OTAS LIVE

Supporting Events and Professionals at Every Stage

When the ice has to pause

Session changeovers, marshals off the ice, and how you reach a casualty on a temporary ice rink at a winter event

Correct as of 10 November 2026

Pause the ice first.

6 Nov

two large outdoor rinks opened [1][3]



A staff member stands at the barrier during a session, off the ice. OTAS style image, generated from real photography. Not a record of a specific event.

The facts, as reported

6 Nov

two large outdoor rinks opened [1][3]

13 Nov

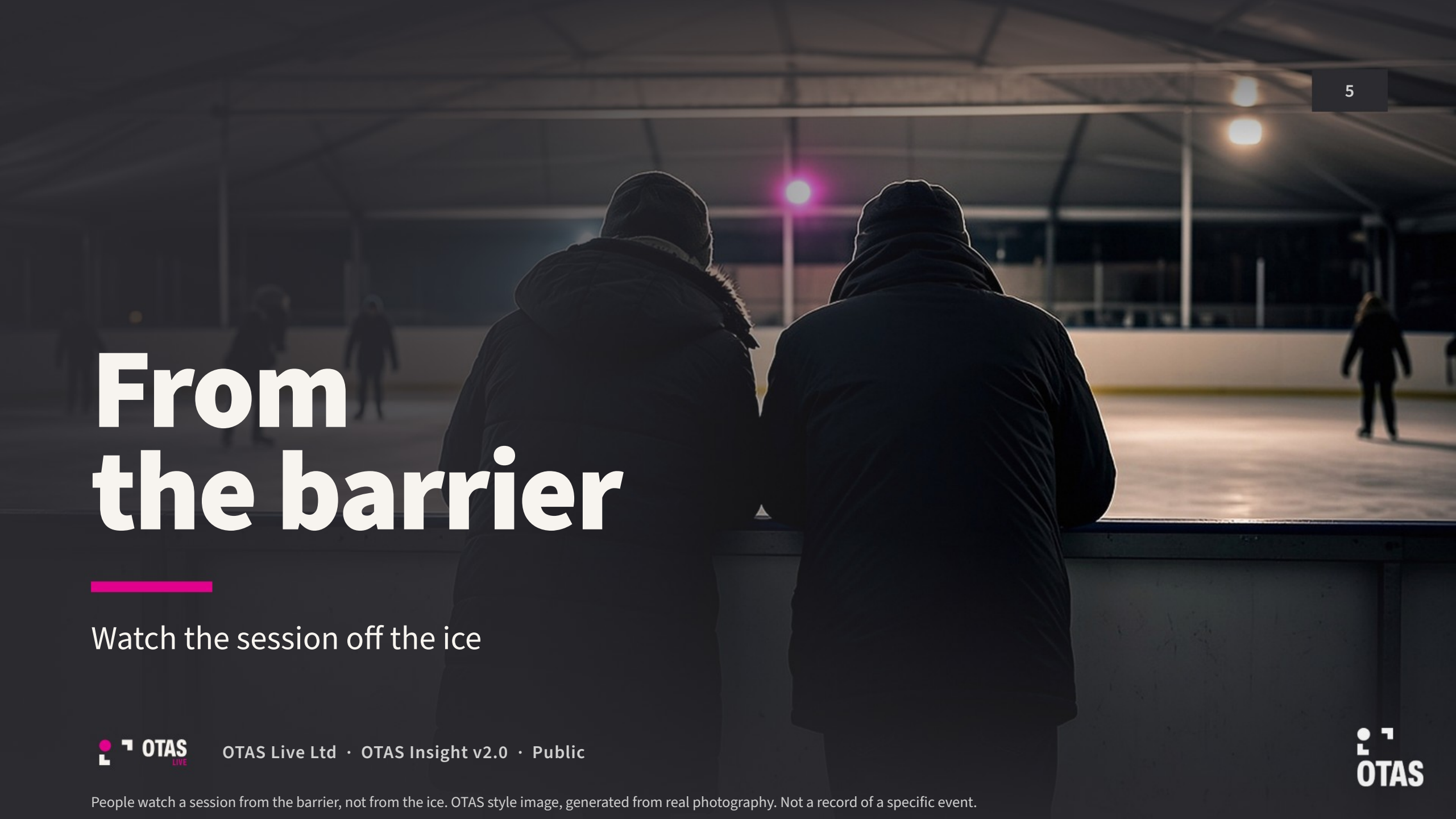
a city centre rink due to open [2]

45 min

published session length [4]

What was published

OPENINGS IN NOVEMBER	WHAT THE PUBLIC IS TOLD
Manchester and Newcastle on 6 November [1][3]	45 minute sessions, arrive 20 minutes early [4]
Sheffield due on 13 November [2]	Ice marshals and a first aider [6]
London park from 19 November [5]	Leave the ice for resurfacing [7]



From the barrier

Watch the session off the ice

People watch a session from the barrier, not from the ice. OTAS style image, generated from real photography. Not a record of a specific event.

What the guidance says

YOUR DUTY

- Duty to people who are not employees [21]
- Include the public in first aid planning [9]
- Plan for incidents and emergencies [9]

THE ICE AND THE COLD

- Do not assume a person who gets up is unhurt [8]
- Cold makes a wait and a fall worse [16]
- Know where the defibrillator is [17]



The ice gate

The way on and off

Staff at the ice gate keep a clear way on and off the ice. OTAS style image, generated from real photography. Not a record of a specific event.

03

In practice

THE FLOOR	THE CROWD
The ice is a live, slippery floor	Changeovers build queues [4]
Ways on and off are limited	Queues can block the gate
A person down blocks the sheet	Cold does not wait [16]

Pause the ice, then reach the casualty

1
Session starts

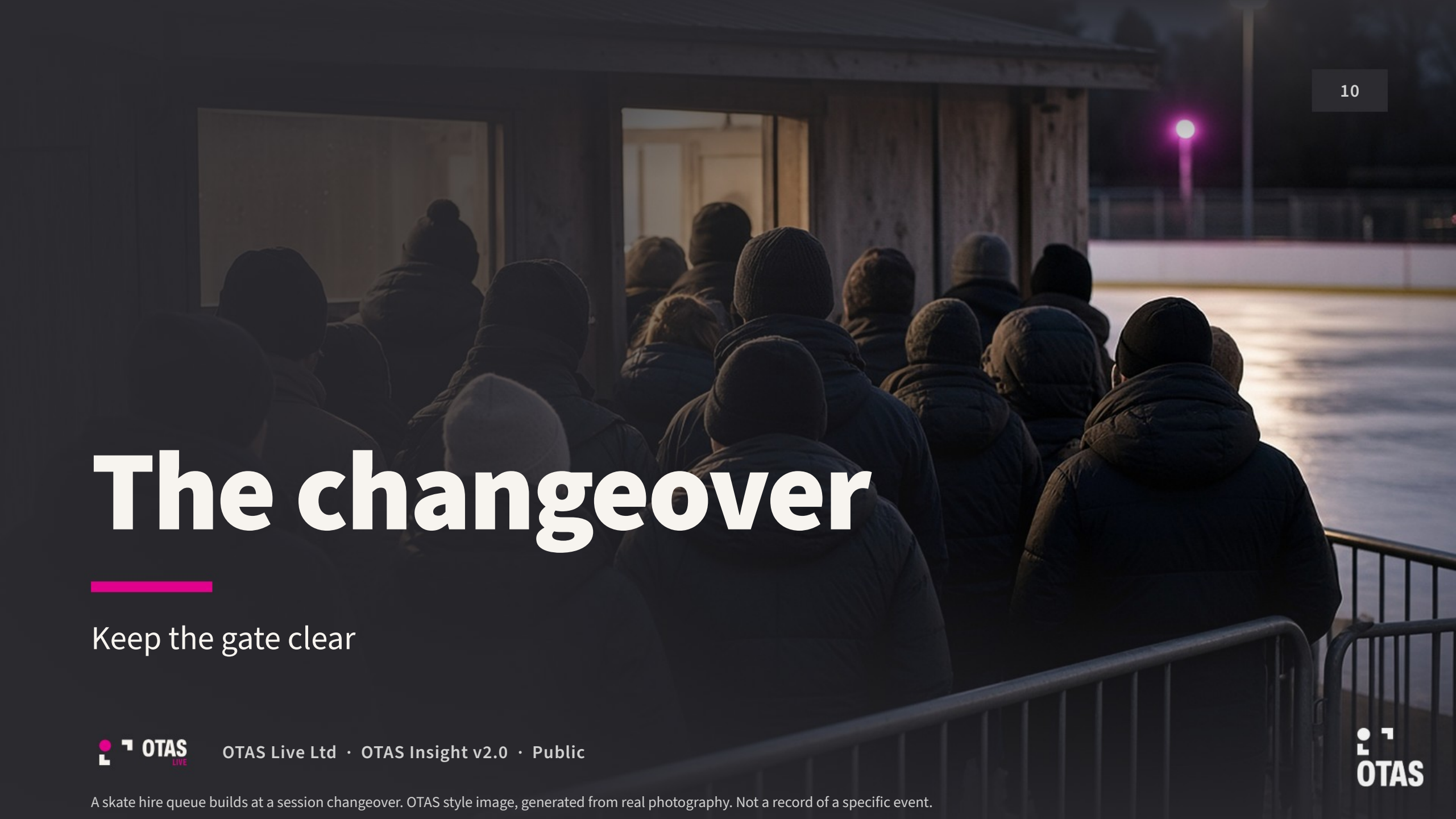
2
Someone is down

3
Pause is called

4
Lane is cleared

5
Casualty is reached

OTAS guidance.



The changeover

Keep the gate clear

A skate hire queue builds at a session changeover. OTAS style image, generated from real photography. Not a record of a specific event.

Five things to agree

THE CALL	THE WAY
The pause words	The walked route
The named person	The clear gate
The deputy	The cover

06

Signs your rink plan will not hold

OTAS guidance, drawn from HSE and published rink practice.

01 **No pause words**

02 **Staff on the ice**

03 **Blocked gate**

04 **No route walked**

05 **First aid for staff only**

Five stages, from the limits to the session



STAGE 1

Limits

Who is on the ice, and when it closes

STAGE 2

The pause

One person, and the words

STAGE 3

The route

Walk it, then keep it clear

STAGE 4

Changeover

One group out, the next held

STAGE 5

The session

Watch, pause, reach, log

From the plan in this Insight. OTAS guidance.

08

The pause chart

WATCH AND ACT	PAUSE
Fall reported from the barrier	They cannot get up [15]
Queue reaches the gate	The way off is blocked
Person looks very cold	A casualty is still on the ice

09

Public address

PAUSE	RESTART
The session is paused	The ice is clear
Leave the ice now	Staff are in position
Wait at the barrier	The session will restart

What to do at each level

Operational

Know the words

Watch off the ice

Keep the gate clear

Tactical

Brief the pause

Run the changeover

Log the handover

Strategic

Name who pauses it

Walk the route

Agree the cover

The checklist

BEFORE YOU OPEN

- Words written
- Owner named
- Route walked
- Cover agreed

ON THE SESSION

- Watch off the ice
- Pause, then reach

“

As well as workers, HSE strongly recommends that you include the visiting public in your first-aid, medical and ambulance needs assessment.

HSE, event safety, incidents and emergencies [9]

Where the facts come from

1	**Regional newspaper report on a large outdoor ice rink opening in Manchester, 7 November 2026**	manchestereveningnews.co.uk
2	**Sheffield City Council news, date revealed for a city centre artificial ice rink, 9 November 2026**	sheffield.gov.uk
3	**Centre for Life news, outdoor ice rink launched in Newcastle, 8 November 2026**	life.org.uk
4	**Hyde Park Winter Wonderland, ice skating attraction page, session length and child supervision rule**	hydeparkwinterwonderland.com
5	**Hyde Park Winter Wonderland, getting here, opening dates 19 November 2026 to 3 January 2027**	hydeparkwinterwonderland.com
6	**Glasgow Times report on the Glasgow Green ice rink, dates, ice marshals and a first aider**	glasgowtimes.co.uk
7	**Plymouth Winter Wonderland ice rink page, dates 20 November 2026 to 3 January 2027 and skater code**	plymwinterwonderland.co.uk

Where the facts come from

8	**LightMed, ice rink medical provision, 7 October 2026**	lightmed.co.uk
9	**HSE, event safety, incidents and emergencies**	hse.gov.uk
10	**HSE, first aid legislation**	hse.gov.uk
11	**HSE, event safety, outdoor equipment**	hse.gov.uk
12	**HSE, event safety, venue and site design**	hse.gov.uk
13	**HSE, event safety, crowd management**	hse.gov.uk
14	**HSE, first aid needs assessment, including members of the public**	hse.gov.uk

Where the facts come from

15	**NHS, head injury and concussion**	nhs.uk
16	**NHS, hypothermia**	nhs.uk
17	**Resuscitation Council UK, Public access defibrillators: a guide for communities**	resus.org.uk
18	**HSE, first aid at work, the health and safety (first aid) regulations**	hse.gov.uk
19	**The Purple Guide (subscription)**	thepurpleguide.co.uk
20	**HSE, event safety, managing an event**	hse.gov.uk
21	**Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, section 3**	legislation.gov.uk

Where the facts come from

22	**Health and Safety at Work (Northern Ireland) Order 1978, article 5**	legislation.gov.uk
23	**UKHSA, Weather Health Alerting System**	gov.uk

Web sources opened 10 November 2026 and labelled by source type. Links are for checking only. Listing a source does not mean it endorses OTAS or has worked with us.

OVER TO YOU

If someone went down in the middle of your rink in the next session, who would pause the ice, and how would you reach them?

If you need support setting a session pause, a marshal plan and a medical access route for your rink, reach out to us to see how we can support you.