive to all participants, including both test-level skaters and competitive-level skaters. Camps also may be offered with a specific focus to draw from target audiences such as Basic Skills, Bridge program, choreography, pairs, ice dancing, adult, power skating, off-ice training, synchronized skating or a 'celebrity' camp with elite athletes and guest coaches. Camps can be scheduled to run in a one-day format, over a weekend, for a week or even as a full-summer program.



Regardless of which format you choose, make sure to address the following objectives:

- Provide standardized information for skaters to encourage them in the process of developing into well-rounded athletes.
- Introduce skaters (at all levels) to the importance of a correct training regimen and proper training techniques, both on and off the ice.
- Provide the opportunity for a "team" training experience.
- Provide an opportunity for education, observation, communication and motivation for coaches.
- Educate parents about their role in their child's growth and development along the pipeline of recreational or competitive skating.

U.S. Figure Skating does NOT sanction skating camps. However, Headquarters receives many inquiries from members looking for camps to attend. Therefore, if you are hosting an upcoming camp, please go to the URL below and fill out the form requesting to be listed on the web site. This is for informational purposes only.

Skating Camp Web Listing Request:

<http://www.usfigureskating.org/content/Skating%20Camp%20Web%20Listing%20Request.doc>

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Rink Dasher Board For Sale



U.S. Figure Skating is happy to offer all of our member figure skating clubs and Basic Skills programs a customized eight-foot dasher board to proudly display rink side at your home facility. It's brought to you by AMI Graphics. The U.S. Figure Skating discounted price, which includes shipping, is only \$115 per board. You can personalize the top line with your club name. Dashmax is an ultra-durable dasher product that is easy to install and is guaranteed for the entire year. To download an order form, go to U.S. Figure Skating Online, then "Clubs."

Share Your Great Ideas!

If you would like to share a success story with other clubs about a specific program, fundraiser, scholarship award program, governance issues or membership drive, and in the process generate a some publicity for your club, please write a short article (include pictures if possible) and send to Susi Wehrli at swehrli@usfigureskating.org. We will post responses to initiate a new forum for our clubs to share ideas with one another.

Big Buddy/Little Buddy Program: A Success Story

Troy Skating Club was having the same problem as so many other clubs across the nation: retaining Basic Skills members after Basic 3 or 4. So, the current president asked her 10-year-old daughter, who is a Junior Club member and has been since age 6, what she thought might help retention.

Bethany Callahan replied that while the emergence of the Bridge Club was helpful, some skaters were dropping out before getting to that point. She said that she would have liked to have had an older, more experienced skater to "show her the ropes."



Hence, the Big Buddy/Little Buddy program was born.

A sign-up sheet was posted for Junior/Senior Club members and Bridge Program members to become Big Buddies. Letters were sent out to Basic Skills and select Snowplow Sam skaters to inquire about a Big Buddy.

Big Buddies have to be a Junior/Senior club or Bridge Program member and use club ice during the Saturday morning sessions. They are assigned a Basic Skills skater and for 15-30 minutes of the session they teach them ice etiquette, help them with their skills and have fun with them. This, in turn, gives the Big Buddy volunteer hours, which they all need to earn.

The Little Buddies love being on the ice with the "Big" girls. The Saturday morning session is just prior to the Bridge Program session, so the Little Buddies can watch their peers, who are just a

few badges ahead of them, show off their skills and programs.

It has turned out to be a win-win situation for all. The club members who are mentoring their Little Buddies are having fun doing so. The benefits for the Little Buddies are that they are receiving additional help with their skills (under a coach's watch), getting an additional day on the ice, learning about ice protocol and gaining new friends to encourage them onto Junior club status. On occasion, Big Buddies even accompany the Little Buddy during competitions. Big Buddies can help with off-ice warm-up stretches, talk them through jitters and cheer loudly for their Little Buddy.

Message from Member Services

Principal Skating Headquarters MR 2.04

The principal skating headquarters of a club shall be the address of the rink in which the club conducts the majority of its skating sessions (business). This address will be recorded in the U.S. Figure Skating database under the club's name. A club may name only one principal skating headquarters. Other rink locations, listed as "additional rink addresses" in the directory and database, may be listed by the club. These locations are defined as any other surface where the club contracts ice. To maintain a club's principal skating headquarters, a facility usage form must be completed each year by the club president certifying the facility is the principal skating headquarters of said club. For more information on PSH, please refer to page 80 of the U.S. Figure Skating Rulebook.

Notes: To ensure a strong working relationship with the rink management, always ask permission of the rink ownership/management BEFORE filling out the Facility Usage Form and sending it in to headquarters.

Facility Usage Form: <http://www.usfigureskating.org/content/FacilityUsage.pdf>

Tips on Running a Better Board

How to Deal with an Ill-Mannered Board Member (From Board Source)

Rudeness, aggressiveness and hostile behavior have no place in the boardroom. Boards work as a team, and each member of the team must contribute to making the atmosphere conducive to deliberation and decision making. This does not mean that members should stop asking tough questions or airing differing opinions — quite the contrary. But when rude behavior prevents the board from doing its job, the chair should do the following:

- Ensure that all opinions on issues are welcome
- Immediately stop negative personal comments or insinuations, and steer the discussion back to issues
- Have a private discussion with the disruptive board member. Find out what is causing the behavior and explain the effects of this behavior
- Give the disgruntled board member meaningful assignments, and expect results
- If the inappropriate behavior continues, consider making the situation a full-board issue and, after asking the troublesome board member to resign voluntarily, discuss removal

Helpful Links

U.S. Figure Skating sponsored skating camps:

National Pairs Camp and Tryout: <http://www.usfigureskating.org/Shell.asp?sid=37357>

Synchronized Training Festival: <http://www.usfigureskating.org/Programs.asp?id=44>

Upcoming Club Education Seminars:

March 25, 2007 – Hallowell, Maine

Registration form:

<http://www.usfigureskating.org/content/Maine%20Club%20Ed%20registration.pdf>

May 3, 2007 – Reno, Nev., at the Governing Council meeting

Registration form:

<http://www.usfigureskating.org/content/GC%20Reno%20Club%20Ed%20application.pdf>

NARCE Skating Director Program

May 14-16, 2007 – Chicago, Ill.

The Skating Director Program presented by U.S. Figure Skating is designed for figure skating program directors, administrators and instructors who aim to offer the highest level of service and opportunity through their figure skating program. This program will teach the participants how to use the full array of U.S. Figure Skating programs to create a successful and financially viable figure skating program, from the basics to high-level competitive programming.

NARCE registration form: http://www.usfigureskating.org/content/NARCE_2007_USFS.pdf