

ICE ETIQUETTE AND SAFETY GUIDELINES

Courtesy

First and foremost is courtesy. It is essential to respect the rights of other skaters and be constantly aware of who is around you. If you seem to be surrounded by skaters of significantly greater or lesser skills, be especially careful! Strive to avoid collisions!

"On Program" and "In Lesson" Get Priority

The skater who is "on program" (who's music is playing) has the right of way at all times, and other skaters are expected to give them free maneuvering room. That skater will be wearing the yellow or orange vest. Second in priority are those skaters who are currently in lessons with their pro. Always yield to these skaters as well.

Lutz Corners

Because of the nature of the Lutz jump, it is most commonly performed in the 10:00 and 4:00 corners of the rink (unless you have a lot of clockwise jumpers in your club). These corners are informally called the "Lutz Corners", and can usually be identified by the unusually large concentration of divots in the ice. At Thornton, they are the corner by the zamboni door and the diagonal corner. Strive to avoid long-term practice activities in these corners, and try to be especially aware of your surroundings when you are in them. Remember that the approach to a Lutz is long and blind. The skater doing the Lutz is not likely to see you.

Dangerous Singles Moves

When you are practicing elements like camel spins and back spirals be especially aware of the danger your exposed blade poses to other skaters. Recognize that once you've started the element it will be hard for you to see those around you. Take a good look at your expected "space" before you start the element, and abort it if it looks like you could cause a problem.

Falls and Injuries

If you should fall, get up quickly. Remember that the other skaters will have a much harder time seeing you when you are down low on the ice. Don't stay there any longer than you have to. While falling, remember to keep your fingers away from your blades. And learn to fall properly so that you can protect your head as much as possible. Learn to keep "loose" when you fall and this will help you to avoid breaking things. If you see someone else is that has fallen and may be injured, don't just drag them off without being certain that doing so won't hurt them further. If you suspect that someone is seriously hurt, the best thing to do is, 1) have someone stand "guard" over them to make sure that other skaters avoid collisions with them, and 2) get a qualified adult to come and help them.

Don't Stand Around

Refrain from standing around and visiting on the ice. This wastes expensive ice and presents an additional hazard.