

SUGGESTED MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES

The following information outlines the general procedures required to flood and maintain a hockey rink. There are three steps to cleaning and preparing a hockey rink for skating:

FLOODING

This is a very critical process and if not carefully done can cause a great deal of unnecessary work. Rinks each have their own respective personalities. Some are easier to develop than others. **The first step is to insure the rink perimeter is well sealed to prevent water from migrating to other areas and freezing.** This can be accomplished by banking snow or dirt to seal all voids. Once completed, you are ready to begin flooding.

Before beginning, **please insure your water source is an approved source.** There are numerous water valves on each school, but not all of them are safe to use. Connection to the wrong source can disable the fire sprinkler system, drain the building heating system, or drain the domestic hot water system. **The fire hydrants at schools cannot be used** without a permit and approval from AWWU, and there is a Municipal charge for their use. The Anchorage School District **cannot** authorize the use of any fire hydrants.

The Anchorage School District currently has four elementary schools that are not served by AWWU. If adopting one of these rinks, limit water usage to no more than ninety minutes. Bear Valley, O'Malley, Huffman, and Ravenwood have their own water wells. If restraint is not exercised, too much water can be drawn from the wells leaving the facility water and fire fighting reserves drained.

The critical item to remember when you are flooding is to develop the rink slowly. If the rink surface is flat and level, flooding five or six times will usually produce the desired 4 to 6 inches of ice. **The rink should be flooded with approximately one half inch to one inch of water at any one flooding.** This process of bringing the rink up in a series of layers assures that no voids occur in the ice which can break through under the weight of a skater and result in injury. **Don't be in a hurry.** The process of flooding requires approximately 6 to 7 hours to develop a safe foundation.

It is necessary for the temperature to be below 25 degrees Fahrenheit for a minimum period of three days prior to starting to flood the rink.

BLADING

"Blading" (sharp blade) of hockey rinks is accomplished after the rink has been flooded and been allowed to freeze hard. The process requires a plow blade with a sharpened edge. It is used to scrape the ice and remove residue. This process actually shaves the ice.

This procedure is normally done just prior to hot mopping.

HOT MOP

This process involves spreading a thin layer of hot water over the surface of the ice. This is best accomplished through the use of a vehicle mounted tank and spreader bar. **Hot water for mop operations will not be provided by the school.** Hot water heaters are of an insufficient capacity to produce hot water for hot mop operations and school needs.

SNOW REMOVAL

The hockey rink will require snow removal after each snowfall. A 4 X 4 with a snow plow and blade attached or a large group of people with shovels will be required. Extreme care must be taken throughout the snow removal process. Vehicle operators must remember they are operating on ice, pushing loads of snow at elevated speeds. Chains or studded tires destroy the ice. Stopping and directional control with normal tires is very difficult and can be dangerous.

Snow must be hand shoveled around the edges to remove it from packing against the boards, as a plow will not pick it up. If this is not done, a hard ridge of snow will build against the edges posing a hazard to skaters. Once the snow removal operation is begun, all snow must be removed from the rink. If it is stacked on the ice and left for later removal, it will set up like concrete requiring heavy equipment to remove it. Snow must also be moved far enough away from the rink to allow for the handling of additional snowfall stockpiling.

LIGHTING CONTROL

In most cases rink lighting control is accomplished through the District energy management system. **Elementary rink lights are generally programmed to turn on at dark, and off at 11:00 PM daily.** We encourage you to perform your rink maintenance during these hours. If lighting is required at times other than this, arrangements can be made through the Maintenance Department. At least five days notice will be required to make an adjustment to accommodate your specific need.

FACILITY ACCESS

Elementary school closure normally occurs at 11:00 PM. It is encouraged that rink maintenance be scheduled during hours when the school is staffed. If it is necessary to enter the school boiler room to turn on water for flooding operations, close supervision is necessary. There are numerous pieces of expensive electronic and mechanical equipment inside of the boiler room. Please be very careful.

If access to the school is required during other than normal hours, arrangements can be made to obtain keys and security instructions from Stan Syta, Operations Director, at 348-5122. You must pick up keys and security codes in person.

CONCLUSION

These procedures appear relatively simple, but unless you have flooded a hockey rink before, the process is a long and tedious one. Hockey rinks need to be built slowly to prevent overflowing of adjacent areas, and to ensure the safety of all who use the rink.

Thank you again for your willingness to donate of your time and resources to help the youth of our community.