



The Skater's Edge

Volume 2, Issue 2

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ISI Skating Levels

Don't be in the dark any longer!

As a parent of a learn to skate student, are you confused about Alphas, Betas, Gammas and Deltas or is it all Greek to you?

The Ice Skating Institute (ISI) sets the standards for our Learn to Skate levels. Our classes are broken into the following:

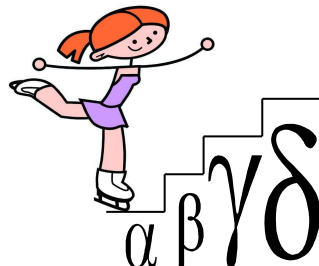
Tots, Pre-Alpha, Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta and Freestyle. Each level has different required elements a skater is to be able to accomplish before moving on to the next group. When we tested last Saturday, some skaters were able to move up to the next level, while some still needed to work on certain elements before advancing.

Upon passing the skill test for any given level, the skater's information is submitted to ISI and they are registered as having passed the level tested. ISI has patches available for purchase for each of the skill levels.

We had a number of Pre-Alphas who just missed moving up to the Alpha group. As a result, beginning this Saturday, those skaters will go into an "advanced Pre-Alpha" group in order to focus on the skills they need to advance to Alpha.

Levels are guidelines, not really age restricted. It would not be unusual to see a very young skater quickly advance to an Alpha level.

If you are ever uncertain as to what level your child is skating, don't hesitate to ask...at least now you know the progressions.



Register to Win!

Don't miss the 2007 "Smucker's Stars On Ice" coming to the Scott Trade Center in St. Louis on Friday, February 2 at 7:30 p.m. Posters are displayed in the rink listing famous professional skaters appearing.

We are giving away two tickets each to two different winners from our Learn to Skate students.

Complete the form below and turn it in to the ProShop on Saturday, January 13 or Saturday, January 20. Winners will be notified by phone and posted on Saturday, January 27.

Only those in our Learn to Skate program this session will be eligible. This looks like it is going to be a fun evening and a chance to see some great professional skating!

✂-----

Student Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Parent/Guardian signature: _____

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The Benefits of Pre-Registration

A Necessary Tool in Planning for Classes

We are excited about the growth of our Learn to Skate classes here at East Alton Ice Arena. While we have many new students, we still have many students who have been with our program for a while now.

In the past, parents could wait until the first day of the new session in order to register their young skater. It is important that we have our classes scheduled and instructors assigned *before* the first session.

We can do a better job of making sure your child is properly placed for their skating level and lesson the amount of time you spend waiting in line to register!



We would like to encourage you to get into the habit of registering your child when the new registration flyers for the upcoming session are mailed out and available. This helps us plan how we will place the classes on the ice and which levels will be sharing the ice with each other. It is also very important for us to know if we need to search for additional coaches, a situation we look forward to some day!

Of course there are always students registering for the first time during the first few weeks of classes, that is to be expected and we always welcome new students!

Class Size

ISI Guidelines

While our Learn to Skate classes are rapidly growing, many parents who have been used to seeing smaller class sizes may be concerned about our instructor/student ratio.

ISI recommendations state that for Tot classes there should be 1 teacher with 1 assistant for up to 12 students and we can have up to 5 Tot classes on the ice at one time. Can you imagine 60 Tots on the ice at one time?

Class Size (continued)

For the Pre-Alpha class, their guidelines are shown as 1 teacher and 1 assistant per 15 students.

For each of the upper level classes, only 1 teacher is required per 20 students. 1 assistant is added for each beginning group.

We feel that keeping the groups smaller and having enough instructors with helpers will lesson the parents' anxieties and help the skaters with more personal attention.

Our goal is to grow our Learn to Skate program. We look forward to hiring more qualified coaches and bringing them to our team.

Next session for each of our current Learn to Skate students who get a friend to sign up for lessons will get 2 passes for skating admission. More information will be coming on this before Pre-Registration for Spring.

Adult Learn to Skate

Contact Us Now!

We are in the process of gathering names of people who would be interested in Adult Skating lessons on Saturday mornings.



Please see our Learn to Skate bulletin board in the lobby for forms to submit. If we have enough interest, we would love to schedule some adult classes!

Comments

Your Feedback is Important!

Are there other programs or services you would like to see offered at East Alton Ice Arena? Are there some suggestions for new food choices you would like to see offered in our Concessions?



Your comments and suggestions are important in our planning for the rink this year. Please complete our Contact form on our website at

http://www.eastaltonicearena.org/site_contact.shtm .

We want to know what you think!