



Benefits of Theatre on Ice to Your Club

Theatre on Ice (TOI) is a form of competitive figure skating which combines the grace of figure skating with the excitement of theater and dance. The new Basic Skills Curriculum for Theatre on Ice, TOI 1-4, is a wonderful way to introduce TOI to your club. The benefits to clubs and skaters are immense. TOI 1-4 does not teach skating skills; therefore skaters are encouraged to continue with their current Basic Skills classes and/or private lessons. This will help with skater retention as well as club finances.

Benefits to the Club

- Increases club membership
- Is a proven tool for retaining members
- Generates interest for beginning skaters
- Keeps those who choose to not individually compete involved with your club
- Involves more parents
- Provides the club more publicity within the community
- Raises money for the club
- Teams consist of various ages and abilities creating club unity
- Older skaters inspire younger skaters

Benefits to the Skater

- Gives the skater more confidence when performing at competitions and shows
- Provides skaters a chance to develop the dramatic side of their skating
- Offers skaters the opportunity to be part of a team while continuing to use their technical skills
- Offers skaters opportunities to travel both locally and internationally to perform
- Provides the skater a chance to make new friends both in and out of the club
- Provides the competitive skater a chance to relax while performing and competing
- Brings an emotional spirit into the skaters competition and show skating.

Introducing a Basic Skills TOI 1-4 Program at your Club

Setting up a TOI program in your club is a fun and exiting way to involve your existing club members while attracting new members. Below are some suggestions for starting a Basic Skills TOI 1-4 class.

- This curriculum is recommended for skaters Basic 4 and above therefore, offer the TOI class during the class time for your Snowplow Sam thru Basic 3 skaters in order to keep skaters in their current Basic Skills or Free Style class
- If your club offers more than one day each week of Basic Skills classes, offer the TOI 1-4 curriculum during the busiest day of classes to expose TOI to more skaters.
- Offer a free trial class for first time TOI skaters
- Offer the TOI class at a reduced price to skaters who are currently enrolled in another class at your club
- The coach who teaches this class should be familiar with the curriculum and have a love for the artistic side of skating
- If there is a Theatre on Ice team in your rink, or your area, invite them to perform at your class or open house
- Host a Theatre on Ice mini-workshop for skaters during a school break, or when you may have 'extra' ice to fill.
- When hosting a Basic Skills Competition, include a TOI event to allow your new team to show off!

For more information on Theatre on Ice, starting a basic skills program or a mainstream program, visit the US Figure Skating Web site at www.usfigureskating.org go to "programs", then "Theatre on Ice".

What Happens After Completing the Basic Skills Program?

Once you have established a Basic Skills TOI 1-4 program in your club, you have created a feeder program for mainstream Theatre on Ice teams.

Mainstream Theatre on Ice levels include:

- Preliminary
- Novice
- Junior
- Senior
- Adult

Skaters may join a TOI team at any time, it is not necessary to join a preliminary team before moving to a novice team, etc. Team levels are determined by Moves in the Field tests and the Juvenile Free Skate Test (see attached information on team level requirements). Skaters are allowed to join any level team they are eligible for.

It is not necessary to complete the TOI 1-4 program before joining a mainstream team. However having this program in place in your club serves as a wonderful learning experience for future TOI team skaters and attracts skaters who may not otherwise continue in a competitive skating career.

There is a place for every skater in the Theatre on Ice “pipeline”, from the beginner skater just learning bunny hops and waltz jumps to the seasoned competitor performing triple jumps, to the ice dancers and synchro skaters, all aspects of figure skating are included in Theatre on Ice.

Suggestions for Introducing a Mainstream TOI Team to your Club

- The club Board of Directors should first meet with coaches to determine the interest among coaches in starting a TOI mainstream program
- Once the interest among coaches is determined, an informational meeting for any interested skaters and their parents should be set up and advertised.
- This meeting should be informational and fun. Set up a computer to show DVD, YouTube or Icenetwork performances of Theatre on Ice to give the skaters and parents a better understanding of what TOI is. The coaching staff should explain the concept of Theatre on Ice and the plans for your team.
- Host TOI workshops or mini-camps at your facility to give the skaters and parents a taste of theatre before they commit to a team. These events can be 1 day events, or week long events. What ever works best for your club
- Once it has been decided to start at team at your club, a committee should be formed to oversee the team and a team manager should be chosen.
- The committee and team manger will be responsible for selecting a coaching staff, fundraising, arranging ice time, making or obtaining costumes and sets, setting and enforcing team policies and rules, setting and collecting fees, making arrangements for team travel, exhibitions and competitions, and acting as a liaison between the parents, club, and the coaches.
- Teams must be registered as a Theatre on Ice Team with U.S. Figure Skating. There is a yearly registration fee of \$30 per team.
- All members of a team must be U.S. Figure Skating members. Therefore this is an opportunity to grow and retain club members. Your club may want to implement a special membership for Theatre on Ice team skaters who have memberships at other clubs.
- All levels and ages of skaters may be incorporated together into one team. Levels include Preliminary, Novice, Junior, Senior and Adult.

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