

Quality figure skates with firm support in the ankles, and laces to the top are vital to success in the sport of figure skating.

We recommend purchasing skates for your skater around the Basic 2 level - but STRONGLY ENDORSE it by the time your skater is in Basic 6.

Figure Skates are strongly recommended for beginner skaters (especially skaters under the age of 6) – they have a flatter blade and require less core strength to stay standing than hockey skates do.

However, hockey skates are allowed in Learn to Skate classes up to Basic 6.

Double blade skates are not permitted for any classes.



Chicagoland Skating Pro Shops

Associates at these Pro Shops will be the most knowledgeable about the needs of your skater, and correct fitting.

Geppetto's Skate Shop

5501 Walnut Ave
(Inside Downers Grove Ice Arena)
Downers Grove, IL 60515

Rainbo Skate Shop

2665 Shermer Road
(at Willow Road between I-294 and I-94)
Northbrook, IL
(224) 803 - 3429

Ron's Skate Shop

1730 Pfingsten Rd
(Inside Northbrook Sports Center)
Northbrook, IL 60062
(847) 205 - 9595

670 Sports Shop

670 Lakeview Pkwy
(Inside Glacier Sports Center)
Vernon Hills, IL 60061
(847) 362-1222

MPSC Learn to Skate & Figure Skating Coordinator Kathy Janik

KJanik@MorganParkSportsCenter.net

773 - 945 - 6014



Figure Skate 'Buying Guide'

LOOKING TO
PURCHASE ICE SKATES
FOR YOUR SKATER?





Sizing

Skates tend to run **larger** than street shoes, so generally, adults and children should wear skates one size smaller than their shoes.

We understand that kids grow quickly, and you don't want to purchase skates every 6 months. But getting skates too big will cause blisters, and will likely cause them to trip or fall. It is suggested getting no bigger than 1 size up, to grow into.

Remember: Skating hurts your feet. It's unfortunately just a fact of the sport. The trick is making sure your feet hurt in the "right" places.

Assure that you have skates appropriate for your level, correctly fitted and tied properly.

The alternative would be to rent skates through MPSC for your skating classes. Skate rentals are \$3/per day.

Fitting

Proper fitting and lacing of skates is essential for support. Skate support (firmness) should be strong (not bendy) all the way to the top of the ankle. Skates should fit snugly, over a thin sock.

When putting on the skates, be sure the laces are very loose and socks are free of wrinkles. Once the foot is in, pull up the tongue firmly, and have the skater tap the ground with the back of their heel, to ensure their foot is as far back in the boot as possible.

When lacing the skates, tie as tightly as possible across the arch and around the ankle. Lacing should be secure, but not tight above the ankle. Never wrap laces around the ankle. If laces are long, wrap around the hooks more times.

Note Good figure skating boots will likely, even when fitted correctly, will hurt at first. Expect a "break-in" period. The leather needs to mold to the skaters foot, and that takes some time. The most common ache is in the arch of the foot, with usually some rubbing in the stiff ankle. New technology for some skates will allow to heat mold the boot to the skater's foot, which can help.

Suggested brands for beginners:
Jackson and Riedell

AVOID "LAKE PLACID" BRAND

Care

Skates must always be sharpened before the first use. You can drop them off at the MPSC front desk:
\$12 for new sharpenings
\$7 for each thereafter.

While in any skates, skaters should walk only on the rubber flooring, NEVER on the concrete. Skates are not allowed on concrete surfaces at any time, unless you are wearing Hard Guards over the blades. Hard guards are only for walking in, and should not be left on the skate blades in between each use.

Blades and sole of the boot should be wiped dry after each use. Moisture left on the blades may cause rust and affect the quality of the edges. To avoid rusting, skates should be kept in soft "soakers" made of terrycloth material to absorb moisture.

When skates are at home, open up the bag they are kept in, and open up the boots to allow for air flow.

Keeping them zipped up will retain moisture, and cause them to smell.

