Buffalo Speed Skating Club

44 Park Street, Holland, NY 14080
716-553-7661
info@buffalospeedskating.org
www.buffalospeedskating.org

Short Track Skate Blade Tip Radius Guide

USS Rule - "All speed skates must have the tubes closed and the blade ends rounded off, with a radius of 10 mm".

Reason: To reduce the puncture ability of the blade for the safety of everyone on the ice.

Method: In the absence of a gauge, a coin may be used as a measurement device and template to determine the radius. Place a nickel on the tip of the blade (see photos), and outline the area that needs to be ground down. The tips can be ground using a dremel tool, a bench grinder or a file.

Guidance: When checking the radius of the blade tips which coin is best to use?

A Nickel (5 cents) is about 21.2mm in diameter.
A penny (1 cent) is about 19.0mm in diameter.
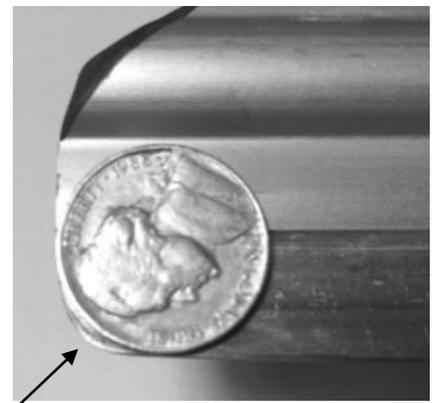A dime (10 cents) is about 17.91mm in diameter.

Since a radius is equal to one half of the diameter:
The radius of a dime is: 17.9mm, 1/ 2 = 8.955mm.
The radius of a penny is: 19.0mm, 1/2 = 9.5mm.
The radius of a nickel is: 21.2mm, 1/2 = 10.6mm.

The radius of a dime is 8.955mm.
The radius of a penny is 9.5mm.
The radius of a nickel is 10.6mm.

If using a penny, which is LESS than 10mm, it is a violation.
If using a nickel, which is MORE than 10mm, it is OK.
Do not use a dime as this is clearly less than 10mm.

Conclusion: Race preparation includes proper blade maintenance.
Front and rear radius of both blades may be checked by officials prior to warm-up. If so, it is the skaters responsibility to be sure that they have been checked and marked off on the officials list in order to ensure entry to the ice.

To help ensure your ability to race, and for the safety of everyone on the ice, be sure that your blade tips are rounded off with a radius of at least 10mm.

Before grinding (moderate radius issue)

After grinding

Developed by Alan Jay for the Buffalo Speedskating Club
* Special thanks to Glenn Corso and Hence Bollinger for their assistance in the production of this guide *