

# Preparing For Test Day

When a Test Day is approaching and a coach feels that her skater has mastered the skills necessary to pass a test she will arrange with the Club Test Chairman to schedule your child for the next available testing day.

You should arrive at the designated arena at least 45 minutes before the test is scheduled to start as tests often run early.

Skaters must be dressed appropriately for tests- skating dresses, beige tights and neat hair. Make sure your skates and laces are clean and neat. Skaters may wear a sweater and gloves for warm-up but these should be removed for the test. Hair **MUST** be tidy; pull it back if it is long. Girls customarily wear some makeup- blush and lipstick and usually have some kind of decoration in their hair.

Skates should be properly sharpened and clean with neat laces. Do not arrive on the day of the test with freshly sharpened skates. If your child's skates need to be sharpened it is a good idea to do this a few sessions beforehand; skaters need a few times on them to get used to the sharpening. Skates can be cleaned with white shoe polish or white shoe dye. Laces should be taken out and washed. This should be done a couple of practices before the test so that the laces can be worked back into a comfortable and correct position for the skater.

There will be a short warm up before each set of tests. Certain tests require skaters to practice both directions and/or both feet of certain skills but only one will be chosen for the test. If this is the case the draw for direction or foot will take place just before the warm-up.

Skaters are assessed one at a time by an Evaluator on a Pass-Retry basis. The results of each test are recorded on a summary sheet that must be signed by the Evaluator before the results can be announced. Once this has been done, (about 15-45 minutes after the test) the Test Chairman will hand out the results (usually with the Evaluator's comments) to each skater and/or their coach. Test results are final.

Skaters who receive a Retry may try their test again on the next test day. Unless the skater provides a doctor's certificate should he register for a test and then not take it the test will be recorded as a Retry and the entry fee will not be refunded.

Evaluators are trained volunteers. They are not paid because they must remain amateurs according to ISU (International Skating Union) rules.

# Skate Canada Tests

At the Pre-CanSkate and CanSkate level, badges are evaluated by coaches. There are no set test days; skaters earn badges as soon as they master the necessary skills.

Unlike badges, Skate Canada tests are tried on special test days before an Evaluator. Skaters might start trying Skate Canada tests at the CanSkate Plus or Group StarSkate level but more likely in Junior StarSkate level.

To begin with there are Skate Canada tests available in Free Skating, Dance and Skills, each stream beginning with the Preliminary Test.

## Preliminary Free Test

- \* 14 Elements in isolation
- \* The Programme

These two parts make up one test. They may be tried separately. If one part has to be retried the skater can retry just that part on the next Test day.

## Preliminary Dance Test

- \* Dutch Waltz
- \* Canasta Tango
- \* Baby Blues

Each dance is a separate test and can be tried on separate days. When the skater has passed all 3 dances, he is credited with the Preliminary Dance Test. Dance tests are skated with a partner.

## Preliminary Skills Test

- \* Waltzing Threes
- \* Waltzing Mohawks
- \* Preliminary Circles

All 3 exercises are tried on the same day as one test.

## When Are Test Days Held?

Skate Canada tests are tried on special Test. The number of test days/year is allocated to each club by our Central Alberta Section office according to need and the number of judges available. Be aware of when Test days are scheduled by reading the bulletin board, website or Club Newsletter. Even if your skater is not trying a test you will still need to know about Test days because it may mean that regular skating is cancelled for that day.

Most Test days are divided into two levels:

## Low Tests

Preliminary Free Skate, Dance & Skills

Junior Bronze Free Skate, Dance & Skills

Senior Bronze Free Skate, Dance & Skills

## High Tests

Junior Silver Free Skate, Dance & Skills

Senior Silver Free Skate, Dance & Skills

Gold Free Skate, Dance & Skills

Interpretive - Preliminary, Bronze, Silver and Gold

Diamond Dances