

SPEED SKATING CANADA

HIGH PERFORMANCE BULLETIN

#187 – Bye Request Policy (SHORT TRACK)



September 2019

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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2019/20 Short Track Bye Request Policy

General Information

This Bulletin describes the Bye Request Policy that will be used for National & International Competitions as well as Team Nominations within the National Short Track Program, as defined by the Short Track High Performance Committee.

Principles of the Bye

An athlete may apply for a Bye to obtain a place on a Team or entry to the field of a competition in accordance with the following guidelines. A Bye provides the opportunity to be selected to a Team for an athlete who, due to exceptional circumstances and through no fault of his/her own, is unable to qualify for the team through the normal selection competition(s) or selection process. The basic philosophy for granting a Bye is that the athlete being given the Bye has demonstrated superior performance in previous competitions.

GUIDELINES FOR THE ALLOCATION OF BYES

1. Purpose

To provide guidelines to the High Performance Committee 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 fully compete in the nominated selection event/s. In this situation the athlete may be eligible to apply for a Bye selection to the relevant team.

The basic philosophy for selecting an athlete by granting a Bye is that the skater given the Bye has clearly demonstrated superior performances and/or qualities to other athletes being considered for selection.

In ordinary circumstances, SSC will not grant an athlete a bye onto a Team or into an event if that athlete has not previously satisfied the relevant and applicable criteria in order to be selected to the specific Team or in the specific event on the basis of their performances. However, and notwithstanding the aforementioned, if, compared to the performances of the other athletes seeking selection onto a Team or into an event, an athlete's recent performances demonstrate that they are at a superior level that would warrant selection onto a Team or that they should be granted permission to enter an event through a bye, the HPC may, after consulting with the relevant national team coaches, and assessing the athlete's bye request in accordance with this HP Bulletin, grant the athlete a bye for such a purpose.

3. Rules for requesting a bye

- a) Bye requests must be made in writing to the respective HPC (see deadlines in the relevant HP bulletin)
- b) Unless physically incapable, only the skater requesting a 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 of the illness or injury. The HPC has the right to request, in which case the athlete must agree, to allow for 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. Types of bye requests and deadlines

i. Bye request for a specific competition in the current skating season

Bye requests will be considered in two 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 time and date specified in Bulletin 184**. The HPC Representative must formally announce all Bye requests received by the deadline at the coaches' meeting so that all other competitors are made aware of the possibility of a Bye being granted.

A Bye request will be ruled ineligible if the skater subsequently competes in the selection event.

In the case of selection being based upon a cumulative ranking from multiple events, a skater may be eligible to apply for a Bye request to a subsequent ranking event if they are prevented from competing in one of the ranking events due to a pre-existing illness or injury.

- b) *Injury, illness, equipment breakage or other unforeseeable extenuating circumstance 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 Items 3(d) above under Rules for Requesting a bye for the reporting requirements for equipment breakage)

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

ii. Bye request to a specific Team or a Competition for the season following the selection event/s

This process is for the selection to a specific team such as the National Team or Development Team or for competitions in the next skating season but before the next selection competition/s (such as the Canadian Short Track Championships).

The Bye must be requested **within 48 hours** following the final selection event. The Bye application **must state clearly** what the skater is requesting, and provide appropriate documentation (medical, etc).

5. Eligibility

Restrictions as to who can apply for a bye are detailed for access to each of the categories below

For Teams competing internationally this season:

- Racing Pool : Only athletes ranked top 3 from the 2018-19 adjusted final Canadian , after removing retirements are eligible to be considered for a bye. Additionally, to retain Racing pool status, an athlete must commit to full time training with the team at the National Training center in Montreal.
- World Junior Championships Team : Only previous members of the Short Track World Junior Championships team OR athletes who were among the four highest ranked juniors at this season's Canadian Short Track Championships are eligible to be considered for a bye.
- NextGen identified competitions teams: Only 2019 World Junior Short Track Championships team members are eligible to be considered for a bye.

For field of entry at national competitions this season

- 2019 Canadian Junior Short Track Championships: Only athletes who have finished in the top half of the 2018 Canadian Junior Short Track Championships ranking will be eligible to request a bye.
- No bye requests will be considered for entry into competitions where a time component for entry is possible.

For access to the National/Development team in the 2020/2021 season

- National Team: Only athletes who meet at least one of the following criteria may be considered for a bye to the National team:
 - 1) Athletes selected to the Racing Pool for the 2019-2020 season
 - 2) Athletes who finished top two at the Short Track Canada Cup 2
 - 3) Athletes who have competed in a Final A in an individual distance at a World Cup during the 2019-2020 season.
- Development Team: Only athletes who meet at least one of the following criteria may be considered for a bye to the Development team:
 - 1) Athletes who finished top four at the Short Track Canada Cup 2
 - 2) Athletes who finished top ten in an individual distance at a World Cup during the 2019-2020 season.

6. Conditions for Granting a Bye

- a) When considering whether or not to grant a bye, the HPC must first evaluate:
 - (1) Eligibility of the athlete for the position requested, as listed in point 5 above
 - (2) The medical condition of the athlete
 - (3) The degree to which the athlete has followed the prescribed rehabilitation process and medical team directives in recovering from their injury.
 - (4) The athlete's readiness to compete according to feedback received the medical team and the athlete's coach(es).
- b) The bye request may be refused on the basis of any of the points above prior to further evaluation of the athlete.

In all cases, the HPC has the right to 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 HPC must also receive assertion from the coach that the athlete is ready to compete at the appropriate level for the competition in question.

In such cases, the HPCST will specify the date on which the performance and medical assessment will be made.

7. Process for reviewing a Bye application

The following outlines the process for considering Bye requests.

- a) Following the final selection event for the respective team / event, the HPC meets (in person or via conference call) to review the facts.
- b) In cases where multiple Bye applications are submitted, they will be assessed individually and on their own merit.
- c) The HPC will review the facts and an evaluation of the athlete(s) from the relevant coach(es) based on a number of elements and according to the guidelines for discretionary selections as detailed in HP Bulletin 184.
- d) The HPC will establish a revised ranking of athletes based upon the relevant selection event(s) and the appropriate evaluation stated above.
- e) From this revised ranking, the final selections will be made.
- f) These final selections will then be named as the “Team” and will be communicated to the skater/s requesting the Bye, skater/s directly affected by the Bye request, and the coaches.

Specific to World Junior Championships and FISU Games teams

The same basic philosophy for granting a bye will be used as for other competitions, however the evaluation of the request will be limited to the committee’s assessment of whether the athlete in question has demonstrated superior performance in a senior national or junior international event than other athletes being considered for selection.

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 September 4, 2019.