



MEMBERS' HANDBOOK

2011-2012

SILVER BLADES
Members' Handbook

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WELCOME TO THE CLUB!

Silver Blades Figure Skating Club is a 501-3C non-profit organization dedicated to bringing quality figure skating to the greater Findlay-Hancock County region. It began in 1974 when the Hancock Recreation Center (now called The Cube) was built. The success of Silver Blades is due to the support of the community and the excitement generated by its members. It is the only figure skating club in Northwest Ohio that has an annual ice show – Ice Classics.

Silver Blades is a recreational figure skating club affiliated with the Ice Skating Institute or ISI. Its current membership includes around 95 members ranging in age from 4 to 18, and its professional skating instructors teach basic through the most advanced skating skills.

Beginning skaters are taught skating skills through group lessons using the ISI testing standards. Test sessions are scheduled throughout the season giving the skaters the opportunity to test into new levels and to earn colorful ISI test patches or badges.

Not only is Silver Blades a means for fun and fitness while mastering the sport of figure skating, but it also provides its members an opportunity to build lasting friendships.

Social activities, skate swaps, fundraisers, and the annual ***Ice Classics*** ice show makes each season a lot to look forward to. Reading this handbook will help you be informed, ready to skate, and get the most out of your time and investment.

BOARD of DIRECTORS/PARENTS/VOLUNTEERS/SKATING PROFESSIONALS

Silver Blades is run by volunteers, parents, skating professionals and other supporters in the community. Without their input, skaters would not have this fine opportunity.

A **Board of Directors** consists of elected members and generally meets monthly. The board is responsible for organizing and running Silver Blades. Minutes from each meeting are posted on the website after each meeting.

Parent Volunteers are used whenever possible to help keep the dues as low as possible. All families are expected to assist in one or more areas of the Club. This may include a social activity, helping with a fundraiser, working on one of many areas of the annual ice show, playing music during freestyle skating times, or participating on one of the many committees.

The **Skating Professionals** are contracted by the Club to teach the Group A group lessons. The Club contracts a Head Skating Professional to organize the skating professionals, group lessons, test sessions, and ISI compliance.

ICE SKATING INSTITUTE (ISI) AFFILIATION

Silver Blades' members are also enrolled, by the Club, as members of the Ice Skating Institute (ISI). The Ice Skating Institute is an international trade association encompassing all aspects of the ice skating industry. ISI was founded in 1959 as an organization for owners, operators and developers of ice skating facilities. The mission and goals of ISI are to promote ice skating as a participant sport and recreation and to provide information for the development, construction and operation of ice skating facilities. The Ice Skating Institute is dedicated to providing leadership, education and services to the ice skating industry.

Your ISI membership provides program materials and a quarterly magazine mailed to your home. The ISI testing standards are used by our instructors. ISI rules and standards also apply at all skating competitions sanctioned by ISI. For more information, visit www.skateisi.org.

MEMBER BENEFITS/FEES

Membership fees provide the following benefits:

- *Use of ice time at The Cube *ISI Membership
- *Use of Club professional instructors *ISI Magazine during scheduled group lesson time
- *Use of club affiliation for all ISI *Club activities sanctioned competitions
- *Participation in annual ice show

Membership fees that you pay cover only a portion of the cost for running the Club. Fundraising efforts and profits from the annual ice show are critical for covering the remainder of Club costs and help keep individual member costs as low as possible.

Additional costs you might incur personally could include the following:

- * Ice Skates *Special costumes for ice show feature parts
- * Skating apparel *Team Compulsory skating & costumes
- * Practice ice time *Competition expenses for entry fees & travel
- * Private lessons *Refreshments at The Cube
- * Paid freestyle time *Test patches & fees

Skaters must have membership fees paid on time. Skaters will not be permitted to participate in any ice activities until fees are paid according to the fee schedule.

2011-2012 Tentative Fee Schedules

Registration	due	07/16/10	\$100
1st Payment	due	09/17/10	\$225
2nd Payment	due	11/19/10	\$225

SKATING EQUIPMENT & SAFETY

Skaters should come to the rink dressed in warm layers of clothing. Many wear skating dresses with warm tights or leggings and sweaters, however it is not required. Others wear sweat pants and sweat shirts. Gloves and hats are recommended and are very important for young skaters' safety, comfort and warmth.

Skaters should have a well-fitted pair of leather ice skates that have good support for the skater's ankles. Skates typically fit the foot like a glove and are usually a size smaller than the skater's shoe size. Skate guards should be worn when going to and from the ice surface to protect the blades from getting damaged and dull. Skates should be sharpened every 4-6 weeks depending on the number of hours the skates are being used per week. Skate blades should always be dried off with a dry towel after use and stored in a bag with soakers (cloth blade covers) to absorb moisture and to protect the blades from hitting together. After arriving home, skates should be removed from the bag, soakers removed, and boots and blades left out to dry.

Parents are strongly advised to remain at the rink during the lesson and freestyle times. If you need to leave the rink, please let another parent know in the event of an emergency.

ICE TIME & GROUP LESSONS

The Board allocates and schedules ice time for all skaters. This includes a combination of group lessons and freestyle ice for skaters at the beginning level through Delta levels. Skaters are grouped for lessons based on their ability determined by their ISI test level. Skaters at higher levels are allocated freestyle ice time only and receive no instruction as part of their fees.

ISI testing levels from beginner to most advanced are: Tot 1-4, Pre Alpha, Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta, and Freestyles 1 through Freestyle 10. Every effort is extended by the Club to provide equal value to all members. Reduced ice time for the lower levels is offset by Club costs for instructors for the group lessons.

The following Groups have been established by the Board for the 2010-2011 skating season:

Group A: Beginner through Delta

Group B: Freestyle 1 through Freestyle 3

Group C: Freestyle 4

Group D: Freestyle 5 through Freestyle 10

Additional paid freestyle time is available for an additional cost. Paid freestyle sessions are based upon a first come first serve basis and are capped at 25 skaters per session for safety reasons. A volunteer in the lobby usually collects for the paid freestyle sessions prior to the time of the sessions.

ISI TEST SESSIONS & GROUP PLACEMENT

Silver Blades' test sessions are scheduled frequently throughout the season by the Board. ISI has a list of elements for each level that skaters must master and perform for an instructor or panel of instructors for Freestyle 1-10 in order to move from one level to the next. If the skater has mastered ALL elements specified, he/she is moved to the next level and is given an ISI test badge. The test levels are Pre-Alpha, Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta, and Freestyle 1 through 10. For the beginning skater that has not yet reached the Pre-Alpha level, there is a Tot I, 2, 3, and 4 levels where ribbons are awarded for basic maneuvers. This can be a real motivator for the young skater.

All rules of ISI are followed during the test session. It is mandatory that when a skater is testing at a Freestyle level, the individual maneuvers are tested and a complete program, including music, must be skated. If the skater is testing more than one Freestyle level during the same test session, the maneuvers are tested for each level; however, only one program with music needs to be skated for the highest level being tested.

A skater must participate in a Silver Blades' test session to earn placement in a group as defined by the ISI test standards and by the Silver Blades Board of Directors. For Freestyle 1 and above, a skater who passes a test outside a Silver Blades' test session must complete the required skills at least twice in their music program as per ISI requirements at a Silver Blades' test session.

Test results from official sanctioned ISI test sessions will be recognized for group placement as long as the skater was evaluated by a three judge panel. Proper documentation from test committee showing the test passed must be presented to the Silver Blades' President.

A passed test must be recorded in Silver Blades' records and will therefore be sent by the Club to ISI headquarters for their records. There is a minimal fee charged by ISI to cover costs of registering each test and for providing a patch to the skater. The club testing committee chairperson is responsible for collecting the fee from the skater, registering the test with ISI, and finally providing the patch to the skater.

It is beneficial for parents to know the name of the ISI level your skater is working on and what maneuvers are required for that level. This is helpful in encouraging your skater to improve his/her skills.

A list describing the skating skills required for each ISI test level is included in the ISI Skaters Handbook that is available through the ISI or a Silver Blades' Club professional.

For skaters testing freestyle 1 or above, a test application needs to be completed, signed and returned to the chairperson by the test session sign-up deadline.

PRIVATE LESSONS

After your skater passes Freestyle 1, group lessons end, and therefore, skaters will need to contract an instructor for private lessons. Club instructors or other skating professionals typically provide private lessons. Inquire with any of the instructors to determine if they are accepting new students. If not, they may be able to recommend a professional to you. The cost for private lessons is determined by the instructor. Ice time for private lessons is available at The Cube during Club freestyle sessions and at the Bowling Green State University Ice Arena. All arrangements for private lessons are strictly between the parents and the instructor.

PAID OPEN FREESTYLE SESSIONS

These freestyle sessions are listed on the skating schedule throughout the year and are available on a first come first serve basis. The cost is \$10.00 per one hour session and \$8.00 per 45 minute session and is open to all skaters. The maximum number of skaters per session is capped at 25 for the skater's safety. Skaters must sign-up and pay the volunteer parent prior to skating on a paid open freestyle session.

SKATING COMPETITIONS

Skating competitions are an optional activity for **Silver Blades'** members. Figure skating competitions are where many clubs meet to compete for awards in all ages and skating levels. Many competitions are held in Michigan (Detroit area), Ohio (Miami University), and other neighboring states. A recorded (tape or CD) music program, skating routine and costume are required. Registration, payment of fees, coaching and travel arrangements are the responsibility of the member who chooses to participate. Information concerning competitions can be obtained from the **Silver Blades** competition's chairperson.

ICE CLASSICS ICE SHOW

The annual ice show is an opportunity for the skaters to show off their talent and it is held at the conclusion of the ice skating season. All skaters get to perform under a spotlight and in front of a live audience. Ice show solo and feature parts are made at the discretion of the show Director(s) based upon show tryouts. Factors such as skating level, showmanship, and sportsmanship will be considered during the solo/feature selection. **As a reminder, Club membership fees must be paid in full to receive a show assignment.**

The Show is the major fundraiser for the Club and helps to reduce the club membership fees. All parents are required to become involved in the production of the show. Volunteer committees include costumes, lighting, props, physical arrangements, publicity, ticket sales, program advertisements and layout, and much more.

There will be a show meeting for parents planned in January to discuss the show themes, schedules, costumes, pictures, ad sales, ticket sales, patron sales and to answer any questions. You are encouraged to attend this meeting. Questions about the show during the remainder of the season are to be directed to the show committee chairpersons. The normal skating schedule will change once ice show practice begins – end of January. After show practices begin, check the bulletin board weekly for new show information, as well as the weekly show practice schedule. Practice schedules will be distributed during Club practice times as well as being posted on the website and emailed to the club members. A DVD recording of the entire show may be ordered at the end of the Show for a nominal cost.

ICE RULES - SILVER BLADES SKATING CLUB

1. No one shall enter the ice unless a Club professional or Board member is present.
2. Skaters under 9 years of age **MUST** have a designated, responsible adult present during their time on and off the ice at The Cube in case of an emergency such as an accident, weather/power failure, conduct, or schedule change. Skaters 10-16 years of age are strongly encouraged to do so as well. Non-skating children should never be left at the rink unsupervised.
3. Parents, please allow instructors to have your child's full attention at all times during lessons. Communication to skaters by parents/friends distracts the entire class and learning process. It is preferred that parents/friends stay in the lobby of The Cube or watch from the bleacher area.
4. Make good use of your skating time by avoiding excessive rest breaks, snack breaks, or sitting in the lobby. You should be on the ice during your entire scheduled time. If you must leave the ice, let your instructor know.
5. Be courteous and respectful at all times to ensure safe skating. Tag, horseplay or running (on or off the ice) is prohibited.
6. Be respectful of other skaters and be aware and attentive to lessons being given and the student attempting new maneuvers.
7. Yield to the **called** skater (the skater who is skating to his/her music). The **called** skater will be wearing a bright colored vest to highlight his/her identity.
8. Gouging holes in the ice (by accident or on purpose) may cause a fall or injury. Please repair holes immediately.
9. Sitting or lying on the ice could cause an accident or injury. When you fall, please get up and continue skating as soon as possible.
10. Please refrain from sitting on or climbing over the ice arena boards or barriers.
11. Please do not enter the player's box or the ice until the Zamboni is off the ice and the gate is closed. Likewise, skaters must exit the ice immediately when the Zamboni gates are opened.
12. Skaters' cell phones must stay in the lobby. Skaters shall not carry and/or use cell phones inside the ice rink area during their scheduled skating time.
13. iPod's or small handheld music players need to be securely fastened to the skater's arm or waist while skating. Skaters are prohibited from carrying an iPod or music player while skating.
14. Chewing gum or food on the ice is prohibited. Please eat in the lobby and dispose of gum before entering The Cube. **The Cube prohibits gum in its facility.**

Enforcement of the rules will be determined by the Club professional instructors in cooperation with the Silver Blades' Board of Directors. In the event that any of the above rules are not followed, skaters may be removed from the ice.

As a skater, I agree to conduct myself in a manner which exhibits good sportsmanship at all times. This includes showing respect, through proper behavior and language towards skaters, professional instructors, volunteers, and board members. I understand that any behavior on my part that is offensive or disrespectful may result in my immediate dismissal from skating.

Please sign to indicate you've read and agree to the above rules, conduct, and consequences.

Print Skater's Name _____ Skater's Signature _____ Date _____

Print Parent's Name _____ Parent's Signature _____ Date _____

Parental/Guardian Support

Silver Blades operates by volunteers, parents, skating professionals, and other supporters. Please check the area(s) in which you would be willing to help. (Turn in signed form on September 18 to Silver Blades Board of Directors or mail to: Tracy Koehler, 1620 Silver Creek Dr., Findlay, OH 45840)

- Run Music during Freestyle
- Flag City Competition (Jan.9-10)

- Ice Show – Sew Props, Program, Lighting etc.
- Ways & Means

FREESTYLE ICE RULES

1. Limit of 25 skaters per session due to safety reasons.
2. Be aware and attentive of lessons being given and the student attempting new maneuvers.
3. Keep moving at all times.
4. For the safety of all skaters, it's important to practice your spins toward the middle of the ice and your jumps in the corners or sides of the ice.
5. Yield to the **called** skater (the skater who is skating to his/her music). The **called** skater will be wearing a bright colored vest to highlight his/her identity.
6. **Music Rules:**
 - a. Music is played on a first come, first served basis.
 - b. If time allows, music will be repeated on a rotational basis.
 - c. Instructor requests, for music during a lesson, will be moved to the front of the line only once per lesson per student.
 - d. You are responsible for having your music cued. If the volunteer playing music cannot find the music, your turn will be skipped.
 - e. All music should be labeled with your name.
 - f. Skaters are required to pick up their music at the end of each session.

Parents are asked to volunteer to play music. Sign-up sheets will be posted.

PARENT'S RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Skaters under 9 years of age **MUST** have a designated, responsible adult present during their time on and off the ice at The Cube in case of an emergency such as an accident, weather/power failure, conduct, or schedule change. Skaters 10-16 years of age are strongly encouraged to do so as well. Non-skating children should never be left at the rink unsupervised.
2. Skaters need to be dressed in clothing that allows flow of movement and warmth -mittens and hats are encouraged.
3. Skaters and parents need to check the **Silver Blades** bulletin board, website, and emails for up-to-date notices and/or changes. The bulletin board at The Cube has the current posting of the most important notices/changes.
4. Parents must keep their skaters informed about schedules, ice rules and handbook information.

Current Silver Blades Board Members

Name	Title	Email	Phone
Maria Sellers	President	cmjsell@aol.com	419-420-9258
Tim Manley	Vice President	tim4dthrs@aol.com	419-425-9812
Deb Bouts	Treasurer	dakbouts@woh.rr.com	419-722-8856
Cheryl Gephart	Secretary	cgeppy@aol.com	419-422-4232
Mary Pat Longo	Controller	mplongo@aol.com	419-423-3105
Meredith Pitt	Membership Chair	meredith_pitt@yahoo.com	419-722-3215
Mike Cole	Ice Show Co-Chair	homright@aol.com	419-722-2824
Rick Polder	Ways & Means	rikpo@aol.com	419-422-1451
Rachel Gregory	Ways & Means	rachelme@tds.net	419-957-0963
Paul Alday	Social Events	alday4n6@yahoo.com	419-308-5998
Kelly Lee	Ice Show Co-Chair	kelly.lee24@yahoo.com	419-957-4449
Cassie Muzy	Social Events	bugs1019@aol.com	419-306-0506
Amy Perrault	Rules & Ice	sperrault@woh.rr.com	419-425-3507
Tracy Koehler	Testing/Competition Team Skating	jck2@aol.com	419-306-7412

SILVER BLADES CLUB COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS 2011-2012

BUDGET	Mary Pat Longo
COMPETITIONS	Tracy Koehler
ICE SHOW	Kelly Lee
INSTRUCTORS	Tim Manley
MEMBERSHIP	Meredith Pitt
NEWSLETTER	Cheryl Gephart
RULES & ICE	Amy Perrault
SOCIAL & SPECIAL EVENTS	Cassie Muzy
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR	Maria Sellers & Cheryl Gephart
TEAM SKATING	Tracy Koehler
TESTING	Tracy Koehler & Rachel Gregory
WAYS & MEANS	Rick Polder

SILVER BLADES CLUB PROFESSIONALS

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Other Skating Professionals

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Marianne Mazur-Stewart
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Silver Blades Pros & Coaches:

The Board met last night and a long discussion was held about our testing requirements and procedures. The conclusion drawn from the input was that our testing procedures are good and should be a model for other clubs to follow. Our three judge system has been instrumental in bringing our club members to a level of skating that they are very competitive and our ice show is of higher quality.

To review below is a portion of our current testing rules:

"Freestyle_ - FS 1-3 will be tested by 2-3 judges and FS 4-7 by 3 judges one of which must be a Gold certified. A judge will excuse himself or herself if testing their own skater.

Group Placement: A skater must participate in a Silver Blades test session to earn placement in a group as defined by the Silver Blades Board of Directors. ... Test results from official sanctioned ISI testing sessions will be recognized for group placement."

The board has made two amendments to these rules. 1) (passed 06/15/05) "All Silver Blade test sessions must have 3 judges present. If 3 judges are not present the test session will be cancelled." 2) (passed 12/08/05) If testing at a test session outside of a Silver Blades test session, the skater must be evaluated by a 3 judge panel to count towards group placement.

IMPORTANT: Please note that this system was put into place to make sure the skaters have mastered the skills, that all skaters in a group have the same skill level, and to take pressure off coaches who have parents pressuring them to advance a skater that has not mastered the skills and is not ready to test.

WITH THIS SAID the Board understands that our testing procedures create a dilemma for skaters who have passed & mastered a level and are now very close to passing the next level and want to compete at the new level. Because skaters have trouble passing at our test sessions some skate-up a level at competitions. Technically a skater can not skate-up at a competition even though many do. Nobody wants to break the rules and as a club we do not want to get a reputation for skating-up.

PLEASE UNDERSTAND that ISI testing rules allow for a skater to be tested by only one judge (another pro). Please check your ISI manual for exact rules. The Board encourages you to have your skater tested according to ISI rules and submit the results to ISI for level placement. This will allow the skater to compete legally. NOTE that we will NOT recognize it for group placement. For group placement/movement it must be a three judge panel.

FINALLY, if you are selected to be a judge for our test session the Board asks that please judge each skater on the performance you are seeing today. Past performance should not be considered. For example if that were the case Megan Bellman would have passed. All of our skaters should be held to the same standard as someone testing FS 8-10. Also we ask that there should not be discussions between judges as to passing or failing an element. All we ask is for consistency and fairness among our judges and between panels of judges. There is

no perfect system for testing just like there is no perfect system for show try-outs. We believe it is a good, solid, & fair system.

Have a great Holiday and Thank You for the great job you are doing with our kids.

Bill Haggerty, Board President