

SPEED SKATING CANADA

HIGH PERFORMANCE BULLETIN

#154 - SHORT TRACK



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HIGH PERFORMANCE BULLETINS

The High Performance Committee – Short Track (HPCST) will issue bulletins periodically throughout the season informing skaters, coaches and associations of any update and/or changes to selection criteria, competitions, etc.

The HPCST reserves the right to modify or change the enclosed policies in the event that exceptional circumstances arise and that any such changes are clearly in the best interest of the high performance program. In these situations all athletes and coaches will be advised of any changes as soon as they are confirmed by the HPCST.

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2012 / 13 Short Track Selection Criteria

General Information

Selection Procedures

All skaters must meet the specific standards for each competition as set by the ISU to be eligible to compete. Speed Skating Canada will then select athletes for each specific event as outlined in the section for that competition and in accordance with the General Intent of Selections.

General Intent of Selections

Overall Objective

The objective of the team selection policy is to prepare and select the Canadian team that meets the identified goal(s) for each competition, according to the program objectives for each season of the Olympic cycle. All team nominations throughout the year ultimately serve to prepare skaters so that the best team possible can be selected to represent Canada at the World Short Track Championships, which is the most important annual competition.

The HPCST has determined that in this third year of the quadrennial leading up to the 2014 Olympic Games, the primary focus of team selection is to select the best team to compete at each of the World Cups. Due to distinctions between the men's and women's field of competitors, the HPCST has allowed for differences in the selection criteria for the two teams. In order to provide additional international experience to members of the women's team, two skaters will be selected to the team based on discretionary criteria for each world cups.

Sequence of decisions for team selection

A step-by-step process of team selection has been defined by the HPCST for each competition and can be found within the corresponding section.

Bye

An athlete may apply for a Bye to obtain a place on a specific team or entry field for a competition. A Bye provides the opportunity to be selected for an athlete who, due to exceptional circumstances and through no fault of their own, is unable to qualify for the team through the normal selection event(s). The basic philosophy for granting a Bye is that the skater being given the Bye has demonstrated superior performance in previous competitions as described in Appendix A.

Discretionary Selection

Discretionary selection provides the HPCST an opportunity to select an athlete to a Team who, based upon analysis of past performances or the profile of the team being created is best able to assist SSC in achieving the Overall Objective.

For discretionary selections to a competition entry field, the decision will be based on past performances and assumed future potential according to the LTAD.

Naming of Teams

Once the HPCST has finalized the team, SSC will formally announce the selection by posting the team list on the SSC website. Every effort will be made to ensure that this occurs within 7 days of the selection event.

For each competition, the HPCST will name an alternate skater in the event that a replacement is required. Selection of this skater will be at the discretion of the HPCST.

Replacement of Skaters

At any time, the HPCST reserves the right to replace a skater if medical advice stipulates that competing in the event may be potentially injurious to the selected skater or that the skater has not sufficiently recovered from a previous or existing injury.

If a skater who is named to a team withdraws or declines his/her position on the team prior to departure for the competition, he/she will be replaced by the alternate.

If a skater who is named to a team is injured or becomes ill following departure for the competition, or series of competitions, the HPCST will evaluate whether he/she will be replaced by the alternate.

Selection process for World Cups 1, 2, 3 and 4

For World Cup competitions 1, 2, 3 and 4, team selection will be based upon results from the Fall World Cup Selections and the discretion of the HPCST.

Team Composition:

The team will be composed of 6 skaters per gender.

Sequence of decisions and team selection criteria for MEN: World Cups 1-4

- Step 1 Select **top 4** athletes based on results of best 2 distances at Fall World Cup Selection event
- Step 2 **If a request has been made for a bye**, the bye point system will be used for head-to-head comparison of athletes. (refer to the bye point policy - Appendix A). The bye point system will determine the placement of the athlete requesting the bye and consequently the adjusted final selection ranking. The athlete requesting a bye will be compared with the athlete in the 5th and subsequent positions going down the ranking list. The athlete in the 5th position of this adjusted final selection ranking will be selected to the Team.

If no request for a bye has been made, or if a request or requests have been made but have not been placed in the 5th position of the adjusted final selection ranking, the athlete in the 5th position based on results of best 2 distances will be selected to the Team. If a tie in points exists, the athlete with the higher ranking in the third distance will be ranked higher.

- Step 3 The HPCST, in consultation with the National Team coaches, will select the athlete for the remaining position according to the guidelines for discretionary selections below. The discretionary selection will be limited to the highest ranked athletes on the list not already selected up to position 9 of the adjusted final selection ranking.

Sequence of decisions and team selection criteria for WOMEN: World Cups 1-4

- Step 1 Select **top 4** athletes based on results of best 2 distances at Fall World Cup Selection event
- Step 2 **If a request has been made for a bye**, the bye point system will be used for head-to-head comparison of athletes. (refer to the bye point policy - Appendix A). The bye point system will determine the placement of the athlete requesting the bye and consequently the adjusted final selection ranking. The athlete requesting a bye will be compared with the athlete in the 5th and subsequent positions going down the ranking list. The athlete in the 5th position of this adjusted final selection ranking will be selected to the Team.

If no request for a bye has been made, or if a request or requests have been made but have not been placed in the 5th position of the adjusted final selection ranking proceed to step 3.

Step 3 The HPCST, in consultation with the National Team coaches, will select the athlete(s) for the remaining position(s) according to the guidelines for discretionary selections below. The discretionary selection will be limited to the highest ranked athletes on the list not already selected up to position 9 of the adjusted final selection ranking.

In selecting athletes for the discretionary position, the HPCST, with input from National Team coaches, will evaluate the athletes under consideration to select the best Team to represent Canada at the Fall World cups. Exceptionally for the selection of the Women's Team, positions 5 and 6 may be occupied by different athletes for any of the Fall World Cups (as stated in step 3).

In order to meet the overall objective of Team selections the following elements will be considered for discretionary selections. The National Team coaches' assessment will cover the following elements: • International relay performances & experience • International performances & experience • National performances • Training performance • Readiness for competition • Team dynamics • Commitment to the training program • Medical and health status • Long-term athlete development

For evaluation of performance, results from competitions completed within the past 12 months will be considered. When performances from the past 12 months are not sufficient to enable a fair comparison and evaluation between athletes, competitions from beyond this period may be considered at the discretion of the HPSTC.

Individual distances

The top 2 athletes identified in Step 1 above, in consultation with the National Team coaches, will have preference as to their entry in individual distances at the World Cup competitions. If one of the top 3 athletes selected to the previous year's World Championships team obtains a place on the 2012 Fall World Cup Team via a bye request, this athlete will have the 3rd choice as to their entry in individual distances. Otherwise, the third athlete identified in step 1 will have the third choice for individual distances. The National Team coaches will decide which skaters will compete in the remaining distances.

2012 – 2013 Fall World Cup Selections

General information

- a) In order to compete in these events skaters must be Canadian citizens and registered members of Speed Skating Canada. The competitions will be held on the ISU 111.12m oval track. The racing rules of SSC, and where applicable, the ISU will be used.
- b) Skaters must have reached the age of 15 before July 1, 2012 to compete in these events as they are selection races for senior international competitions (ISU Rule 108).
- c) **PLEASE NOTE** All skaters are required to wear cut-resistant clothing (undergarment or racing suit) that meets the ISU standards as described in ISU Communication 1265.
- d) Skaters qualify for this selection event as follows:

Fall World Cup Selections: (Calgary AB, September 14 - 16, 2012)

The Fall World Cup Selections will have a maximum of 16 entries. Fourteen (14) skaters will be selected based on overall ranking from the 2011-12 season and after considering any bye requests. The HPC has the absolute discretion to invite 2 additional men and women to complete the field of 16 at the Fall World Cup Selections. If the HPC does not exercise any or all of this discretion then any vacant starting positions will be allocated based on overall ranking from the 2011-12 season. Any tie between skaters will be broken by referring to a head-to-head comparison from the 2011-12 season until the tie is broken.

Confirmation of Entries

Skaters are **required to confirm their intent to participate in writing** to Speed Skating Canada by:

Confirmation deadline	Competition	Publication date of final entry list
August 29th, 2012	Fall World Cup Selection	September 3, 2012

PLEASE NOTE: Positions **NOT confirmed by the deadline** will be allocated to the next ranked eligible skater.

If an athlete enters and is then forced to withdraw due to illness, injury etc, the resulting available position at the end of the entry list will automatically be offered to the next eligible skater. If the withdrawal is made within seven (7) days of the event only the next eligible athlete in the ranking list will be offered the vacant position. If this athlete declines, the HPC reserves the right to evaluate any additional replacements after the first alternate athlete as necessary in the best interest of the competition.

National Team Uniforms

During an event sanctioned by Speed Skating Canada the athletes must not wear a competition uniform (skin suit) identified as belonging to a national team or to another country, unless he or she belongs to that team or country at the time of the competition. (SSC Rule N1-106).

In addition, no Speed Skating Canada National or Development Team skin suits from a previous season are permitted to be worn by any skater during Fall World Cup Selections without the consent of the HPCST.

Canadian Ranking Points

Final placing in a particular distance for the Fall World Cup Selections is determined on the basis of the final in which a skater competes and their finish position in that final. Canadian Ranking Points are then allocated according to the final rankings per distance as follows:

<u>Place</u>	<u>pts</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>pts</u>
1	500	9	98
2	408	10	80
3	333	11	65
4	272	12	53
5	222	13	43
6	181	14	35
7	148	15	29
8	121	16	23

If there are more than 4 skaters in a 500m or 1000m final, or 6 in a 1500m final, the points of the 5th place, 6th place etc, will be the points of the 1st place, 2nd place, etc. of the following final. The rest of the points will then be adjusted accordingly.

Special Racing Rules:

Penalizations, failure to finish, scratches:

In case of penalization, failure to finish due to infraction, or scratches, the following rules will apply:

1. A penalized skater will receive the last place rank and seeding points for the race in which he is penalized and will be placed directly into the lowest bracket/race in the next round.
2. Skaters who drop out before a race will receive the last place position of that race, behind any skaters who might subsequently fail to finish due to infraction or penalization and will receive the seeding points according to the final order in that distance
3. Skaters who withdraw before the distance will receive no Rankings points for that distance and the distance will be re-seeded
4. Skaters who withdraw from a distance are permitted to continue in the competition for any subsequent distances.
5. A skater who does not finish the race because of an infraction by another skater will receive their position ahead of any penalized skaters.
6. An athlete who does not finish a race will not be allowed to start the following round of the distance unless an advancement is warranted according to the ISU World Cup procedures or Special Rules Exception.
7. In special circumstances where an athlete is not able to finish a race as a result of injury, the referee in consultation with the High Performance Jury (High Performance Committee Chair and/or High Performance elected members in attendance and National Short Track Program Director) may decide to advance the athlete to the next round to ensure the most fair allocation of final ranking points.
8. In special circumstances where an athlete is not able to finish a race as a result of equipment failure/breakage during a race, this must be reported to and verified by the race referee immediately following the race in which the equipment breakage occurred. The athlete will be advanced in the lower bracket of the next round and permitted to continue in the distance.
9. Advancement will be in accordance with the ISU World Cup procedures. In brief, advanced skaters will receive seeding points as per their finish in the race from which they were advanced, and will be seeded into the next round of racing on the basis of these seeding points. Advanced skaters will not be seeded in any specified order; instead, their ranking after the previous round will determine which race they are seeded into for the subsequent round.

2012 / 13 Competition Format

1. Competition format. Fall World Cup Selections

The format for this competition is as follows:

Day 1: 1500m / 500m

Day 2: 1000m / 1500m

Day 3: 500m / 1000m, 3000m relay women, 5000m relay men

1. Seeding: Fall World Cup Selections

Seeding for the first round of the first 500m, 1000m and 1500m distances will be made on the basis of the skater's Canadian Ranking in each of these distances from the 2011/ 12 Canadian Rankings. If there is a tie, the skater/s with the best overall 2011 / 12 Canadian Ranking will be seeded higher.

Seeding for the first round of the second 500m, 1000m and 1500m distances will be made on the basis of the skater's finish position in each of the respective distances in the first round of the 2012-13 Fall World Cup Selections and on their seeding for the first round of these same distances. This will be determined by calculating the average of the original seeding per distance for Fall World Cup Selections and the finish position per distance from Fall World Cup Selections. In the event of a tie in this average value, the skater with the better result in the respective distance from 2012-13 Fall World Cup Selections will be seeded higher.

For example: if a skater had a seeding of 4th for the 1500m for Fall World Cup Selections and had a final ranking of 8th in the first 1500m distance at Fall World Cup Selections, their average for seeding would be calculated as 6. This score is then ranked against the other skaters and a final seeding for the second 500m, 1000m and 1500m distance at Fall World Cup Selections would be determined.

PLEASE NOTE: the HPC reserves the right to adjust seeding for all competitions to ensure the most fair and appropriate racing conditions for athletes who do not have a 2011 / 12 Canadian ranking or were not able to participate in all National Selection competitions from the 10-11 and 11-12 seasons.

Lane Positions

For the first qualifying round of a distance lane positions will be as per seeding for that distance. For each subsequent round the lane position will be decided by the times skated in the preceding qualifying round. Skaters will be assigned lane positions from the inside of the track to the outside in the order of their times commencing with the fastest time.

Composition of Semi-finals (1500m)

1500m	Semi-finals		
	A	B	C
Distance Seeding	1	2	3
	6	5	4
	7	8	9
	12	11	10
	13	14	15
			16

If starting numbers are reduced from 16, the High Performance Jury (High Performance Committee Chair and/or High Performance elected members in attendance and Short Track Program Director) will determine the most suitable number of heats to ensure the fairest racing conditions.

Composition of Finals (1500m)

Final A: 1st and 2nd of Semis A, B and C
Final B: 3rd and 4th of Semis A, B and C
Final C: Remaining skaters from Semis A, B and C

Any athlete that has been Penalized in the semis will be automatically seeded into heat C.

Composition of the Heats (500m and 1000m)

	500m and 1000m			
	A	B	C	D
Distance seeding	1	2	3	4
	8	7	6	5
	9	10	11	12
	16	15	14	13

Composition of the Semi-finals (500m and 1000m)

The top 2 skaters from each of the 4 heats will be placed into the top 2 semi-finals (A, B; final rank 1-8 or lower depending on the number of advancements in the heats) on the basis of a ranking derived from ISU competition points from the heats as follows:

Placing in previous round:	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th
ISU competition points	34	21	13	8	5	3	2	1

	Semi - finals top bracket				
	A	B	C	D	
Rank from quarter finals	1	2	9	10	
	4	3	12	11	
	5	6	13	14	
	8	7	16	15	

Ties will be broken by referring to the times skated in the heats; the fastest time among those tied in points will be seeded highest and so on. Any further ties will be broken by a coin toss.

The remaining skaters from each of the 4 heats will be placed into the next 2 semi-finals (C, D; final rank 9-16) on the basis of a ranking derived from ISU competition points from the heats. Ties will be broken by referring to the times skated in the heats; the fastest time among those tied in points will be seeded highest and so on. Any further ties will be broken by a coin toss.

Composition of the Finals (500m and 1000m)

- Final A: Top 2 skaters from semi-final A and semi-final B
- Final B: Remaining skaters from semi-final A and B
- Final C: Top 2 skaters from semi-final C and semi-final D
- Final D: Remaining skaters from semi-final C and D

Ranking Points:

Skaters earn ranking points during the finals races for each distance as follows:

- a) The ranking points for the 1500m are as follows:

Finals	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th
Final A	500	408	333	272	222	181
Final B	148	121	98	80	65	53
Final C	43	35	29	23		

- b) The ranking points for the 500m and 1000m are as follows:

Finals	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Final A	500	408	333	272
Final B	222	181	148	121
Final C	98	80	65	53
Final D	43	35	29	23

If there are more than 4 skaters in a 500m or 1000m final or 6 in a 1500m final, the points of the 5th place, 6th place etc, will be the points of the 1st place, 2nd place, etc. of the following final. The rest of the points will then be adjusted accordingly.

Fall World Cup Selection Event – Final Ranking for Best 2

Each distance will be raced twice and results combined before the ranking of each distance. If 2 athletes are tied the skater with the highest finish position in either of the other distances will be prioritized in the higher individual ranking position. If a tie still persists cumulative seeding points of

the 3 distances will be used for breaking the tie. In the event of a continued tie, the comparison will be made according to the skater's final National ranking from the year prior.

Composition of relay teams.

The relay teams will be composed on the basis of overall rankings as follows:

Team A – 1, 8, 9, 16

Team B – 2, 7, 10, 15

Team C – 3, 6, 11, 14

Team D – 4, 5, 12, 13

If any skater from the top 16 withdraws, the race will involve 3 teams only

Appendix A

GUIDELINES FOR THE ALLOCATION OF BYES

1. Purpose

To provide guidelines to the High Performance Committees in the granting of Byes.

2. Philosophy for allocation of byes

Due to exceptional circumstances (e.g. illness, injury, equipment break, etc) and through no fault of their own, a skater sometimes does not have the opportunity to compete in the nominated selection event/s. In this situation the athlete is eligible to apply for a Bye for selection to the relevant team or entry field for a competition.

The basic philosophy for selecting an athlete by granting a Bye is that the skater given the Bye has demonstrated superior performances in previous competitions to other athletes being considered for selection.

3. Rules for requesting a bye

The Bye Policy Clause will only apply to selection for specific competitions / events / teams. The Bye Clause will not apply for nominations by SSC to Sport Canada's Athlete Assistance Program. In the case of a major injury, the AAP Injury Card procedures will be implemented to handle this situation.

- a) Bye requests must be made in writing to the HPCST (see deadlines below)
- b) Unless physically incapable, only the skater requesting the Bye can submit the request.
- c) If the Bye request is made on the basis of an illness or injury, the skater must provide documented evidence from a sports medicine practitioner. The HPC has the right to request further independent medical review after the Bye request has been submitted.
- d) If the Bye request is made on the basis of equipment breakage, this must be reported to and verified by the race referee or HPC representative immediately following the race in which the equipment breakage occurred.

4. Conditions for applying for a Bye

Bye requests will be considered in three categories:

- a) *Pre-competition illness or injury that prevents an athlete from competing in the ranking / selection event.*

If the skater is ill or injured before the beginning of the competition, he/she must request a Bye **before the Coaches' meeting** at the competition. The HPC Representative must formally announce all Bye requests at this meeting so that all other competitors are made aware of the possibility of a Bye being granted.

b) Injury, illness or equipment breakage during the selection event.

A Bye request must be made **within 24 hours** following the end of the competition unless the skater is physically incapable of making this request (in such a case, the skater's coach may make the request).

(See clause 3d above for the reporting requirements for equipment breakage)

Specific to categories a) or b):

In the case of selection being based upon a cumulative ranking from multiple events, a skater is eligible to apply for a Bye request to a subsequent event if s/he was prevented from competing in one of the qualifying events due to a pre-existing illness or injury.

c) Bye request to a specific Team for the season following the selection event/s

The Bye must be requested **within 48 hours** following the final selection event.

In all categories:

The Bye request must **state clearly** what the skater is asking for, and provide supporting documentation (medical, race referee report etc).

6. Process for reviewing a Bye application

The following outlines the process for considering Bye requests.

- a) The Bye Point system will be used for head-to-head comparison of athletes in the national ranking.
- b) Following the final selection event for the respective team / competition the 3 elected members of the HPCST will review the facts and make a decision (with supporting rationale).
- c) In cases where multiple Bye applications are submitted they will be assessed individually and on their own merit.
- d) The HPCST will name the "Team" or entry field for a competition which will be communicated, along with the supporting rationale, to the skater/s requesting the Bye, skater/s directly affected by the Bye request, the coaches, and athletes' representatives.

7. Conditions for Granting a Bye

When considering whether or not to grant a bye, the HPCST must first evaluate the medical condition of the athlete, the degree to which the athlete has followed the prescribed rehabilitation process, and his/her readiness to compete according to feedback received from the medical team

and his/her coaches. If any of the above conditions are not at a level satisfactory to the HPCST, the Bye may be refused on this basis alone.

Following this preliminary analysis, the HPCST will assign Bye Points on the basis of competition results from the last 12 months using the Bye Point System noted below. These points will be assigned to all skaters in the ranking and those requesting the Bye. The Bye Points of the skater requesting the bye will be compared with those of the following skaters not automatically selected.

In order to be re-ranked for evaluation of the bye, the skater requesting it must have a minimum of **5** more points than the skater against whom he/she is being compared. Should the skater requesting the Bye not have more points than the first skater on the list who is not already named to the team, he/she will be compared with the next skater on the ranking list from the selection event.

When more than one Bye has been requested for a given team/event, the Bye from the skater with the highest Bye Points will be considered first.

POINT GRID

Rank	FULL POINT GRID *									
	Fall WC Selection	WC 1	WC 2	WC 3	WC 4	Canadian Open	WC 5	WC 6	World Champ	Selection # 2
1	16	10	10	10	10	16	10	10	10	6
2	14	7	7	7	7	14	7	7	7	5
3	12	5	5	5	5	12	5	5	5	4
4	10	3	3	3	3	10	3	3	3	3
5	8	2	2	2	2	8	2	2	2	2
6	6	1	1	1	1	6	1	1	1	1
	Best 2	Per Distance			Overall	Per Distance			Overall	

Notes

1. National events: Points allocated based on the ranking as defined in the previous section either overall or best 2 distances.
2. International events: Points will be allocated for each distance but **only the best 3** World Cups during the period will be considered (3000m will not be considered.)
3. An additional 6 points will be allocated to each world championship team member in order to give them the same number of points as the winner at selection #2.

In some cases, the HPC may award a “Conditional Bye” to skaters recovering from injury or illness. In this situation the skater may have certain conditions imposed. The HPC should be provided confirmation (medical or other, if not a medical problem) that there is no significant physical/psychological limitation to competition. The HPCST must also receive assertion from the coach that the athlete is ready to compete at the appropriate level for the competition in question. The HPCST will specify the date on which the performance and medical assessment will be evaluated.

In the case of a bye not being granted, the athlete who had made the request could be considered for the discretionary position, if still eligible, enabling SSC to achieve the general objective as outlined.

8. **Appeals**

Following the announcement of the Team or entry field for a competition where appropriate, any athlete/s affected by the Bye request decision has/have the opportunity to appeal this decision in accordance with the Speed Skating Canada Appeal Policy. (refer to SSC Appeals Policy RES 100)

Approved by the High Performance Committee Short Track on October 5, 2000.

Revision: August 2012