



Essex Skating Club of New Jersey, Inc.
Club Session Guidelines for Parents, Skaters, Coaches, and Volunteers
EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 6, 2022

By purchasing ice time or giving lessons on Essex Skating Club contracted sessions for the 2022-23 season, you acknowledge that you have read and understand these guidelines. **The parent or guardian of a minor skater must discuss these rules with the skater to ensure the rules are understood to the best of the skater's age related ability.**

The Essex Skating Club of New Jersey prides itself on being a skater friendly organization supporting freestyle, dance, pairs, moves in the field, adaptive, synchronized, and theater on ice skating for all ages and abilities. Please adhere to our rules and continue the spirit of the Essex Skating Club as established in May 1954.

- **Safety of skaters and coaches on the ice is the NUMBER ONE priority.**
- Skaters, Coaches, and Monitors must adhere to the current rink and public safety protocols in place.
- Club session capacity will follow current public safety guidelines of the state of New Jersey.
- Hockey or rental skates, props, puck skating, or skating with cones is prohibited.
- ESC may use Club ice sessions for Club activities. Dates for activities using Club ice will be announced via the Club's email messaging system.
- ESC may use Club ice sessions for Low Test sessions. Testing will be announced during the session and the tester wearing the sash will have right of way.
- Parents, skaters, coaches, monitors, and all volunteers are expected to show courtesy at ESC sessions. **Use of profanity is strictly prohibited.**
- Anyone deliberately challenging, scaring or intentionally blocking another skater may be asked to leave the ice immediately. Repeat offenses can result in suspension or revocation of club membership.
- Beverages in non-breakable containers can be placed on and consumed at the barrier only.
- Barrettes, tissues, gloves, pads, skate guards, etc. should be placed securely away from the ice surface.
- ESC does not provide phone adapters to play music (e.g. Apple dongles) and coaches/skaters should not remove adapters without permission of the owner.
- **Electronic devices, AirPods or headphones may not be worn/carried on the ice surface.**
- Order of music is LESSON, LESSON, NON-LESSON, LESSON, LESSON, NON-LESSON etc.
- **Skaters performing to music are required to wear a sash.**

- **A skater with the sash ALWAYS HAS THE RIGHT OF WAY.** The traditional etiquette on a skating session is to yield to the skater who is:
 - Wearing the sash
 - On a lesson
 - On a pattern

It is each coach's responsibility to ensure their skaters are taught how to do this. Parents should also reinforce this important rule to new skaters.
- Skaters and coaches should not congregate in groups on the ice, especially the corners.
- **Decision of the Ice Monitor is final for the session.** See section *Escalation Procedures for Incidents on Club Ice* for additional guidelines.

Parent and Guardian (P/G) Guidelines

1. Interference with enforcement of session rules and etiquette, especially safety matters, can result in suspension of club privileges or revocation of club membership.
2. Verbally or physically threatening a parent, coach, skater, monitor, volunteer, or Club Officer can result in suspension of club privileges or revocation of club membership.
3. Session fees must be paid prior to session attendance to the monitor at the ESC registration desk. Do not mail checks to Codey Arena or pay at the Codey Arena front desk. Payment can be in the form of exact change, check payable to Essex Skating Club, or discount punch card.
4. **Parents / guardians may observe sessions from the exterior lobby. Spectators are not allowed in the rink during sessions.**
5. Do not block ice surface entrances; conversations with your skater must be conducted off ice.
6. **Coaching or providing instruction to a skater that is on the ice surface is strictly prohibited.**
7. Virtual lessons are not allowed on club sessions.

Skater Guidelines

1. Skaters must be members in good standing of US Figure Skating and Essex Skating Club of New Jersey, Inc.
2. Guests must be members in good standing of US Figure Skating either as an individual member or as a member of a USFS club.
3. Skater should enter/exit the ice at the session start/end time. Do not enter before start time.
4. Skaters should politely notify others who may be unaware of their pattern or program.
5. **Jumps should be practiced with landings in the corners. Spins should be practiced towards center ice, allowing space for moves in the field patterns to proceed through the center.**
6. **The sash must be worn while skating to program music:**
 - a. **Dance:** Student must wear sash.
 - b. **Pairs:** Both partners must wear sash.
 - c. **Synchro and Theater on Ice:** One (1) skater may perform to the music and must wear a sash. Other team members may not skate or "shadow" along to the program. Blocks/block work/no hold blocks and other advanced connected moves are prohibited.
 - d. **Moves in the Field:** Skater may request a sash to complete one (1) element and will have right of way. Skater may not use the sash to practice an entire test.

7. A skater may use the music deck **up to three (3) times on a session**. The Ice Monitor has discretion to refuse or delay subsequent requests if a skater is monopolizing the music system.

Coach Guidelines

1. All coaches must be members of US Figure Skating, be registered with the management of Richard J. Codey Arena, and be approved by the Essex Skating Club Board. Coaches must have passed the annual background screening and carry liability insurance per US Figure Skating requirements. **No exceptions.**
2. Coaches should educate students on proper etiquette and reinforce the concept of “safety first”.
3. Coaches should teach from the boards or hockey boxes unless demonstrating or choreographing a program.
4. Coaches should politely notify others who may be unaware of their skater’s pattern or program. Yelling at or intimidating other skaters will absolutely not be tolerated and result in possible disciplinary action.

Monitor Guidelines

- Documented in *Supplement to Club Session Guidelines for Parents, Skaters, Coaches, and Volunteers*

Escalation Procedures for Incidents on Club Ice

These procedures should be followed by Parents, Skaters, Coaches, Monitors and all Volunteers:

- Report incident to Monitor who must attempt to resolve the situation during the session and based on the guidelines set forth within this document.
- If incident cannot be resolved by Monitor, Monitor must complete an Incident Report and submit to the Ice Monitor Chairman (2022/23 - Patricia Fulweiler flamengojp@optimum.net).
- If further review of the incident is required, Ice Monitor Chairman should submit report to ESC Board of Trustees (board@essexskatingclub.org).
- The ESC Board of Trustees will bring any issues that require involvement of Arena Management to the attention of the Arena Director.
- The ESC Board of Trustees will conduct necessary fact finding and communicate findings/actions to all involved parties upon completion.

SPECIAL NOTE – There are no test session requirements on any sessions. More experienced skaters must yield right of way to less experienced skaters when there is risk of collision. Coaches should educate less experienced skaters on best practices and safety while entering/exiting the ice surface and while practicing on the ice surface.