

Important Dates

Test Application Deadline	Fri., Jan. 28
Test Session	Sun., Feb.12
Board Nominations Due	Sat., Feb 25
Exhibition & Banquet / Annual Meeting	Sun, Mar. 25
SCOB Competition	Sun, May 20

Winter

Skater's Spotlight: Nicole Mormelo



Age: 10

Grade: 5

Hometown: Bridgewater

Skating Level: Preliminary Test

Favorites: Skating, spending time playing with family & friends, playing video games

Skating Skill: Illusion

Favorite food: Chinese food

Favorite school subject: Math

Favorite vacation: Disney

Other interests: Gymnastics, riding my quad, hanging out with friends, going to the beach

Skating Advice: Don't ever give up! If you fall, get right back up and do it all over again! You'll get it!

Brrrr! It's Cold!
It must be time
to skate!

What's Happening?

I hope that everyone had a happy and healthy holidays and new year! It is beginning of the new year but the middle of the skating season. The Skating Club has a lot going on and needs everyone's assistance to make it successful.

Please see the important dates section of this newsletter. Dana will be in touch for volunteers for each of these events. It is easier if people can assist if they are going to be at an event anyway. The more people, the easier it is.

I am happy to announce that Marie Mormelo will be joining Jen Larkin working on the testing sessions. Thank you Marie for volunteering. The Board, and especially Jen, appreciate you assistance with making such a big job easier. The next test session is Sunday, Feb. 12, from 8:30 - 12:10pm and 1:00-2:40pm. We have 3 Gold level judges for Moves, Free Skating and Dance. The deadline for applications is Friday, January 28. Please get your applications in early to make sure you get into the test session.

The Board would like to be able to start fundraising for specific purposes to benefit the club. Some ideas are to bring in clinics, buying a bigger bulleting board (since it is so successful, we can't fit everything on it!), a test accomplishment board for all skaters who pass their tests and we are open to other ideas. However, in order to do this, we need to form a Fundraising Committee. Please let Dana or myself know if you are interested in being on the committee. We would like to start fundraising this spring at our Competition by selling items at our Club table. We are open to many ideas. Please feel free to suggest them or send an email to any board member.

It is that time of year again where we are having nominations for the entire Board. The nominations form will be coming out soon. Please keep on eye on your mail and submit the forms by Feb 25. Please consider running. However, if you rather participate or lead a Committee please feel free to discuss these options with the Board too. The more volunteers we have, the easier everything becomes!

We have posted a Recognition form on the website. If you would like any accomplishments posted, please submit this form and/or pictures to juliacheng@gmail.com. We cannot keep track of every event, so please submit anything you would like posted. Please keep checking the bulletin board and website for new information for upcoming events and news.

Happy Skating! See you all around the rink.

Andrea Samson

Just Say NO to Solicitation and Tampering

"Soliciting destroys skaters, clubs, and rink programs. If soliciting is going on in your area, the good coaches, parents and skaters must band together to stop it. Every skater has the right to believe his/her coach is the best and should not be interfered with by a high-pressure, fast-talking snake of an oil-salesman who promises stardom, but by his own action, lacks the very qualities needed to develop championship caliber skaters. The soliciting coach always loses in the end. Don't be the next victim." (Bob Mock, "Just Say NO to Solicitation")

Promotion: Done Publically. Publically advertising credentials, abilities, accomplishments, credentials.

Example: A coach promoting their background and credentials.

Solicitation: Done behind the scenes, one-on-one not in a public forum. It can be done directly, indirectly, by a 3rd party on behalf of a or by rink management favoring a coach and in any medium (email, talking, letter, social media, telephone, etc.)

Examples:

Directly approaching a parent (or child) stating:

- "I could take your child further (to the Olympics, etc.)"
- "I am much more qualified than _____ is"
- "Join our program. That other program isn't very good"
- "We'll give your child free lessons, ice time, equipment, etc."

Indirect approach:

- Being too friendly to the skater (hugs, offering assistance with skills on the side);
- ego boosting ("You did great today")

3rd Party Approach (It is ok to encourage and help instill positive feedback, but when it is excessive, it crosses the line)

- Parents in the stands talking and convincing other parents to switch their skater to the "better" coach.
- Skaters in dressing rooms, on the ice or out in the rink, persuading another skater to become part of "the group of good skaters."
- Coach's spouse talking to parents both in and out of the rink. "My husband/wife could do so much more for your child."
- Sponsorships. "We (business) will sponsor your child, but only if they take from _____ or only skates at _____ rink."

Tampering: Done to influence something corruptly or influence somebody or affect the outcome of something.

Example: Helping someone else's skater by offering a suggestion that might improve their skating

Stopping solicitation from occurring is critical to have a comfortable environment in your rink and applies to all skaters in any rink.

If you witness any form of solicitation, it is your obligation to

- Tell your coach immediately
- Notify your rink manager or club president
- Avoid soliciting coaches for your own best interest
- Document what you have seen and/or hear. Include dates, times (if possible), method, parties involved and what occurred)

It is possible to remain anonymous when reporting solicitation. Document as suggested and report it immediately. The coach, manager, or president should investigate the report and follow necessary procedure while maintaining your confidentiality.