

Risk Assessment – Ice Skating

Area of Operation: ice skating

Who is at risk?

- Staff
- Students
- Members of the public

Hazards	Risks	Safety Measures to Control Risks
Slips, Trips, and Falls	Risk of injury from falls on the ice, leading to bruises, sprains, or fractures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ RAISE-AP staff check that all skaters are wearing gloves. ○ Provide a briefing on proper skating techniques. ○ Staff position themselves around the rink to monitor and assist with falls.
Inexperienced Skaters	Risk of falls or collisions due to lack of experience or skill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Staff assess each child's experience level and group beginners together for closer supervision. ○ Encourage students to hold onto the rink railing when they begin, if necessary. ○ Staff provide additional support and guidance to beginners, teaching them basic skills like balancing and stopping.
Collisions with Other Skaters	Risk of injury from colliding with other skaters on the rink	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Staff instruct students to skate at a safe speed and keep a safe distance from others. ○ Implement a buddy system, encouraging pairs to stay close and watch out for each other. ○ Position staff on the rink to observe and assist in avoiding collisions.
Cuts from Skate Blades	Risk of cuts or abrasions from skate blades if skaters fall or mishandle skates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Staff help students put on and remove skates properly to avoid contact with blades. ○ Remind students not to touch skate blades and to stay clear of others' feet while skating. ○ First aid supplies are readily available to treat minor cuts if needed.
Cold Weather Conditions (Indoor or Outdoor Rinks)	Risk of hypothermia or discomfort due to cold exposure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ensure all students are dressed appropriately for the cold, with warm layers, hats, and gloves. ○ Monitor students for signs of cold-related discomfort, encouraging breaks to warm up as needed. ○ Staff bring extra gloves and warm clothing for students who may need additional layers.

Hazards	Risks	Safety Measures to Control Risks
Students's Potential Behavioural Issues	Risk of unsafe behaviour on the ice, such as excessive speed or rough play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff brief students on behavioural expectations, including staying calm and respectful of other skaters. Closely supervise to address any potentially unsafe behaviours quickly. Use positive reinforcement to encourage safe and cooperative skating.
Inappropriate Footwear	Risk of discomfort or blisters from poorly fitted skates, increasing fall risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff assist students with skate fitting, ensuring each child has the correct size. Advise students to wear thick socks to reduce friction and increase comfort.
Fatigue or Overexertion	Risk of falls or reduced control due to exhaustion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff monitor each child's energy level, encouraging breaks to prevent fatigue. Schedule short rest periods, providing water and seating if needed. - Watch for signs of tiredness and assist students off the ice if they appear fatigued.
Separation from Group	Risk of students becoming separated from the group in a busy ice-skating environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff implement a buddy system, ensuring students stay with a partner. Conduct regular headcounts before, during, and after the session. - Staff position themselves strategically around the rink to observe and assist students, ensuring group cohesion.
Use of Public Toilets	Risk of separation from the group or interactions with strangers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RAISE-AP staff accompany students to public toilets as needed, ensuring privacy and supervision. Set a designated meeting point outside toilets to prevent separation, explaining regrouping protocols to students.
Interaction with Members of the Public	Risk of unsupervised or unwanted interactions, leading to potential safety concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff brief students on expected behaviour around the public, emphasizing staying close to the group. RAISE-AP staff supervise closely to prevent unnecessary or risky interactions. Maintain a high staff-to-child ratio, allowing prompt intervention if needed.
Emergency Situations	Risk of confusion or delayed response in an emergency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff review the rink's emergency procedures before the activity begins and ensure mobile phones are on hand for quick contact. - Designate a safe meeting point and brief students on what to do in case of an emergency. Ensure a first aid kit is readily accessible and staff are trained in basic first aid.

To be read in conjunction with the following:

- Student's Risk Assessments
- Participant Consent / Medical Information
- Emergency Action Plan Flow-Chart
- Ice Rink Specific Rules and Regulations

Reviewed: September 2025

Approved by: **RAISE-AP** Educational Directors, September 2025

Next Review Date: September 2027