

## SEASON OPENER

Another artificial ice season is now upon us. The Ontario Recreation Facilities Association encourages member to consider the following 10-point season reminder (in no particular order) of industry best practices and legal requirements for a safe and enjoyable operating season. How current are you are in each of the following operational responsibilities as you begin the current season.

**Protective Netting** – netting that surrounds the dashboards requires a thorough, detailed inspection to ensure that it remains serviceable for the protection of both workers and patrons.

**Fire Exits** – must be clear of debris and in an operable state at all times [pick up, store, and dispose of tools, materials, or debris that can cause tripping or other problems] Have you conducted your annual facility fire drill as required under the Fire Code?

**Air Quality Tests** – all facilities should conduct and record an annual air quality test. (even facilities with a history of good IAQ should continue to maintain good levels through annual checks)

**Alcohol Consumption** – the consumption of alcohol in any public area is strictly controlled by Ontario's Liquor License Act. *It is illegal to consume any alcohol product in a dressing room or facility common area unless under the approval of a Special Occasion Permit.*

**Ice Thickness** – the industry standard for ice depth in a community arena is **1 ¼ to 1 ½ inches**. Facilities that host high caliber skating events may need to consider additional ice to ensure all who use the facility are safe.

**Ice Depth Checks** – weekly ice depth checks should be taken and recorded. Corrective action should also be stated in these regular reports. Ice depth checks should be conducted anytime there is an identified ice issue.

**Refrigeration Room** – persons who are granted access to these areas must be adequately trained to enter the premise. Housekeeping and security of these areas are essential operational activities as outlined in the Operating Engineers Regulation

**Ice Resurfacers Operational Safety** – to ensure worker and public safety it is advised that no persons should enter onto the ice surface while the ice resurfacers is conditioning the ice. Use of the surface should only take place once the ice resurfacers doors have been closed. This precaution is clearly indicated in the IR owner's manual and on the safety stickers located on the ice resurfacing equipment, *"no riders should be allowed on the ice resurfacers at anytime."*

**Public Skating** – be reminded that public skating sessions require adequate supervision and control. The ORFA recommends 100 sq. ft per skater [typical community rink should not exceed 160-skaters] and 1 skate guard for every 60 skaters.

**Dressing Room Area Care and Control** – it is the responsibility of facility owners and staff to control the activities of the persons that use the arena. Dressing room areas should only be used under the supervision of persons who have reached the age of majority.

### HAVE A SAFE AND ENJOYABLE SKATING SEASON!

Should you require any additional information on any of these topics please feel free to contact the ORFA Technical Director, Terry Piche [tpiche@orfa.com](mailto:tpiche@orfa.com)