



Figure Skate Purchase Information **(not Hockey Skates – see anyone in Pro Shop for Hockey Skates)**

We hope you will find this information helpful in the purchase and maintenance of your skates, you may also consult your private lesson coach for more information.

General Info - Brands and Pricing: When you are looking for skates we recommend that you look at the Jackson or Riedell brands. In order to get a good quality beginner skate, you will need to spend \$95 to \$130. Factors that will be considered in the recommendation for a certain model are: how fast the skater is growing, height and weight, foot type, and skating level.

Beware Online Skate purchase: You may be able to find skates for less on the internet but the less expensive skates are for recreational skaters and have blades that are very soft metal. They are difficult to sharpen and to keep sharp. These skates are also made to help hold the skater up rather than to allow the skater to learn to hold themselves up and to learn how to lean onto their edges. This makes it difficult to learn more advanced skills in Basic 3 and up. We find that skaters who purchase cheaper models usually have to buy new skates again quickly.

Pro shop purchases and discounts: Our Pro Shop is an authorized dealer for the Riedell and Jackson brands. There is a \$25 fitting fee that is credited toward the purchase of skates from our shop. If you are enrolled in group classes you are eligible for a 10% discount. We will also credit the remaining weeks of the rental fee when you purchase the skates in our shop. The first sharpening (a \$7 value) and the heat molding (a \$25 value) are included in our prices.

Contact coach Ellen for Fitting Appointment: Our goal is to help you find a pair of skates that will fit well and help you to learn skills on the ice more easily! Please contact Ellen Poulsen at "getmyskates@gmail.com" to set up a fitting appointment.

Preparing for Your Fitting Appointment: Once you set up an appointment, you will be measured for the skate that seems to suit you the best. If we do not have it in stock it will be ordered. When it arrives you will need to make another appointment to check the fit, heat mold and sharpen. It is important to wear the socks that you will wear when you skate to the heat molding appointment. Thinner socks or tights are recommended with seams that don't rub the sides of the toes. The Mondor knee highs work well and are available in the shop.

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Figure Skate Care

Skates are a big purchase and there are things you can do to make them last longer and stay in better condition.

1. Sharpening- new skates need to be sharpened before use, they will need to be sharpened periodically depending on use and care. If you are feeling your skate slide out from under you on the ice or if you run your finger along the blade and there are rough areas it is time to sharpen. If you wear **plastic skate guards** when you are walking in the rink it will help protect the blades. The guards must be removed before stepping on the ice or the skater will take a hard fall.

2. Drying your skates- each time they are used, skates should be thoroughly dried. Use a towel to dry the blades and sole- you may need to do this more than once due to condensation. Leave skates out in the open to dry the insides of the boot.

3. Storage- **DO NOT** leave heat moldable skates in your car. **DO NOT** leave plastic guards on the blades to store- the blades will rust. Towel-like **soakers** can be used to protect the blades when not in use, or a bag with a towel on the bottom.

4. Lacing- skates need to be tied tightly over the ankle area. Loose skates can cause the skates to break down quickly and also can cause difficulty controlling edges on the ice. Once finished skating, laces should be loosened so that the tongue of the skate can be pulled open and the foot slides out easily. The skate is then ready to be put on the next time. This will decrease the wear and tear on the skate that happens when you try to force the foot in or out of the skate. Laces will stretch with time so should be replaced at least 2 times a year.

5. Waterproofing- Once you move to a higher level skate, the sole may be made of leather and cork and will need to be waterproofed. You can do this by applying bees wax or liquid bees wax, like **Sno Seal**, to the sole. Higher level skates may also need to have screws added to the blade mount once the alignment of the blade is correct.

6. Skate Recycling- If you have grown out of your old skates or advanced to need new skates we occasionally have a consignment sale here at the rink and you can sell your old skating equipment. When we plan a consignment sale, there will be an email sent on the Learn to Skate mailing list. There are also sport consignment shops and a Facebook page, Metro Atlanta Figure Skating Encore Boutique, where you may be able to sell old equipment.

Figure Skate Care Supplies and Footwear

