



Gananoque Skating Club

Skater Code of Conduct

Effective Date: _____

Approved by the Board of Directors: _____

Our Commitment

The Gananoque Skating Club is committed to providing a safe, welcoming, inclusive and positive environment where every skater can learn, develop confidence, build friendships and enjoy the sport of skating.

Every skater is an important member of our skating community. Skaters are expected to demonstrate respect, responsibility, sportsmanship and a positive attitude both on and off the ice.

This Code of Conduct applies to all Gananoque Skating Club activities, including skating sessions, off-ice activities, test days, competitions, ice shows, club events, travel and online/social media activities related to the Club.

This Code should be read together with applicable Skate Canada and Skate Ontario policies and codes of conduct.

1. I Will Respect Others

As a Gananoque Skating Club skater, I will:

- Treat coaches, volunteers, Board members, officials, other skaters, parents and rink staff with respect.
- Use appropriate and respectful language.
- Be welcoming and inclusive toward skaters of all ages, abilities, backgrounds and experience levels.
- Encourage other skaters rather than putting them down.
- Respect personal space and boundaries.
- Listen when coaches or other adults are speaking.
- Never bully, harass, threaten, intimidate, embarrass or deliberately exclude another person.

- Never make comments about another skater's body, appearance, ability, skating level or performance that could be hurtful.
- Respect that everyone learns and progresses at a different pace.

I will remember:

We are teammates and members of the same skating community. Another skater's success does not take away from my own.

2. I Will Be Safe on the Ice

Safety is everyone's responsibility.

I will:

- Follow the instructions and directions of my coach and Club staff.
 - Follow rink rules and Skate Canada skating rules.
 - Enter and leave the ice safely and only when permitted.
 - Look before entering the ice.
 - Skate in a manner appropriate for the session and my level.
 - Be aware of other skaters around me.
 - Avoid skating recklessly or deliberately interfering with another skater.
 - Never deliberately push, trip, grab, hit, kick or otherwise physically interfere with another skater.
 - Give other skaters appropriate space when they are performing jumps, spins or other elements.
 - Stop immediately when directed by a coach.
 - Report unsafe behaviour or conditions to a coach or Club representative.
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3. I Will Respect My Coaches

Coaches are there to help me develop as a skater and as a person.

I will:

- Listen to coaching instructions.
- Be willing to try, practise and learn.
- Accept constructive feedback respectfully.
- Avoid interrupting a coach while they are working with another skater.

- Ask questions appropriately when I need help.
- Respect my coach's time and expertise.
- Speak to my coach respectfully, even when I am frustrated or disappointed.
- Understand that coaches may need to divide their attention among several skaters.

I understand that coaches are responsible for creating a safe and productive training environment and that I am expected to cooperate with reasonable coaching direction.

4. I Will Be Prepared and Responsible

I will:

- Arrive on time and be ready to participate.
- Bring the equipment and clothing I need.
- Wear properly fitted and maintained skates and required safety equipment.
- Keep my personal belongings organized and secure.
- Tell my coach if I am injured, feeling unwell or unable to safely participate.
- Take responsibility for my own equipment and belongings.
- Treat the rink, Club equipment and other people's property with care.
- Clean up after myself.

If I am unable to attend a session, my parent/guardian and I will follow let the coaches know as soon as possible through email or text.

5. I Will Demonstrate Good Sportsmanship

Whether I am skating recreationally, preparing for a test, performing in an ice show or competing, I will:

- Try my best.
- Celebrate my own progress.
- Celebrate the accomplishments of other skaters.
- Congratulate others sincerely.
- Accept results, scores and assessments respectfully.
- Avoid negative comments about another skater's performance.
- Never blame, ridicule or embarrass another skater because of a mistake.

- Remember that mistakes are part of learning.
- Represent the Gananoque Skating Club positively.

I understand that being a good skater also means being a good sport.

6. I Will Respect the Ice Session

During skating sessions, I will:

- Follow the established skating-session etiquette.
- Be aware of right-of-way and give appropriate consideration to skaters performing programs, jumps and spins.
- Avoid unnecessary stopping in busy areas.
- Avoid sitting or lying on the ice unless directed by a coach.
- Avoid distracting other skaters during lessons or practices.
- Use the boards and rink areas appropriately.
- Follow any additional rules established by the coach for the specific session.

I understand that different skating sessions may have different expectations depending on the number, age and level of skaters on the ice.

7. I Will Use Technology and Social Media Responsibly

I understand that my behaviour online can affect other people and the reputation of the Gananoque Skating Club.

I will:

- Use social media and messaging platforms respectfully.
- Never post or share embarrassing, threatening, hateful or humiliating content about another skater, coach, volunteer, official or Club member.
- Never share photos or videos of another person without appropriate permission when permission is required.
- Never use social media to bully, harass, threaten or intimidate another person.
- Never create or share fake accounts, messages, images or content intended to harm another Club member.
- Bring concerns to an appropriate adult or Club representative rather than attempting to resolve serious conflicts publicly online.

8. I Will Speak Up About Safety and Respect

I understand that I should tell a trusted adult if I see or experience behaviour that is unsafe, inappropriate, bullying, discriminatory, threatening or otherwise inconsistent with this Code.

I can speak with:

- My Coaches;
- The Program Director;
- A parent or guardian;
- A member of the Gananoque Skating Club Board; or
- Another trusted adult.

I understand that reporting a concern is not "tattling." Speaking up helps keep our Club safe.

Concerns involving potential maltreatment, abuse or other matters that fall under Skate Canada or Skate Ontario policies will be handled according to the applicable policies and reporting procedures.

9. I Will Help Create a Positive Club Culture

Every skater contributes to the culture of our Club.

I will:

- Welcome new skaters.
 - Help younger or less experienced skaters when appropriate.
 - Encourage others.
 - Be a positive role model for younger skaters.
 - Participate in Club activities with a positive attitude.
 - Respect volunteers and recognize that many people give their time to make skating possible.
 - Help make Gananoque Skating Club a place where people want to belong.
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What Happens When Expectations Are Not Met?

The Gananoque Skating Club believes that most concerns can be addressed through respectful conversation, education and an opportunity to make better choices.

Depending on the nature and seriousness of the behaviour, the Club may take one or more of the following steps:

1. Reminder or redirection

A coach or Club representative may remind the skater of the expected behaviour.

2. Conversation with the skater

The skater may be asked to discuss what happened and how the situation can be handled differently.

3. Parent/guardian involvement

For minor skaters, parents/guardians may be contacted when appropriate.

4. Behaviour expectations or corrective action

The Club may establish specific expectations for future participation.

5. Removal from a session or Club activity

A skater may be temporarily removed from a session or activity when their behaviour presents a safety or significant disruption concern.

6. Further disciplinary action

Serious or repeated violations may result in additional action by the Club Board, consistent with Club, Skate Ontario and Skate Canada policies.

Serious misconduct, including bullying, harassment, discrimination, threats, violence, abuse, intentional physical harm or other behaviour that places another person at risk, may require immediate action and may be addressed through the applicable Skate Canada, Skate Ontario or other reporting procedures.

The Club will consider the circumstances, seriousness and frequency of the behaviour when determining an appropriate response.

Our Skater Promise

As a member of the Gananoque Skating Club, I understand that I am part of a team and a community.

I promise to:

Be Respectful.

Be Kind.

Be Safe.

Be Responsible.

Work Hard.

Encourage Others.

Have Fun.

Be Proud to Be a Gananoque Skating Club Skater.

I understand that my behaviour affects not only me, but also my fellow skaters, coaches, volunteers and the Club as a whole.

By participating in Gananoque Skating Club programs, I agree to follow this Skater Code of Conduct and to contribute to a safe, positive and welcoming skating environment.

Skater

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian

I have reviewed this Code of Conduct with my skater and agree to support the Gananoque Skating Club in maintaining a safe, respectful and positive environment.

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____