

Figure skating

After more than ten years of development, a new metal-hinged skating boot claims to reduce the joint injuries that plague competitive skaters

Hinged system: Boot hinged where ankle pivots, allowing skater to point toes and ankles to flex

INJURY HOTSPOTS

Foot / ankle

Patella

Lower back

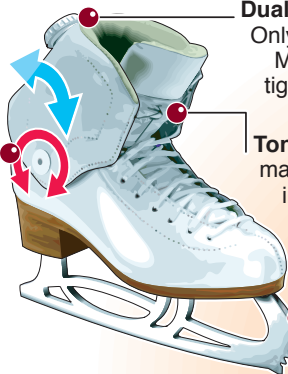
Hip

Dual-closure system:

Only lower part laced.
Movable upper part tightened by rotating dial in back

Tongue: Mid-section, made of gel encased in neoprene fabric, allows ankle movement

Blade: Serrated edge in front tip to assist jumps, spins and stops



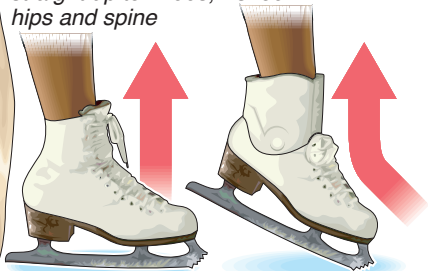
INJURY PREVENTION

Rigid boot:

Flat-footed landing, transfers stress straight up to knees, hips and spine

Hinged boot:

Ankle movement increases landing time and absorbs shock



Hinged design thought to reduce landing impact forces – of up to 10 times skater's body weight – by about one third

ALL-TIME MEDALS

Individual / Pairs / Dance

RUS	10 / 19 / 15
USA	36 / 5 / 1
GER	10 / 11 / 0



Sources: TOROC, Jackson Skates