

MARCH/APRIL 2009

EDGE

The professional journal for the ice skating industry

SPECIAL INSERT
2009 ISI Ice Arena
Conference & Trade Show



ISI Celebrates 50 Years at *Walt Disney World*

Arena Profile
RDV Sportsplex Ice Den

Step-by-Step
Floor Retrofit

2009 ISI Rule Revisions

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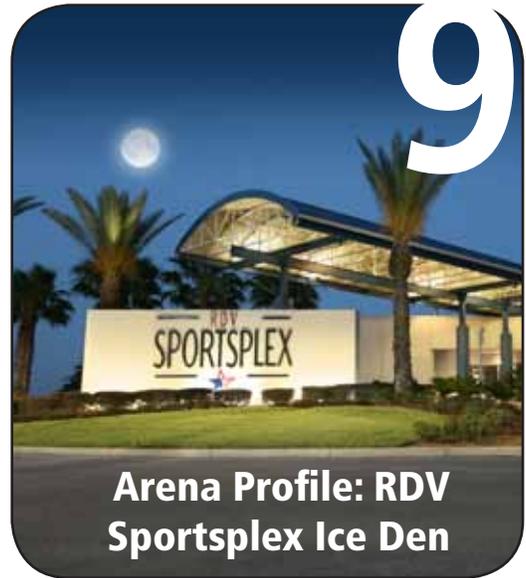
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Dedicated to providing leadership,
education and services to the
ice skating industry.

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Hooked on ISI!



Sean Flynn, CAO, CAM, CAP
*ISI Director of Management
Programs & Services*

When I first started working in an arena as a skate guard, I was more concerned about enjoying my job than learning about the business. All of that changed a few years later when I started teaching hockey skaters and got involved with our learn-to-play-hockey program.

My first experience with ISI was in 1998 at the District 8 instructor seminar. I was hooked. As I learned more about ISI, I was amazed to discover the broad scope of programs, services and benefits the Institute has created for our members, not to mention the value that membership offers for facilities and industry professionals. From *weSKATE*, the original national learn-to-skate program, to iAIM, the training program that has set the standard for industry certification, to affordable membership and insurance coverage, ISI covers all the bases — and then some. After participating in several conferences and iAIM schools, I wanted to become more involved in the Institute and its mission. In a short time I went from simply receiving benefits to helping present those same benefits. I had the opportunity to become an instructor at conferences, seminars and the iAIM schools. During this same period I was promoted to hockey director and then arena manager. I have always used the benefits that ISI provides in the facilities where I have worked, and I was excited to help spread the word of what ISI has to offer.

I was amazed to discover the broad scope of programs, services and benefits the Institute has created for our members.

I have had the opportunity to see how the Institute works firsthand, by serving on both the ISI board of directors and the iAIM board of regents. The people on these boards share a passion for the Institute as well as ice skating in general. They volunteer their time to make ISI the best association it can be. One of the things I most appreciate about ISI members is their willingness to share helpful ideas and information. Rather than viewing other facilities across the country as the competition, they want all ISI member facilities — and, as a result, the entire industry — to be successful.

My new position here at the national office gives me the opportunity to work with our members to help them maximize their many ISI benefits and use them to their full potential in their facilities. Additionally, it gives me the chance to meet prospective members and share information about the ISI resources designed to help their businesses grow and improve. I look forward to working with all of you and seeing you at our 50th Anniversary Conference and Trade Show in Orlando. ■



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Part 1

50 Reasons to Celebrate ISI



- 1** ISI is the original ice skating industry trade association.
- 2** Millions of skaters have learned to skate using the ISI program.
- 3** ISI encourages ice skating as recreation and a participant sport.
- 4** The annual ISI Ice Arena Conference & Trade Show offers a professional development opportunity to learn from industry leaders and peers from across the nation.
- 5** ISI programs are designed to drive business and encourage ongoing patronage.
- 6** ISI Administrative members enjoy access to the Institute's office resources.
- 7** Builder/Supplier members gain visibility with their target market through ISI publications and the annual trade show.
- 8** ISI has introduced new Open Freestyle tests and events, a revolutionary change that offers all skaters even more opportunities to participate.
- 9** ISI Administrative members benefit from access to all ISI programs as part of their membership or at member-only discounts.
- 10** ISI sends the message that ice skating is a lifelong sport, an approach that fosters enjoyment and fitness as well as business retention.
- 11** The ISI EDGE professional trade journal is published six times a year and mailed free to Professional, Administrative and Builder/Supplier members to keep them abreast of industry trends, tips, tools and techniques.
- 12** The emphasis is on FUN with ISI programs and events.
- 13** ISI is still the only independent national industry trade association.
- 14** ISI offers Professional members the best insurance rates and the most coverage in the business.
- 15** ISI's local, district, national and international recreational competitions are open to ALL ISI members.
- 16** Ice arena professionals can earn prestigious certification in management, operations and programming through the iAIM (Ice Arena Institute of Management) program.
- 17** ISI has introduced a new universal membership term for Professional and Individual members, which streamlines membership tracking for rinks, coaches, skaters and parents.
- 18** The ISIA Education Foundation has awarded nearly \$200,000 in scholarships to ISI skaters.
- 19** Excess accident and liability insurance coverage is included in ISI's low Individual membership fee.
- 20** ISI members are part of a large nationwide network of supportive peers who willingly share helpful information.
- 21** All ISI members have a voice in the association.
- 22** ISI created and continues to offer the original national learn-to-skate program.
- 23** The flexible, multi-faceted Administrative membership allows facilities to tailor their ISI program to suit their specific needs.
- 24** The ISI skating program teaches life skills, teamwork and sportsmanship.
- 25** ISI competition events are organized by age and ability to maintain a "level playing field."

To be continued ... Watch for Part 2 of "50 Reasons to Celebrate ISI" in the next issue of the EDGE.



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RDV Sportsplex ICE DEN

to Host ISI 50th Anniversary Skating Championships and Select Conference Sessions

by Dianne Powell

A sixth skating competition has been added to the 2009 ISI national event lineup, to celebrate and commemorate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Ice Skating Institute. The ISI 50th Anniversary Skating Championships will be held May 23-25 at the RDV Sportsplex Ice Den, home of the NBA's Orlando Magic, directly preceding the annual ISI Ice Arena Conference & Trade Show at the nearby Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando.

A full day of on- and off-ice conference sessions also will be held at RDV Sportsplex Ice Den on Wednesday, May 27.

The RDV Sportsplex Ice Den staff is experienced at hosting ISI events and looks forward to the ISI's 50th Anniversary Skating Championships, a spectacular event where skaters of all ages are invited to make their own magic on ice. All participants will receive a special commemorative 50th anniversary medal.

The Ice Den hosted the inaugural ISI Artistic Challenge in 2004, as well as numerous Spring Classic ISI competitions and a Monster Mash ISI competition. The facility also has played host to the U.S. Figure Skating Florida Open and the PSA Annual Conference.

■ Sports and wellness destination

The unique, world-class RDV Sportsplex offers a complete health, fitness, recreation and entertainment experience. Opened in 1998 as a joint venture between RDV Sports and Florida Hospital, the sprawling 365,000-square-foot, \$60 mil-

lion complex features: two ice surfaces, one NHL-size and one Olympic-size, with viewing space for more than 500 spectators; meeting rooms; locker facilities; a full-service athletic club; three swimming pools; basketball, racquetball, squash and tennis courts; a sports performance center; a pro shop; restaurants; a salon and spa; a childcare center; an arcade; a children's gym; medical and dental offices; rehabilitation services; and the corporate offices and training facilities for the Orlando Magic.

The RDV Sportsplex Athletic Club is equipped with more than 450 pieces of state-of-the-art cardiovascular and strength-training equipment and three group exercise studios devoted to strength and cardio, mind/body and cycling. As club members, skaters may cross-train and participate in group exercise classes, cardiovascular training, cold plunge and whirlpool.

The RDV Sportsplex Sports Performance Center is an 8,000-square-foot facility staffed by a team of sport performance enhancement specialists who prepare and train professional, amateur and recreational athletes. Ice Den skaters may participate in an off-ice program in the Sports Performance Center, where they have the opportunity to enroll in personal training or group instruction specifically geared toward figure skaters.

Florida Hospital operates a full-service rehabilitation department and Jewett Orthopedic Center services the Orlando Magic and the general public within the facility.

Continued on page 11

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Professional Hockey Tournament held in Downtown Montreal

The ISI connection

RDV Sportsplex Ice Den has been an ISI member since its opening in 1998.

“We believe the ISI learn-to-skate program provides the highest-quality curriculum, focusing on superior developmental skills in a positive, participation-based atmosphere. ISI provides a clear and concise structure for skaters of all ages and disciplines,” says B-j Shue, Ice Den skating programs team leader.

“We offer ISI learn-to-skate classes for skaters of all ages, including parent/tot classes, adult cardio classes and learn-to-skate synchronized skating classes,” Shue notes. “Our Academy class is a bridge program designed to assist skaters in Freestyle levels, introduce them to Moves in the Field, synchronized skating and the Freestyle dance step sequences, and focus on jump and spin techniques. We offer up to nine freestyle sessions daily with private instruction from PSA-rated instructors. We have two competitive ISI synchronized skating teams. Our skating school averages approximately 200 skaters in five eight-week sessions.”

Ice Den skaters are active in ISI-sanctioned events in singles, pairs, dance, couples and synchronized skating.

The arena’s 16-member coaching staff includes Olympic and World coach Don Laws, who has worked with Scott Hamilton, Michael Weiss, Daniel Duran and current Canadian men’s champion Patrick Chan.

The Ice Den is also home to hockey leagues and camps, daily public skating sessions and a busy party and event rental business.



“Public sessions are one of our most successful programs and feed all of our skating programs,” says Debby Kwasman, director of operations at RDV Sportsplex Ice Den.

Birthday parties are one way the Ice Den markets its programs, with brochures and coupons placed in goody bags, Kwasman adds. The Ice Den also offers field trips to school groups as an extension of its marketing efforts.

“Ice skating in Florida is still a novelty,” she says, “and we provide our community with an alternative to the typical recreational activities.”

To learn more about RDV Sportsplex and its programs, go to www.rdvsportsplex.com. ■

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The School of Ice Technologies is jointly hosted by the International Association of Assembly Managers Inc. and the Ice Skating Institute.





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ISI is celebrating 50 years of service to the ice skating industry, and that means it's your celebration, too! We're kicking off our anniversary year with an extra-special endorsement gift to current ISI Administrative members.

Apply for any ISI event (competition or show/exhibition) endorsement between January 1 and March 31 and receive a **50% OFF** coupon for your next endorsement application.*

**Limit one coupon per endorsement application.*

Endorsement application for discounted event must be received before Dec. 1, 2009, and must be used for an event of the same type.



Ice Skating Institute

Bloomington's

BIG Dig

A 37-year-old Minnesota ice rink undergoes a complete floor retrofit

by Andy Baltgalvis

Bloomington Ice Garden's (BIG) Rink 1, built in 1970, underwent a major renovation in 2007. The \$1.5 million reconstruction project included new concrete flooring, an energy-efficient refrigeration system, extended players' boxes, new hockey boards and postless glass.

The decision to renovate was prompted by concerns about the aging refrigeration system's reliability, the age of the pipes and possible leaks in the direct expansion system.

The original sand floor was equipped with a tile drain system. There was no subsoil heating installed to control frost penetration. At the time of the original construction, contractors were not aware of what would happen with the rink floor when the ice would be in year-round.

The Ice Garden was built in an area with a high water table. Within a year of operation, the rink showed signs of heaving. Steps were taken to control the heaving with forced heat through the drain tile. This was not successful.

After the first year of operation, the rink had heaved as much as 12 inches in some spots. At that time, the ice was taken out and the sand floor was re-leveled. This process continued annually for the next 10 years. By that time, the frost had penetrated the ground to the point where it was not heaving substantially on the surface. We closed every two years for minor leveling.

After 34 years of operation, the heaving was extremely noticeable around the outside perimeter of the hockey boards. The concrete had been pushed up, causing extensive damage to the boards.

Because of the many problems we had experienced over the years, we researched solutions for nearly a decade, consulting with engineers, contractors, suppliers and other arena operators about how to approach the project.

Soil samples taken in the summer of 2004 indicated a frost depth of 14 to 15 feet. But during the renovation process just three years later, we were surprised to find frost as deep as 30 feet. Several options for frost removal were considered. One possibility was to dig out the dirt and frost. This process proved too costly, and there were concerns about the ground conditions because of the water table and footings for the stands.

It was decided that the best way to remove the frost was to thaw it with unit heaters. Holes were drilled in the floor and filled with water to transfer the heat to the soil. Unit heaters were brought in with long hoses, which were placed in the holes. A heated glycol solution was circulated through the hoses to thaw the frost. The first holes were drilled 4 feet deep, but boring samples determined that deeper holes were needed to get the heat in the ground. More than 8 feet of soil was removed and holes as deep as 30 feet were bored. Eventually the floor temperature rose to almost 100 degrees, which helped evaporate any moisture remaining in the floor. The thawing process took four months.

This extended thawing time put us behind schedule, so after the new subfloor and rink slab were completed, we chose to do a "quick cure" on the cement. After pouring the floor, we built a 1-inch dam around the top of the rink and laid plastic followed by heating coils. We flooded it with water, topped it with thermal blankets and heated the slab to 110 degrees. This enabled us to cure the slab in three days, a process that requires 28 days at standard temperatures.

Our BIG dig started on April 15 and we opened the rink on Nov. 30. During that seven and a half months, the details of our project had generated national interest.

Funding for the project came from the city's capital improvement fund. The original cost for the project was \$920,000 for the refrigeration system and cement floor, and \$118,000 for the hockey boards. Additional frost removal totaled \$523,000, for a total final project cost of about \$1.5 million. The city of Bloomington hired Stevens Engineering to coordinate and oversee project estimates, construction and bid documents, and construction observation.

With our new concrete floor, we can now thaw the top layer of ice and use the space for other activities such as indoor fairs. We can also put down Astroturf and use the space for soccer and lacrosse games. The possibilities are endless!

Please turn the page for a step-by-step pictorial of our renovation project.

Andy Baltgalvis is the manager of Bloomington Ice Garden in Bloomington, Minn.

Continued on page 14

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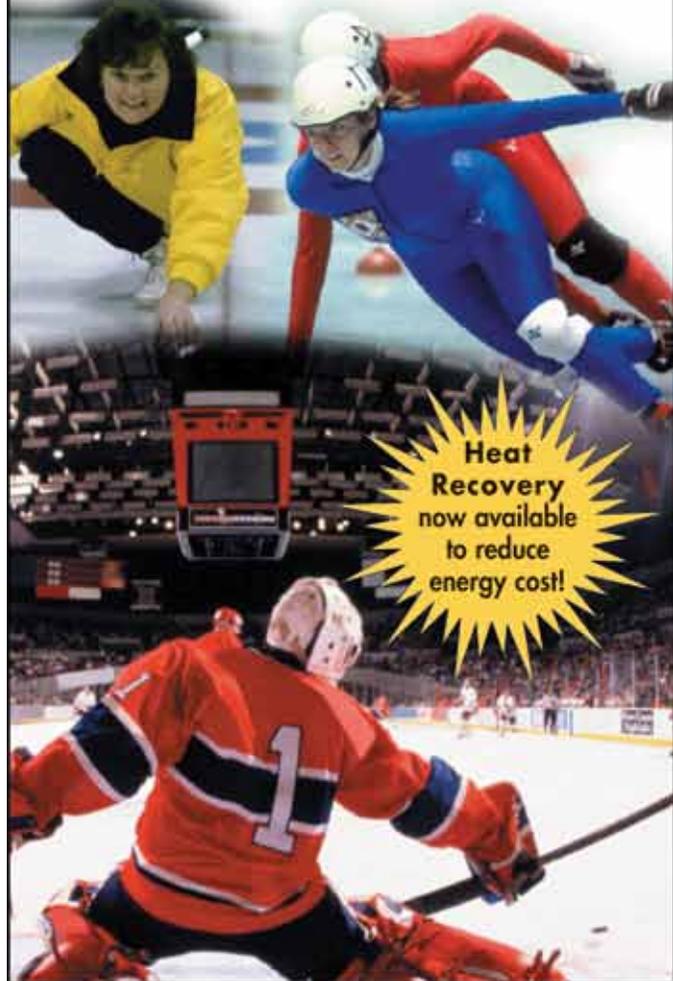
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Bloomington's **BIG Dig**

Continued from page 13



1 Bloomington Ice Garden (BIG) Manager Andy Baltgalvis explains the Rink 1 renovation to ISI conference attendees in May 2007.



2 Work begins. The old boards have been removed and the ice sheet is melting.



3 This drill can bore holes to help speed the thawing of frozen ground. After 37 years, the ground under the ice sheet is frozen solid many feet deep.



4 The holes being drilled here, approximately 4 feet apart, will be filled with heating hoses to thaw the soil.



5 This drill bores even deeper holes to reach the bottom of the frost penetration.



6 Heater hoses filled with glycol are placed into each hole. The holes are then filled with water to transfer the heat to the soil.



7 Ground heaters thaw the underground frost by heating the glycol that is being circulated.



8 Sleeves of corrugated tubing are used to prevent the holes from collapsing.



9 The rink has been dug to the 8-foot level to install geotextile fabric. The marks on the wall indicate where the subsoil drainage system will be installed.



10 The geotextile fabric is being installed. Its purpose is to help keep the soil from settling over time.



11 The soil above the geotextile fabric is being compacted.



12 New, energy-efficient refrigeration equipment replaces the aging equipment previously in place.

13



Here's a look at the subsoil heating system in front of the penalty box, along with the header pipes for the refrigeration system.

14



This subsoil heating system, equipped with a temperature sensor, will control future frost penetration.

15



The crew brings in and compacts dirt to bring the floor back up to grade.

16



Four inches of rigid foam insulation is installed to deter frost penetration.

17



Following insulation, a plastic vapor barrier, rebar and pipe chairs are installed prior to the refrigeration tubing.

18



Particular attention has been paid to the corners. Note the perimeter piping and rebar, and the dasher anchor sleeves.

19



When complete, the ice rink floor will contain about five miles of plastic tubing.

20



The new concrete floor is poured. The man on the left uses a pencil vibrator to ensure that the concrete fills any voids.

21



The pour continues. In the foreground, a laser-guided leveling machine ensures a level floor.

22



Here's a closer look at the laser-guided leveler. Its sensors raise and lower the unit to bring the entire floor to within a quarter-inch of perfectly level.

23



The well-coordinated concrete pour moves quickly. After only four hours, the end is in sight.

24



The finished product is put to the test.



ISI Judge Certification Tests

Congratulations to the following instructors who have recently passed ISI judge certification tests.

GOLD

Diana Erickson
Gianna Goode
Amanda Holmes
Meegan Johnson
Krystal Kane
Jaclyn Lewis
Amy Niewiadomski
Lauren O'Rourke
Jordan Stroh
Terry Tunks
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-Mark Zito, Stamford Twin Rinks

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-Darin Mathewson, Pickwick Ice Center

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-Kyle Wintermute, Sprinker Recreation Center



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Coaches' Corner

by **Randy Winship**
ISI Director of Skating
Programs & Events

We're on a Roll!

We hope you are excited about our 50th Anniversary celebration! We've received many positive responses to our new Open Freestyle tests and events. We hope this new addition will be beneficial in helping all skaters participate in more ISI competition events.

Along with that new development, we have also recently announced the 2009 Rule Revisions (see page 20). These changes are optional until May 1 and mandatory for all ISI competition events after that date.

Please be sure to take a look at the following revision pages, as some duration times and maneuver limitations have changed for several ISI competition events. You can print these pages from our Web site to insert into your *2008 Skaters & Coaches Handbook*.

Even though some duration times have increased, it's still possible to use the same programs, since there is never any penalty for skating under the prescribed time. Because there is no "extra content" or technical score in these events, using a shorter program should not affect the judging of the program.

There also are some additional judging criteria that should be kept in mind when you prepare for the Synchronized Skating and Synchronized Formation team events after May 1.

If you have any questions about these revisions or the new Open Freestyle tests and events, please contact me at randy@skateisi.org.

Speaking of competitions and events, we hope you're planning to join us in Orlando in May for our 50th Anniversary Conference & Trade Show and our special anniversary competition event. This will be the national "debut" for our new Open Freestyle events!

Continued on page 20

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2009 ISI Rule Revisions

In addition to the new Open Freestyle tests and competition events, the following 2009 Revisions **are optional for ISI competitions after Jan. 1 and mandatory after May 1, 2009.**

Changes for 2009 noted in blue.

These new revisions will now make all of our competition events consistent within the same levels. With the announcement of our new Open Freestyle tests and competition events, these changes will also allow more crossover participation in more ISI competition events.

Please note: *Even though some duration times below have increased, it is still possible for all skaters to use their current program routines since there is never any penalty for skating under the prescribed event duration times.*

In the events below with a new longer duration time, there is no "extra content" or technical score, so using a shorter program for those events will not affect the judging of the program.

1. Skaters who have passed the USFS Juvenile Free Skate test can compete **no lower than ISI Freestyle 6 level.**
2. Skaters who have passed the USFS Adult Pre-Bronze Free Skate test can compete **no lower than ISI Freestyle 2 level.**

3. SOLO SPOTLIGHT divisions will be as follows:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Test Levels</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Maneuver Limitations</u>
Low	Tots - Delta	1.0	FS1 and below
Medium	Freestyle 1-3 / Open Bronze	1.5	FS4 and below
Intermediate	Freestyle 4-5 / Open Silver	1.5	FS6 and below
High	Freestyle 6-10 / Open Gold / Open Platinum	2.0	Any maneuvers

4. COUPLES SPOTLIGHT divisions will be as follows:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Test Levels</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Maneuver Limitations</u>
Low	Tots - Delta	1.0	FS1 and below
Medium	Freestyle 1-3 / Open Bronze	1.0	FS4 and below
Intermediate	Freestyle 4-5 / Open Silver	1.5	FS6 and below
High	Freestyle 6-10 / Open Gold / Open Platinum	2.0	Any maneuvers

5. ARTISTIC EVENT divisions will be as follows:

<u>Test Levels</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Maneuver Limitations</u>
Freestyle 1-3 / Open Bronze	1.5	FS4 and below
Freestyle 4-5 / Open Silver	1.5	FS6 and below
Freestyle 6-10 / Open Gold / Open Platinum	2.0	Any maneuvers

6. RHYTHMIC SKATING EVENT divisions will be as follows:

<u>Test Levels</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Maneuver Limitations</u>
Freestyle 1-3 / Open Bronze	1.0	FS4 and below
Freestyle 4-5 / Open Silver	1.5	FS6 and below
Freestyle 6-10 / Open Gold / Open Platinum	2.0	Any maneuvers

7. INTERPRETIVE EVENTS – the following maneuver limitations will apply:

<u>Test Levels</u>	<u>Maneuver Limitations</u>
Pre-Alpha - Delta	FS1 and below
Freestyle 1-3 / Open Bronze	FS4 and below
Freestyle 4-5 / Open Silver	FS6 and below
Freestyle 6-10 / Open Gold / Open Platinum	Any maneuvers

Continued on page 22

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8. Synchronized Skating and Synchronized Formation events – The 5 basic elements (Block, Circle, Line, Intersection and Wheel) will each be added in both events as a separate Judge Criteria score.

If more than one of the same element is skated during the routine, as for all other ISI competition events, the **best performance** will be used as the element score and the additional elements will be scored under Technical Merit or Correctness.

There are many variations of each element. The descriptions below are the minimum requirements. If performed well, adding features such as step sequences, changes of hold, changes of configuration, changes of rotation and traveling can increase the difficulty of the element.

Block: An element where skaters are arranged in a minimum of 3 lines. The lines may be a straight, diagonal, curved or circular pattern. The lines of skaters should be straight with all skaters evenly spaced.

Circle: The shape should be round with even spacing between the skaters. There should not be any pulling or tugging between skaters.

Line: The line can be skated in one straight line, parallel lines, diagonal lines, etc.

Intersection: Any element where one half of the team intersects the other half of the team. No backward spirals are allowed.

Wheel: An element where all of the skaters rotate around a common center point. It can be done in different formations including 2-, 3-, 4- and 5-spoke wheels and parallel wheels. All spokes of the wheel should be straight and the lean of the skaters should be in the same direction.

9. Synchronized Formation Compulsory events – Each element below is to be performed only one time, in any order. If performed more than once, as per all other ISI competition events, the **first performance will be scored. Extra elements can be performed but won't be judged. Vocal music is acceptable.**

Forward Line: Must be performed in shoulder hold to cover **at least half** of the ice surface and consist only of forward strokes or marching.

Forward Circle: No change from the previous requirement description.

Forward Two-Spoke Wheel: No change from the previous requirement description

Forward Block: Must be performed in shoulder hold covering **at least half** of the ice surface. Any forward skating steps may be performed; however, no additional moves such as arabesques, lunges, bunny hops, etc. are allowed.

10. Synchronized Skating Compulsory events – Each element below is to be performed only one time, in any order. If performed more than once, as per all other ISI competition events, the **first performance will be scored. Extra elements can be performed but won't be judged. Vocal music is acceptable.**

Line: No change from the previous requirement description.

Footwork Block: A block of at least three lines consisting of any skating steps and turns that covers the length of the ice. The block may change direction, and changes of hold are also permitted.

Circle: No change from the previous requirement description.

Wheel: No change from the previous requirement description.

Intersection: Any intersection or combination of intersections in which one half of the team moves through the other half of the team. If multiple intersections are performed, they must be continuous. Team members may perform different steps.

Continued on page 24

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2009 ISI Competition Events

TEST LEVELS	Artistic Duration	Artistic Maneuvers	Footwork Duration	Spotlight Duration	Spotlight Maneuvers
Tots	n/a	n/a	n/a	1.0	FS1 & below
Pre-Alpha	n/a	n/a	n/a	1.0	FS1 & below
Alpha	n/a	n/a	n/a	1.0	FS1 & below
Beta	n/a	n/a	n/a	1.0	FS1 & below
Gamma	n/a	n/a	n/a	1.0	FS1 & below
Delta	n/a	n/a	n/a	1.0	FS1 & below
FS 1	1.5	FS4 & below	1.0	1.5	FS4 & below
FS 2	1.5	FS4 & below	1.0	1.5	FS4 & below
FS 3	1.5	FS4 & below	1.0	1.5	FS4 & below
Open Bronze	1.5	FS4 & below	1.0	1.5	FS4 & below
FS 4	1.5	FS6 & below	1.0	1.5	FS6 & below
FS 5	1.5	FS6 & below	1.0	1.5	FS6 & below
Open Silver	1.5	FS6 & below	1.0	1.5	FS6 & below
Open Gold	2.0	Any maneuvers	1.0	2.0	Any maneuvers
FS 6	2.0	Any maneuvers	1.0	2.0	Any maneuvers
FS 7	2.0	Any maneuvers	1.0	2.0	Any maneuvers
FS 8	2.0	Any maneuvers	1.0	2.0	Any maneuvers
FS 9	2.0	Any maneuvers	1.0	2.0	Any maneuvers
FS 10	2.0	Any maneuvers	1.0	2.0	Any maneuvers
Open Platinum	2.0	Any maneuvers	1.0	2.0	Any maneuvers

TEST LEVELS	Rhythmic Duration	Rhythmic Maneuvers	Interpretive Maneuvers	Couple Spotlight Levels	Couple Spotlight Duration	Couple Spotlight Maneuvers
Tots	n/a	n/a	n/a	Low	1.0	FS1 & below
Pre-Alpha	n/a	n/a	FS1 & below	Low	1.0	FS1 & below
Alpha	n/a	n/a	FS1 & below	Low	1.0	FS1 & below
Beta	n/a	n/a	FS1 & below	Low	1.0	FS1 & below
Gamma	n/a	n/a	FS1 & below	Low	1.0	FS1 & below
Delta	n/a	n/a	FS1 & below	Low	1.0	FS1 & below
FS 1	1.0	FS4 & below	FS4 & below	Medium	1.0	FS4 & below
FS 2	1.0	FS4 & below	FS4 & below	Medium	1.0	FS4 & below
FS 3	1.0	FS4 & below	FS4 & below	Medium	1.0	FS4 & below
Open Bronze	1.0	FS4 & below	FS4 & below	Medium	1.0	FS4 & below
FS 4	1.5	FS6 & below	FS6 & below	Int.	1.5	FS6 & below
FS 5	1.5	FS6 & below	FS6 & below	Int.	1.5	FS6 & below
Open Silver	1.5	FS6 & below	FS6 & below	Int.	1.5	FS6 & below
Open Gold	2.0	Any maneuvers	Any maneuvers	High	2.0	Any maneuvers
FS 6	2.0	Any maneuvers	Any maneuvers	High	2.0	Any maneuvers
FS 7	2.0	Any maneuvers	Any maneuvers	High	2.0	Any maneuvers
FS 8	2.0	Any maneuvers	Any maneuvers	High	2.0	Any maneuvers
FS 9	2.0	Any maneuvers	Any maneuvers	High	2.0	Any maneuvers
FS 10	2.0	Any maneuvers	Any maneuvers	High	2.0	Any maneuvers
Open Platinum	2.0	Any maneuvers	Any maneuvers	High	2.0	Any maneuvers

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Seeing the Big Picture



An
Excerpt
from
*Positive Sports
Parenting*

by Jim Thompson

I have long been a fan of *The Family Circus* comic strip. Perhaps my favorite strip of all time features the family dog barking up a storm in the middle of the night. Dad, irritated that he's been awakened from a much-needed sleep, clomps down the stairs to yell at Barfy, who dutifully hangs his head. Dad

climbs back up the stairs while the cartoonist has a surprise for us. He pans back so we see in the far corner of the yard a burglar retreating.

We who see the "Big Picture" know Barfy has protected his family from a burglary. The dad, seeing only the "Little Picture," is angry at being disturbed.

This comic strip can serve as a metaphor for youth sports. Youth coaches and parents are often overwhelmed by so many Little Pictures filled with barking dogs that they miss the Big Picture entirely. How our children do in a sporting event is Little Picture. Whether they win or lose, play well or badly, laugh or whine after the game — all Little Picture.

What children take away from youth sports to help them become successful, contributing members of society is the Big Picture. Whether they remain physically active throughout life, learn to bounce back from difficulties with renewed determination, discover how to support other people within a team context — these are the Big Picture.

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The Big Picture and you

This book describes a model of sports parenting that focuses relentlessly on the Big Picture. We call it the “Second-Goal Parent.” There are two broad goals in youth sports: striving to win and building character so kids develop into successful, contributing members of society.

As important as winning is, Second-Goal Parents let coaches and athletes worry about the first goal of scoreboard results. Second-Goal Parents have a much more important role to play: ensuring their children take away from sports lessons that will help them be successful in life. Remember, that is the Big Picture. And attending to this is much more vital than being an extraneous back-seat coach.

Now, there is nothing wrong with caring about whether your child’s team wins or loses. Go ahead and care about it! Likewise, there’s nothing wrong with playing catch or shooting baskets or enjoying playing any sport with your child — or even giving pointers when your child asks for them.

But the lifelong impact you can have — that no one else can in quite the way you can — is on the life lessons your child takes away from the sports experience. No one can be there for your child in this way better than you. No one.

If you embrace your role as a Second-Goal Parent, it will transform the way you see youth sports. It will help you act to seize the teachable moments that will come your way again and again because you are looking for them.

What might have seemed like a disappointing loss or a failure by your child becomes an opportunity to reinforce resiliency. A tough competition in forbiddingly hot, cold or nasty weather can

prompt a conversation with your child about learning to enjoy challenges. Whether your child succeeds or fails on the playing field, you will be able to use the experiences to reinforce the kind of person you want him to be.

Honing a Second-Goal focus

Let’s say your child has just had an opportunity to make the winning play in a game and blew it. If you played the sport (and perhaps even if you didn’t), you may have suggestions for how the child could have made the play. We call this a “First-Goal focus” because it concentrates on helping your child do well on the scoreboard, which the larger sports culture always puts first.

My two decades of experience working with sports parents has taught me that First-Goal suggestions from parents are often not well received by their child. Athletes get so much coaching already — from coaches, from teammates, from the game itself. When parents add to this flood of coaching, it often overwhelms the child, like the proverbial straw that breaks the camel’s back.

Instead of being a back-seat coach, hone a Second-Goal focus with your child. Rather than obsessing about the skills and strategy of the game, engage your child around the life lessons from their experience.

Excerpted from Positive Sports Parenting: How ‘Second-Goal’ Parents Build Winners in Life Through Sports, the fifth book by Jim Thompson, founder and executive director of Positive Coaching Alliance. It is available for \$8.95 at www.positivecoach.org/store.

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Association Reports

Ice Rink Owners of California (IROC)

by Bert Blanchette, President



WOW! What a busy holiday season we all had here in southern California. The Christmas vacation for schools in Los Angeles was three full weeks long. Public session attendance was very good during the weekdays as well as the weekends.

Most SoCal arenas' skating school registrations are up over last year, as are new inquiries and enrollment in hockey programs.

I believe that recreation in general (including ice skating) is traditionally recession-proof, due to the need for escapism. I think that we as an industry lose some of the low/middle-income demographics, but they are replaced by the bottom of the high-income participants.

We are entering the year before the 2010 Winter Olympics, which will be here in our time zone, so we will be getting a lot of free ice skating publicity. We need to capture public skaters and convert them to regulars in learn-to-skate, hockey and other multi-visit activities in our facilities.

Wisconsin Ice Arena Management Association (WIAMA)

by John Wardman, 2nd Vice President



The Wisconsin Ice Arena Management Association is preparing for its 18th annual spring conference. This year's conference will be held April 22-24 at the Kalahari Resort and Conference Center in the Wisconsin Dells.

Wednesday starts with a golf scramble at Trappers Turn Golf Course, one of the area's popular attractions. Following are the golf awards and dinner social at the course. Thursday we start the day with our annual business meeting and board elections.

The educational portion of the conference will include a lunch presentation on customer service, followed by figure skating and management tracks in the afternoon. The fourth annual WIAMA hockey game or bowling match, a walking dinner trade show and a social will complete the day.

Friday's program includes updates from other industry organizations, a session on revenue streams and a wrap-up. For more information on the 18th Annual WIAMA Spring Conference, go to www.wiama.com.

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Minnesota Ice Arena Managers Association (MIAMA)

by Joseph M. Balzer, President



The most important letter in the alphabet for an ice arena or community center these days is “E,” as in economy (budget), energy and environment.

Economic conditions have affected nearly every part of our lives. Many facilities have been mandated to reduce staff costs and utility consumption. In addition, future budgets will be affected as the state of Minnesota wrestles with a budget deficit of around \$5 billion. Some cities and counties will receive reductions in state aid. In some cases, major budget cutbacks may result in service and staffing reductions and ice rental fee increases.

Harnessing energy consumption is an ongoing challenge. Current energy trends in the Midwest include geo thermal, LED lighting, timers for major components, reducing building temperatures, fluorescent lighting over the ice surface, additional insulating measures and utilizing peak energy cost reductions.

Facilities also must find ways to reduce their impact on the environment and set positive examples of good stewardship through practical, responsible measures.

These three “E” words work hand in hand. If facilities can find useful solutions to all of these concerns, a wonderful synergy can be created.

Metropolitan Ice Rink Managers Association (MIRMA)

by Lisa Fedick, Secretary



As another skating season comes to a close, MIRMA members owe a debt of gratitude to Mother Nature, or more specifically, Old Man Winter. Record-breaking, bone-chilling temperatures and abundant snow provided the perfect environment for families to rediscover ice sports. Many facilities in our area have enjoyed record attendance at public sessions from pond skaters taking it to the next level. With the countdown to the 2010 Winter Olympics, we have a great opportunity to retain these valuable customers.

The annual Riverdale Ice open competition, which was held at the Olympic Center in Lake Placid, N.Y., was a success, with Great Neck winning the Robert C. Kelton Memorial Trophy, awarded to the first-place team. We are looking forward to returning to Lake Placid in October for the ISI Adult Championships.

The Sixth Annual MIRMA ISI District 3 “Skate for Knowledge” Championships will be held April 4-5 at the Floyd Hall Arena in Little Falls, N.J. MIRMA has once again opened the scholarship competition, as well as the district champs, to all ISI members. Application materials are available at www.skateMIRMA.org.

District 3 members who have questions or comments for the ISI board may send them to me at LAFMIRMA@aol.com for presentation during the board meeting at conference in May. ■

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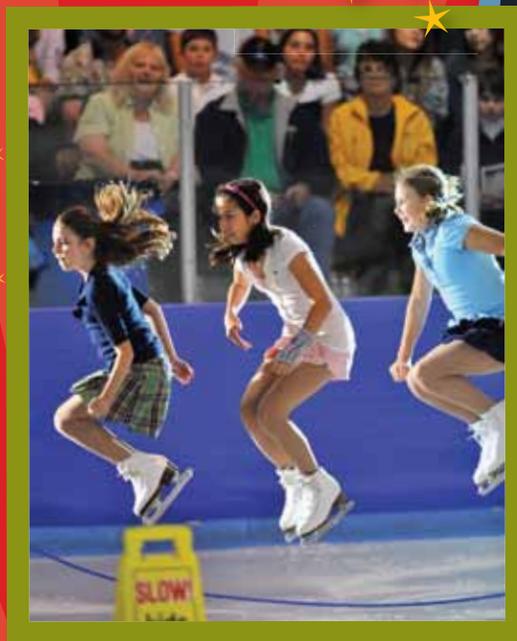
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For regular calendar updates, see www.skateisi.org,

Event Info

COMPETITIONS

MARCH

6-8 Park Ridge IL

Oakton Ice Arena
Ice Breaker Classic

7-8 Minneapolis MN

Parade Figure Skating Club
2009 Blades of March ISI Open
Competition

7-8 San Diego CA

San Diego Ice Arena
California State Games

7-8 Wasilla AK

Brett Memorial Ice Arena
Iditarod Days Skatfest

8 Montclair NJ

Montclair Inside Edge
23rd Annual ISI Team
Competition

8 College Park MD

Herbert Wells Ice Rink
Spring Invitational

13-15 Livonia MI

Livonia Eddie Edgar
Livonia ISI Open Competition

13-19 Vancouver WA

Mountain View Ice Arena
Shamrock Open

14 Pittsburgh PA

RMU Island Sports Center
9th Annual Shamrock Skate

14 Champaign IL

University of Illinois Ice Arena
Illini Ice Competition

14-15 Lewis Center OH

Chiller North
Chiller Spring Classic

14-15 Natick MA

FMC Ice Sports-Natick
38th Annual ISI Competition

14-15 Jefferson City MO

Washington Park Ice Arena
16th Annual ISI Capital City
Classic

20-22 Pleasant Prairie WI

Pleasant Prairie IcePlex
District 8 Team Championships

21-22 Fairview Heights IL

US Ice Sports Complex
8th Annual Spring Fling
Invitational

22 Dallas TX

Galleria Ice Skating Center
25th Annual State of Texas
ISI Team Competition

27-29 Riverside CA

Ice Town
Riverside Open

28-29 Peoria IL

Owens Recreation Center
Spring Thaw 2009

28-29 Yorktown VA

Hampton Roads IcePlex
2nd Annual Spring Fling

28-29 San Francisco CA

Yerba Buena Ice Skating Center
Golden Gate Skate

29 Franklin Park IL

Franklin Park Ice Arena
KICKLine Synchronized Skating
Competition

APRIL

3-5 Knoxville TN

Ice Chalet
40th Annual Robert Unger ISI
Competition

3-5 Tacoma WA

Sprinker Recreation Center
22nd Annual ISI Spring Fever
Team Competition

4-5 Anaheim CA

KHS Ice Arena
Jump Into Spring Annual ISI
Open Competition

4-5 Saratoga Springs NY

Saratoga Springs FSC
12th Annual Saratoga Springs
Invitational

4-5 Little Falls NJ

Floyd Hall Arena
District 3 Skate for Knowledge
Championships



17-19 Chicago IL

Arctic Ice Arena
ISI Synchronized
Championships

18 Delmont PA

Center Ice Arena
Golden Blades Championship

24-25 Boxborough MA

Nashoba Valley Olympia
Nashoba ISI Annual Skating
Competition

24-26 El Segundo CA

Toyota Sports Center
Spring Fling 2009

25-26 Franklin Park IL

Franklin Park Ice Arena
Spring Fever

25-26 San Mateo CA

Ice Center San Mateo
April Ambush

25-26 Reston VA

Blossom Skate 2009
SkateQuest

MAY

2-3 Fairfax VA

Fairfax Ice Arena
2009 Spring ISI Competition

23-24 San Diego CA

San Diego Ice Arena
San Diego ISI Open Competition



23-25 Orlando FL

RDV Sportsplex Ice Den
ISI 50th Anniversary
Skating Championships

JUNE

5-7 New York NY

Sky Rink@Chelsea Piers
23rd Annual ISI Team Competition

JULY

9-11 Honolulu HI

Ice Palace
2009 ISI Hawaiian Open



27-Aug. 1 San Jose CA

Sharks Ice at San Jose
ISI World Recreational Team
Championships

29 Colorado Springs CO

-Aug. 2
World Arena and Ice Hall
State Games of America

AUGUST

1 Gurnee IL

Rink Side Family Entertainment
Center
The Summer Cooler

8 **Orland Park IL**
Arctic Ice Arena
3rd Annual Arctic Heat Wave

SEPTEMBER

18-20 **Arlington TX**
ICE at the Parks
6th Annual Open Competition

OCTOBER



2-4 **Lake Placid NY**
Olympic Center
ISI Adult Championships

24-25 **Rockland MA**
Winterland Skating School
23rd Annual Halloween Classic

NOVEMBER

6-8 **Montgomery AL**
K Lynn Skating School
1st Annual Competition

DECEMBER



4-6
Fort Myers FL
Fort Myers Skatium
ISI Artistic Challenge

SHOWS & EXHIBITIONS

MARCH

1-May 31 **Bloomington IL**
Pepsi Ice Center
Red White & Blades
& Pepsi Pops

6-7 **Pekin IL**
Pekin Memorial Arena
Rated G

6-8 **New Ulm MN**
New Ulm Figure Skating Club
Countries & Cultures
A Celebration of Heritage

8 **Salem MA**
Viking Skating Club
Viking SC Salutes the Oldies
but Goodies

14 **Oldsmar FL**
Tampa Bay Skating Academy
Spring Recital

14 **Gurnee IL**
Rink Side Family Entertainment
Center
Let's Celebrate

14-15 **St. Louis MO**
Wayne C. Kennedy Recreation
Complex
Annual Ice Recital

20-21 **Luverne MN**
Blue Mound Ice Arena
Melodies on Ice

20-21 **Norwich CT**
Norwich Skating School
Dorothy's Journey Through OZ

21 **Springfield MA**
FMC Ice Sports-Forest Park
Anything Goes

21 **Laconia NH**
Central New Hampshire Skating
Academy
Spring Show

27-28 **Joliet IL**
Inwood Ice Arena
Skate TV

28-29 **Stevens Point WI**
KB Willett Ice Arena
One Hit Wonders on Ice

APRIL

3-5 **Jefferson City MO**
Washington Park Ice Arena
Continental Tours

5 **Brentwood MO**
Brentwood Ice Arena
Once Upon the Ice...Dreams
Come True

17-18 **Carol Stream IL**
Carol Stream Ice Rink
Stars and Stripes

24-25 **Newark OH**
Lou & Gib Reese Ice Arena
Skate in High Definition

24-26 **Park Ridge IL**
Oakton Ice Arena
Still Rockin' After 40 Years!

24-26 **Chicago IL**
McFetridge Sports Center
Skating...In Color

26 **Sioux Falls SD**
Sioux Falls FSC
United Skates

MAY

1-2 **Downers Grove IL**
Downers Grove Ice Arena
Stars and Stripes

1-2 **Minneapolis MN**
Parade Figure Skating Club
Instant Replay

1-3 **Glenview IL**
Glenview Ice Center
36th Annual Ice Show

2 **Marlboro MA**
FMC Ice Sports-Marlboro
Summer Dance Party

2-3 **Crestwood IL**
Southwest Ice Arena
Disco Skates

2-3 **Cottage Grove MN**
City of Cottage Grove Ice Arena
Let's Dance

8-10 **Northbrook IL**
Northbrook Sports Center
Northbrook-On-Ice 2009

14-18 **Skokie IL**
Skatium
Lights, Camera, Action

15-16 **Indian Trail NC**
Extreme Ice Center
America on Ice

15-17 **Franklin Park IL**
Franklin Park Ice Arena
2009 Spring Show

15-17 **Niles IL**
Niles Park District Iceland
Blades on Broadway

15-17 **Wilmette IL**
Centennial Ice Rinks
Let the Good Times Roll

15-17 **Evanston IL**
Robert Crown Ice Center
Skate By Numbers

17 **Nashville TN**
Centennial Sportsplex
Spring Show

22-23 **Orland Park IL**
Arctic Ice Arena
Frozen in Time: Back to the '80s

30 **Wasilla AK**
Brett Memorial Ice Arena
Super Heroes & Their Scary
Friends

JUNE

13-14 **Boxborough MA**
Nashoba Valley Olympia
Ice Magic

22 **Arlington TX**
ICE at The Parks
Summer Time

DECEMBER

7 **Luverne MN**
Blue Mound Ice Arena
We'll Skate, You Donate

19 **Arlington TX**
ICE at The Parks
Holiday in The Parks

**ISI Event Endorsement
Extravaganza!**
See page 12



ISI 50th
ANNIVERSARY
SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS

May 23-25
RDV Sportsplex Ice Den • Orlando, Fla.
Entry Deadline: March 1



July 27-Aug. 1
Sharks Ice at San Jose • San Jose, Calif.
Entry Deadline: May 1



April 17-19
Arctic Ice Arena • Chicago, Ill.
Entry Deadline: Feb. 1



Oct. 2-4
Olympic Center • Lake Placid, N.Y.
Entry Deadline: Aug. 15



Feb. 13-15
Dr Pepper StarCenter • Plano, Texas
Entry Deadline: Dec. 1, 2008

2009 ISI NATIONAL SKATING EVENTS

Expand Your Horizons with
Six Coast-to-Coast Destinations



Dec. 4-6
Fort Myers Skatium • Fort Myers, Fla.
Entry Deadline: Oct. 15



Ice Skating Institute

Go to www.skateisi.org for entry forms and additional event details.

Classified Advertising

ISI DIRECTOR OF MEMBER SERVICES — Full-time position at ISI headquarters in Plano, Texas. Responsible for the development, promotion, delivery and supervision of all ISI member services. Must be ISI gold-certified judge with minimum five years' experience managing a large, successful skating school and have a thorough understanding and appreciation of the ISI philosophy. Must also possess strong leadership, oral and written communication, general office and computer skills. Excellent compensation and benefits package. Send résumé and letter of interest to pmartell@skateisi.org.

HOCKEY DIRECTOR — Danbury Arena in Danbury, Conn., seeks energetic, organized, hardworking team player to grow its hockey programs. Minimum three years' experience directing a hockey program. Must have experience teaching hockey clinics and power skating, organizing leagues and marketing hockey programs. iAIM CAP graduates preferred. Excellent compensation and benefit package available. E-mail résumé to manager@floydhallarena.com.

RINK/OPERATION MANAGERS AND TRAINEES — Rink management company seeks rink manager candidates, operation manager candidates and rink manager trainees for rinks in eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York. Salary, benefits and 401(k) with 4 percent matching. Call Jeff at (610) 458-9160 Ext. 110 or e-mail at jmg@powerplayrinks.com.

HEAD FIGURE SKATING COACH — Sioux Falls Figure Skating Club seeks experienced head coach to teach private and group lessons, and direct annual ice show. Freestyle and ISI competitive skaters available immediately. Skating school enrollment is 200+ skaters. Send résumé to: SFFSC, 625 W. 18th St., Suite 01, Sioux Falls, SD 57105.

ICE SKATING BUSINESS FOR SALE — Three-year-old facility conveniently located in a rapidly growing university town on the East Coast. Established figure skating and hockey programs. Great party business! Motivated seller. Call George at (252) 241-0512.

USED RENTAL SKATES FOR SALE — Excellent condition. Contact patfiorrentino@yahoo.com for complete list and pricing.

USED BLEACHER SEATING WANTED — 500-1,000 seats desired. Please respond with price and location to cjackson@skateisi.org.

Free Classified Advertising for ISI Members! ISI facility and professional members are entitled to **FREE classified listings (excluding retail products and services) up to 50 words.** Call Carol Jackson at (972) 735-8800, fax to (972) 735-8815 or send e-mail to cjackson@skateisi.org. Deadline for next issue of the *EDGE*: March 10.

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Peter Martell
ISI Executive Director

An Investment That still Makes Sense

While many Americans await Congress' passage of an economic recovery plan to stimulate the economy, we in the ice skating industry are wondering who or what is going to stimulate our business over the next few months as rink owners, managers and employees strive to stay focused and motivated during these challenging times.

Arena owners and operators must not confuse operating expenses with investments in resources that pay dividends in future business.

Although many of us are under pressure to reduce our operating expenses in an effort to maintain profitability, arena owners and operators must not confuse operating expenses with investments in resources that pay dividends in future business. Our most important asset is still our staff — tough times do not change this fact of business. Even the finest of facilities with the best of programs will suffer without knowledgeable, motivated, dedicated employees who deliver quality service and experiences to their customers.

The most important investment a business can make in its human resources is continuing education, training and professional development. Participation in educational programs, seminars and conferences affords employees the opportunity to network, learn new ways to increase revenue and reduce expenses and keep pace with the latest industry equipment, trends and techniques. This is especially true today as we face the most daunting economic challenge in recent memory.

ISI members have three such opportunities this year: the 50th Anniversary Ice Arena Conference and Trade Show this May in Orlando; the ISI/IAAM School of Ice Technologies at the New Jersey Devils' Prudential Center in June; and the iAIM

Certification Schools of Management, Operations or Programming in Chicago in August.

You are sure to find that those who attend such programs and events return to the arena smarter, wiser and more confident in their ability to perform their jobs. In addition, they invariably return refreshed, renewed and invigorated with a "can-do" attitude and increased loyalty to their employer. Overall, they become more valuable assets, resulting in improved performance and productivity for the business.

When it comes to deciding whether "to go or not to go," remember that educational and professional development expenses represent an investment in your future, and, while there are certainly costs involved, there is almost always a healthy return that far exceeds the investment. Don't be "penny wise and pound foolish" when it comes to cutting costs at the expense of education and training.

We can all take a valuable lesson from these words that I once heard from a very wise man: *The ultimate way to reduce expenses is to put a chain on the front door.* ■

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ECO CHILL Overview

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ponents that best match the needs of your facility. In all cases, quality ice is the number one priority of an ECO CHILL system, ensuring your facility users' satisfaction while you benefit from greatly reduced energy costs.



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