

WHAT TO EXPECT AT A TEST DAY

Test Days are held only 3 or 4 times per year. We schedule Low, Intermediate, and High Tests together on the same day. Sometimes the test day can be as long as 8 – 10 hours for the club. This could mean taking some time off of school, depending on the scheduled time of your test. Test days are scheduled according to available ice time and Skate Canada evaluators.

When a coach determines that a skater is ready to try a Skate Canada test, he or she will discuss it with the skater and parent.

- Skaters will be informed of the date of the Test Day and the time they need to be at the arena by their Coach.
- A Test Day schedule will be posted on the bulletin board at the arena.
- Skaters are to arrive 1 hour prior to their on ice warm up time. This is to ensure that the skater has time for off ice warm up and to get ready without being rushed and stressed. Test Days are also known to get ahead or behind in schedule depending on the evaluator and how the day is going.
- Your coach will advise you of what you should wear. Generally girls wear skating dress, or skirt and sweater, tights (no holes), clean skates, and hair tied back in a bun or ponytail. Boys wear dark pants and a shirt. No jeans!
- **Please remember**, this is a **test day** and you need to be as quiet as possible when entering or leaving the arena or when sitting in the stands watching. Loud noises and disruptive behavior are distracting for skaters on the ice.
- The skater will go on the ice for a short warm up with a small group and/or dance partner depending on what the skater is testing.
- Following the warm-up the skater will perform for the evaluator. The evaluator will fill out the test sheet and make comments. Once the Test Chair has recorded the results, the test sheet will be handed to the skaters Coach.
- Test Days are run under the strict Rules and Regulations set by Skate Canada.
- Your Test Chair does her best, to run an efficient Test Day, factoring in Ice Time, Floods, Evaluators availability, dance partner availability. Please understand that it is impossible to also factor in perfect timing for each Skater. Flexibility is VITAL! Patience on Test Day with skate times, and receiving results is also CRITICAL! Arriving on time will make the difference between a stressful, rushed, tense skate or a pleasant relaxed skate!

TEST DAY SKATER TIPS

Participate in club solo or test day simulation (If the club holds one). Get enough sleep the night before test day. Eat a light, easily digested meal. Arrive at the arena ONE HOUR prior to on ice warm up. Warm up and stretch off ice prior to putting on your skates. Ask questions or discuss any concerns with your coach or Test Chair. Wear something you are comfortable skating in.

WHAT'S AN EVALUATOR AND WHAT DO THEY DO?

A Skate Canada Evaluator:

Is a volunteer

Is trained by Skate Canada

Assesses skater's ability to perform to a pre-determined national standard

Provides feedback.

An Evaluators decision regarding the test outcome is final.

The evaluator should be approached with questions and requests for clarifications once a test is complete and the appropriate test summary sheets have been signed and distributed to coach and skater. Choose a mutually convenient time to have any discussion like break or at the end of the test day. Test Days are on a tight schedule and can be very hectic. The evaluator will have a very full schedule.

HOW ARE SKATING ABILITIES ASSESSED? WHAT IS THE EVALUATOR LOOKING FOR?

Tests are assessed based on pre-determined criteria such as:

Skating Skills

Edge quality EVALUATORS SCALE
Ice coverage Excellent
Ease of motion Good
Correctness of steps Satisfactory

Dance

Rhythm , timing, expression, unison.
Execution: accuracy/flow, style/form, pattern/placement.

Free Skate

Use of ice, carriage/line/form
Speed, use of music.
Sureness of skills, program composition
Connecting steps/field movements.
Jumps, jump sequences, jump combinations
Spins, spin combinations.

Interpretive (formerly Artistic)

Skating skills
Use of ice, expression, innovativeness
Style, moves, unison with music
Presentation, interpretation of program.

SKATERS ARE NOT RESTRICTED TO THE NUMBER OF TESTS THEY CAN TRY ON ANY GIVEN TEST DAY. HOWEVER, ANY ONE TEST MAY ONLY BE TRIED ONCE ON ANY GIVEN TEST DAY (as per Skate Canada Rules and Regulations).

Skate Canada Fee at present is \$10.00 per test. This fee is collected by the club and sent directly with the proper paperwork to Skate Canada Head Office, where the tests day results are recorded. Copies of test day results are also sent to our BC Section Office, as well as recorded at our club by the Test Chair.

BILLING/COSTS OF TEST DAY

Following the test day, all invoices and costs for the Test day will be collected and divided between skaters, according to usage. These costs include things like:

- Ice time (the amount of ice time divided by the minutes used by the skater).
- Skate Canada Fee (currently this is \$10.00 per test).
- Test surcharge: This is a \$4.00 per test fee which is forwarded to the Judges Bureau.
- Gift Card and Thank you cards will be purchased for the Evaluator(s). This cost is divided equally amongst the skaters who have tested.
- Travel, accommodation and meal expenses for the skate partner (outside partner only) will be divided amongst those who skate with the partner as well as his test fee and practice time fee.
- If an Evaluator from out of town is used, there may be travel, accommodation and meal expenses incurred. Whenever possible, the Regional Test Chair who is responsible for the booking of Evaluators for Test days will use a local person (Kitimat/Terrace).
- When you receive your invoice, **please forward your payment to the appropriate person as soon as possible** as the Snow Valley Skating Club has already made these payments on your behalf. You may also select to be billed on Coast Registry and pay by Paypal or credit card.
- A music player will be required for Test Day. The Music Chairperson will arrange for a player(s). There is no charge for this service.
- A food room will be set up to provide snacks, drinks and food for the Evaluator, Skater Partner and Coaches. In order to reduce the cost of Test Day, the parents of skaters who will be testing will be contacted by the Hospitality Chair and asked to provide a food item for the food room. In the event that a family has more than one skater testing, there should be 2 items provided or a larger item if designated by the Hospitality Chair. If a skater taking a test does not provide an item as requested, they will be charged \$15.00 per skater on their invoice and this money can be used to reduce the cost of items purchased by the Hospitality Chair (plates, cutlery, cups etc.).