

Theatre On Ice: From Basic Skills to Senior

What is it?

Theatre on Ice (TOI) combines the grace of figure skating with the drama and excitement of theater and dance. TOI teams consist of eight to 30 skaters that utilize compelling choreography to compliment original theatrical sets and props to convey a musical theme. Theatre On Ice positions the concepts of fun, creativity, family, and the focus of skating at the core of the discipline. This core composition improves the overall quality of skating for participants as the members involved work conscientiously on edge quality, skating skills and expression.

The growth opportunities for skating programs and figure skating clubs offering a Theatre On Ice Program are not only limitless, but also result in the joy and continued participation of athletes at all levels, ages, and abilities.

Who will love it?

There is a place for every skater in the Theatre on Ice “pipeline”, from the beginner skater just learning bunny hops and waltz jumps to the seasoned competitor performing triple jumps, to the ice dancers and synchro skaters; as all aspects of figure skating are included in Theatre on Ice.

There are several TOI teams and TOI competitions around the country. Skaters, both competitive and noncompetitive, can learn and grow on a Theatre On Ice team. Best of all, a team can draw club skaters together and increase club spirit.

Membership:

Participating TOI skaters should be current members of U.S. Figure Skating; either as a Basic Skills member or full members of their local figure skating club. TOI teams must be registered as a current TOI team with U.S. Figure Skating annually.

Setting up a Basic Skills TOI 1-4 program:

Each Basic Skills Program or figure skating club wishing to offer Theatre on Ice as a program option will need to tailor their curriculum to suit their individual needs, ice time availability and skating proficiency of participants.

Currently there is a Basic Skills Curriculum for Theatre on Ice, TOI 1-4. This curriculum is a wonderful way to introduce TOI to figure skating clubs and Basic Skills Programs. TOI 1-4 does not teach skating skills; therefore skaters are encouraged to continue with their current Basic Skills classes and/or private lessons. This continuance of classes will help with skater retention as well as club finances.

Setting up a TOI program in your club is a fun and exiting way to involve your existing club members while in the process of attracting new members. The Basic Skills curriculum for TOI is recommended for skaters Basic 4 and above; therefore it is beneficial to offer the TOI class during the class time for your Snowplow Sam through Basic 3 skaters in order to help keep skaters enrolled in their current Basic Skills or Free Style class. It is often helpful to offer a free trial class for first time TOI skaters or offer the TOI class at a reduced price to skaters who are currently enrolled in another class at your



club. If there is a Theatre on Ice team in your rink, or your area, invite them to perform at your class or open house as a means to further awareness of this program and long term competitive opportunities available through involvement with TOI.

What Happens After Completing the Basic Skills Program?

Once you have established a Basic Skills TOI 1-4 program in your club, you have created a feeder program for mainstream Theatre on Ice teams at the levels of Preliminary, Novice, Junior, Senior and Adult.

Oversight and Operation of a TOI team

Following the decision to begin a TOI team at your club, a committee should be formed to oversee the team and a team manager should be chosen. The committee and team manger will be responsible for selecting a coaching staff, fundraising, arranging ice time, making or obtaining costumes and sets, setting and enforcing team policies and rules, setting and collecting fees, making arrangements for team travel, exhibitions and competitions, and acting as a liaison between the parents, club, and the coaches.

Teams must be registered and pay an annual registration fee to U.S. Figure Skating. All members of a team must be U.S. Figure Skating members. Therefore this is an opportunity to grow and retain club members. Your club may want to implement a special membership for Theatre on Ice team skaters who have memberships at other clubs. All levels and ages of skaters may be incorporated together into one team.

General Information:

Skaters at the Basic Skills levels should be encouraged to continue participating in Basic Skills classes as a means to further develop their skating skills and aid in their participation on a TOI team.

The fees for participation on TOI Team may be higher than TOI group lesson fees due to the increased amount of ice time and coaches fees that apply to TOI teams. It is helpful to secure coaches with experience in theatrical skating or have experience in the choreography aspect of skating. Once that is established, it is beneficial to include a mix of Basic Skills staff and Club professionals to instruct within the TOI program and help market the program benefits included within Theatre On Ice.

Resources:

To find more information on:

- Starting a Theatre On Ice program
- Applying for membership
- TOI terminology
- Basic Skills TOI
- Upcoming events

Visit www.usfigureskating.org, click “Programs” and then “Theatre On Ice,” or contact Brenda Glidewell, U.S. Figure Skating programs manager, at bglidewell@usfigureskating.org or 719.635.5200 ext. 436.

