

New STAR 1-5 Testing System

This season, Skate Canada introduced a new STAR 1-5 testing system. STAR 1 to 5 offers a solid development pathway for skaters who are entering a figure skating program for the first time. Coaches may choose to use this new system immediately for selected skaters who meet the criteria. The official start date to implement this system is September 2017, therefore coaches may opt for some of their skaters to remain in the current test stream using official Skate Canada evaluators.

Assessment in the STAR 1 -5 program will be performed by the coach who is teaching the skater the discipline that is being assessed. Coaches will be assessing their own skaters to standards as set out by Skate Canada. There are many reasons why Skate Canada is transitioning to coach assessed testing:

Clears the pathway for development by removing time and logistic barriers. Skaters will have access to assessment opportunities as they are ready and their development progresses. Without the demands of readiness following a pre-set test day calendar, the skaters are free to move through the program at their own rate without obstacles. STAR 1-4 assessments are designed to be available to the skaters on their regular session and during their normal time slot, thus allowing the assessments to be convenient and free of additional ice or travel costs.

Opens up equal opportunity to all skaters regardless of location in Canada. Being able to use the club coach to perform assessments enables all skaters in every region of Canada to have the opportunity to be assessed when ready. This eliminates the geographical advantage or disadvantage due to availability of officials. During the “Learn to Train” stage of development, the ability to move through the program when ready is a critical component of maximizing skill progression in this “golden age of learning”.

Allows coaches to be 100% accountable for skater development. Coaches will have total command over skater development from CanSkate to double jumps. This opportunity is advantageous in ensuring skater development quality is consistently monitored, nurtured and encouraged.

Costs to the skater is reduced. The STAR 1-4 assessments can be taken at any time during the year on the session they are skating. STAR 5 assessments for the pattern dances and Freeskate programs, must be skated on **clear ice**. This can be done on a session that has been cleared (Freeskate program or dance pattern), or can be scheduled on a separate session.

If your child will be entering the new STAR 1-5 testing system, your coach will be communicating directly with you informing you when he/she will test. A fee of \$12 will be required as payment prior to testing. Failure to pay will result in the test to be rescheduled on another session.

As STAR 1-4 assessments will be performed during regular ice sessions please give priority the right of way to skaters who are testing.

For more information please visit <https://info.skatecanada.ca/hc/en-ca/articles/209200266-Frequently-Asked-Questions>

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact your coaches and/or [Elena Yakubovich, MKSC Test Chair](#).