

## Guide to Building and Maintaining Community Rinks

### Prepping the Rink Space

- Dress for the weather by wearing winter appropriate clothing. Wear ice cleats if possible.
- Review safety information with all rink volunteers.
- Gather and inspect equipment before usage.
- Assess the area and clean the rink space. Remove weeds, tall grass, large rocks and any litter.

### Building Snowbanks

- Using a heavy-duty shovel, push snow to the outer edges of the rink.  
***Building material of any sort is not permitted to be used as a rink border.***
- Remember to leave a 2-inch layer of snow to prep the surface area for flooding.
- Snowbanks should be at least 1 ft high and 2 ft wide.
- Compact the snow as much as possible and fill in any gaps.

### Flooding

- Compact the snow on the ground. Walk around with your volunteers and use shovels to pack down the snow.  
***Plastic bladders, tarps, or other material for flooding are not permitted.***
- Smooth and even out the space as much as possible.
- Flood during the day when the average daytime high is below -7 degrees for multiple days.
- Designate volunteer roles: one to flood, one to control the water flow, and the others to keep the hose off the ground.
- With your volunteers, spray water evenly in an outward and fan-like motion. Start from the furthest point of the rink and work back towards the water source.
- Allow area to freeze, then re-spray until a solid base is made and slopes are leveled out.
- A solid ice base is approximately 1 inch deep.
- Once a solid base is made, heavier flooding can take place. Ideal flooding takes place between -5 degrees and -20 degrees.

### Ice Maintenance

- Complete light resurfacing floods as often as needed throughout the season.
- Resurfacing floods should be very light, and as thin as possible.
- Use a heavy scraper, stiff broom or a shovel to remove snow, bumps or ridges. Remove any other items, such as fallen leaves before adding on a layer to the ice surface.
- On warmer days, remove snow off the ice as soon as possible.
- Avoid flooding on windy days as the water is less likely to bond to the existing ice surface.

### Fixing Ice chips

- Use a small shovel to break up ice and open the air pockets.
- Use a broom to brush away small ice bits and clean up the area to be repaired.
- Pack the air pocket or crack with slush (snow and water), then pack down again.
- Level out the area with a shovel.
- Let the area freeze and repeat as often as needed.

#### Reviewed by:

Community Rink Lead Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_