



Coach Assessments and Assessment Day Procedures and Tips (Updated April 2021)

Skate Canada has an **Assessment Structure** that consists of assessments in Dance, Skills, Freeskate, Artistic and Synchro (coming soon).

- Skaters move through the assessments at their own pace but must complete the full level in the discipline prior to moving to the next level in the same discipline.
- **STAR 1 - 5** are Coach Assessed.
- **STAR 6 - Gold** are assessed by an Evaluator or Coach Assessed for skills only.
- STAR 1 - 5 is designed to provide assessment opportunities that occur on a regular training session during the regularly scheduled lessons for the skater. This removes barriers and encourages solid development that aligns with the skater's rate of progress versus scheduled assessment days. All STAR 1 - 5 assessments are assessed by a coach assessor.
- STAR 6 - Gold is designed to provide assessment opportunities that occur on a regular training session or on a designated assessment day. Evaluators assess all STAR 6 – Gold assessments. They may be qualified in all or some disciplines and must be recognized by the section. Coach assessors may only assess Skills in STAR 6 – Gold. They must also be qualified and must be recognized by the section.
- There are a number of scheduled assessment days throughout the season for STAR 6 - Gold to be assessed by the Evaluator and for the STAR 5 Willow Waltz, STAR 5 Freeskate program and Artistic which will be assessed on clear ice by a coach assessor.
 - This will be coordinated with the Assessment Coordinator. This testing may take place during a competition, assessment day or when possible on training ice provided there is only the skater being assessed on the ice.
 - Star 6 to Gold and Diamond Dance assessments will take place during an assessment day.
- Your Coach will decide which assessment your skater is prepared to take and will advise you when your skater will be assessed. The Assessment Coordinator will email the assessment day schedule to all skaters who are being assessed.

Each skater will progress at their own pace, so this is a very individual matter. When your Coach feels that your skater is ready for an assessment, they will notify you of the upcoming assessment.

If you are new to "Assessments", here is what you can expect

If your skater decides to pursue figure skating and the assessment pathway, your Coach will communicate with the parent/guardian when they feel the skater is prepared for the assessment. Assessments are held throughout the year. The Coach will assess the skater, after the skater successfully completes an assessment of a specific discipline they will move to the next level in that discipline. This can happen over the course of the season and it will vary in each discipline depending on the amount of training time and instruction provided.

The Freeskate Assessments are done in two parts. Part one is the elements and part two is the program. They do not have to be taken together. These assessments determine what level the skater is eligible to compete at for competitions. As the skater progresses there will be opportunities to choose the stream that best suits the skater's goals and objectives - the STARSkate Stream, the Competitive Stream and the SynchroSkate Stream, or they can do a combination of them.

The **Assessment Coordinator** organizes the assessment days, makes arrangements for Evaluators, and collects the assessment list from the Coaches. Skate Ontario and Skate Canada Evaluators are not remunerated. Assessment Evaluators are volunteers because they enjoy the sport. We are currently in short supply of Evaluators so from time to time we may need to cancel an assessment day or send the skater to another club for an assessment depending on the circumstances.

A final assessment Schedule is completed and shared with the skaters and their parents/guardians via email from the Coach or Assessment Coordinator. The schedule is also posted next to the changing rooms, GSC bulletin board and next to the ice surface so the skaters know what time they are being assessed. Please check for your name and assessments you are trying. Any discrepancies should be brought to the attention of your Coach and the Assessment Coordinator. Skaters are to arrive on the assessment day one-half hour prior to their assessment if their assessment is the first one of the day. If not, the skater must arrive one hour prior to their assessment as sometimes the assessments move along quickly and skaters should be prepared.

- **The schedule may include a time and date of which your skater may miss school.**
- **The assessment day may be changed to another day due to the availability of evaluators, ice availability or quantity of assessments.**
- Proper skating attire is required and expected for your assessment at the **STAR 2** and above levels. Appearances should be neat and tidy and clothing should be appropriate for the assessment which will allow the skater to perform at their best. For all assessments the following clothing rules apply: In all disciplines, clothing of the skaters/ competitors must be modest, dignified, and appropriate for athletic competition – not garish or theatrical in design. Clothing may, however, reflect the character of the music chosen. The clothing must not give the effect of excessive nudity inappropriate for the discipline. For domestic competition/ assessment clothing requirements are gender neutral. There are no restrictions on skaters choosing to wear skirts, dresses, pants or tights.
- Each skater will get time to warm up their test. The order of skating is determined by the Assessment Coordinator.
- While “being assessed” for STAR 6 – Gold the skater will be asked to perform specific skills in front of an evaluator in order to assess and determine the outcome of the assessment – Pass with Honours, Pass or Retry.
- There are many components with each assessment Gold, Silver, or Bronze The skater needs to obtain specific ratings to succeed on the assessment. The Evaluator may choose to speak to the skater to explain their assessment.
- Once the Evaluator has completed their evaluation, the results will be given to the Assessment Coordinator and then to the skater and their coach.

Assessment Day Fees

Skate Canada fee for all Starskate assessments is \$12 per assessment;

Challenge assessments is \$60 per test;

Assessment Ice Fees are \$30 per test (discount applies with a GSC Membership);

Assessment Fee is \$5 per test;

Coach Assessment Ice Fees for Star 5 – Willow Waltz, Freeskate program and Artistic are \$30 per test (discount applies with a GSC membership).

Gloucester Skating Club members accounts will be charged the assessment fees, and any Out of Club Skaters will need to register and pay via Amilia prior to the assessment day. Out of club skaters will also have to pay an ice fee. Coaching fees will be invoiced by each Coach directly to the parent/ guardian.

Preparing for Assessment Day STAR 6- Gold (STAR 5 – Willow Waltz, Freeskate program and Artistic)

- Approximately four to five weeks before the assessment day, your Coach prepares a list of preliminary assessments. The list is compiled by the Assessment Coordinator who requests an Evaluator through the Skate Ontario channels based on the Assessment list. Your coach will have until two weeks prior to the

assessment day to decide if your skater is ready.

- If the Coach feels that the assessment is not ready, the assessment will be withdrawn.
- There is no charge for the assessments that are withdrawn at least 2 weeks prior to the assessment day.

On Assessment Day

- The Assessment Coordinator will ensure that the skater has arrived for their assessment and will call them when it is time for their warm-up.
- Skaters should be lined up at the door to the arena ready to go on for their warm-up as soon as the previous group has finished.
- Warm-up will be 3-10 minutes, depending on the discipline being assessed.
- It is important that skaters move on and off the ice QUICKLY in order for the assessment day to run on schedule.
- Assessment results will be released to Coaches/skaters only after all paperwork has been signed and checked by the Evaluator. There are sometimes delays in this process and your patience is appreciated.
- Parents may sit in the lobby or in the stands. If in the stands, please ensure not to obstruct the Evaluator's view during the assessment. (All based on current posted GSC, Skate Ontario and Ottawa Public Health Covid protocols)
- **It is very important to keep the assessment sheet when you receive it back from the Assessment Coordinator for your records.**

After the Assessment

Skaters may take their skates off and then wait for their results. Please keep in mind that it may take some time before the results are released, depending on when the Evaluator has time to sign the test evaluation result sheets. The Assessment Coordinator or Coach will give the skater their results as soon as they are ready. Once the paperwork has been submitted by the Assessment Coordinator to Skate Canada with the fees, the Skater's profile at Skate Canada will be updated with the results of each assessment taken. It is important to regularly check your skater profile by logging on to www.skatecanada.ca to check that the results have been updated.

Contact testchair@gloucesterskatingclub.ca if you have any questions about Assessment Day.

Contact info@gloucesterskatingclub.ca if you need assistance with registration.