

## Dear OFSC Members,

At our December quarterly meeting we informed members of an increase in ice usage fees by the Jones Center. The ice arena is the most expensive area within the Jones Center. The costs incurred by program providers; such as NWAHA, OHL, and Ozark Figure Skating Club; is \$72,000 per year. Of that \$72,000 OFSC incurs approximately \$26,000 per year in usage fees. The challenge we were presented with was to come up with that figure annually. The Jones Center was and continues to be very patient with us, as we are not able to pay the full amount. We have agreed to pay at least \$12,000 of that fee this year. If further funds are available then we will give that to the Jones Center. Our goal is to make sure that the Jones Center is sustained and we continue to have an ice arena in Northwest Arkansas.

Our Board has been diligently working on solving our financial problems for the past 5 months. We've implemented many changes in the latter part of our fiscal year, including splitting concession profits 25%/75% for skater accounts. Our fundraising committee is hard at work finding corporate sponsorships and club fundraising opportunities to offset the cost of the increase in usage fees. Even with all these efforts we still do not have enough to pay our usage fees. The board debated over every scenario possible. Many of you will ask why we don't cut our ice time to save money. The answer is simple. Even if we were to cut ice time we are still responsible for paying the \$12000/annually regardless of ice used. In the long run this will help us out. We have a Basic Skills competition and seminars in the plans which will be on-ice and the ice usage will be included in our amount paid annually. If we were to give up ice time we are not guaranteed that the ice time would transfer to freestyle sessions. Our program is growing and requires many hours of ice time at all times of day. We want our members, which range from toddler, teenager, working adult, and retired adult, to be able to access the ice according to their schedule.

As part of our ongoing goal to sustain the ice arena, the board has voted to raise dues beginning in the 2009-2010 year; meaning this will go into effect June 1, 2009. OFSC dues have not changed in 9 years. Research has been performed on what clubs charge across the nation with some focus on this region. None of the clubs researched offer the same amount of ice time that OFSC does (8.25 hours weekly). Most have limited amounts of ice; between 1-3 hours per week. That being said, most clubs charge for membership *then* skaters have to pay separately for their ice at a contracted club rate. Additionally, most of the clubs will require a certain amount of club ice to be purchased by each skater.

OFSC's full and basic skills membership includes access to club ice. Ice time is already included with membership fees. We offer 33 hours of ice per month which adds up to 429 hours per year. This does not take into consideration holidays, skate camp, maintenance weeks, and Christmas show. This is a rough estimate to demonstrate how much we have and how little we pay comparatively.

The bottom line is that our ice fees have increased 620% and while we have shielded the club from this increase thus far, we need to approach this with a business sense and look at the sustainability and future of the club. We also do understand that raising our dues will create a financial burden on some members. There is still time to sign up for Razorback baseball and football concession stands to help families offset the cost of the new dues. We will also be offering other individual fundraising opportunities throughout the year.

Below is an outline of the OFSC membership levels. We will still offer payment annually, bi-annually, and quarterly. Remember our #1 goal is to extend the life of OFSC, the ice arena, and the Jones Center. We appreciate your support!

Sincerely,

OFSC Board



**Elite Membership:** \$700 annually - \$175/quarter, \$59/month  
Includes rule book  
Free club seminars  
One USFS competition entry fee paid for (first event)  
Skating sash  
Special Recognition on OFSC bulletin board

**Family:** \$600 annually - \$150/quarter, \$50/month

**Full Individual Membership:** \$275 annually - \$68.75/quarter, \$23/month  
Includes US Figure Skating Membership (\$40 Value)  
Year subscription to Skating Magazine  
Access to all club ice

**Basic Skills:** \$180 annually - \$45/quarter, \$15/month  
Includes US Figure Skating Basic Skills Membership  
Access to all club ice

**Test Membership:** \$175 annually - \$43.75/quarter, \$14.58/month  
Includes US Figure Skating Membership (\$40 Value)  
Testing Privileges  
Access to Saturday club ice  
Walk-on fee of \$15 required for other club ice times

**Coaching Membership:** \$150 - \$37.50/quarter, \$12.50/month  
Includes US Figure Skating Coaching Membership  
Subscription to Skating Magazine  
Yearly Background Check  
Availability to coach on all club ice sessions

**Patron Membership:** \$50  
Includes US Figure Skating Membership

OFSC has raised walk on fee to \$15, per session  
OFSC has raised late fee to \$25