

# RECREATION BULLETIN SERVICE

ISSUED BY THE

## NATIONAL RECREATION ASSOCIATION

Formerly named Playground & Recreation Association of America  
315 FOURTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

File Heading: Winter Sports

### ICE SKATING AREAS

#### Results of Preliminary Questionnaire

The National Recreation Association has received so many requests for information on types, surfaces and methods of creating ice skating rinks that a questionnaire on the subject was sent out recently to a limited number of executives in the states of Connecticut, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey and Rhode Island. Such a wide diversity of fact and opinion was shown in the replies that few conclusions of distinct value can be formulated on the most satisfactory method or on the conditions under which ice can be made most efficiently. A few facts, however, will be of interest.

Where can we build an ice skating rink? How big shall it be? The questionnaire showed that skating rinks have been made on playgrounds and playfields with sod or soil surfaces and on tennis courts, concrete, clay and bituminous. (Most of the data on tennis courts relates to clay surfaces.) An important factor in creating ice skating rinks is the stipulation that the ground to be flooded or sprayed should be level and smooth; weeds should be cut close to the ground and all twigs and leaves should be removed. The question on the minimum size of a rink drew many different estimates. Most replies stated that a tennis court comprised sufficient area for a children's rink, but other figures ran as high as a 40,000 square feet minimum.

#### Construction

An important point brought out is that banks should be constructed around artificial rinks. While clay embankments (from 8 to 36 inches high) were advocated in some instances; the consensus is that planks backed by dirt or clay are best. The boards may vary from 4 to 14 inches in height. It was suggested that they be sunk at a 45° angle, covered with tar paper, and banked with dirt. One superintendent reported that the board bank may be held upright with 2 x 4 inch stakes.

#### Ground and Temperature Conditions

Flooding. There should be several inches of frost in the ground before areas are flooded. The correct temperature for flooding, as indicated by the questionnaires, varies from 15 to 30° (average 26°). The temperature should be 26 and falling, however. It was suggested that the ground be sprayed first, in order to establish a base of ice, and then flooded.

If a hose is used in flooding, it is advised that the hose should not be placed on the ground, as such procedure results in a hole and the water will drain from the rink.

Spraying. A satisfactory temperature for spraying was recorded in answers from 15 to 30° (average around 20° -- and falling). Those questioned on spraying used anything from a  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch garden hose to a 3-inch fire hose, but the 1-inch garden hose, spray nozzle, was generally thought to be the most efficient. It is best to spray at night, letting one layer freeze before applying the next. The answers on