

We hope that you will enjoy skating at our dance session. To help you feel at home (and to keep all of us safe on the ice), here is an outline of the session and a summary of our code of conduct. In general, courtesy and common sense should prevail at all times.

1. **Practice time:** There is half an hour of practice time, starting at 8.10pm.
  - (a) At all times, you must be aware of other skaters whose patterns you may be obstructing. Most, but not all, patterns travel anti-clockwise around the rink.
  - (b) Skaters in lessons have priority on the ice, followed by skaters practising a pattern or free dance. [See 3(a).]
  - (c) As dance patterns cover the whole surface of the ice in repeated circuits, please do not dominate one part of the rink [e.g. the base line or a hockey circle].
  - (d) If you are standing still on the ice, please stay close to the barrier and be aware of approaching skaters.
  - (e) Spectators should stand clear of the barrier, as skaters may perform patterns that come extremely close to the edge of the ice. For the same reason, please do not leave items on the barrier that can be easily knocked onto the ice [e.g. blade guards and bottles].
  - (f) Please leave the ice if you wish to chat, to avoid obstructing other skaters.
  - (g) Jumping is not permitted.
  
2. **Dance intervals:** There are two dance intervals, at 8.00-8.10pm, and 8.40-9.00pm.
  - (a) Dances may be skated solo or with a partner. We're a friendly bunch, so feel free to ask someone to dance, whether you are a lady or a man.
  - (b) Couples have priority over solo skaters. However, slower skaters should give way to stronger skaters in the queue, even if this is a couple giving way to a stronger solo skater. Queue jumping is not permitted.
  - (c) Dancers should be well-spaced, in order to avoid crowding. When starting a dance, please leave a gap of at least four beats (two pushes) after the dancer in front of you has gone before you start skating.
  - (d) If you join a dance in the middle of the pattern, please leave a gap of at least four beats between yourself and other dancers, to ensure that they are not forced to abort their patterns. If no such gap exists, please do not join the dance.
  - (e) Only the dance that has been announced may be skated unless explicitly stated otherwise by a committee member (e.g. if a Silver Samba has been announced and no one is dancing to it, a Riolado Samba may be announced instead).
  - (f) Only attempt the dance if you know the steps. No teaching is permitted during dance intervals, so if you don't know the steps, ask someone to show you during the practice time.
  - (g) If you are not dancing, please leave the ice and stand well away from the gates, so that other skaters can leave or join the ice easily.
  
3. **Music:**
  - (a) Priority is given to skaters using the music only if they are wearing the hi-vis jacket, as this allows other skaters to identify them easily.
  - (b) Skaters in lessons have priority over use of the CD player.
  - (c) Other members may play their free dance music once per 30-minute practice session.
  - (d) Guests may ask a committee member to play their program music.
  - (e) Background music is not permitted.

*These music restrictions may be relaxed on very quiet sessions, at the committee's discretion.*
  
4. **Eligibility:** Skaters must be:
  - (a) at least 11 years old **AND**
  - (b) competent at the forward dances and working on the first backward dances.

If you do not meet one of these criteria and wish to skate as a guest or join as a member, please contact a committee member; such cases will be considered by the committee on an individual basis. Guests are welcome on the session if they meet both criteria, subject to the discretion of the committee. Membership is by nomination and committee approval only.
  
5. **Complaints:** Junior and adult skaters have equal rights to skate at Dance Club. If you are concerned about the behaviour of a skater on our session, please speak to a committee member rather than addressing the skater directly, particularly where junior skaters are involved.

*If you are found to be in breach of these rules, the committee reserves the right to ask you to leave the ice.*