



## Session



## Evaluations

Session evaluations are a very important part of the Learn to Skate USA program. It is important to remember that the purpose of these evaluations is not see which skater is better than another skater, or to see who can move through the levels faster. The purpose of this process is to see the accomplishments of an individual skater through the session, and to see if that skater has mastered the skill set that has been established for that level. Only after the skater has mastered all the skills in the level that they are working on, can they move up to a different level.

Evaluations will be held on the last Sunday lesson of each session. This is being done for multiple reasons. During the session, your child's instructor has taught them the different moves in the level, and how to do them properly and safely. The evaluations let the instructors and skating supervisor know if the skater has mastered the skills. It also lets the club board know how the instructors are doing teaching the various levels. The evaluations help the skating supervisor place the skaters in the correct level for the start of the next session.

On the Sunday of evaluations, all skaters will receive their group lessons first, and evaluations to follow. Evaluations will be performed by qualified evaluators on a one to one basis. If time permits, buddy lessons or individual lesson may follow, but we must be off the ice at the normal time. Parents are welcome to watch the evaluations from the bleachers or the warming areas. Parents will not be allowed to stand around the glass, as this may cause a distraction to the skaters that are being evaluated. If any parent is causing a distraction, they will be asked to leave the arena until evaluations are finished.

The evaluations forms that we will be using are called Report Cards, and they are provided to us by the Learn to Skate USA organization. The evaluators will be filling out two identical forms. One copy is recorded in the DEFSC Testing Records and Learn to Skate USA website, and then kept in the club files. The other copy is given to the skater at the conclusion of skating. Please make sure your skater received her report card before they leave the rink.

As parents, it is always difficult to see your child not master a specific level on the first try, or have them not move up as quickly through the levels as other skaters. We must remember that the skater is not being judge against the other skaters in the level; they are being evaluated against standards that are set by the Learn to Skate USA organization, not by this club. It is the

clubs responsibility to teach the skaters these skills. It is our job as parents to encourage your skater to accept the results of evaluations, and if they did not pass to the next level, help them to see what they did not master, and to look forward to the next evaluation session. You are the most important person to help your child through this process. If you do not think your child is ready to be evaluated at the end of the session, please contact the testing coordinator or skating director prior to the day of evaluations.

For skaters, evaluations can be a very stressful and anxious time. Remember, you need to master all the skills in your level before you can move on to the next level. If all these skills are not mastered, you will not have the groundwork set to learn new skills in the next level. Every building starts with a good foundation, and you had to learn how to walk before you could run. Even some of the best skaters in this club did not pass some of the basic levels the first or second time, but they kept on practicing towards the end goal of being the best skater that they could be. If you do not pass a certain skill, it doesn't mean you need to start back at the lowest level, it means you just need to focus on the skills you did not master and keep practicing. So, relax, have fun, and do the best job you can do!

Please watch the calendar on the DEFSC website for the evaluation dates, and which levels are being evaluated. If your skater is not planning to be there on the day of evaluations, please contact the testing coordinator prior to the day of evaluations, so arrangement can be made to do the evaluation on a different day. All skaters must be evaluated during that last week of the session, so they can be placed in the correct level at the start of the next session. It is very disruptive to the classes to be moving skaters around after a session has started.

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