

Skating at Life General Risk Assessment 2023/24

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

Structure and Build of Ice rink

The ice rink structure is a large stage platform incorporating a boot marquee built by a competent national events company who build the structure to withstand both the weight of the ice and the public using the facility.

The PA, lighting system and power are installed by our own in-house technicians.

All the technicians are fully trained and supervised by lead technicians that have many years' experience on ice rinks and other similar events. 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.

The ice pad is stewarded by Life staff who are responsible for ensuring the safety of all adults and children during a session.

For school groups, each session starts with a five-minute tutorial. The children are then allowed to skate freely for the remainder of their allocated time slot. Past experience has taught us that younger children tend to get over-confident after thirty minutes and this is when accidents happen. We therefore advise a reduced time on the ice rink for younger aged children with school groups.

Access and egress

Access to the ice is limited to specified session times, so that all necessary personnel are present to supervise and maintain safe control of the session. Access onto the ice is only granted by a member of Life staff. A safety barrier covers the perimeter of the ice pad.

All marshals are advised of the safe evacuation procedure from the rink and will advise people through a PA system if there are any problems. An emergency exit, situated away from the skate boot marquee, provides safe evacuation from the ice if this is needed. This is opened by staff positioned nearby. Safety marshals are always present on the ice during skate sessions.

First aid

At least one member of staff trained in First Aid is on duty to attend to any injuries, there is also a dedicated first aid room in the Science Centre reception area for treatment. All accidents and incidents are recorded and reviewed.

Ice pad condition and maintenance

A competent Duty Manager supervises the maintenance of the ice to a high standard. Regular cleansing and resurfacing are undertaken 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. Maintenance and monitoring records are kept.

Skate sharpness

Skates need to be maintained in a good condition to assist the skater. All skates are sharpened 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.

Updated October 2023

For a full risk assessment please email the Bookings Team info@life.org.uk

