

The Skating Club of Boston Membership Guide

This guide has been prepared by The Skating Club of Boston's Membership Committee to provide information about the Club, about its traditions and operations, and about the obligations of its members. This guide supplements information available in the Club's *Member Handbook* (in which it is included as an appendix).

Please be aware that the Club's rules are changed from time to time, as needed. If a conflict should appear between this guide and the rules in the *Member Handbook*, the latter will prevail.

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Application Procedures

What kinds of memberships are available?

Please refer to the “Summary of Membership Rights and Obligations” table in the *Member Handbook* for expanded descriptions of the various types of memberships available. There are two major categories of membership:

- Regular membership: These members are entitled to full privileges of the Club.
- Special membership: These members are not entitled to full privileges of the Club and are restricted to certain activities.

What are the privileges of the Club?

Regular members have the rights to vote and to hold office, to use all of the Club’s facilities, to represent the Club in competition, to sponsor candidates for membership, to skate in Ice Chips, and to otherwise participate in Club activities. There are two subcategories of regular membership:

- Skating regular members have full privileges to use and to contract ice time in accordance with the rules.
- Non-skating regular members have restricted privileges to skate at the Club while enjoying the other privileges.

Special members have restricted privileges based on the type of membership. In general, special members do not have the right to vote, to hold office, or to contract for ice time. In addition, with the exceptions noted below, special members are not allowed to serve as sponsors and are otherwise restricted from certain Club activities.

What do I need to do to join the Club?

Prospective members who are interested in joining the Club must complete an application, which may be obtained from the Club office. The completed application must be signed by two sponsors (see below) and accompanied by the applicable entrance fee prior to submission. After verifying that the application is complete and that the prospective member is in good standing with U.S. Figure Skating, the Club Secretary will then present the application to the Board of Governors for approval at the next regular monthly Board meeting.

In addition, all new members are required to attend a New Member Orientation prior to or within 60 days of joining the Club.

How do I get sponsors?

Prospective members who do not know any current Club members who are able to serve as sponsors should ask the Club office for assistance in obtaining sponsors.

Who can act as a sponsor? How many people can they sponsor?

Any adult regular member of the Club with at least one year of membership is eligible to be a sponsor; however, Officers and members of the Board of Governors are restricted to being secondary sponsors. A Coach Member may also serve as a sponsor, provided that the second sponsor is a regular adult member of the club with at least one year's tenure. And for Synchronized Skating and Theatre on Ice, a team member may serve as a sponsor of another team member provided that the second sponsor is a regular adult member of the Club with at least one year's tenure.

There is no limit to the number of people an eligible member may sponsor.

What are the responsibilities of a sponsor?

Sponsors are responsible for helping prospective members complete their applications to join the Club. Sponsors are also expected to introduce prospective members to other Club members and help them feel welcome at the Club.

What is the New Member Orientation session?

New member orientations are monthly informational sessions provided to educate new members about the history of the Club, highlight Club activities and opportunities for involvement, and review critical Club rules. All new members must complete a new member orientation prior to or within 60 days of joining the Club.

Membership Charges

What is The Skating Club of Boston Certificate of Membership?

The Skating Club of Boston Certificate of Membership is a non-interest-bearing deposit and a required contribution for most newly-elected members.

Is the Certificate of Membership amount returned upon resignation from the Club?

Yes. The amount paid for the Certificate of Membership will be returned upon receipt by the Club Secretary of a written request following one's resignation. The return is contingent upon the settlement of any outstanding balance on the resigning member's account.

In addition to The Skating Club of Boston membership fees, what other costs is a member responsible for?

All required fees are set forth on the "Summary of Membership Rights and Obligations" chart (found in the *Member Handbook* and available from the Club office) and include Ice Chips tickets, dinners, and any monthly assessment. Optional fees include contracted ice, locker rentals, Ice Chips participation and costume expenses, Synchronized Skating or Theatre on Ice fees, and Rotch Books (bar tickets).

Must required charges be paid in advance?

Prospective members must submit the required entrance fee with their application. Following election, a new member will receive an invoice reflecting membership dues and the Certificate of Membership. Failure to make payment within thirty (30) days following receipt of the invoice shall render the election null and void, unless an exception is granted by the Board of Governors. If such an arrangement is made with the Club's accountant, annual dues in excess of \$100.00 may be paid in two installments (due July 1st and February 1st during the skating year). Payment of annual dues (or of a semiannual installment thereof) will be considered as evidence of an agreement to abide by the Club's Constitution and By-Laws and rules. Notice of annual dues shall be sent to each member (at the address of record) on or before July 1st of each year. Failure by any member to pay annual dues shall be reported by the Treasurer to the Board of Governors for such action as it deems expedient. Members failing to pay a prearranged semiannual installment within thirty (30) days may be suspended by the Board of Governors.

Who must be a US Figure Skating member?

All members (adults and children) who skate must be registered with US Figure Skating. US Figure Skating membership fees will appear on house account statements after membership forms and renewals have been processed. Such registration is required for insurance purposes.

What is a "remit" member?

Regular members have the privilege of "remission" which is, essentially, a way to "hold" one's membership for a future return to active status. A member, by written notice to the Secretary prior to the beginning of the Club's fiscal year, may request remission of annual dues because of non-use of the Club during the then-current season. Upon payment of a recurring \$50.00 fee, the Board of Governors

will remit the annual dues of said member. The Secretary will assume that such a request has been renewed in each subsequent year without the need for a written notice. Upon being granted remission, a member no longer has any privileges for use of the Club, but is entitled to receive the *Chips* newsletter.

What is the assessment charge?

This charge, of an amount determined by the Board of Governors from time to time, is billed to members monthly and is used for Club operating expenses.

What is a “house account”?

Each member has a numbered house account with the Club. Many Club dues, fees and charges are posted to a member’s house account. Among the fees that may not be charged to one’s account are: walk-on fees, professional lessons, skate rentals, test fees and purchases from vendors doing business in/with the Club.

Every member will receive a monthly statement (and, when applicable, invoices). Payment in full is due within thirty (30) days of the invoice date. Balances overdue for more than sixty (60) days will incur an interest charge at 18% APR. Members who do not keep their house account current may lose ice privileges and/or be excluded from competitions and participation in Ice Chips. A consistently overdue account is also grounds for suspension of one’s Club membership.

What is the Club’s fiscal year? What is the Club season?

The Club’s fiscal year starts July 1st and ends June 30th of the following year.

The Club’s year is divided into two seasons:

- The fall/winter/spring session begins in September and is called the “Club season”. Non-members may not contract for ice time during this season.
- The summer season begins in June. Non-members may contract for ice time during this season, though members have priority when contracting.

Typically, there is a one-week period in June during which the Club’s skating and fitness facilities are closed while essential maintenance is performed.

Ice Time

What are the rules for ice use?

The complete Ice Rules are available in the *Member Handbook*.

What is “summer ice”?

The summer season is ten weeks long and spans from mid-June through August. Club Sessions are not available during this season.

What are Club sessions?

Club sessions are those sessions designated for skating members of the Club only and are without an additional charge. It is also a policy for these sessions to be shared with Ice Chips rehearsal (which start in February and run through early April). They include:

- Friday evening Family Skate
- Friday evening Club Dance.
- Sunday afternoon Hot Chocolate Family Skate.
- Sunday afternoon Club Dance.
- Wednesday evening Club Dance.

What are Member sessions?

Member sessions are those reserved for Regular Skating Members of the Club. They may be contracted or, as space permits, walked-on.

What are Open sessions?

Open sessions are available to both members and non-members. During the Club season, only members may contract for Open sessions. Members and non-members may, as space permits, walk-on these sessions.

What are the ‘rights’ of members on public sessions?

Members may attend public sessions free-of-charge. Public sessions are identified on the ice schedule as “Public Skate”. Please note that Public Dance sessions are not treated as public sessions.

How do I contract and pay for ice time?

Skating members of the Club may contract for ice time by completing an Ice Application form, available in the Club office. In assigning contracted ice time prior to a season’s start, priority is given first by seniority of membership, then by test level, and lastly in the order that applications were received. Members are not guaranteed availability of desired ice times. Fees for contracted ice will be applied to one’s House Account.

Can I change my ice contract?

Once the deadline for changes in a given season has passed, changes may be made if they do not result in a lower value of the contract.

Can I subcontract my contracted ice?

No. Contracted ice may not be subcontracted.

What is the “walk-on” policy?

Complete guidelines for walk-ons are available in the Ice Rules section of the *Member Handbook*. On fully contracted sessions, permanently waitlisted skaters will be allowed to skate after five minutes (space permitting) and walk-on skaters will be allowed to skate after ten minutes (again, space permitting). There is no ‘wait’ period for skaters waitlisted for or walking-on to Moves-in-the-Field sessions. Fees for walk-on skaters are higher per session than the contracted rate.

What is the expected behavior of skaters?

Skaters must abide by the dress code (as stated in the *US Figure Skating Rulebook*). No food, drink or chewing gum is allowed on the ice. Sweaters, water bottles and other personal items should be placed on rinkside tables and are not permitted to be left on the barrier. Skate guards should be stored in the boxes provided. Sitting on the barrier is prohibited. Foul language or fighting will not be tolerated.

It is expected that skaters are respectful and tolerant of each other at all times, both on- and off-ice.

What is the expected behavior of parents, caretakers or other chaperones?

The Club maintains a list of staff coaches approved and authorized to teach. Parent/guardian or ‘caretaker’ coaching from rinkside is not permitted, as this is distracting and potentially dangerous to other skaters.

Free Skating and Moves in the Field

What are Free Skating sessions?

Please review the “Ice Rules” section in the *Member Handbook* for expanded qualifications for Free Skating sessions. All Free Skating sessions have levels designated by the Ice Committee (in accordance with US Figure Skating

standards). Skaters are permitted to contract or to walk-on to sessions for which they have passed the appropriate Free Skating test(s).

What is the meaning of the Free Skating session designations?

The Ice Committee designates specific test levels for each session. For example, a session designated Senior through Intermediate (labeled Sr-Int) is appropriate for any skater who has passed the Intermediate Free Skating test (or higher). On this session, higher-level skaters would have priority when contracting (after considering seniority) and as a walk-on.

A session designated Pre-Preliminary through Novice (labeled Low-Nov) is appropriate for any skater who has passed the Pre-Preliminary Free Skating test or any higher test up to the Novice Free Skating test. On this session, lower-level skaters would have priority when contracting (after considering seniority) and as a walk-on.

A session designated No-Test through Pre-Preliminary (labeled No-Low) is appropriate for any skater who has not passed any Free Skating test or has passed the Pre-Preliminary Free Skating test, but no higher test.

What does “Low Test” mean?

A low-test skater is one who passed the US Figure Skating Pre-Preliminary Free Skating test, but no higher test.

What is the meaning of the Moves in the Field session designations?

Sessions labeled as “Hi Moves” are for those skaters working on their Intermediate Moves in the Field test or greater. Sessions labeled as “Low Moves” are for those skaters working on their Intermediate Moves in the Field or lower.

Who can use the jump harness?

Only Club staff coaches may use the harness with skaters in a lesson.

How can skaters request their program music to be played during a session?

Music Monitors are assigned to those sessions that are heavily subscribed. The Music Monitor will play the music in rotation, according to the posted Music Rules. On sessions without a Music Monitor, skaters or coaches may play program music in accordance with the Music Rules (found in the *Member Handbook*).

Are there ‘special’ areas of the ice designated for the practice of specific elements?

No. However, it is important for all skaters to keep moving and to not stand around on the ice.

Who has the right of way during a Free Skating session?

The skater performing his/her program always has the right of way and all other skaters are required to yield to that person throughout the course of the program.

Ice Dance

When are the dance sessions?

Dance sessions include the following:

Club Dance sessions are available only to Regular Skating Members and their guests. They include:

- Wednesday evening Club Dance (including coffee and refreshments served, on a rotating basis, by members of the Dance Committee).
- Friday evening Club Dance.
- Sunday afternoon Club Dance (which is usually taken for Ice Chips rehearsals from February through early April).

Do I need to know how to ice dance?

No. You can learn about the compulsory dance requirements and patterns as you advance. You can learn from the *US Figure Skating Rulebook*, other members may assist you, or you can take private lessons. There are professionals on all dance sessions and, sometimes, group dance lessons are organized if interest warrants. Please remember, though, that skaters learning a dance must not interfere with skaters doing a 'called' compulsory dance.

Do I need to bring a partner?

No. Members and guests are encouraged to switch partners and to dance with a variety of people. The more skilled dancers most often assist the beginners.

What are the dress requirements?

Proper figure skating attire is required.

What are the rules of a Dance session?

The only activity permitted during Club or Public Dance sessions is the skating of compulsory dances or dance-step sequences. Jumps, spins and moves in the field are prohibited. Free Dance practice may be permitted at the discretion of the Member-in-Charge.

Must I do the announced dance?

Skaters practicing any pattern other than the 'called' compulsory dance must take care not to interfere with individuals or couples doing the 'called' dance. Single skaters must give way to dance couples at the start of a dance and at all times throughout. Skaters wishing to stand still and to converse should do so off the ice.

What is a Member-in-Charge?

At its discretion, the Dance Committee may designate a Member-in-Charge for any Club or Public Dance sessions (generally, on Wednesday and Friday evenings). The Member-in-Charge may make exceptions or modifications to the Dance Rules during any Dance session.

Training

What group lessons are available for children/adults?

The Skating School of Boston is a US Figure Skating Basic Skills program open to members and non-members. This "Learn-To-Skate" program is sponsored by The Skating Club of Boston and consists of a comprehensive lesson and test structure that is rewarding, safe and fun. Sessions are held on Monday evenings and on Saturday afternoons. Anyone wishing to register may do so in the Club office.

Group classes for beginner ice dancing may be set up according to demand. For more information, ask in the Club office.

How do I find out about coach availability?

The Skating Club of Boston maintains a staff featuring some of the finest coaches in the area. A list of these coaches is available in the Club office or on the website.

How do I select a coach?

After obtaining a list of staff coaches, one should review each coach's profile for a description reflecting the desired discipline and qualities. A contact number is

listed for each coach and private lessons are available on most Free Skate, Dance and Moves in the Field sessions.

Can I arrange for a non-Club coach to teach me/my child?

Yes, on Open sessions. Non-Club coaches are required to provide evidence of liability insurance and additional information to the Club office and must pay the coach's fee(s) before taking the ice.

What is the Ice Dance Training Center?

The Ice Dance Training Center (IDTC) was created in 1989 as a training school for competitive ice dancers. Since its inception, the IDTC has produced many Regional, Sectional, National and International medalists.

The IDTC utilizes early morning sessions Monday through Friday and is open to all skaters wishing to improve their dance skills.

What is Team Boston?

Team Boston is a group of competitive synchronized skating teams representing The Skating Club of Boston. Tryouts are held in the spring to qualify for the team(s). Depending on demand, different levels such as Juvenile, Intermediate, Junior or Adult-Masters may be offered. For further information, please request a brochure from the Club office.

What is Theatre on Ice?

Theatre on Ice (TOI) is a form of competitive figure skating that is popular in Europe, where it is known as Ballet on Ice. The Skating Club of Boston currently offers two teams: *Act I of Boston* (a senior level team) and *Imagica* (an adult level team). Teams consist of skaters of any ability who wish to perform and to compete in this fast-growing area of skating. Practices are held on Sunday evenings throughout the year. There is a special Theatre on Ice membership available for this program. For further information, please request a brochure from the Club office or visit the 'Programs' section on the Club web site.

What off-ice training is offered?

The Off-Ice Training Committee offers off-ice programs for The Skating Club of Boston skaters. Strength and conditioning classes, offered by physical therapists, are conducted in a training room at the rear of the rink. Additionally, the Club offers Off-Ice Dance and (in the recent past) Jazz and Pilates programs. Information about these programs is available from the Club office.

Periodically, the Committee sponsors various seminars that deal with training issues. The Committee has always enjoyed a close relationship with several high-

profile medical people in the Boston area with expertise in training and/or treating figure skaters. These experts enable the Club to stay atop current trends and to offer programs that are relevant and beneficial to our members.

Testing

Who is responsible for test sessions at the Club?

There are two test committees, one for singles and pairs and another for ice dance. Moves in the Field tests are administered by both committees.

Can I get a copy of my test sheet?

Official test sheets are retained by the test chairperson and copies may be requested from the Club office.

When will I get my test certificate?

All tests are conducted in accordance with US Figure Skating rules. Test certificates are issued by US Figure Skating one to two months following a test. They may be picked up in the Club office.

When are Free Skating tests scheduled?

Upcoming test dates are posted in the Club office and on the website and are published in the *Chips* newsletter.

How do I apply for a test session?

Applications are available from the Club office and must be filled out completely and correctly prior to submission. Please be aware of the following rules:

- If the test candidate is a non-member, written permission to test from the skater's home club is required.
- Applications are due two weeks (14 days) before the test date.
- Priority for test sessions are: Club members, high to low, followed by non-Club members, low to high.
- An application is considered submitted only when accompanied by the applicable test fees.
- Account balances with the Club must be current for a skater to be accepted for a test session.
- Late entries will be evaluated on a case by case basis and only when received in writing. Accepted late applications are subject to a \$25 late fee.

- Test fees can be deferred to subsequent test sessions only when a skater who has signed up for a Moves in the Field and a free skating test fails the Moves test and is, consequently, unable to attempt the free skating test.
- Withdrawal from a test session after the test schedule has been posted will result in forfeiture of a skater's application fee.
- Requests for cancellation must be submitted, in writing, to the appropriate test chairperson. Approved cancellations will have their test fee returned, less a \$10 cancellation fee. In the event of an injury, cancellation requests should be accompanied by a doctor's note.
- From time to time, test sessions are cancelled due to a lack of interest or to scheduling conflicts. When this occurs, the participants are notified and given the option of having their test fees returned or forwarding to the next scheduled test date.

Who judges the Free Skating tests?

Judges are selected from the official list of US Figure Skating judges, exclusively by the test chairperson. They are selected on an 'as-available' basis and according to the test levels required.

When should I arrive for a test?

Skaters should be at the rink one hour prior to their test time.

What should I wear for a test?

A neat and groomed appearance is essential when testing. Skates should be clean and polished.

When are Ice Dance tests scheduled?

Dance tests are typically scheduled on Wednesday evenings (during the Club Dance session) at 8:45 p.m. and occur approximately six times during the Club season and twice during the Summer season. Please be aware that notices of test session postponement or cancellation are posted in the office a few days prior to a scheduled test.

How do I apply for an Ice Dance test?

Members in good standing with their home club can obtain application for dance tests from the Club office. Completed applications may be submitted to the Club office. Applicable fees can be made payable to The Skating Club of Boston. The application deadline is one week prior to the scheduled test date.

Exhibitions

When are exhibitions held?

Exhibitions are held Friday evenings during the Club season. They are occasionally cancelled due to Ice Chips rehearsals or special functions.

Who may exhibit?

Regular Skating Members are permitted to exhibit in accordance with the Exhibition Guidelines, as posted in the Club office. These guidelines include:

- Skaters being honored at a send-off are exclusively eligible to perform in that exhibition. There may be additional 'special' exhibitions in which only invited skaters will be allowed to participate.
- Highest priority is given to skaters with the fewest appearances in 'regular' exhibitions.
- Unless there are fewer than nine skaters, skaters are required to perform their short program.

How do I sign up to exhibit?

Skaters wishing to exhibit may sign up in the office. Prospective exhibitors must be signed up by the preceding Tuesday to be considered in priority order. Cancellations not received by 5:00 p.m. on the preceding Thursday will be counted against a skater's performance total.

Sanctions

What is a sanction letter?

Sanctions are issued as a protection of the eligibility of skaters registered with US Figure Skating. With very few exceptions, all competitions, carnivals, exhibitions or appearances of any kind in which US Figure Skating registrants are participating must be sanctioned. Clubs hosting an event must have filed for a sanction thirty (30) days prior to the event. Skaters participating in events hosted by a club they do not represent should furnish the sponsoring club with a Permission to Skate letter from their home club (available to representing members from the Club office), even if it is not explicitly requested.

Inviting Guests

When can I invite guests to skate?

Regular Members may invite guests to skate during Club sessions (including those on Sunday afternoons, Wednesday evenings and Friday evenings). Regular Skating Members may invite guests to skate during Member sessions, though they will have the lowest priority as walk-ons.

How many guests can I have at one time?

Members may invite one family unit or two unrelated individuals as guests at one time.

How many times can I invite the same guest?

A guest may be invited twice during a calendar month and not more than six times during a Club year. This applies even when the same guest is invited by different members.

What sessions have guest fees and what sessions do not?

No fee is charged of guests invited to skate during a Club session.

Guests skating during a Member session will be charged the non-member walk-on rate.

What if my guest has only hockey or speed skates?

Hockey skates are permitted on Club sessions, while speed skates are not. Only figure skates will be allowed on Member or Open sessions.

Can I rent skates for my guest(s)?

Skate rental is available. Please check with office or rink staff for assistance. Skates must be returned at the end of a session.

What are my responsibilities when I have a skating guest?

Members hosting guests are responsible for explaining the rules and for assuring the safety of their guests. It is especially important that guests be oriented to the rules for dance sessions, including restrictions against free skating. Club sessions are intended to be a time for members (and their guests) to skate together and to have fun. It is different from a Public session in the sense that skaters are not directed to skate in a circle. Even so, 'racing' or 'darting' around is not permitted.

Guests must be aware that coaches provide lessons during these sessions and that all skaters are expected to be courteous and respectful.

Governing Bodies

What is the Board of Governors and what does it do?

As defined in the By-Laws (printed in the *Member Handbook*), the Board of Governors of The Skating Club of Boston is an elected group of Club members who – together with the Officers of the Club – have the responsibility and the authority to manage the affairs of the Club. The group is elected at the annual meeting which is held in May of each year. Newly-elected Board members take office in July of each year. The Board usually meets monthly to make decisions relating to the issues of the Club.

How can members make their views known to the Board?

Members may write letters to the Board regarding any concerns or suggestions they may have, addressing the correspondence to the Club Secretary. Alternatively, members may approach Board members directly to discuss informally any issues and to request their consideration at a subsequent meeting. Also, members may request to address the Board in its entirety at a meeting, by prior arrangement.

Club Committees

How are committees formed?

Except for the Nominating Committee (the purpose and formation of which is detailed in the By-Laws), the members of all Club committees are appointed by the President and approved by the Board. Typically, the President will appoint a chairperson, who will then seek out other Club members to form the committee.

What is the Ice Committee?

The Ice Committee is made up of members representing distinct disciplines of skating at the Club. They are responsible for developing ice schedules (subject to approval by the Board of Governors) and for administering the Ice Rules.

What is the Coaches Committee?

The purpose of the Coaches Committee is to oversee the coaching staff at The Skating Club of Boston. Their specific tasks include:

- Identifying the Club's coaching needs and developing and implementing a plan to address those needs
- Evaluating current and prospective coaching staff members and making recommendations to the Board of Governors regarding coaching staff appointments
- Making recommendations to the Board of Governors regarding the Coaching Staff Rules
- Overseeing the coaching staff's compliance with Club Rules
- Serving as the liaison between the coaches and the Board of Governors
- Serving as the primary point of contact for Members for any coaching related issues that require the Board of Governors' attention
- Making recommendations to the Board of Governors in all matters involving coaching issues

What is the Dance Committee?

The Dance Committee oversees all dance sessions held at the Club, develops the policies for these sessions, and consults with the Ice Committee as it regards the ice schedule. The Committee consists mainly of adults, many of whom also share the responsibility of providing refreshments weekly during the Wednesday evening Club Dance. Other functions of the committee include appointing 'Members-in-Charge' for dance sessions, playing music, and planning parties (such as Halloween and Valentine's Day potluck dinners, exchanges with other clubs and the like). Most years, the Committee organizes a Dance Weekend, typically held in June, that spans three days and features activities on- and off-ice.

What is the Ice Dance Training Center Sub-Committee?

A sub-committee to the Dance Committee, it oversees, fosters and promotes all activities of the Ice Dance Training Center.

What is the Membership Committee?

The Membership Committee is designed to address membership needs. Their activities include recruiting and welcoming new members and authoring and updating this Guide.

What is the House Committee?

The House Committee oversees the food-related functions of the Club.

What is the Junior Activities Committee?

Under the direction of one or more older teenage members, the Junior Activities Committee organizes a variety of events, primarily for the enjoyment of the Club's younger members. These include, annually, the Halloween Party and the Holiday Pageant.

What is the Off-Ice Training Committee?

The Off-Ice Training Committee is responsible for providing off-ice training programs for The Skating of Boston skaters.

Dinners

How many dinners are required of members?

Please refer to the "Summary of Membership Rights and Obligations" chart, found in the *Member Handbook*.

When are dinners held?

A mainstay of the Club's social existence, dinners are served most Friday evenings during the Club season, and occasionally during the Summer season.

Can children attend dinner?

Children are welcome to attend dinner with their families. A children-specific menu choice is available to persons under 13 years of age.

How do I make reservations? What is the deadline?

Reservations can be made (in person or by telephone) through the Club Office. The deadline (subject to change) is 11:00 a.m. on the preceding Wednesday. The costs for dinner will be billed to members' house accounts. Additionally, members may request to be added to the Permanent Reservations list, assuring a weekly reservation.

What is the cost of dinner? Is there child pricing?

Dinner rates vary (depending on the menu) and are reduced for children (under the age of 13) eating the child-specific menu choice.

How do I arrange to bring a guest to dinner?

When placing a reservation (for the entire party), one should indicate to the office that they will be accompanied by prospective members. Dinner charges for all guests (prospective members and otherwise) will be billed to the member's house account.

How many times can I bring a guest to dinner?

There is no limit to the number of times a member may bring a guest to dinner.

What is available for menu choices?

Although menus are different from week to week, there are typically meat and fish options in addition to the children's menu. Some dinners are buffet-style.

When must I make my menu selection(s)?

Menu choices must be selected when making reservations. Reservations will not be accepted without a menu choice.

What is the recommended dress for dinner?

While different dinners demand different levels of dress, the following guidelines apply in general. Skates and skating attire are not allowed in the dining area. Women are encouraged to wear dresses or dress pants while men should wear a tie and jacket or a sweater. Children and young adults are expected to dress appropriately for dinner as well. Dinners understood to be 'casual' permit relaxed dress, but shorts and jeans are not allowed.

How do I obtain bar tickets for the purchase of cocktails or soft drinks?

Rotch Books (bar tickets) may be purchased in the Club office. Cash is not used at the bar and tipping is not required.

How are people seated at dinner?

Tables are sometimes reserved for honorees (at send-off dinners, for example). Otherwise, people may sit wherever they choose. Members should not save seats at a table, unless it is to accommodate guests or family members.

Are there any provisions available for people on special diets?

Those requiring any special dietary consideration(s) should notify the office when making a reservation. The office staff will inform food services manager, who will fulfill these requests when possible. While the Club cannot guarantee accommodation, it will make every effort to fulfill dietary requests.

What happens if I do not attend all of the dinners required?

Members who have not fulfilled their dinner requirement by the end of the Club year will be billed for the unused remainder at that time. Dinners attended during the Summer season will be applied to the requirement for the following Club season.

Ice Chips

What is Ice Chips?

Ice Chips is the Club's annual ice show (or 'carnival'). The Skating Club of Boston was one of the first clubs to organize such a production, starting in 1911 and continuing as the longest-running Club show in the country.

What are the participation guidelines for Ice Chips?

As explained in the *Member Handbook*, all Club members are invited to be involved in the Ice Chips, either as a skater or as a volunteer. The goal of the production is to provide the membership with an opportunity to demonstrate their talents and creativity in a show environment and to promote the club-experience that brings together Club members, whether they are old or young, competitive or recreational.

Participation in Ice Chips is a privilege of membership. All Regular, Junior, Honorary and Non-Resident members can participate as skaters, either in a solo (qualification guidelines below) or in production numbers. Ice Theater and Synchronized Skating members may participate in Ice Chips as a member of their respective teams, only.

Unless authorized by the Board of Governors (considered on a case-by-case basis), non-members, Non-Skating members and members who have had their dues remitted do not have the right of participation in Ice Chips. Featured guest skaters are invited to perform by the Ice Chips committee (following consultation with the Club officers).

What are the guidelines for having a solo in Ice Chips?

Members of The Skating Club of Boston can qualify for solos based on their placements in US Figure Skating Qualifying or International competitions held in that competitive season. To qualify, soloists must represent the Club when competing at the aforementioned qualifying competitions.

Detailed 'Solo Guidelines' are published yearly in the *Chips* newsletter.

How do I sign up to participate in Ice Chips?

Members receive information about Ice Chips through the *Chips* newsletter and through postings on the bulletin boards mounted in the rink. Typically, Ice Chips is held in early April, with practices beginning in February. Interested members are asked to complete an application form for each person wishing to participate and to submit it in a timely fashion.

How are participants assigned to particular numbers?

All members are invited to participate in a group number in Ice Chips. Members may also qualify for a solo and/or a 'step-out', as defined by their competitive record for that season.

All Club members are invited to participate in the 'Dutch Waltz' number. The Bostonians welcome female skaters over the age of 13 years to skater in their group number.

Participants in dance numbers are responsible for securing their own partners. Skaters having difficulty finding a partner can contact the Ice Chips committee for assistance, though there is no guarantee that they will succeed.

If my desired group-number dance partner is not a member of The Skating Club of Boston, can we skate together in Ice Chips?

No. All skaters in Ice Chips, except for featured guest skaters, are members of the Club. Participants with a Synchronized Skating or Theater on Ice membership are only permitted to skate with their team.

If I am a member of the Club and my dance/pair partner is not, can we skate together in Ice Chips?

Pairs and dance couples consisting of one representing member and one non-member are eligible for solos and 'step-outs' if they have qualified in accordance with guidelines printed in the *Chips* newsletter. These pairs/dance couples would not be eligible to skate in a group number (such as the Dutch Waltz).

Can I be in multiple performance numbers?

Yes, provided you qualify for each.

Can I participate without skating in the show?

The success of Ice Chips depends greatly upon the willingness of Club members to volunteer for many non-skating tasks, including ticket sales, publicity, costume production, prop construction, program sales and backstage crew.

Club Competitions

What is a Club Competition?

Each year, The Skating Club of Boston conducts its own free skating and dance competitions. 'Clubs', as they're often termed, have a long tradition and have been participated in by many of the Club's finest skaters throughout its illustrious history. This rich heritage is reflected through the trophies displayed on the upper level of the trophy case in the Club Lounge.

These competitions are typically held in the spring and are open to all members of The Skating Club of Boston. In the weeks leading up to a competition, sign-up sheets are posted by event.

Free Skating Club Competitions (separate from the currently dormant Ice Dance competition) offer free skating, interpretive, team and – often times – similar pair events. The team event has proven to be the most popular, often featuring forty to fifty participants. In previous years, this competition has also included figures, pairs, showcase and Moves in the Field events.

Judges and officials for the Free Skating Club Competition include US Figure Skating judges in addition to high-test and adult skaters interested in judging. While this competition is less formal than its official US Figure Skating counterparts, it still follows the rules scrupulously. If only one skater signs up for an event, that individual then competes against the Rulebook standard. Thus, everyone who signs up (by the deadline) will be able to skate.

The currently inactive Ice Dance competition has included several categories, including Waltz Champion, Veterans Dance, Fourteenstep and the Roulette (for which skating partners are drawn by lot for each dance).

Medals are awarded at the Annual Awards Banquet. Everyone has a great time and it is hoped that all Club members will participate in these unique events and help to keep the tradition alive.

Other Club Functions

Who orchestrates Club functions?

Members of the Club volunteer to organize and to run special functions. Volunteering is a great way to meet other members and to make a contribution to the Club.

What is the Boston Open?

The Boston Open is a non-qualifying skating competition sanctioned by US Figure Skating. It is held in September of each year as a highlight of the new Club season. For many members, the Boston Open is an opportunity to try out new programs or newly-acquired skating skills.

What are send-offs?

The Skating Club of Boston recognizes and honors competitive skaters (of all disciplines) before they head off for various competitions (including Regional, Sectional, National and World Championships). Send-off celebrations are incorporated into 'normal' Friday evening dinners and include an exhibition featuring the skaters being sent off. Following dinner, the Club traditionally presents qualifying skaters with a small gift.

What is the Annual Meeting?

The Annual Meeting is held every year toward the end of the Club season (as required by the By-Laws) for the purpose of electing new officers and members to the Board of Governors, and for transacting any additional business that requires the attention of the membership in its entirety.

What is the Annual Awards Banquet?

The Club hosts an awards banquet at the end of each Club season. During this banquet, the Club presents skaters with medals earned at the Club Competition and with medals and pins earned for tests passed. The Club also presents several more prestigious awards to Club members deserving special recognition.

What is the Halloween Party?

Each year the Club hosts a Halloween Party for the enjoyment of its younger members. Organized by the Junior Activities Committee, this party features on- and off-ice games and activities, prizes awarded for various categories of costumes, and complimentary refreshments.

Does the Club host anything for New Year's Eve?

In years past, The Skating Club of Boston has traditionally hosted a New Year's Eve party in the Club Lounge. Following cocktails, a buffet dinner precedes dancing, skating and a midnight champagne toast to ring in the new year.

Though the Club has not hosted such an affair in recent years, it may be scheduled if suitable demand should arise.

What is the New Member Tea / Dinner?

The Membership Committee periodically (once a year, typically) schedules a tea or dinner for welcoming new members. This affair often includes speakers and exhibitions. Invitations are sent to new members and the general membership is notified en masse.

What is the Open House?

In the spring (shortly after Ice Chips), the Club holds an 'Open House'. During this event, interested non-members are invited to skate on a Sunday afternoon Hot Chocolate Family Skate session and to receive information about The Skating Club of Boston and the skating and social programs offered to its members.

Miscellaneous

How can I stay informed about Club events, policies, etc.?

The *Member Handbook* is the foremost resource for Club information and contains the Club Charter, Constitution, By-Laws, Rules, a brief history of The Skating Club of Boston, a listing of past champions, and a directory of the membership. The Club also publishes the *Chips* newsletter and mails it to each member. In addition, new and announcements are posted on the Club's website as well as on the bulletin boards around the rink.

Does the Club have a website?

Yes. The website address is www.scboston.org.

The site contains a great deal of information about Club events, competitions and activities, as well as updates for the Club's Synchronized Skating and Ice Theater teams, upcoming dinners, Basic Skills information, Ice Chips news and other topics of interest to both Club members and the general public. Applications to contract ice time and for various programs (including Basic Skills) can be downloaded from the site. Volunteers are encouraged to contribute to the content published on the website.

How can I get a locker?

A member can complete a Locker Request form and submit it to the Club office. The Facilities Manager will assign a locker and the requesting member will be

notified of the locker number and lock combination. A small annual fee will then be charged to that member's house account.

Who is allowed in the locker rooms?

Members (and their guests) are the only persons allowed in the locker rooms. It is the responsibility of all members to enforce this policy, as access to the locker rooms is a privilege of membership. Lady members over the age of eighteen years may use the Ladies' locker room. Female members under that age should use the Girls' locker room. All male members are entitled to use the Men's locker room.

Who has access to the kitchen?

Only the resident caterer and his/her employees are allowed in the kitchen. Members, non-members and coaches are not permitted to use the kitchen, except by special permission. There is a kitchenette/pantry located upstairs (adjacent to the Club Lounge and to the Rotch Room), equipped with a sink and microwave and available for use by Club members.

Who has access to the Club office?

Only the office staff, Officers and certain committee chairs or their delegates are permitted in the office. No others are allowed behind the front counter.

What telephones are available to use?

Members are encouraged to use the public pay telephone, located in the foyer. Telephones in the office and engine room are to be used only for Club business or emergencies.

Where is the 'lost-and-found'?

Located near the organ booth, there is a large, wooden box where miscellaneous misplaced goods are stored. Unclaimed articles are, periodically, sent to local charities.

What services are available at the Skater's Landing?

Entered from the foyer, the Skater's Landing (a private entity, apart from The Skating Club of Boston) is a boutique selling skating attire and accessories and offering skate sharpening, boot fittings and other services.

Are birthday parties held at the Club?

Yes. Persons wishing to host a birthday party at the Club should inquire at the Club office. The Rotch Room is available for rental to all parties and partygoers

can skate during Public Skate. Alternatively, groups may rent the entire ice if designated rental sessions have not already been reserved.

What is the *Chips* newsletter?

Chips is the publication of record for The Skating Club of Boston and includes information about Club programs and events, competition results, announcements of newly-elected members, and 'members-in-the-news'. Members wishing to provide information for inclusion in *Chips* are encouraged to submit notes to the Club office or deposit them in the *Chips* mailbox fixed to the wall adjacent to the café.