

FAQ's

I am a member, if I need to talk to a board member how do I get ahold of them?

If you have a question that is specific to the duties of a board member it is best to send the email or phone message to the MSSA general office. The message will be triaged by the E.D. and then passed on to the appropriate Board Member. Board members change on a bi-annual basis and the E.D. is aware of the positions and how to communicate with them.

If I need to pay a fee to my club, can I send it in to the MSSA office?

Club fees should be collected and managed by the Club. It is not advisable to send it in to the MSSA general office as the Club is directly responsible for its members payments and fees for such things as ability meets, memberships, and equipment. Clubs collect monies and then send them into MSSA for processing. Members are required to remain in good standing at the beginning of each season. No member shall lapse in their payment of fees to the clubs. A delay in payment to the clubs, and/or in turn to MSSA may result in a voiding of insurance coverage and skating privilege. Members should consult with their club leadership for full details on fees and fundraising obligations.

I want to know information about a speed skating ability meet... who do I talk to?

Your starting point is always your own club. Every club has a President and a supporting board, most clubs have these positions posted on their websites or have a newsletter that they included them in for member communication. Club coaches are also a very good source of information as they need to be aware of skater lists, times and locations of meets. The MSSA website is also a good source of information, all meets are posted on an electronic calendar located on the left hand side of the website: click on the month and date and meet the information will show up.

I want to talk to someone about a positive experience we had, who should I call or email?

Start with the E.D. this person will know who to pass it along to for action! It is always nice to hear the goodstuff! A listing of MSSA Board members is available on the MSSA website.

My child is a skater who does not use the Oval facilities, she'd rather skate short track all year. Why does my club still have to pay Oval fees?

MSSA skater access to the Oval depends on the financial support of all the clubs. A universal use fee is levied on all clubs to support access to the oval. The fees from the Clubs are paid directly to MSSA, who in turn pay the City of Winnipeg for the use of the Oval. The City of Winnipeg charges MSSA a Flat fee on an annual basis. Charging the clubs a set fee, it is not based on Individual skaters; however, club location is an influence on the amount. Although not all individual skaters benefit at all times from the Oval, all clubs benefit in the long run from the Oval being present in Winnipeg for athlete development at all levels from new skaters to masters level. Yes at times some skaters do not wish to skate on the Oval; however, if a club should choose not to pitch in and share the cost, then the oval access for their skaters would be affected. Not all of the Oval expenses are covered by these club payments for use. Some of the monies for cost coverage come from other sources such as donations, and hosting National events.

My club fees seem higher than others are paying why is that?

Clubs are obliged to pay MSSA fees and Speed Skate Canada fees as well as pay for coaching time, ice times and any safety/skater equipment or other costs incurred through the year to maintain a safe and reliable club. At times clubs adjust fees based on projected annual costs and these costs may vary from club to club. All fees collected by clubs must be accounted for at the club level. MSSA and SSC fees are payable by the club at the beginning of each year to MSSA.

I have a concern about the safety of the ice surface and equipment that I skate on?

Any concerns for safety and skater support should first go to the club as they are responsible for this type of issue, however, if the concern goes un-recognized, the E.D. can be contacted and your concern will be addressed. MSSA and its Clubs are obliged to use fees charged for the upkeep and maintenance of safety and equipment.

How do I know my club is in good standing financially?

Club Presidents are obliged to be sure that all club related receivables and payables are accounted for. Often times clubs will vote in a member to perform treasurer duties. Clubs are responsible for fee collection and disbursement of funds to pay for expenses incurred. Club fiscal accountability is required by MSSA on an annual basis. Clubs must ensure that MSSA fees and payments as well as required fund contributions are fulfilled in an undelayed manner. Clubs participate in universal fundraising for MSSA as required. (such as Bingos and National Event participation) Clubs should have Annual General Meetings to disclose the financial statements to their members.

I want to become an Official and am willing to help out when I can, who do I contact?

Contacting your club level Board official is the first step. If you still need help, the MSSA VP of Officials can give you some directions. The MSSA VP of Officials ensure your place for the training that will be needed to perform your duties.

When I am skating or if I am an official what happens if I get hurt on the ice?

When participating in a sanctioned MSSA event the insurance fees included in the membership fees that are paid to MSSA would be invoked. Non-Club sponsored or non-MSSA recognized events would not be covered by the global insurance. Be sure to ask if the event or practice that you are skating in is a sanctioned or recognized event.

I want to know where MSSA gets it's money from and who are they accountable to?

MSSA receives funding from many different levels and sources. Primarily it is from government sources, athlete development grants, Speed Skate Canada, private sponsorship, provincial level athlete fees, and fundraising. A portion of all club memberships does go to MSSA for universally accessed services. Clubs are obliged to contribute to fundraisers that support universal programs such as the bingos. A professional financial audit and statement is provided at the Annual General Meeting on an annual basis. The everyday finances are overseen by the E.D. and is reviewed by the volunteer VP of Finance and President on a regular basis; as well, the financial statements are reviewed by the board on a monthly basis. Sport Manitoba is also informed of financial matters on a regular basis.