Edson Figure Skating Club
Frequently Asked Questions

General

How long is the skating season?
Typically the skating season runs from the end of August to the end of March depending on ice availability. This is negotiated by the club each year with start and end dates communicated to participants as they become available.

What kind of skates should I purchase?
This is an individual decision depending on the skater's individual characteristics. Many parents opt to purchase skates through a professional skate shop such as ProSkate in Edmonton. Most professional skate shops do require an appointment for a skate fitting so please ensure you check ahead. It is recommended that you speak with a member of the coaching staff if you have questions about skates.

Note: Professional skate shops are also skilled in sharpening figure skate blades as they are sharpened differently than hockey blades.

How will the coaches communicate with skating parents?
General information about schedule changes, simulation days, dress rehearsals, and other day-to-day updates will be communicated through the **Heja app** for each skating group. Coaches strive to provide as much notice as possible; however, families should ensure app notifications are turned on so that important last-minute updates are not missed.

Club-wide announcements and broader program updates will be distributed by email. Please ensure your email address is current in your **Uplifter** profile so you can receive all communications.

Questions related to coaching, skill development, or individual skater progress should be directed to the coaching staff via email.

Where can I find the skating schedule?
The skating schedule will be posted on the **Heja** app. Please check the app regularly for your skater's ice times. If you are unsure about your skater's schedule, contact a coach.

What should I do if my skater is sick?
Please do not attend skating sessions if your skater is unwell. Please update the Heja app with your attendance with as much notice as possible if your skater will be absent due to illness.

What if my skater needs to leave early?
Please notify a coach if your skater must leave before the end of a session. This helps coaches with planning and supports skater safety.

What is the EFSC dress code?
Skaters should wear clean, well-maintained, and appropriate skating attire. Loose hair and clothing is a safety hazard during figure skating. Coaches prefer skaters dress in black or dark fitted clothing to best able to see positioning of skaters during their elements against the white ice and rink boards.

Requirements include:

- Hair secured away from the face
- No jeans or loose pants.
- No tube tops
- CSA-approved helmets required for Primary STARSkaters until CanSkate Stage 6 is completed. Coaches will notify skaters and parents when helmets are no longer required.
- Helmets are optional for higher STARSkate levels

What is the dressing room etiquette?
Dressing rooms 2 and 4 have been assigned to the club for the season. Dressing room 2 will be used by Intermediate/Senior skaters, and Dressing room 4 will be used by Primary skaters. We ask that parents refrain from going into Dressing room 2. Dressing room 4 will be considered parent friendly for those skaters that may need assistance with their skates. Dressing rooms can become quite crowded, so we do ask parents not to remain in the rooms after they have provided assistance with their child’s skates.

Are raffle tickets mandatory?

Yes. All skaters are expected to participate in the club's annual raffle fundraiser. Ticket distribution occurs twice a year in October and January.

When is Carnival?
The club's annual Carnival is tentatively scheduled for **March 13, 2027**, pending arena confirmation. Additional details will be shared throughout the season.

The Carnival theme is traditionally selected by the club's graduating skater(s). If there are no graduating skaters, the theme will be chosen by the Board of Directors.

During Carnival, each Intermediate and Senior skater performs their solo program to music adapted to fit the year's theme. In addition, each skating group (CanSkate, Primary, Intermediate, and Senior) performs a themed group number.

Costumes for group performances are chosen by each skating group, with one parent or volunteer from each group designated to help coordinate costume planning and communication. More information regarding costume planning will come out closer to Carnival.

Why isn't my child featured on social media?
Club social media is intended to promote the club and celebrate skater achievements. Not every skater will appear in every post. If you have questions or concerns about social media content, please contact the board at **edsonfsc@hotmail.ca**.

What behaviour is expected from skaters and families?
All skaters, parents, and guardians are expected to follow Skate Canada's Code of Ethics and treat coaches, volunteers, officials, and fellow families with respect at all times.

How should concerns or complaints be addressed?
The club maintains a zero-tolerance policy for verbal aggression. If you have a concern, please wait 24 hours before raising it. To maintain a positive environment, parents are also asked not to discuss concerns in dressing rooms. Concerns should then be submitted respectfully to **Edson Figure Skating Club Board**: **edsonfsc@hotmail.ca**

Who can I contact with questions?
For program, scheduling, or lesson questions, please contact your coach.
For club-related concerns, policies, or general inquiries, contact:
Edson Figure Skating Club Board: **edsonfsc@hotmail.ca**

Primary Skaters

How do Primary lessons work?
Primary (CanSkate 6) participate in group lessons with club coaches. Lesson fees are included as part of the registration fee and coaches will provide assessment results in a written report card process similar to Canskate.

Why does practice often look the same each day?
Figure skating is a highly technical sport that requires consistent repetition to develop correct technique and muscle memory. Coaches often have skaters practice the same skills repeatedly to refine small details and ensure elements can be performed consistently, which is a key measure of readiness for testing and competition.

While practices may appear similar from day to day, coaches are often working on subtle improvements in technique, quality, and consistency. Questions about an individual skater's progress and development should be directed to the coaching staff.

Will my skater have opportunities to compete?
Not all competitions include a CanSkate competition option. However, coaches do look for opportunities for the primary skaters to compete as it helps prepare them for the StarSkate competitions in the future. Coaches will advise skaters and families about competition opportunities throughout the season and will work with skaters who are ready and interested in competing.

How do competition costumes work?
Competition costumes are selected and purchased by each individual skater. There are many retailers that offer figure skating dresses and competition attire, as well as more affordable gently used options available through Facebook groups and within our own club community.

If you are looking for recommendations on where to purchase a costume, please connect with experienced skating parents or a Board member, who would be happy to share suggestions and resources.

How are the “levels” (Primary, Intermediate, and Senior) at the EFSC determined?

Several factors influence when a skater moves through the CanSkate and StarSkate programs. Skill development is highly individual, so progression rates vary from skater to skater. Coaches aim to group skaters with similar skill levels to maximize coaching effectiveness and learning opportunities.

As skaters advance, there is a greater expectation for independent practice, along with longer and more frequent training sessions. A skater's readiness for these increased responsibilities is an important consideration. Coaches must also ensure group sizes remain balanced so that all skaters have adequate ice space to safely practice the skills and elements appropriate to their level.

Intermediate and Senior Skaters

How do STARSkate lessons work?
STARSkaters (EFSC Intermediate and Senior Levels) participate in group and/or private lessons with club coaches. Lesson fees are separate from registration fees, and coaches will provide details regarding their individual rates and billing processes.

What happens if fees are overdue?
Skating lessons may be suspended if club or coaching fees remain unpaid for more than two weeks. In accordance with Skate Canada regulations, skaters with outstanding coaching fees may not receive services from another coach until the arrears are resolved.

How does testing work?
When a coach determines a skater is ready for testing, the Test Chair will contact the family with details. Testing fees apply and payment instructions will be provided directly by the Test Chair.

How do competitions work?
Information about upcoming competitions will be shared with eligible and interested skaters as far in advance as possible. Coaches require time to assess competition readiness and, where applicable, choreograph solo programs. As a result, registration for some competitions may open before the club is able to confirm participation and registration details.

When registration information is available, families will receive an email with the competition registration link as well as the appropriate StarSkate competition level for their

skater. Coaches will determine competition readiness and recommended event categories to help ensure each skater has a positive and successful competitive experience.

If you have questions regarding your skater's competition readiness or event selection, please contact the coaching staff directly.

What are the expectations for Program Assistants (PAs)?
Intermediate and Senior skaters who have not opted out of the PA program will receive a schedule outlining their CanSkate assistance assignments. A PA training session will be held before the CanSkate season begins.

When are PA hours paid?
PA hours will only be compensated when all outstanding club and coaching fees have been paid in full.