

Stoneham Figure Skating Club Frequently Asked Questions

We have compiled this list of frequently asked questions as a resource to families. For more information, email the SFSC at StonehamFSC@hotmail.com or visit the SFSC website at http://www.neicc.org/stoneham/stoneham_page1.htm. You may also talk to a SFSC representative at the arena during the club's ice time.

What is the Stoneham Figure Skating Club?

The Stoneham Figure Skating Club (SFSC) is a community based 501c3 non-profit organization founded in 1978 to promote the sport of amateur figure skating. SFSC is a sanctioned member of US Figure Skating (<http://www.usfigureskating.org>), the official governing body of the sport in the United States. The club is also a member of the New England Interclub Council (NEICC), a consortium of regional skate clubs. The SFSC offers a Basic Skills program for beginning skaters as well as private ice time, instruction, and test sessions for the serious recreational and competitive skater.

What type of skating does SFSC teach?

The SFSC follows US Figure Skating's Basic Skills program - teaching the fundamental elements of the sport through beginning jumps and spins - in a fun and safe learning environment. Upon the successful completion of a level, skaters earn Basic Skills badges (Basic 1-8 and Free Skate 1-6). For more details on the elements taught at each badge level, visit the US Figure Skating website at: <http://www.usfigureskating.org>

Who are the instructors?

SFSC skating staff are professional members of US Figure Skating. All staff have passed at least the Novice level Moves In the Field and Freestyle figure skating tests. Some of our coaches are also members of the Professional Skaters Association, an organization providing credentialing and ongoing educational and professional development programs to skating coaches. Our instructors have been cleared through the state's Criminal Offender's Registry Investigation (CORI) program.

How young may a child be to begin skating with the SFSC program?

SFSC offer classes to skaters ages 3 ½ to adult.

How long are the lessons?

Group lessons are 25 minutes with a 25-minute practice time for a total of 50 minutes ice time.

When are lessons offered?

The skate season runs (Sept. – May) and is divided into four sessions (Fall, Winter I, Winter II, and Spring). Sessions typically last 10 weeks. Group lessons (Basic Skills through Freeskiate 6) are offered on Tuesdays at 5:00-5:50 pm; Fridays at 3:00-3:50 pm; Saturdays at 12:00 noon-12:50 pm; and Sundays at 1:00-1:50 pm. Adult lessons are offered on Saturdays at 10:00 am. Bridge and Semi-private

lessons (Basic Skills through Freeskate 6) are offered on Saturdays at 10:00 am. Skaters may register at any time during the season. The registration fee is prorated for skaters enrolling mid session.

Where are lessons offered?

The Stoneham Arena, 101 Montvale Avenue, Stoneham is the home of the SFSC (Exit 36 from Route 93 N or S).

What forms of payment does the SFSC accept?

Cash, money order or personal check. A \$15 fee is assessed on all returned checks. Payment is due by the start of the session.

How do I sign up for lessons?

Registration may be completed in advance by downloading the registration form from the SFSC website at: http://www.neicc.org/stoneham/stoneham_page1.htm, completing, and sending along with payment to the address on the form. Skaters may also register onsite, the day of classes. We suggest arriving 15 minutes prior to the start of classes if you wish to register onsite.

May I receive a refund after the start of the session?

Refunds or a class credit for the next session may be provided if the Club initiates cancellation for any classes. Weather-related cancellations can be heard during most similar school closing announcements on television, web or radio. Otherwise, reimbursements are not made for missed lessons. Unfortunately, we are not able to accommodate substitutions if a skater misses a class. We suggest you enroll mid session to take advantage of our prorated rates if you believe you or your child are not available to attend all the classes in the session. There is no disadvantage to beginning lessons after the start of the session.

Should my child begin lessons after the session has begun?

Your child may begin lessons at any time since each skater progresses at his/her own pace. Your child will always be placed in groups with other skaters of similar ability (no matter how young/old).

Will there be availability in a group when I want to register my child?

Although there is a maximum number of skaters allowed on the ice during a session, there is usually availability for skaters to join the groups. The ratio of skaters to coaches is set at a maximum of 12 students per coach; however, additional coaches are often added to keep the ratio more reasonable especially for a large number of beginning skaters. SFSC private member skaters often volunteer too to assist younger skaters during their non-lesson practice time on the ice.

How will I know when my child is ready to advance to the next level?

Each skater progresses at his/her own pace. Coaches will test skaters when they appear ready to progress to the next level.

What is the coach/student ratio?

The maximum for group instruction is 12 skaters per coach. Jr. coaches (advanced private skaters) often assist with less experienced skaters.

Semi-Private classes are limited to six students. Skaters must have passed Basic 8 badge to enroll in Semi-Private lessons.

The Bridge program introduces skaters to the private instruction format. Bridge classes consists of a 15-minute private lesson and 35-minutes of practice. Due to space limitations, first priority in the Bridge program is given to skaters who are new to the Bridge program.

Does SFSC offer any discount for group lessons?

The SFSC offers families a 10% discount for subsequent siblings from the same household when the first child pays the full registration.

When is the best time of the season to enroll?

Skaters who enroll in the fall and spring sessions benefit from smaller class sizes. The Winter I and II sessions are typically the busiest. Since 2010 is an Olympic year, we anticipate higher than average enrollment during the winter sessions this season. Early registration is encouraged.

How should my child dress for classes?

SFSC requires a helmet for skaters ages 5 and under (a bike helmet is fine) and recommends a helmet for beginner skaters at any age. It is best to avoid bulky clothing like snowsuits that can greatly restrict skaters' mobility. Layering clothes allows skaters to remove outside layers as they warm up (yes, they do warm up on the ice). And remember gloves/mittens!

Does SFSC rent skates?

Skate rentals are not available at the arena. Most sporting goods stores offer a broad selection of skates for the beginning recreational skater. Dynamic Sports on Main Street in Reading has a good selection of figure skates and other paraphernalia at reasonable cost.

May I contact the Stoneham Arena if I have further questions?

Please do not contact the Stoneham Arena personnel about the SFSC program since the information they provide is limited. For information about SFSC please (1) email: StonehamFSC@hotmail.com (2) visit the SFSC website http://www.neicc.org/stoneham/stoneham_page1.htm or (3) talk to a SFSC representative at the Arena during the club's ice time.