

Riverside Ice Rink Patch Rules

Rights of Way in order of priority

- 1) A skater performing a programme or ice dance during a lesson with music always has priority. (Coloured bibs may be worn to indicate this)
- 2) A skater in a lesson then receives priority.
- 3) A skater outside of a lesson performing music will then receive priority.

Safety of Skaters

- High level skaters must be aware of lower-level skaters around them and be considerate to those who have difficulty getting clear.
- Skaters entering jumps and lifts only have limited points where they can safely abort the manoeuvre. In the immediate run-in to the element, they must have right of way.
- Where possible, coaches should locate themselves around the perimeter of the ice pad unless demonstrating or undertaking choreography. This is to minimise further congestion on the ice pad.
- Lower-Level Skaters must also be aware of others around them and be fully aware of patch rules as high-level skaters can be doing moves that require space.
- If you are executing a camel spin, or any flying spin, make sure the area around you is clear, if in any doubt please abort and try again when the area is clear. The skaters coach (or an appropriate person) should “spot” any skater attempting any jumps or spins with a higher complexity.
- Skaters who are spinning cannot see you coming towards them; some of the jumps are executed from backward entries with the head facing forwards. All skaters must be able to get out of the way or stop quickly.
- It is the **SKATERS** responsibility to fill their own holes/divots before the end of the session. Failure to do so, will result in the skater being asked to leave the patch session.
- Synchronized Skating should not be practiced on Patch Session. Skaters must not join in blocks of more than 2. Other team members are not permitted to shadow, skate behind or around the 2-person formation.

Use of Music

- Coaches have full priority over the use of the music system during patch ice sessions.
- Skaters should seek permission from the coach before using the music system. (If no coach is present, please seek permission from rink staff).

- Please do not stop / start music several times whilst others are waiting to use the music.
- Coaches must be respectful of other coaches who require the music & plan accordingly.

General Rules

- The minimum standard for patch ice is **Skate UK Grade 8**. Unless in a 1 to 1 lesson on a SUITABLE quiet patch session, the skater must however NOT train alone before or after the lesson and must be closely always supervised by the instructor. Failure to comply will result in the skater being asked to leave the patch session. (Unless agreed with rink manager)
- Phones may only be used for educational purposes **ONLY**. Misuse of this will result in the skater being asked to leave the patch session.
- Headphones / Air Pods are **NOT** permitted for safety reasons.
- Hire skates are NOT permitted on patch sessions (Unless exceptional circumstances in which are agreed with rink staff – For example, forgotten skates)
- Hockey Skates are NOT permitted on Patch sessions.
- Hockey Kit is NOT permitted to be worn.
- Group lessons are to be a maximum of **6 skaters** on patch sessions.
- Coaches must issue any new skaters booked on to patch a copy of the patch rules which will need to be read & fully understood.

Etiquette / Behaviour

- Socialising should be carried out OFF the ice, not during patch sessions. Failure to comply, could result in removal from patch session.
- Skaters that fall should get up as soon as they can and NOT lay on the ice.
- Coaches and Skaters are to be courteous to each other.
- Please respect ice coaches, being polite and respect their position.
- There will be NO poor behaviour for example, kicking the ice or foul language.
- Skaters in a lesson on the music with the right of way are allowed to call out in a polite manner (NO SHOUTING) if their path is blocked.
- Coaches are NOT permitted to shout except for extenuating circumstances (Major safety issue that may prevent an accident)
- Skaters and coaches should NOT enter the ice when the Zamboni is in use, likewise, should make every effort to close doors upon exit of the ice at the end of a patch session.
- Skaters should not begin the patch session until the Zamboni doors are closed. (Unless signalled to do so by the rink supervisor)

- When entering or exiting the ice on a patch session, DO NOT skate across the middle of the ice, please follow the flow and leave via the nearest side door.
- Coaches and skaters should have the freedom to remind others of etiquette **without** resentment.

Spectating The Ice

- Parents and spectators are NOT permitted to sit in the benched sin bin area.
- Parents and spectators are NOT permitted to take control of the music system, they must seek authorisation from the coaches and or rink staff. Any such agreement will only be for the duration of the session in question.
- When spectating your children / friends or siblings, you should be kind, courteous and supportive towards other skaters sharing the ice surface and act respectful towards coaches doing their jobs.
- Parents should allow the coach and child the time / space to train without interfering.

Booking On Patch Sessions

- All Patch sessions should be booked on via the app / website or in person at reception.
- Regardless of membership levels, all sessions MUST be booked. Even if your membership level does not reflect a charge on the patch session.
- Random checks will be completed by staff on occasions, skaters will be asked to leave the ice if they have not booked on to the session.

Falls and Injuries

- If you suspect someone is seriously hurt, have someone stand and “guard” over them so that other skaters avoid collision. Please obtain assistance from a coach. In the absence of a coach, please alert the rink staff.
- If before the hours of 08.00 an accident occurs, please contact the duty manager in person or via the emergency contact number 07894598848.
- In the unlikely event of only one skater training on the ice, a responsible adult must observe the session from the spectator area.

Jump Harness

- Limited to skaters receiving one to one tuition working on any required jump.
- In use for patch sessions ONLY.