



INFORMATION FOR PARENTS OF INTERMEDIATE SKATERS

The Markham Skating Club's Intermediate level is a stepping-stone between CanSkate and Skate Canada's Preliminary Test levels. Intermediate skaters work to achieve their Stage 6 & 7 badges and begin learning all disciplines of figure skating, including skills, dance and freeskate. While both a warm up and secondary group lesson are included in each session, there is less structure than CanSkate and private lessons are highly recommended in Stages 6 and 7.

- 👉 Once a skater completes Stage 7 private lessons are mandatory. Please contact the Markham Skating Club Professional Coach of your choice early to receive additional information, arrange these lessons, and avoid potential disappointment.
- 👉 A complete list of MSC coaches can be found under Registration Information on our website at www.markhamskatingclub.com.

TERMINOLOGY

Your Intermediate skater will be learning a multitude of new disciplines, hand-in-hand with new terminology. The three main areas of focus for Intermediate skaters are:

- 👉 **SKATING SKILLS** – Movements executed on a pattern and set to music. Skills help skaters master basic fundamentals of skating: edge quality, control, power & speed.
- 👉 **ICE DANCE** – Skaters work through a series of tests that teach timing, musicality, rhythm, edges, flow, control, and unison. Your skater will be performing their Ice Dance tests with a coach. There are 3-4 dances in each level of dance skating.
- 👉 **FREE SKATING** – Consists of a program where your skater will execute jumps, spins, footwork, field movements and stroking performed to music.

TESTING

- 👉 Each of the above areas of focus involves testing. These tests take place at the arena on MSC test days (noted below). Scheduling of regular sessions may be adjusted on these days to accommodate free skate sessions and individual testing.
- 👉 If your child is to take a test, his/her coach will provide an envelope with information specific to the test to be taken.
- 👉 There is a minimal fee for each test.
- 👉 Skaters must wear appropriate attire for skating tests. Your coach will provide you with the details.
- 👉 Note that dresses may be rented from MSC for tests at minimal cost. Please contact our costume facility, "The Loft", at 905-294-0673 to set an appointment to shop for your rental or to browse the catalogue. The Loft is located at the arena.
- 👉 Testing is divided into "high test" and "low test" days. Intermediate skaters participate in "low test day" only.

EQUIPMENT

- 👉 At this level all skaters should skate in proper figure skating attire:
 - Girls – skating dress/skirt with tights, or skating pants and a sweater
 - Boys – pants that allow for easy movement and a sweater
 - Both – proper figure skates should be worn



KEY DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

September 2011	Wednesday September 7 th – Fall/winter session begins
October 2011	Saturday October 8 th & Monday October 10 th – Arena closed for Thanksgiving Wednesday October 26 th – Low test day*
November 2011	Wednesday November 2 nd – High test day*
December 2011	Wednesday December 14 th – Low test day* Wednesday December 21 st – High test day* Friday December 23 rd – Last day of sessions before Christmas break Saturday December 17 th – Annual Christmas party
January 2012	Monday January 2 nd – First day back for 2012
February 2012	Monday February 20 th – Arena closed for Family Day Friday February 24 th – Mini-Olympics Saturday February 25 th – Club Competition
March 2012	Tuesday March 13 th – Last day of regular sessions Wednesday March 14 th – Low test day* Thursday March 15 th – High test day* Monday March 19 th – Ice Show rehearsals begin Saturday March 24 th – Annual banquet
April 2012	Monday April 16 th – Ice Show production week begins April 20 th , 21 st , 22 nd – Ice Show performances

***Regular sessions are cancelled on test days.**

Times and schedules are subject to change; whenever possible, notices will be posted on the MSC website, emailed to members and posted in the arena. For this reason, please provide email addresses for every relevant individual in your family. If you do not have access to email, please be sure to check our website or the bulletin board in the lobby of the Markham Village Arena on a regular basis.

ANNUAL BANQUET

As is the tradition for other athletic organizations, we celebrate our skaters' accomplishments at the end of each winter season with our annual banquet. This year's banquet is on Saturday March 24th, 2012. Don't miss this popular event, complete with dinner, DJ, dancing, door prizes and more. It's a great family evening, with tons of fun for skaters of all ages and their parents!

SKATING DRESS AND COSTUME RENTAL

Although Skate Canada requires the girls wear skating dresses for some Intermediate tests, it is not necessary for you to purchase one! The Markham Skating Club runs a costume business called The Loft? We rent costumes for Halloween, dance recitals, school plays, theme parties, and we also have beautiful dresses for skating tests and competitions. Prices are reasonable and vary from \$5 to \$25. For more information, email costumes@markhamskatingclub.com, or call 905-294-0673. Plus, 100% of rental proceeds go directly back to the Club.

PROGRAM ASSISTANTS

MSC offers a wonderful opportunity for skaters to assist our Professional Coaches as Program Assistants (PAs). If your skater has passed the Preliminary Skills test and is at least 11 years old, he/she may want to consider becoming a PA. High school students may allocate these volunteer hours toward their Community Involvement requirements. Plus, all skaters accepted into the PA program receive a discount of 3% on next season's fees! To schedule your hours, please contact Line Benton at 905-209-0839.

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