

THE FINLINE SAFETY RULES



General Rules

1. **Only bright-colored (red/orange/yellow) shirts and jackets are allowed while skating.** Every second that we can be seen earlier improves our safety significantly.
2. **Never overtake another skater if there are any cars visible in the front or back,** even if there is enough distance. We want to convince other traffic that we skate strictly in one queue.
3. **Always check your back once again by yourself** before crossing the road, overtaking other skaters, or changing your skating position on the lane. Never follow others blindly.
4. **Always skate on the same side of the roadway as any other groups you can see.** Skate on the left-hand side unless there is a valid reason (e.g., limited visibility, narrow road) to skate on the right.
5. **Be extra careful when shooting pictures and videos or controlling drones while skating.** To avoid airspace congestion, only one drone per skater may be airborne at the same time. 😊
6. **Use outstretched arm as a turn signal only.** Do not use your arm to guide an approaching vehicle to give more room because it may cause confusion in Finnish traffic.

Skating Groups

7. **Keep your skating group together so that you can see each other.** No solo skating is allowed because there must always be someone who notices if something happens.
8. **The absolute maximum size of a skating group is 6 skaters.** This makes it easier for vehicles to overtake the group, avoids the yo-yo effect and keeps any downhill trains in control.
9. **The distance between skating groups should be kept larger than 250 meters** whenever possible to allow vehicles to overtake one group at a time.
10. **The assigned group leader should stay close to the front of the group,** so that she/he can make quick decisions in unexpected situations.
11. **Stay in line behind the first skater of your group.** Never skate on another line than the other group members. It would increase risk of collisions and look uncontrolled from an approaching vehicle.
12. **Everyone in the group must shout warnings** for unexpected hazards and approaching vehicles.
13. **Everyone must repeat all warnings that they hear.** If two skaters in the middle forgets to do so, the rest of the group will not receive the warning at all. If not sure, shout something at least!



Downhills and Trains

14. **Do not pass a group that has stopped on the top of a downhill to wait for clear road.** There is a reason why the others have stopped. Wait for your own turn.
15. **The group leader shall choose the right-hand side of the roadway before large (e.g., 50+ km/h) and/or curvy downhills** with limited visibility. However, avoid changing the side unnecessarily because it is always a risk by itself. Watch out for approaching cars!
16. **Do not join a downhill train unless you are brave enough and trust the others.** The speed may become surprisingly high (record 76 km/h, 47 mph). It is not possible to quit from the train safely.
17. **The downhill train starts the downhill always before any solo skaters.** Otherwise, there is risk of meeting in the middle of the downhill. The train starts slower but eventually it will be very fast.
18. **The most experienced downhill train skater must be the first in a downhill train.**
19. **The first skater in a downhill train is responsible for choosing the direction and actions** on sudden situations. Try to stay calm and do not make any abrupt maneuvers in the train by yourself.
20. **Take the last place in the downhill train if you are unsure** or if you have tendency towards skate vibration in high speeds. It is the only place where you can stand up to quit without risking others.
21. **Never brake in the middle of a downhill train** unless the train leader commands everyone to do so. Emergency braking is on your own responsibility: do not slow down by pushing fellow skaters.
22. **The group leader decides when to switch back to the left-hand side after a downhill.** She/he must ensure that everyone in the group and any groups behind are ready to do that at the same time.

