

Skate Park Etiquette

Guidelines on Appropriate Behaviour at Skate Facilities

There are a number of 'unspoken' rules when it comes to skating. Below is a list of some of the common issues/things to be aware of if you are new to visiting skate parks. This list is not definitive however is designed to provide guidance to new skaters and parents.

Be Honest About Your Skateboarding Skills

Being new to skating isn't a bad thing! Most skating injuries occur in new skaters so you need to be careful and don't attempt any tricks or use equipment which is beyond your skill level. Even if you have been skating for a while, don't go trying to jump down a set of stairs before you can jump off a curb.

Protect Yourself

To help avoid injuries (particular when just starting out) it is important to wear safety equipment. Your head may seem pretty tough, but concrete is much tougher, so be smart and wear a helmet! Knee, elbow and wrist protection are also encouraged.

Check It's Safe to Skate

When you arrive at a park check if it is safe to skate. If there is dirt or water on the park your wheels are more likely to slip. Glass on the park is especially dangerous. Falling onto broken glass isn't pretty. If the park is supervised, let someone know that the surface needs to be swept. If there is no way of making the park safe, find somewhere else to skate.

Only Bring What You Need

A few bucks and a phone in your pockets are much easier to keep track off than a backpack in a crowded park.

Watch For Other Skaters

Cutting across someone's path can cause problems for other park users and may lead to some bad injuries if you collide. Be patient, wait your turn, watch out for each other. New skaters usually struggle with this rule, particular if they are young as their spatial awareness is still developing. If a skater is continually causing problems help them out, explain nicely what they are doing wrong, and demonstrate the right way.

If You're Hurt Ask For Help

If you fall off of your skateboard and aren't hurt get straight back up and move out of the way. Lying in the middle of a skate park can lead to worse injuries – skateboards can hit you, people can land on you, etc. But if you are badly injured, ask for help immediately!

Wait Your Turn

In a crowded skate park, taking turns at having a run is important. Don't cut in front of someone who has been waiting ages to go.

Think Before You Sit

When you sit or stand in the skate park, you are putting yourself in danger of being hit as well as irritating other park users. If you sit down in a skate park, you are likely to be blocking the rail, ledge or ramp that someone wants to use. If you're having a break, move off of the park and out of the way.

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Follow The Traffic Flow

In most busy parks, skaters will naturally tend to skate in a certain direction around the facility. Skating against the flow of traffic is dangerous.

Watch Your Board

Anyone who has been hit by a skateboard knows it can hurt so keep an eye on your board! If your board slips out from under you, and is heading towards people let them know. Yelling "Board" can give someone enough of a warning to move out of the way. If your board ends up flying off of the park, make sure you give your board a shake/wipe down to remove any dirt. Tramping dirt onto the park can make the park dangerous to skate.

Avoid Marathon Runs

When it's your turn to skate avoid doing a massive run. Watch what other skaters are doing, and make sure that your turn is around the same length as theirs. Doing an occasional long run is acceptable if you are landing a lot of tricks but always taking forever will irritate the skaters waiting for their turn.

BMX/Scooters

Most of the time skaters have to share parks with people riding BMX and scooters. Be respectful of each other is the easiest thing to do in this situation. If someone on a BMX is using a bit of the park you'd like to use, just ask them if you can have a go for a while. Remember if you're nice to them they are more likely to be nice to you.

Help Each Other Out

If you see someone trying to land a trick over and over again – try not to embarrass them by doing the trick right in front of them to show them how easy it is for you. You can always offer to help them out, if you know what they need to change – for example if their foot positioning is wrong.

Say Sorry

If you accidently break one of the 'rules' or collide with someone, simply say 'sorry'. It's easy to do and people will respect you more.

Respect The Park

You should be proud of your local skate park, so do your bit to make sure it looks good. Put your rubbish in the bins provided. Tagging/graffiti isn't a good look and can also make the surface slippery and hard to skate.

Everyone Has to Start Somewhere

Once you have been skating for a while it can be easy to forget how hard it was when you first started out. Try and remember that the young kids often just need someone to point out the rules. Try not to be hard on them, you were just like them once!

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