



Testing / Evaluation Process

2010 / 2011 Season

Summary:

Testing is an important part of the basic skills program. It is tempting for the eager skater to want to advance quickly through learning the basics, and it's a temptation that's worth resisting. Like a pyramid, everything else you do as a skater will be built on these first skills.

Testing can be an anxious time, so please assure your skater it takes time and practice to become an accomplished skater. It is very important to master every skill at each level as each one is a building block preparing them for more challenging moves.

To help everyone stay better informed on proper standards for testing, additional copies of the USFS instructors DVD on skills will be available to parents to check out or be reviewed during skating times in the warming room. There will also be additional USFS Basic Skills Instructors guides available for review to help understand the proper abilities, footwork, posturing, flow and form that is expected.

Testing Process:

A qualified testing instructor will be testing all skaters, Snowplow Sam through Freeskiate 2 during lessons and practice ice time on the following dates:

SS1 through B3 ~ Sunday, December 12, 2010 & Sunday, January 23, 2011

B4 through F2 ~ Sunday, December 5, 2010 & Sunday, March 13, 2011

(Show practice will begin January 30th and run through February 27th – no testing during this time)

All skaters, Snowplow through Freeskiate 2, will be tested or evaluated on these designated dates. F3 and above will be tested at the discretion of a qualified testing instructor. Even if it appears the skater is not ready for testing, an evaluation of skills will be performed. If a skater easily tests through to the next level, the skills at the next level will also be tested/evaluated until the skater is placed at the proper level for their skill set. Feedback forms will be provided to each skater at the conclusion – the form(s) should be shared with both the current instructor and parent. In addition, the results will be recorded on the master DEFSC Testing Record kept by the Testing Coordinator (or designee) to assure club records are updated, class lists are accurate and class instructors are provided the skill notes on their skaters to better utilize class time and assistants.

Reasoning:

- ☆ This process will ensure skaters are placed at the proper level for their skill set to keep them challenged and eager to learn more;
- ☆ Provide an outline for both skater and parents to celebrate progress and detail what skills need practice in order to get to the next level;
- ☆ Will give the instructor insight on the strengths and weaknesses of their student's skills to help better prepare them for the next level.

If a skater has repeated the same level through two or more testing sessions he/she will be referred to a voluntary Focus Class. The purpose of this class will be to focus specifically on each of the skater's needs and give them opportunity to reach their potential. Private arrangements for a two-session Focus Class will be made between the Testing Chair or Coordinator and parent.

Forms:

- ☆ Testing and Evaluation are consolidated to one form for each level. These forms are kept in a file located in the DEFSC cabinet at the rink.
- ☆ A master, DEFSC Testing Record will be kept by the Testing Coordinator (or designee) to ensure club records are updated and class lists are accurate.

Tester Criteria:

Only those instructors meeting minimum standards as outlined below will be allowed to test at the basic skills level:

- ☆ Must be a registered USFS basic skills instructor or PSA certified coach.
- ☆ If not a PSA certified coach, must have been an instructor in good standing with DE for at least one season.
- ☆ Must be age 16 or older at the beginning of the skating season.
- ☆ Must be a F2 level skater or higher – with priority given to highest level skaters.

Personnel:

- ☆ Current Testing Chair is David Peterson and Testing Coordinator is Kareen Hayden. Questions regarding the testing and evaluation process can be directed to them in person at the rink or email.
 - david.peterson@frontiernet.net or 320.979.7063.
 - jkhyden@gmail.com or 320.796.5946
- ☆ Skating Supervisors are Cheryl Schmidt and Marilee Dorn.