

TEST DAY ADMINISTRATOR THOUGHTS FOR THE COMING SEASON

Thank you's:

To my fellow evaluators:

Thank you so much for all your support when my "call for evaluators" went out. Many of you were prompt to reply yes or no. I really appreciated the 'no' answers as well so I know who not to bother because they had other commitments. Thanks to those who could not make the dates requested but offered alternate dates that they could help out. Thanks to our neighboring Sections to the east and west who pitched in and helped us out when our evaluators were unable to attend a test day.

To the Skating Clubs and their Test Day Coordinators:

Thanks for getting your High Test Day request paperwork in promptly as it made my job so much easier. Thanks to all the clubs that were able to work with the alternate dates offered by the evaluators. Being flexible allowed more test days to run. Thanks to the clubs that were able to coordinate with each other and have combined or regional test days. It is easier having one large test day rather than five 2 hour test days, especially if two or three test chairs handle the paperwork together.

Please note the following changes for the 2013-2014 Season:

- The Test Day Procedure Manual has been updated
Please review the document in depth at your Fall Region meetings as there are changes in application dates and the procedures for test days and especially handling the paperwork required.
If Region meetings or ice users meeting fall after these dates please request an extension.
- Keep track of all the high test days in your region, either via your Region Rep or on the Section website. Why, you ask? Because, even though your high test day has been approved, and has a high test evaluator, if after the pull date you do not have 2 hours of high tests, the high tests will be cancelled and you'll need to find another test day to send the tests to. Working together with a neighboring club will prevent this from happening. (This is the case also if you have a combined low/high test day: if you have five hours of tests but only one hour are high tests the high tests will be cancelled and need to attend another test day.) I know this will not be popular with many but the reality is we do not have the manpower we used to, even two years ago. (More on that note in the next paragraph.)

Advice and Suggestions:

- Please use "low" test evaluators for your low test days. They need the experience so that they can become "high" test evaluators. Please send your low test dates into section office for posting on the website. This helps evaluators in training find test days to get trial experience and complete their promotion requirements.
- If you're having a combined low-high test day, have two evaluators. A low test evaluator for the low tests and a high test evaluator for the high tests. This does two things: 1) it gives the low test evaluator experience and the chance to "trial" high tests; 2) the high test evaluator can more easily schedule their time.
- If your test day is more than four hours, use more than one evaluator. (This of course is contingent on location and availability.) I have found that more evaluators are willing to attend longer test sessions if they can switch off and on with someone else. In addition, evaluators are more likely to volunteer for

one long test day (with a couple evaluators) rather than commit to multiple two hour test days requested for the same week.

- Evaluators are volunteers with jobs, family and other commitments in addition to skating. And, sometimes there are life happens moments. The average age of evaluators is rising and volunteerism is not what is used to be. We have gone from “what can I do to help” to “how is this going to help me”. This is something clubs have to deal with on your Boards and with the club volunteer positions. Respect and courtesy go a long way when asking volunteers to step up to the plate and it helps to keep them there too.
- Remember: if mistakes are made there are people to help you through it. If you are not sure about something, ask the question right away. (Your Region Rep’s and my email addresses are on the Section website.) I have learned that it is easier to avoid an error than fix a mistake.

Have a great 2013-2014 season!

See you at a rink somewhere,
Nicole Rapati
Section Test Administrator