

Skating at Life General Risk Assessment 2010/2011

An ice rink is a unique attraction with a slippery surface where it is quite possible people may fall. It is therefore important to limit hazards and maximise the safety of people using the facility.

Structure and Build of Ice rink

The Ice rink structure is a large stage platform built by a competent national events company who build the structure to withstand both the weight of the ice and the public. The structure is then checked and tagged to ensure its safety.

The P.A. and lighting of the rink is installed by our own in-house technicians. All the technicians are fully trained and have worked on all the ice rinks we have built (this is our ninth year). We have fire extinguishers placed around the site, and evacuation procedures in place

Behaviour of users on the ice

There is an obvious risk of falling on the slippery, sometimes wet surface of the ice. Injuries do occur from time to time and Life has a duty to ensure that procedures are in place to deal with them. Rules of the rink are displayed in skate hire and at reception.

The ice pad is stewarded by competent skaters who have the responsibility of ensuring the safety of all adults and children during a session. Each session starts with a five minute tutorial for school parties. The children are then allowed to skate freely for the remainder of their allocated time slot. However, past experience has taught us that younger children in particular, tend to get over confident after thirty minutes and this is when accidents happen. We therefore advise thirty minute skating sessions for the younger school groups.

Access egress

Access to the ice is limited to specified session times, so all necessary personnel are present to supervise and maintain safe control of the session. The only access onto the ice is by a member of staff allowing skaters on by the opening. There is also a safety barrier covering the full perimeter of the ice.

In addition there is an emergency exit, away from the skate hire marquee, off the ice if evacuation is needed. This is opened by ice controllers or ice marshals positioned close by.

Safety marshals are always present on the ice during skate sessions. All marshals are advised of the safe evacuation from the rink and will advise people through a PA system if there are any problems.

First aid

The majority of staff are fully trained in first aid, and at least one first aider is present on site during opening hours. There is also a dedicated first aid room on site. There is also a National Health drop-in centre 5 minutes from the centre.

Ice pad condition and maintenance

Over 60,000 people enjoy the ice over the skating period. A competent duty manager supervises the maintenance of the ice to a high standard. Regular cleansing and resurfacing are undertaken, and they only take place when the public and staff have left the rink. All operators of resurfacing equipment are fully trained, and members of the public are not allowed on the ice during this work.

Skate sharpness

Skates need to be maintained in a good condition to assist the skater. All skates are sharpened by trained personnel at the beginning of the season and the condition of the skates is checked regularly. To avoid blunting skates, which subsequently puts later skaters at risk, and to limit trip hazards the skate hire marquee has a rubber matting floor. Skaters must remove skates before leaving the marquee, except to go on the ice.

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For a full risk assessment please contact the Bookings Administrator