

ABC's of Outdoor Rink Maintenance

Alcohol is forbidden at all ice rinks.

Benches should be provided for resting.

Cracks, frost boils and chopped up surfaces must be repaired immediately.

Document all inspections, repairs and maintenance.

Even surface preparation in the fall makes for a better skating surface in the winter.

Flood the rink as often as needed when weather permits applying light sprays of water.

Garbage containers should be provided or else the ice rink will become the container.

Hockey should not be allowed during public or open skating.

Ice shavings may contain bodily fluids; dispose of accordingly.

Justify your rules to the public in terms of safety and legislation.

Know what the different colours of natural ice mean (blue, white, grey).

Lights must be in working condition and should point towards the ice surface.

Maintain adequate water supply and equipment at all rinks.

No food or drink on the ice.

Only maintained ice is safe ice.

Parking should be provided for users.

Quick response to any reports of unsafe conditions can prevent injury.

Rules should be posted on signs, websites and in newspapers.

Signage should advise when the ice is OPEN and when the ice is CLOSED.

Trucks are not the preferred method of cleaning snow.

Users of the rink should be encouraged to report problems with the ice.

Volunteers are crucial for any outdoor ice rink program.

Wearing of helmets by all skaters is recommended.

X'plain your policies, procedures and incident reporting protocol to volunteers.

You should train your volunteers as if they were your own employees.

Zero-tolerance to horseplay on the ice.

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