



FAQ 23-24 Season Ice time and Location

This document responds to some frequently asked questions about practice locations and times.

Q: Why are we practicing at Waterbury so much?

The single greatest factor in skill development is ice time. Waterbury has a lot of available ice due to the merger of teams in central Vermont, while at Essex, we compete with the Vermont Figure Skating Academy in the fall and the high school teams in the winter. Sometimes, the choice is having ice at Waterbury or having no ice at all.

Q: Isn't Essex our home rink – why can't we skate there?

Essex is one of our home rinks, but it is also home to three high school teams and an active figure skating program. We grab whatever ice we can in Essex, but other rinks (Waterbury, Gutterson, Leddy, Cairns) will always be part of our program. We are fortunate to have other rinks to choose from; many other programs only have one option.

Q: It seems like we are in Essex less and in Waterbury more than past years. Is this true?

Yes; in addition to the above, the program is growing and more teams creates more ice pressure. In addition, the weekly skills sessions create an additional requirement for ice time. Due to the need to run both Navy and Gold skills at the same rink with one session directly following the other, we essentially need a double block of ice. With all the other competing forces at Essex, this is why skills have been at Waterbury more often this season.

Q: Why are we practicing so late?

The school schedule shifted to a later end time for high school students this year, leaving less ice available overall. The early ice slots are prioritized for the younger skaters, which leaves the later ice slots for the older players.

Q: Why are we practicing so early and in Waterbury?

We prioritize the early ice for younger skaters and sometimes early Waterbury ice is all that is available.

Q: What can we do to help alleviate transportation challenges?

If you haven't already, set up a What's App distribution list, email list or use the chat function in Sports Engine to arrange a ride for your player. Many parents are glad to bring another kid along as it builds comradery among the team.