



Markham Skating Club

Private Coaching – What You Need to Know

Like most other Canadian figure skating clubs, Markham Skating Club (MSC) offers group lessons at the Pre-CanSkate (formerly KidSkate), CanSkate and Intermediate levels. The addition of private coaching is strongly recommended at the Intermediate level, but is not mandatory. However, once a skater moves into the Senior level, the addition of private lessons is mandatory.

Does my skater need a private coach?

Private coaching will help speed progress by increasing focus on each skater's individual goals and challenges; these may include the exciting experience of going to competitions or working through Skate Canada test levels. If your skater wants to try competing or testing, Skate Canada dictates that you must have a coach.

Can the office staff or board members recommend a coach for me?

No. Anyone involved with the day-to-day operation or governance of a Skate Canada Club must remain impartial. Recommendations of one coach over another are considered unethical. Besides, nobody knows your skater's personality and communication style better than you. Private coaches must be hired directly by you, and lesson fees, scheduling and so on are to be arranged directly with your coach. Private coaching fees are not included in skating session fees, and can not be paid through the office.

So how do I choose a coach?

Your private coach should be someone the skater is comfortable with. Ask your skater for an opinion – if they have been with MSC throughout their skating development, they will have some familiarity with the teaching style of several coaches through group lessons, warm-ups and so on. But be careful that they are not just asking for a certain coach because their friends are with that coach! Personal fit is important.

You might want to observe the coaches on sessions other than your usual sessions. While you will not be able listen in to lessons directly, watching the coaches from the stands might help to give you a feel for how each coach works.

How many lessons a week do we need?

The number of private lessons per week will depend on the skater's goals. Naturally, the more lessons a skater has the faster they will progress. However, remember that skaters also need to learn to work independently – do not schedule so many lessons on each session that they do not have a chance to develop this skill. Semi-private lessons (lessons where skaters of similar ability share a private lesson) are a good option as long as they are supplemented by private lessons, so each skater gets a chance to work on his/her individual needs with the coach.



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Which MSC coaches teach private lessons?

These professionals coach both male and female skaters of all levels of ability and experience. Simply contact the coach of your choice directly for more information.

Ashlea Brittain	905-925-8925
Derek Brittain	905-903-8038
Michele Britten	905-640-8488
Candice Glover	647-223-8967
Don Godfrey	905-235-5716
Darcy Guddat	905-294-2485
Rodolfo Guilherme	416-318-8362
Brandon Herdman	416-559-2696
Lindsay Herdman	647-668-2760
Tracey Jones	905-721-1921
Karolina Mazur	416-803-4092
Mackenzie Ralph	905-591-0046
Travis Sherriff-Clayton	289-221-2646

Familiarize yourself with their credentials: most of the MSC coaching staff have listed their credentials and biographies on the coaches' page at www.markhamskatingclub.com.

If you are still unsure, consider scheduling a lesson or two with your top choices before committing to a long-term coaching partnership. Please understand that availability might be a challenge, as many of our coaches' schedules are full. Be prepared with a 2nd or 3rd choice, but know that all our coaches are highly qualified. Many have been national champions and international competitors, and all are N.C.C.P. Certified members of Skate Canada.

Now That You Have a Coach

Communication is key. If you have any questions about your skater's progress or your lessons, speak with your coach. After all, you are paying them to work with your child. This is a business arrangement and must be treated as such. Discuss your thoughts, ask questions, and raise any concerns openly. Our coaches pride themselves on friendly, supportive and positive skater/coach relationships!