

# BUYING SKATES

## Choosing the right ice skates

Deciding on which ice-based activity you wish to pursue, figure skating or hockey, is the first step. Each ice-skating discipline has its own individual skate requirements which you need to be aware of before buying. Please note: For younger beginner hockey skaters (age 3,4,5), we recommend starting in figure skates because they are easier to learn on. Once your skater can skate with confidence, or grows out of that skate, then switch over to hockey skates.

## Figure skates

Figure skating requires performers to carry out jumps, spins and quick turns in highly choreographed combinations. Figure skating blades should be very sharp to match the performer's need for accuracy. Each blade runs along the base of a boot, and is complemented by a toe-pick at the front, allowing for easier jumping and spinning. As your skater progresses, they will require a stronger ice skate and better blade to learn new difficult elements and beginner jumps and spins.

## Ice hockey skates

While figure skates are built for speed and grace, ice hockey skates are shaped to withstand the physical pressures of an intense high-contact sport. Ice hockey boots are not designed to fit the competitor's ankles as snugly as figure skates. Instead, they are flatter and more slender, with no toe-pick at the front of the blade and a rounded back of the blade. Ice hockey skates are lighter than figure skates, but offer more support to the feet.

## Buying the best-fitting pair of ice skates

The quality of your ice skate is essential for your skater's safety and progress. **Please do NOT buy ice skates from stores like Modells or Dicks Sporting Goods. Ice skates that resemble a ski boot or are expandable ice skates are NOT sufficient for a Learn to Skate class.** Please do not purchase skates online, as it is near impossible to get the correct size without professional advice. **Buy from a specialist store and seek expert advice.** They will size you properly, assure that the boot has the correct amount of support for your skater's height and weight, and they will sharpen the skates for you.

**We recommend: Jt Sports** is located at the Staten Island Skating Pavilion on the second floor of the Pavilion - 3080 Arthur Kill Road, SI NY 10309, (718) 605-5771.

Below is a chart of recommended skates for each Figure Skating level. A professional coach or specialty skate shop, may recommend that your skater get a higher or lower level boot depending on your skater's height and weight.

**Beginners, Basic 1, Basic 2 & Basic 3 Younger**

Riedell Opal or Jackson 150

**Beginners Basic 1, Basic 2 & Basic 3 Older**

Jackson 150 or Jackson 450

**Basic 4, Basic 5, Basic 6 & Pre-freeskate**

Jackson Excel, Jackson 450 or Jackson Mystique

**Bridge Class**

Jackson Mystique, Jackson Artiste, Jackson Elle, Jackson Freestyle