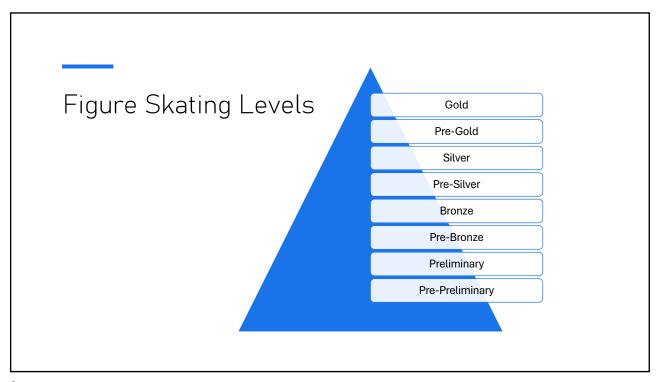
"Precision on Ice: Optimizing Orthopedic and Physical Therapy Care for Figure Skaters"

BY KAYLA BOSAK DPT, OCS DECEMBER 5, 2025

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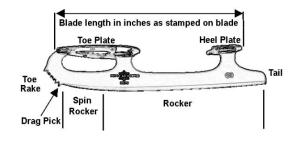




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The Blade

- Convex anterior to posterior Rocker
- Concave medial to lateral creating the inside and outside edge
 - o 3/16 5/8 thick
- Size of toe pick can help with torque
- Event type will alter length of blade and size of toe pick
 - o Ice dancer, synchronized skating





Boot

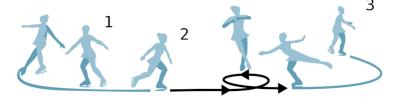
- Layers of leather molded together
 - Heat molded to athlete's foot
 - Stretched up to ½ size, "punched out" for unloading
- Newer boots for high level athletes include carbon fiber materials and 3D foot modeling for entirely custom figure skates



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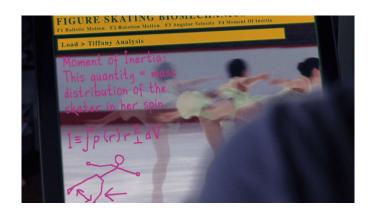
Biomechanics

- High impact landings
 - o Figure skating landings from jumps are 5-8x their body weight
- o Every jump has 4 parts
- Take off
- Rotation
- Landing



Biomechanics

- Spinning
 - Preparation
 - Entry
 - Spin
 - Exit



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Sport Specialization - Sugimoto et al

- 62% of female figure skaters in New England region were specialized
- Association between lower back injuries and chronological age 21% risk
 - Research is showing professional athlete's who participate in other sports in high school have a lower rate of injury

Case Study

- 13 yo female
- Acute lower back pain, insidious onset.
- Double jumps and her Beilman spin
- Practicing 1-3 hours a day, 4 days per week, off ice 2x/week.
- 4 hours of individualized coaching per week
- Also participating in synchronized skating 2 hours per week



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Case Study

- 15 yo female with acute ankle sprain
- Working on triple jumps in new boots
- Skating 4 hours per day 5x/week, off ice training 1 hour, 5x/week
- In a home school program

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