

What should I wear?

It can be chilly at the Danbury Ice Arena and beginning skaters often find themselves literally on the ice. Skaters should dress warmly and cover all extremities, including hands. Helmets are required for all Tot levels and Skate 1 through Skate 4.

Do I have to buy skates?

It is not necessary to buy skates; you may rent them at the arena for a discounted price. We also offer a pass for the semester for \$20. This should be purchased at the time of registration and cannot be used for public skating. An indication will be placed on your name badge, which will allow you to go directly to the skate rental counter to get your rentals. Rental skates will be close in size to the child's actual shoe size.

Hockey or figure skates?

For beginning skaters (*i.e.*, Tot 1 and Skate 1), we recommend figure skates, even for the boys. The figure skates offer more stability for the beginning skaters and will give them a better experience on the ice. Once the skater is stable, they can switch to hockey skates if they wish.

How do I lace the skates?

Loosen the laces all the way down to the toes and give a tug upwards. Making sure the socks do not have any wrinkles or seams that would be irritating, insert the foot into the boot and push down on the heel.

Give the tongue a gentle pull and then secure it straight up and down.

Starting at the toes, begin pulling the laces tightly, one pair at a time, so the boot closes well over the front of the foot. Leave the ankle area a little looser for bending purposes.

After making sure the skate is laced all the way up to the top of the boot (inserting the lace into any empty eyelets, securely tie the laces.

Do not wrap any extra lace around the top of the boot or let it hang down around the blade.

What do I do the first day?

Arrive at least 15-20 minutes prior to the start of the class. Find the name badge (listed alphabetically) with your child's name on the table by the customer service desk. The number underneath your child's name is the number, which is used for their free public skating. You should keep this badge and the child should wear it each class. Their instructor's name and class time will also be listed. There will be a colored symbol on your child's nametag. This symbol will help you find where your class meets on the ice. There will be a banner on the ice that will match the symbol on your child's nametag. Please note that most Tot 1 classes conduct their first class off the ice.

What happens at the end of the session?

Evaluations are done on the last week of the session. Skaters will receive a registration form. The form will indicate the appropriate level for the skater for the next session. The child will

also receive a certificate of completion, which can be picked up after their final class. If the child did not pass the class, they will still receive a certificate but on the registration form, it will list the class they will repeat. The skaters will also receive a badge if the level they pass has one. Not all levels have badges so there may be times that the child just receives a certificate. To avoid a late registration fee, registration must be completed 1 week prior to the start of the session.

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