

# Berkley Royal Blades Figure Skating Club



## Membership Information



**Come skate with us!**

# Why join the Berkley Royal Blades Figure Skating Club?



As the parent or guardian of a Learn-to-Skate participant, you may wonder – why should my skater join the Berkley Royal Blades? Is my skater ready? How much will it cost? We hope that this information will help answer many of your questions!

## **Why should a skater join the Berkley Royal Blades?**

Skaters join a club for a variety of reasons, including a desire to develop additional skills, test into higher levels, to compete in local and regional skating competitions, and to be with others who have the same interest in figure skating! Transition from Learn-to-Skate is a natural progression for skaters who wish to continue to improve their skills by learning “one-on-one” with a private teacher (coach). The Berkley Royal Blades Figure Skating Club offers a friendly atmosphere, where club members cheer each other on for their accomplishments, and members enjoy both the sport of figure skating and spending time with one another. While many members choose to compete, competition is not a requirement!

## **Who is eligible to join the Berkley Royal Blades?**

Any skater who has passed the United States Figure Skating’s Basic 5 level in a Learn-to-Skate program is eligible to join!

## **When is the best time of the year to become a member of the Berkley Royal Blades?**

The best time to begin is at the beginning of the skating season. Choosing and registering for ice time takes place in mid-August each year. The skating season runs from late August through late April each year. However, a skater can join the club at any time during the season!

## **What is the difference between Learn-to-Skate and club lessons?**

The “Learn-to-Skate” program at Berkley teaches the fundamental elements of figure skating during group lessons taught weekdays and weekends on the studio ice at the Berkley Ice Arena. The program is operated by the city of Berkley. Several of the Learn-to-Skate teachers are also coaches for the Berkley Royal Blades Figure Skating Club.

The Berkley Royal Blades Figure Skating Club is a private, non-profit corporation that is not governed or controlled by the city of Berkley. Founded in 1975, the club has members ranging in age from 5 to 50. The Berkley Royal Blades FSC contracts with the city of Berkley for ice time on the main ice. Club ice hours are scheduled in 50 to 60 minute sessions during the late afternoon and early evenings on weekdays. Club members, in turn,

“buy” this ice time from the club. Instead of group lessons, club members retain a private coach to teach them individually during club ice hours. A skater’s lesson time can range from 15 minutes to the entire session, depending on what arrangements have been made with the coach; a club skater typically spends ½ hour with a coach a week. Multiple club members skate on the main ice surface during each session of club ice time. While some club members are taking private lessons with their individual coach, others are using the ice for practice without their coach.

Now that you know how these two programs differ, should also know what is not different -- ----- virtually all Berkley Royal Blades members skate in the annual Berkley Ice Show at the end of each season.

### **How do skaters select a coach?**

The Berkley Royal Blades have a number of coaches affiliated with the club. Their credentials and hourly rates vary, and depend upon their own skating careers. Sometimes a skater will choose a coach who taught them in their Learn-to-Skate lessons. Other skaters choose a coach who acted as the choreographer during for their Ice Show group number. The easiest way to get started is to observe the coaches and their students during Ice Show rehearsals or any one of the club ice sessions. Parents and skaters should also feel free to ask other skaters and parents who they might recommend.

***Coaches teach year-round so if you are unable to observe a lesson at Berkley before the end of fall/winter ice, a call to these coaches will let you know where you can see them during the summer!***

This is a list of coaches who teach members of the Berkley Royal Blades. Coaching fees are established by the individual coaches and should be requested from the coach directly.

**Christa Berger** - 248-582-8285 or cbsk8rz@sbcglobal.net  
Credentials: ISI Freestyle 7 (Intermediate level equivalent), 3rd Figure, ISI Nationals Silver Medalist  
Ratings: Basic Written and Sport Science Accreditation.  
Accepting New Students: Yes

**Lisa Bradley** - 586-531-5988 or lisaandgordy@comcast.net  
Member - Professional Skaters Association  
Coaching - 7 years  
Credentials: Intermediate Freestyle, Senior Moves, Silver Dances, 3rd Figure. 1998 Regional Silver Medalist, 2000-2001 Midwestern Competitor and 1997 Adult National Competitor, and 1999 Adult National Pewter Medalist.  
Ratings: Basic Accreditation. PSA Registered and Certified Sport Science & Medicine.  
Accepting New Students: Based upon availability

**Cathy Fresia** - 248-544-3547 or cathyfresia@comcast.net  
Credentials: Preliminary/1st Figure, Pre-silver/Silver Dance, Coaches students only through Preliminary. PSA Basic Accreditation.  
Accepting New Students: Yes

**Carly Fuelling** - 248-840-4261 or carcarsk8@aim.com

Credentials: Senior Freestyle, Senior Moves, Pre-Bronze Dance, Regional Competitor

Accepting New Students: Yes

**Craig Joeright** - 248-535-4750 or cjtbird@yahoo.com

Credentials: 2000 Senior Pairs US National Bronze Medalist, 2004 Senior Pairs US

National Pewter Medalist, Seven Time National Competitor, Member of US Figure Skating International Team 1998-2004, Senior Freestyle, Senior Moves, Senior Pairs

Accepting New Students: Based upon availability

**Sandy Lyons** - 248-545-7105 or sarno11@yahoo.com

Credentials: Pre-Juvenile Freestyle, Intermediate Moves, Adult Silver Moves, Adult Bronze Freestyle, PSA Registered Rating in Group, Freestyle and Moves in the Field. 2002 & 2003

Top Ten at Adult Nationals Final Rounds (Bronze Level)

Accepting New Students: Yes

**Rebecca Magerovskiy** - 248-396-2578 or rebbie242002@yahoo.com

Credentials: Gold Dances, 2004 US Nationals - 9th place Senior Dance

Accepting New Students: Yes

**Jenni Martin** - 248-930-1219 or skatetink@wideopenwest.com

Credentials: Intermediate FS, Senior Moves, Regional Competitor

Accepting New Students: Yes

**Jon Robinson** – 505-920-0017 or skatenm@yahoo.com

Credentials: Jon is a sextuple gold medalist having passed the highest level of all six disciplines of figure skating: Moves-in-the-Field, Freestyle, Pairs, Figures, Ice Dance and Free Dance. 4-time USFS National Championships competitor in Senior Men. Principal skater with “Disney on Ice” for 1.5 years. Coached students to Junior Nationals in Juvenile Pairs and Intermediate Singles; also plays hockey and teaches hockey skills.

Accepting New Students: Yes

**Hope Winnie** - 248-546-2460

Ratings: Basic Written

Credentials: Senior Freestyle, Silver Dance, 6th Figure

Accepting New Students: Yes

### **Will skaters develop a program and skate to music?**

Many figure skaters, once they make the transition to the club, work with their individual coach to continue to develop the skills they learned in Basic Skills classes and to develop a “program”. This program may be used for competition, for exhibition, or just as a fun way to work on linking many skating elements together. The music chosen by the skater and coach is played over the arena sound system during the skater’s practice session. It’s always an exciting day the first time a skater dons the “orange vest” to skate to music!

**What are the annual ice and coaching expenses to skate as a club member?**

A skater's expenses vary depending upon how many sessions s/he chooses to skate, the hourly rate charged by skater's coach, and how much time is spent working with the coach.

For example, a new skater who contracts for one session of club ice a week would pay \$11/week. Multiplied by 30 weeks of the season, this skater's total ice bill would be \$330 per year. Ice bills are paid to the club monthly from August to March, so this skater's monthly payment to the club would be \$41.25. In addition, club members who spend time working with an individual coach (hourly rates currently range from \$30 to \$60/hr.) retain and pay their coaches directly. If the skater in our example worked with a coach charging \$36/hr. for 20 minutes of their weekly 50 minute session, the coaching cost would be \$12. When the ice and coaching expense is added in this example, the total is \$23 per week.

**I'm concerned that my skating expenses will increase significantly when I switch from the Learn- to- Skate program to the club. How will my expenses differ?**

This chart helps to illustrate the difference in expense between the Learn-to-Skate program and club membership.

Keep in mind that it is somewhat difficult to compare the cost of group instruction in the Learn-to-Skate program with the contracted club expense because in Learn-to-Skate, the instruction fee is included in the cost of the ice time and classes are only ½ hour long. You are comparing group instruction to an individual lesson with a coach.

<b>Expense</b>	<b>Learn-To-Skate</b>	<b>Berkley Royal Blades</b>
Hourly rate for ice time	- \$9.00 per half hour for non-Berkley residents (\$8.50 for residents). - Group lessons are ½ hour long; two classes would be needed to total one hour of ice time a week at a cost of \$18.	- After payment of the membership fee, the weekly cost of ice time is \$11 for one hour.
Instruction Fee	Group instruction included in the cost of the lesson.	Coaching fees range from \$30 - \$50 for a full hour of instruction. At an average rate of \$36 for an hour, a 20 minute lesson would cost \$12.
<b>Total for one hour of skating plus instruction</b>	<b>\$18.00</b>	<b>\$23.00</b>

**What types of membership are available to new members?**

The Berkley Royal Blades has two membership alternatives available to first year members. They are:

### **Introductory membership**

- Offers a reduced fee for the first year of club membership
- Skater may contract for any session the club offers (\$11 per session based on 2008/2009 season.)
- Skater may “drop-in” on any club session with available space. (\$12 per session based on 2008/2009 season.)
- For skaters who have passed USFSA Basic 5 level testing.
- Full membership voting privileges
- Available to first year members only
- Cost: \$115, includes \$40 USFSA membership.

### **Bridge membership**

- Level of membership intended for skaters who want to continue skating in the Berkley Learn to Skate program once a week while they “transition” to club membership. Skaters transitioning from Learn-to-Skate typically skate on one or two club sessions per week, while continuing the group Learn-to-Skate classes.
- To be eligible, skater must be currently enrolled in a Berkley Learn-to-Skate class.
- Skater may contract for any session the club offers (\$11 per session based on 2008/2009 season.)
- Skater may “drop-in” on any club session with available space. (\$12 per session based on 2008/2009 season.)
- For skaters who have passed USFSA Basic 5 level testing.
- Full voting privileges
- Available to first year members only
- Skaters may not test (other than LTS Basic Skills Testing) during their Bridge year.
- Cost: \$50, includes \$40 USFSA membership (pending board approval)

### **How can we learn more about the Berkley Royal Blades?**

Please contact Kate Griswold at (248) 583-7133 or email at [kgriswold@comcast.net](mailto:kgriswold@comcast.net). Better yet, skaters and their parents/guardians are encouraged to join us at our 2008/2009 club banquet and annual spring meeting on Tuesday, April 28th at 7:00pm in the Huntington Woods Recreational Center, located at 26325 Scotia. If you are able to attend, please contact Janice Steingold (phone 248-542-4350 or email [jmsteingold@yahoo.com](mailto:jmsteingold@yahoo.com)) in advance to let her know so that meal arrangements can be made.

### **We're ready to join! What should we do next?**

If you have already decided to join, you should definitely plan on attending the 2008/2009 banquet. Details are provided above. You'll have an opportunity to join the club at the meeting or you can sign up during the registration period in late-August. Please complete this form and mail it to Kate Griswold at 731 Tanglewood, Madison Heights, MI 48071 or email the information to her at [kgriswold@comcast.net](mailto:kgriswold@comcast.net). She will mail you a registration packet in August.

**REGISTRATION INFORMATION REQUEST FORM**

**Skater's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian email address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Skater's current USFS Basic Skills Level:** \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Kate Griswold  
731 Tanglewood,  
Madison Heights, MI 48071  
or email this information to Kate at [kgriswold@comcast.net](mailto:kgriswold@comcast.net).



*We look forward to having your skater as a club member!*