



## Important Information for CanSkate Parents

MSC's CanSkate sessions are run according to Skate Canada's nationally-standardized format. This is a fun (yet highly instructional) program for beginner skaters aged 5 years and up who are able to stand up and move around competently on the ice. MSC's CanSkate sessions feature an exceptionally low skater-to-coach ratio, and each session has 30 minutes of instruction plus additional practice time. Ribbons and badges are awarded as skaters master the fundamentals of skating.

All Pre-CanSkate and CanSkate parents are invited to join us for **information meetings during Pre-CanSkate and CanSkate skating sessions from September 18-23**. Once your child is on the ice, please join us in the Board Room (just off the arena lobby). These information sessions will let you know what to expect from the program and how it works, and have any questions answered.

### IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- **Parents must stay in the arena** at all times during the session. Skaters must never be left at the arena without a parent or guardian present.
  - Please ensure that your children enter and exit the ice only from the designated gate.
- **Please do not stand by the glass.** Parents should watch from the stands to allow our coaches to have the skaters' full attention during the session.
- **PLEASE DO NOT INTERRUPT THE SESSIONS.** If you have questions or concerns about your child's progress, please feel free to approach any of our coaching staff after the session has ended.  
At that time, we will be pleased to answer any questions you may have.

### Equipment Necessities

- **CSA-approved helmets are mandatory** for all skaters until they have passed CanSkate 5.  
Bicycle helmets are not acceptable protection.  
Face masks are highly recommended.
- **Skate guards are mandatory.**  
For safety reasons, all skaters must have HARD skate guards on their blades when not on the ice. Soft guards are not acceptable; they are dangerous to walk in.  
Guards also protect blades and keep them sharp; dull blades prevent skaters from learning proper moving and stopping technique.
- **We strongly recommend lace-up skates** as they provide the best support and promote proper movement.

**We have created a short instructional video for CanSkate parents.  
Please be sure to watch it – link through the CanSkate information at  
[www.markhamskatingclub.com](http://www.markhamskatingclub.com)**

## KEY DATES

Schedules are subject to change; whenever possible, notices will be emailed, posted on our website, and on our bulletin boards. Please consider these key dates when choosing your schedule.

<b>August 2017</b>	Monday August 14 @ 6pm – Fall/ registration opens online (in person at the office 6-8pm)
<b>September 2017</b>	Monday September 11 – First day of fall/winter session
	Tuesday September 16 @ 2pm – PA training clinic (no charge)
	September 18-23 – Pre-CanSkate and CanSkate Information Sessions (during sessions)
<b>October 2017</b>	Saturday September 16 – MSC Annual BBQ – arena parking lot (11:30am-2pm)
	Monday October 2 – Ice Show registration opens
	Saturday October 7 – Thanksgiving weekend (no sessions)
	Monday October 9 – Thanksgiving Day (no sessions)
	Saturday October 21 – Ice Show registration closes
	Wednesday October 25 – High Test Day (no sessions)
<b>November 2017</b>	Tuesday October 31 – Halloween (yes, there are sessions!)
	Saturday Nov. 25 (TBC) – Markham Santa Claus Parade (allow extra time to get to arena)
<b>December 2017</b>	Saturday December 16 – CanSkate Challenge, Skate Extreme Competition, Family Christmas party (no regular sessions but all members are invited to join in the fun)
	Wednesday December 20 – High Test Day (no sessions)
	Saturday December 23 – Last day of skating before Christmas break
	Sunday December 24 through Monday January 1 – Christmas break (no sessions)
<b>January 2018</b>	Tuesday January 2 – First day of skating after Christmas break
	Sunday January 21 – Ice Show Information meeting and casting reveal (2-4pm)
	Early February – Ice Show rehearsal schedule posted
<b>February 2018</b>	Saturday Feb 10 – Club Competition (no sessions)
	Saturday February 17 – Family Day weekend (yes, there are sessions on SATURDAY)
	Monday February 19 – Arena closed for Family Day (no sessions on MONDAY)
	Tuesday February 20 – Spring session registration opens at 6pm
<b>March 2018</b>	Wednesday March 7 – High Test day (no sessions)
	Saturday March 10 – Last day of fall/winter session
	Monday March 12 – Ice Show rehearsals start
	Monday March 12-Saturday March 16 – March Break (yes, there are rehearsals)
	Friday March 30-Monday April 2 inclusive – Easter weekend (no sessions)
<b>April 2018</b>	Monday April 9 - Thurs April 12 – Ice Show Production week (skaters are at arena every day)
	Friday April 13 – Ice Show performance #1 (7pm)
	Saturday April 14 – Ice Show performance #2 (1pm) & #3 (7pm)
	Sunday April 15 - Ice Show performance #4 (1pm)
	Monday April 16 – Spring session starts
<b>May 2018</b>	April 23-28 – New skaters’ Pre-CanSkate and CanSkate information sessions (during sessions)
	Saturday May 5 – Annual Spring Awards Banquet (evening)
	Saturday May 19-Monday May 21 (inclusive) – Victoria Day weekend (no sessions)
	Wednesday May 23 – High Test Day (no sessions)
<b>June 2018</b>	Saturday May 26 – Last day of spring skating
	Tuesday June 12 – Annual General Meeting

If you have any questions about or suggestions for our programs, please feel free to contact us at 905-472-6982 or email [info@markhamskatingclub.com](mailto:info@markhamskatingclub.com).

***Programs under sanction of Skate Canada – Club No. 1000444***



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www.markhamskatingclub.com**