

Palmetto Skate Club Code of Conduct

(Last revised 06.10.19)

General

By becoming a member of the Palmetto Skate Club (“PSC”), all skaters and their associates agree to abide by the PSC bylaws, USFSA memberships rules, and the code of conduct laid out in this document.

Discrimination

All skaters and family members are expected to be courteous and respectful to others both on and off the ice. PSC has a ZERO TOLERANCE policy against discrimination based on race, sex, sexual orientation, religion, national origin, physical disability, age, and political beliefs. The PSC board reserves the right to terminate the PSC membership of any skater or family accused of discriminatory behavior as well as ban said person(s) from all PSC events and practice ice.

Bullying, Harassment, Abuse, & Intimidation

Bullying, harassment, abuse, and intimidation by anyone associated with the PSC are absolutely forbidden. Staff coaches are permitted to temporarily remove their own students, or any student currently in a lesson with them, from the ice if they feel the skater is bullying, harassing, abusing, or intimidating another skater. PSC reserves the right to remove any skater and/or their associates accused of bullying, harassment, abuse, and intimidation from public ice, freestyle sessions, or any PSC led events at the discretion of the PSC board or the figure skating director prior to or following a complete attempt at conflict resolution per “Article 9: Conflict Resolution” in the PSC bylaws.

Conduct of Club Members

Right of Way

During all on ice practice sessions, PSC members and coaches are expected to follow PSC right of way rules. Right of way is defined as the hierarchical order in which skaters determine who must make space on the ice for whom (i.e. which skaters must get out of the way of others). The order of right of way is:

1. Skaters in a lesson WITH their coach doing their program with music
2. Skaters doing their program with music WITHOUT a coach
3. Skaters on the harness
4. Skaters in a lesson NOT doing their program with music
5. All other skaters

Skater Etiquette

Skaters are expected to be courteous to all other skaters on public skate, freestyle sessions, and other PSC events. Accidents happen, skaters get in each other’s way, and sometimes people get frustrated. PSC members should remember that they are role models to younger skaters, and that they are representing the figure skating club whenever they put their skates on. The following behavior is considered hostile or unbecoming of a PSC figure skater, and is prohibited:

- Angry stomping on the ice
- Kicking the ice or the boards
- Yelling at others
- Rude gestures
- Eye rolling
- Profanity

Sitting or lying on the ice during public and freestyle sessions is prohibited. When a skater falls, they should promptly stand up and clear the area for other skaters. Lying or sitting on the ice both prevents other skaters from using the space and is incredibly dangerous to both that skater and the other skaters around them.

Skaters should avoid practicing spins or congregating in the lutz corners. Unless a skater is practicing their program, spins should be practiced in the center of the ice, out of the way of typical jump and Moves in the Field patterns.

Public Ice

It is particularly important that PSC members follow the etiquette behavior guidelines above when skating on public sessions. PSC skaters are incredibly lucky to be able to take lessons and run programs on public ice, as many other rinks do not allow this. PSC members must remember that public sessions can be crowded, and that many of the people out there are unfamiliar with standard skating patterns or right of way rules. All skaters are expected to be patient and courteous to public session skaters.

Skaters should use discretion when doing advanced jumps and spins on public ice. Because public sessions often have many inexperienced skaters on them, PSC skaters should use their best judgment when deciding which elements to practice. For example, a backwards spiral is probably safe to do when there are five public skaters on the ice, but probably unwise to do when there are twenty.

Music cannot be played after 5pm on Friday sessions and anytime Saturday and Sunday. Flying spins are not to be practiced during these high traffic sessions unless a skater is in a lesson. A skater's music can only be played once every 60 minutes during public sessions (i.e. a skater may run both a long and short program with music within the same 60 minutes, but cannot play the music for the same long program twice in the same 60 minutes).

Paying for Ice Time

Public sessions and freestyle sessions are NOT free. If you get on the ice without signing in, you are stealing. All freestyle sessions must be paid for with either a sticker or by signing in at the front desk. If your name is not on the sign in list and you have not paid, you will be removed from the ice and charged for your time. All public sessions must be paid for at the front desk with a punch card, cash, check, or card. Again, no one is to get on public ice without paying. If you skated public ice and are then skating a freestyle session immediately following, you **STILL MUST** sign up and pay for the freestyle session. **SKATING WITHOUT PAYING IS STEALING!**

Conduct of Family Members and Legal Guardians of Skaters

Family Etiquette

As per the US Figure Skating *Conflict Management and Resolution Guide*, “When an individual decides to become a member of a sports organization board, they are expected to make the interest of the organization take precedent over any personal interests they may have.” While not all family members are board members, PSC still expects all PSC families to support the interests of the club. Malicious gossiping, slander, and internal, harmful competition are forbidden. Deliberately spreading or perpetuating harmful and false information about rink programs, management, and PSC is strictly prohibited.

PSC family members should remember that skating is an individual sport, and skaters are striving to beat their own personal best, not one another. While friendly competition between skaters in and out of the club can be a good thing, overly aggressive competition can be both emotionally and physically harmful to a skater, and is not encouraged by PSC.

PSC strives to be a friendly, open, and supportive environment for ice skaters to strive for their full potential. Please remember that as an adult, you set the tone of the room and are often the first people new skating families meet.

Paying for Ice Time

As explained above, public sessions and freestyle sessions are NOT free. If your skater gets on the ice without signing in, they are stealing. All freestyle sessions must be paid for with either a sticker or by signing in at the front desk. If your skater’s name is not on the sign in list and they have not paid, they will be removed from the ice and charged for their time. All public sessions must be paid for at the front desk with a punch card, cash, check, or card. Again, no one is to get on public ice without paying. If your skater skated public ice and then skated a freestyle session immediately following, they STILL MUST sign up and pay for the freestyle session. SKATING WITHOUT PAYING IS STEALING!