

O'Brien Icehouse Risk Management Policy: Schools

Introduction to Ice Skating / Hockey / Curling

This document is designed to provide schools and other organised groups with risk management information and procedures for them to carry out an assessment and to minimise the risk of accidents and injury at O'Brien Icehouse.

O'Brien Icehouse consists of two Olympic sized rinks with associated amenities and facilities. Included in the facility are illuminated exit points, fire and smoke detectors, alarmed emergency exit doors, disabled ramps and toilets, first aid rooms and portable first aid kits, P.A. system for announcements and an evacuation plan.

What to Wear:

- Ice Skating: Comfortable, warm clothing. Thick, long socks.
- Ice Hockey: Comfortable clothing. Thick, long socks.
- Curling: Footwear- Runners. Comfortable, warm clothing.

1. Arriving at O'Brien Icehouse

Groups may come to the venue by bus, motor vehicle or on foot. Visitors need to ensure that they watch out for cars on nearby roads, especially Pearl River Rd at the front of the venue. Drivers of motor vehicles need to especially watch out for children at the front of the venue.

2. Entering the Building

Visitors need to walk up all stairways and ramps carefully and to hold on to railings if any tiles are wet. When entering through sliding doors ensure that the doors are fully open before walking through.

3. Obtaining skates/equipment

O'Brien Icehouse makes skates available to all groups from Skate Hire. Skaters need to ensure that they use the correct size skates. Skate laces or buckles should be done up as tight as comfortable. Skaters should be able to walk off-ice on skates without their ankles collapsing. All protective gear and equipment are provided for *Introduction to Hockey*. All students must wear helmets.

4. Instruction

O'Brien Icehouse recommends the Intro to Skating/Hockey/Curling Programs. The programs include instructions which aim to enable participants to be more comfortable and confident on the ice. O'Brien Icehouse coaches are first aid trained and will be able to assist in injury situations.

5. On Ice

At times, there is likely to be other groups and/or members of the public skating at the same time as your group's skating session. Skaters should be aware of the other users on the ice. Speed should be kept to a minimum with skates kept below knee level and one foot on the ice at all times. No spins or jumps are permitted. Students in a curling session should not attempt to lift curling stones, as they are extremely heavy.) Hockey: Use equipment (sticks/pucks) as instructed by the coach.

All participants are required to behave in a sensible controlled manner.

The following behaviour is not permitted in the venue under any circumstances:

- pulling or pushing other students, engaging in games of tag, chasing or other rough behaviour
- throwing objects (snow, hockey pucks)
- leaving objects on the ice surface
- taking any food or drink onto the ice surface
- skating opposite the general flow or sitting on side barriers
- abusive, abrasive, or disorderly conduct

All skaters need to skate at a speed which is safe and appropriate for their level of competence.

Students should cooperate with ice rink staff and follow their directions, when given.

6. Requirements for Teachers and Group leaders

While O'Brien Icehouse staff may instruct, lead, demonstrate or assist in an activity, the teacher or group leader in charge is responsible for overall group supervision.

Teachers and group leaders need to make all skaters aware that:

- there are potential risks associated with the sport of ice skating, hockey and curling.
- the blades on the ice skates are sharp and can cause cuts if mishandled.
- the ice surface is very hard and falling on the ice may cause minor to serious injuries ranging from cuts, abrasions, grazes to sprains, breaks or concussions.
- in the event of an accident, students should notify their superior immediately who should, in turn, notify O'Brien Icehouse staff immediately.

Emergency Response Plan

In the event of an emergency, an alarm will sound. An appropriate/qualified staff member will notify all staff and public the urgency of the situation and the need to evacuate.

In the event of power failure, emergency lights will activate immediately. Icehouse staff will begin evacuating and checking all areas of the building.

Staff will indicate the best method to exit the building however emergency door exits remain lit indicating a safe path of travel.

The venue Evacuation Assembly Area is located at the north end of the building just outside Bradbury Rink



All staff and patrons will be asked to congregate at the Evacuation Assembly Area outside the building so all persons may be accounted for. In the event the Evacuation Assembly Area is deemed unsafe for evacuation, Icehouse staff will advise a secondary evacuation assembly point.

Communication with staff and public will be made via two methods:

- Loud speaker system
- Telephone System

Exits are designated by backlit green and white signage and are found at:

- Main Entry
- Exits left and right of ice arena at rear
- Kitchen service door
- Personnel door Zamboni Room
- Two Roller Doors machinery room

These procedures and a map are available on request.

Briefing Students and Supervisors

Accompanied by their teacher(s), students are asked to go straight to the grandstand area after entry to place their bags and wait for supervisory staff.

Students will receive a briefing on safety and instructions on the procedures to acquire/return skates, helmets, equipment.

Students are asked to refrain from sitting on the barriers, running on wet areas, wearing ice skates on tiled areas, pushing people or skylarking during skating/curling/hockey.

Students are asked to skate in the same direction according to the instructions of the DJ or ice rink staff and not to skate too fast for the crowd or above their own capabilities.