



It's Your Rink

The Burnsville Ice Center is a great place to play hockey – but it takes every hockey player, coaches and parents to help keep it that way

When the Burnsville Ice Center ice sheets are resurfaced and ready for the next group of skaters it is a thing of beauty. The cool grey ice lies still and sheer like a motionless pond, and a slight mist rises as the new layer of water freezes into place. 1000 watt lights humming overhead are dimmed to an atmosphere of anticipation, and there is slight buzz among the fans in the bleachers. When the first steel blade hits the ice, it cuts the silent tension with the roar of the crowd. The Burnsville Ice Center is exciting and a beautiful place.

In order to keep the Burnsville Ice Center that way, however, rink attendants and the manager need your help. It is your rink to use, after all, so here are some simple guidelines to keep in mind.

1. Treat the Burnsville Ice Center like you would treat your own home. You have to clean up your room at home, why not police the arena. If there is a candy wrapper on the floor, throw it away; if you must spit, do it into a garbage can not on the floor; if there is a broken light switch, alert the arena staff; and if your locker room has hooks on the wall, they're not for swinging from like a jungle gym. When the Burnsville Ice Center is considered your own, you should take pride in it and have more respect for it in general.

Don't assume – remember you are a user. While it is important to consider the Burnsville Ice Center yours to use, that doesn't mean you have the run of it. You don't get to drive the ice resurfacer, but you may be able to run the clock. Learn the dos and don'ts of the Burnsville Ice Center.

2. Locker rooms are a privilege. Remember to clean up after games and practices and follow the rules while you're in it. Changing your skates in the lobby is no way to start a game.

3. Respect all arenas. Remember, you are there to use the facility for recreational purposes. That means playing your heart out against your opponent on the ice and shaking their hand when the game is over. The Golden Rule applies: respect others as you would want to be respected.

That goes for other teams' facilities, as well. Every arena manager wants a safe, well-run arena. The operating budgets are fairly high, and as the rinks get older, maintenance costs rise. So costs due to reckless destruction of property or careless disregard for the rules become even tougher to absorb.

You are representing your team, association, sponsor, family and yourself, every time you put on your uniform, so always be at your best.

4. Safety First. Pucks fly at hockey games, and they can hit as hard as rocks – so always be on your guard. The Burnsville Ice Center staff is prepared for emergencies, but everyone that attends a game must be vigilant. Consider the Burnsville Ice Center a swimming pool with frozen water: no running, no horseplay, no shooting pucks or balls in the Ice Center (other than on the ice), watch for flying pucks, check legally and keep your sticks and skates down.

5. When the resurfacer gates open, player's and coaches (except net pushers) need to leave the ice immediately. This also means picking up all pucks before the end of the practice and not having team meetings on the ice at the end of the practice (please hold those in the locker room) to delay the Ice Center staff from keeping the ice times on track for all users. Every team needs to be considerate of the next user that will be taking the ice.

6. Beware of the moving ice resurfacer! Think of the ice surfacing machine as a very careful bull in a china shop: It's got a very detailed job to do in a finite space – respect its size and stay out of its way. Rules pertaining to resurfacing are very important to maintaining the arena and the safety of all skaters. All patrons (except for net pushers) must leave the ice before resurfacing begins. All players must stay out of the bench area and penalty box areas as an added safety measure during the resurfacing of the ice. Remember that the resurfacing machine operator can not see around the entire machine – always steer clear of them. Pick up pucks, tape and broken pieces of stick because they can damage the resurfacing machine – which is very expensive to repair or replace. It all comes down to respect: respect for your facility and everyone in it. That kind of attitude is a win-win for everyone.

7. Do not write on the Rink glass. We provide rink diagrams in each rink for coaches to use. In some cases this has ruined the glass and this is another example of reckless destruction of property and increases the costs to operate the facility.

8. Locker room keys need to be checked out by a coach or team manager of an individual team. This can be done a maximum of 30 minutes prior to your scheduled ice time provided your team room assigned is available at that time. Keys are checked out due to past history of missing items in the locker rooms. We encourage all teams to lock their locker rooms at all practices and games. The reason we check the keys out to the coaches or team manager's only is because the Ice Center's past experience with vandalism of the locker rooms. We encourage all coaches or team manager's to stay in the locker rooms to help control this issue and to be able to communicate more effectively with your team.