

PATCH TIMES

Types of patches (These times apply to SOLO skaters and all sections mentioned refer to SOLO, unless otherwise mentioned)

**All requirements (age, section, skills, star, division etc.) refer to what the skater is required to currently have attained based on their age. In other words, the skater needs to possess the relevant criteria based on the section in which they would be required to compete/enter as per SAFSA NTC specifications. Levels achieved for previous sections will not carry over once the skater is required to move up based on age, unless otherwise specified.*

Junior patch: The minimum requirement for this patch is skills 1. This includes all **Juvenile**, **Pre-Novice** and **Novice** skaters. These skaters are all qualified nationally or are working towards qualifying nationally. The corresponding necessary skills are required to skate on this patch.

If qualifying for Juvenile: skills 1 is required.

If qualifying for Pre-Novice: skills 2 is required.

If qualifying for Novice: skills 3 is required.

Should a Juvenile skater not qualify for Nationals and needs to move up to Pre-Novice due to his or her age, they have till the end of the calendar year to attain skills 2. If this is not attained, they need to move out of this patch time. The same applies to skaters who need to move up from Pre-Novice to Novice.

Synchronised skaters are also permitted to have a lesson during this time, provided they are in a synchro team, and have the necessary skills for the team that they are in. They may remain on the ice only for their lesson time.

Senior patch: This patch includes all **Novice**, **Junior** and **Senior** skaters, provided they have the necessary skills, working towards the national section in the above categories.

Novices may skate in either patch to ensure that the coaches are able to accommodate all their skaters with the necessary lessons. Novice skaters may skate in only one evening patch.

Open patch: All SAFSA members may skate in open patches.

Monday/Tuesday/Thursday 5 to 9:15 am

Open patch

Monday to Friday 10 am to 12.30 pm / 2:00 to 4:30 pm

Open patch. The public skater has right of way on this patch.

Saturday 5 to 8 am

Open patch

This patch can become very busy and unsafe for the skaters. Vage may instruct skaters who have been on the ice for over an hour and who no longer have a scheduled lesson to leave the ice surface.

Monday to Friday 1 pm to 2 pm

Senior Performance Patch - only **fully qualified** Junior and Senior skaters. These skaters must be actively competing at National level and be currently qualified in the section that they are required to skate (i.e. Junior/Senior).

During **school holidays** (not public holidays unless overlap), the lunchtime patch may also be used by all fully qualified Novice skaters i.e. they must have qualified both programmes.

*For full patch criteria applicable to Solo and Pairs skaters, please see **Lunchtime Patch Criteria** at the end of this document.

Monday 4:45 to 5:45pm

Junior patch

There is an overlap with the Senior skaters getting on at 5:30pm. This is to ensure that there is a fair spread of an hour per patch.

Both the Seniors and the Juniors must be mindful when they are all on the ice together. Seniors must look out for the Junior skaters, while the Junior skaters are to be more observant of the skaters around them. Safety is a priority. It is essential to note that no skater (senior or junior) has right of way based on seniority or skills level.

Monday 5:30 to 6:30pm

Senior patch

Tuesday 4:45 to 5:45pm

Junior patch

Medal test evenings:

If there is a medal test, the Junior patch is shared by the Junior and Senior skaters. Everyone must be mindful and respectful.

Every third medal test, the Tuesday patch will be given to Junior Synchro. This will be communicated to parents and coaches.

5:45 to 6:00 Zamboni

Tuesday 6:00 to 7:00 pm

Senior patch.

Wednesday 4:45 to 5:45 pm

Junior open patch

Skaters on this patch are up to Novice level and skills 3.

Wednesday 5:45 to 6:15pm STEPPING STONES/VARIOUS SAFSA GROUPS

Wednesday 6:15 to 6:30pm Zamboni

Wednesday 6:30 to 7:15 pm

Senior patch

Includes all Novice, Junior and Senior skaters.

Wednesday 7:00 to 8:00 pm

Open patch

There is an over-lap of 15 min with the Senior patch.

Thursday 4:45 to 5:45pm

Junior patch

There is an overlap with the Seniors getting on at 5:15pm. This is to ensure that there is a fair spread of 1hr for both Juniors and Seniors.

Thursday 5:15 to 6:15pm

Senior patch.

LUNCHTIME PATCH (Mon-Fri, 1-2pm) CRITERIA (Senior Performance Patch)

Senior Performance Patch - only fully qualified Junior and Senior Solo and Pairs skaters

The purpose and spirit of this patch is for the exclusive use of our elite skaters who have met local (NTC) qualification requirements and have met or are now working on International selection for ISU level competitions. Skaters must have already met the requirements below to make use of this patch. These are over and above what is required to skate in the evening Senior Patch. This patch is a developmental privilege for those who have successfully attained the requirements and are serious contenders for ISU international selection and to this end the requirements are reasonably high to allow more open room for these skaters.

- **These skaters must be actively competing at National level (Division A) only.**
- **Skaters must be fully qualified (with required skill level as well as BOTH part A and part B Star Tests) for the section that they are required to be in as per the NTC master sheet.**
i.e. If you are required to skate in Senior Men/Ladies, you are required to have already attained skills 5 AND achieved Gold Part A and B as approved by the NTC.
- **In the case of Pairs, skaters must be qualified as a pair, or have BOTH previously qualified as part of a different pair. Both pairs skaters are required to have attained the Star qualification for the section they would need to enter as a couple as per the NTC and/or ISU rules.**
In the case of pairs, if a partner change happens and both skaters do not have the same Star level, the new Pairs couple must apply in writing to the SAFSA Western Province committee to request approval. Approval must be granted BEFORE using the patch.

Exception is made ONLY to skaters who have competed/been eligible to compete at the SA National Championships in Junior's and are thereafter required to move up to the Senior section. In this case, the skater will have UNTIL the final medal test in the calendar year to attain skills 5 and will further have up until the last opportunity (provided it is more than 4 weeks prior) to have met the Part A and Part B qualification requirement for Nationals of that initial year. Failure to attain either of these will render the skater ineligible to utilise this patch immediately following the test/competition.

- **During school holidays** (as determined and published by the Department of Basic Education in the Western Cape), **the Lunchtime patch may also be used by FULLY QUALIFIED NOVICE SKATERS i.e. they must have qualified both programmes (achieved both Part A and B) as approved by the NTC. This does not include Public holidays unless these are within the school holiday period. Breakup day (official as per department above) counts as part of the school holiday period and will apply in this case.**

In the case that a qualified skater (as per the above requirement) has not competed for more than 12 consecutive months, the Western Province committee may request that the skater be monitored (by a suitably competent person/s - i.e. a judge) for performance and if necessary (based on feedback from the judge) remove them from this patch until they are able to display a suitable level of competency. Injury will be taken into account on a case by case basis.

Due to the level of the skaters on this patch, ALL skaters and coaches are expected exercise courtesy and respect for your fellow skaters and coaches. As this patch consists primarily of skaters in their late teens and older, if a skater is possibly not up to the level of maturity or discipline expected, they may be suspended from this patch, regardless of qualification. During the School holidays, suitably qualified Novice skaters are reminded to be vigilant as the speed and level of skating is a lot higher. If a Novice skater is not comfortable on this patch, it is advised that they refrain from using it despite being eligible. Please note that there is no "right of way" based on seniority during this or any other time and usual "right of way" etiquette applies i.e. a skater doing a program run through with music, in a lesson has right of way, followed by skater doing run through with music NOT in a lesson. Please see RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE ICE STATION.

Respect each other at all times.

- **ALL RULES AND REGULATIONS (including session times) ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE**
 - **From time to time, the rink may need to perform routine or emergency maintenance. This may affect only sections of the ice or the entire rink. In these instances, patches may be affected, altered or cancelled.**
 - **Breach of these rules may lead to disciplinary steps being taken and penalties being applied.**
 - **Safety is the number one priority!**
 - **All of these rules are in effect as of date of publication and while they remain published on the Western Province website, TeamApp and/or any other official Western Province platform. Should they no longer be viewable on any of the above mentioned platforms, they will remain in effect unless formally communicated from the SAFSA Western Province committee. Any deviation or exception to the rules above and elsewhere will be at the sole discretion of the SAFSA Western Province committee and must be communicated in writing to the relevant parties.**