

Gloucester Skating Club's Figure Skating Programs

Frequently Asked Questions

Our child has completed GSC's CanSkate program, what options are available to them if they want to keep skating?

CanSkate has given your child a strong skating skills base and has prepared them for entry into our club's figure skating programs. Skate Canada's STARSkate program is often the next step after CanSkate for the skater who is interested in continuing to improve their skating ability.

The STAR 1-5 program offers the best-in-class figure skating curriculum targeting athletes looking for a future in the sport. Taught by our GSC Skate Canada NCCP certified coaches, the program introduces participants to the basic figure skating elements to create the foundation for singles, pairs, ice dance and synchronized skating.

All skaters in this program must have passed CanSkate Stage 6 or equivalent. Skaters may be any age. Adaptive skaters who have the required skating ability welcome.

The program consists of five different disciplines of skating: freeskate, skating skills, dance, artistic skating and synchronized skating.

Skaters moving out of CanSkate can register in GSC's Bronze STARSkate, an entry level program which introduces skaters to figure skating. Skaters can will have the opportunity to be assessed as they progress with new skills which are requirement to move to the next level of the STAR program. Skaters interested in testing their skill in a competitive situation can compete at the local club level to begin with and can progress to a higher level of competition as their skills improve.

Once a skater enters the STARSkate Program, lessons are arranged directly with the coach. Coaches give individual, semi-private and/or small group lessons for each skating discipline and will invoice parents directly for lesson time. Registration for ice time will be completed on-line through Amilia – which can be found by clicking the **REGISTER NOW** tab of our website www.gloucesterskatingclub.ca. Then click the "STARSkate/CompSkate" tab under the "Skate! Programs" section to find sessions.

Gloucester Skating Club's Adult/Rec Skate program is designed for the skater who has completed CanSkate and would like to learn figure skating in a recreational atmosphere. Skaters are introduced to the figure skating skills of free skate, skating skills and dance in a group lesson setting. This program is similar to CanSkate with both ice time and coaching fees included at time of registration. Registration is found by clicking the **REGISTER NOW** tab of our website and then by selecting the "CanSkate, Adult/RecSkate & PreStar" program.

How do we choose between STARSkate and Adult/RecSkate?

If your child has shown an interest in pursuing figure skating, the STARSkate program would most likely be your first choice. This program is designed to accelerate skill development and follows Skate Canada's 'Athlete Development Model – ADM'. The Adult/RecSkate program is designed for skaters who enjoy skating and would like to learn skills in a recreational atmosphere.

Our child is interested in participating in the STARSkate program, how do we find a coach?

Finding a coach is the first step in moving into the STARSkate program. You and your child will know all of the coaches on staff at GSC through the CanSkate and Pre-STAR programs. You can also find further information about GSC's Professional Staff on our website at www.gloucesterskatingclub.ca under the "Coaches" tab. You might also want to watch the coaches working with their skaters on a Bronze session; check the times of the Bronze sessions and come out and watch a session!

Once you have agreed on a coach, you will contact them directly to book lessons. The number of sessions and lessons your child should take per week will depend on many factors. Some items to consider are the age of the child, how fast your child progresses with new skills, how much you are willing to spend per week on lessons, the desires of your child etc. Each child is an individual and their weekly schedule should be set in accordance with their needs and after discussion with their coach. Once you have agreed on which sessions your child will be skating with your coach, you can go on-line to register your ice time.

Can our child start out in Recfigure and then move into the STARSkate program?

YES! GSC's Adult/Rec Skate program will introduce your child to figure skating in a similar atmosphere to CanSkate. Skaters in RecSkate can skate once or twice a week where they will learn skills in a group atmosphere. Skaters registered in RecSkate can move on to the STARSkate program at any time.

Can our child develop in to a competitive skater?

The Gloucester Skating Club has over 50 years of experience in helping our skaters reach their goals. Our club has developed skating programs designed to assist each of our skaters reach their individual potential. At every level of skating, we encourage our members to participate in off-ice training, edge classes and dance/skills sessions to further assist in their skating progression. We also offer specialized seminars, workshops and programming to educate our skaters and parents in figure skating. Our coaches have many years of experience and participate in coaching certification programs to provide our skaters with an excellent learning environment. Your child will have every opportunity to become a competitive skater at GSC.

If you have any further questions, please contact our club administrator at info@gloucesterskatingclub.ca.