

Ice Rink Scheduling: Guiding Philosophy

Our approach to ice scheduling is grounded in a commitment to serving a diverse and growing rink user base. Thoughtful and inclusive scheduling is key to building a strong, connected skating community. With limited ice time that is in high demand, we approach scheduling of that time with care and intentionality. It is our goal to provide ice times that take into account a variety of factors to maximize collective benefits for the whole community. As our community changes, grows, and develops, the needs or demands on the ice will also necessarily change and evolve.

Rather than a rigid priority list comprised of blocks of rentals, we look to some core guiding principles to help us build a holistic ice program for the full spectrum of ice users: Learn to Skate, freestyle, figure skating, hockey (youth & adult), Learn to Play (youth & adult), Aspire, public skating, Members, stick-and-puck, Theater on Ice, and other emerging activities.

Some of our principles include (but are not limited to):

1. Access and Equity – Consider representative and equitable access, allocation, and application of costs
2. Diversity – Provide a wide range of activities to a wide variety of skaters
3. Development – Provide opportunities for growth of activity, growth in participation, and individual growth
4. Partnership – Recognize the importance of partnerships in the delivery of rink-based activities
5. Fiscal Sustainability – Operate the facility in a financially sound manner that supports current activity and provides for future growth

A vibrant rink culture is not built through a calendar alone. A strong, connected rink community starts with listening and engagement. We actively seek input and feedback from families, coaches, participants, program leaders, other users, and community stakeholders. This helps us make informed decisions that reflect both how our community currently uses the ice and how we grow together for the future.

As we grow and evolve, so too must the schedule. Guided by our philosophy, we remain flexible and adaptable. Whether that means expanding high-demand programs, piloting new offerings, adjusting to seasonal changes, or responding to community feedback, we can support growth while maintaining program quality.

Ice scheduling is a complex undertaking. We are committed to communicating openly about our approach. Through open, transparent communication, we hope to continue building trust and understanding within our community. With this philosophical approach, we can balance the diverse needs of, and provide opportunities for, as many participants as possible to engage, develop, and enjoy the ice.