

Welcome to Junior Group Skate!

Junior Group Skate is for those skaters wishing to continue in figure skating, and is the transition program from CanSkate to Junior Private and onwards (Intermediate Private and Senior Private). Sometimes skaters are still finishing off their CanSkate Stages 4-6 when they first move into Junior Group Skate. Group skaters will work with a certified coach for a minimum of 30 minutes per session in a group setting. The remainder of the session will be receiving instruction from a program assistant (PA) or working on their own, depending on their level. The expense for coaching for the group program is covered in registration fees. If parents wish to supplement group skate with private lessons, they may do so by making arrangements with a coach at their own expense. They will be billed directly from their coach at the end of each month for these private lessons.

Our Junior Group Skate program focuses on skills from Stages 5-6 of the CanSkate program and STAR 1-4 of the StarSkate program. It offers a development pathway for skaters who are entering a figure skating program for the first time. Skaters will be exposed to all disciplines of figure skating which includes Freeskate, Skills, Dance, and Synchronized Skating. Each skater will progress at their own pace and will be assessed by one of our certified coaches when ready for advancement. These assessments will take place on a regular skating session. They will have warm up time prior to the assessment and will need to obtain a rating of Silver or better to move to the next level. Their coach will first ask and will let them know when they are ready to be tested, and skaters will be asked to wear a performance outfit (e.g. skating dress or other appropriate attire) on that day. Tests have a cost associated with them (currently \$15/test), as per Skate Manitoba fees, and these will be billed directly to parents on Uplifter. Morden Figure Skating Club does not make any money on these tests.

As skaters progress, they will also be able to register for competitions. This is where they perform their program or elements in front of a panel of judges to be evaluated. The registration cost for competitions is their own expense, as well as the costs associated with having their coach there (i.e. travel, hotel, meals, coaching), which is divided among all the skaters attending. They will need a performance outfit (e.g. skating dress or other appropriate attire) for competitions, possibly more than one as they advance and compete in various events.

In terms of apparel and equipment, skaters should wear comfortable clothing while practicing (not jeans). Helmets should continue to be worn at least until the skater has passed Stage 5 of the CanSkate program and are welcomed until everyone is comfortable with the level of skating reached. Hair should be tied back or away from the face, to ensure awareness of everyone around. As for skates, please talk to your skater's coach before purchasing new or different skates. Boots, blades, and toe picks vary widely among the different brands and class of skate. Boots need to provide good support and blades must have "sharpening" on them to put a correct edge on the blade. The type of skate/blade can very much affect whether your skater will be able to practice certain skills or how quickly they learn new skills. **Skate guards are an absolute must!** Skate blades always need to be dried well with a soft, absorbent cloth. Never store your skates with skate guards on as it will quickly rust the blades. The boots of the skates should be dried in a well ventilated area between sessions on the ice.

Often families are willing to sell used skating equipment after their skater has outgrown it. This can be an excellent way to save money. If you are unsure of people who may have items to sell, speak with a coach, a board member, or someone with older skaters to get some contacts. Facebook also has a group called "Morden Figure Skating Swap and Shop" that has used items for sale to help cut down costs.