

OFFICIALS BULLETIN - 2001-2002



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CHANGE TO SCC 2001-2002 PROCEDURES AND REGULATIONS

This change was recommended by AASSA and approved during the Rules Workshop at the AGM in June 2001. Regulations N4-106 should read as follows:

N4-106

No more than four (4) skaters for earlier qualifying rounds, semi-finals and finals will be allowed at the starting line for the shortest distance. No more than five (5) skaters for the second shortest distance and a maximum of six (6) skaters for the other distances will be allowed at the starting line, except for the 3000m where ISU rule applies.

ISU OFFICIAL'S CLINICS

St Louis, Missouri

Aug. 24-26, 2001

I.S.U. Speed Skating Officials' Clinic

By: Clayton Bartlett

The clinic was organized and run on the basis of achieving interaction between officials. The agenda was prepared in binder form and distributed to all participants on Friday evening. Officials were divided into 3 groups (A, B, C) with each group consisting of a mix of referees, starters and competition stewards. Under the direction of Jim Chapin and clinic moderators, each group received instruction and reviewed the various duties and rules associated with the role of referees, starters and competition stewards. The clinic got underway on Friday evening and attendees were presented with a 50-question quiz at 4 PM on Saturday. Evaluation and discussion took place on

Sunday morning with adjournment at 11 am. Each group was given ample opportunity to discuss and question any and all areas that could cause problems at competitions and to prepare yourself prior to a competition. Two moderators were assigned to each group and groups moved to each venue at allotted time. ISU Technical Committee Rep., Bill Markland was also in attendance and spent time with each group during the instruction and review period. On Saturday morning all attendees were assembled for a special presentation on the Finish Line System, prepared by James Njoroge. The ISU will be developing this system over the next year and in the very near future it will be used at all competitions and made available to all countries and their branches.

Overall, I felt that the clinic was very well run, very informative and gave all officials the opportunity to look at the roles of their fellow officials. In my opinion, the clinic format was very effective in achieving a solid base of understanding and instruction in the various roles of officials that in many cases overlap. Personally, I would not hesitate in supporting this type of clinic and the format used.

Inzell, Germany

Oct 25-29, 2001

I.S.U. Speed Skating Starting Course

Long Track

By: Hans Terstappen

Thursday October 25

Registration began between 6 and 8 pm, followed by the opening of clinic by an ISU Technical Committee Representative. Course conductors for each group gave a brief overview of the proposed course contents for the next three days. There were 30 Referees and 33 Starters in attendance. Of the 33 Starters, 21 were from the ISU Championship list and 12 from the ISU

International list. Referees Jim McClements and Morley Bruce and Starters Hans Terstappen and Yves Belanger represented Canada. The evening concluded with a dinner, hosted by the ISU.

Friday October 26

The morning was spent discussing experiences from last season. Groups were split up into teams, consistent with the upcoming Championships, supplemented with the International Starters. Teams had to discuss recommendations to the congress for rule changes and interpretations. Most of the discussions were around staggered start lines and the “power” of the assistant starter at the second start line. The following subjects were discussed:

- Power of second Starter
- When does a Referee take over responsibility after clean start
- How to communicate from 2nd start line (1000, 1500, 3000 and 5000)
- Our Rules - Starting procedure, Check list

Two cases were also outlined for group discussions for the coming days. After lunch there was a discussion with the Referees. Again, the groups consisted of all Officials selected for one of the five upcoming Championships. There was one group for the World Sprints, one for World All-Round, Olympics, European Championships and World Juniors. This concept worked really well as you got to know the Officials that you will be working with.

At 3 pm we left for the Inzell Eisstadion for an inspection and practical session with prototype starting equipment. At 6 pm the Draw was held for the International Competition, to be held over the next two days. All of the Referees and Starters for this course were in attendance. It took the

Referees almost two hours to get the pairings done, but they were probably nervous with all the Starters in attendance.

Saturday October 27

During last years Championships, Starters were asked to time each other for the interval and write down comments for each start, as long as the Starter “on the podium” did not object. In total, results from 3 Championships and 1 World Cup were returned and Remigi van Buren summarized the findings. Averages were almost all over 1.0 second for all the measured distances. Six Starters were evaluated in the 500 meters, 3 for 1000, 6 for 1500, 4 for 3000, 6 for 5000 and 2 for 10,000 meters. The experiment will continue for this season, and the World Cups will be included as much as possible.

Individual dry training and start training in a group were the next topics. Individual dry training can be done by Starters prior to an event. He / She concentrates to reflect the starting procedure, takes an interval time and writes it down. Try to be consistent 1 – 1.5 second intervals. Second is the group training. This is a roll play whereby one is the Skater, a second one is the Starter who performs the starting procedure and the last person is the Observer who times the interval and records the results. Time by watch and time by feeling by the Starter and Observer are to be recorded. After lunch it was off to the Eisstadion for practice starting and group work. During this weekend an International event took place, that was being run according to the World Cup format. Besides the starting, each team had to deliver Manual Timers and Place Judges. Group work also had to be done and at the end of the day a group leader meeting was held.

LONG TRACK NOTES

Sunday October 28

Videos of the previous day starts were shown and discussed. Half of the teams had a chance to discuss them amongst each other the day before. Some inconsistencies in Starting procedures (“no false start” should not be called out to the competitors) were highlighted from the practice starts as was the infraction “moving over the line” after/before the “starting position”. In the afternoon we went to the rink again for a second day of competition. We then retreated back to the meeting room to discuss the case studies with the referees in our groups.

Case 1: Describe a good flow for a competition

Case 2: How to treat controversial calls with colleagues and press.

Starter’s wrap up started with a summary of the group discussions and the possible write up of proposals to the ISU congress. After the Starter’s conclusions, the meeting was adjourned to the Referees room for common discussions.

Conclusions for the Starter’s course

The most important reason to get all ISU officials together is to create teamwork for the upcoming Championships. It also creates an optimal working environment for the Officials to create a fair and consistent meet for the Competitors. From a Starter’s perspective it is the uniformity in calls and intervals. We were able to time and criticize one another. As long as everyone is consistent with the calls and “hold” the skaters for the 1-1.5 second interval, there will be no “surprises” for the skaters.

Wind Chill Blues...

By: Guy Chenard

Readers will remember discussion if this chilling topic in previous bulletins and at various meetings. Many will also recall Jim McClement’s explanation that factors other than temperature and wind came into play, and that sunshine and humidity, in particular, made a big difference to our comfort in cold temperatures. Who knows, there may be some basis for Easterners’ contention that wet cold air (in the east) is worse than the Western dry cold air. It now appears wind chill calculations (and figures) overstated the effect of wind on people.

Scientists at the Defence and Civil Institute of Aviation Medicine in Toronto have undertaken a really cool project, recalculating the wind chill index. As the index is meant for humans, it makes sense to observe the effects of cold and wind on humans. That is where the old scale fell short. Issued from studies carried out in the forties, the present index actually measures the rate of cooling of water exposed to wind. As one of the scientists involved in the study put it: “it really treats us like dead meat”. Among the conclusions reached from controlled experiments on human subjects, scientists have determined that variables such as sunshine and humidity do affect how humans feel cold. They also observed that human physiology adapts as people are exposed to cold and wind, which serves to mitigate the effects that previous scientists had assumed would affect humans as they did water (or dead meat).

The immediate result is that a new chart will be used by Environment Canada to calculate wind chill values, starting this winter. The new values should enable us to

better judge when it is safe to go out and what activities are appropriate in various weather conditions. These new values, we are told, will be on average about 10° C warmer than the old, in most wind conditions. The new chart however, is considered an interim solution, as scientists are not yet able to account for individual differences in adapting to cold. In the interim they will be satisfied to be on the safe side.

Be that as it may, you heard it here first – at least two years ago.

ON OFFICIATING

Take a Bow...

By: *Guy Chenard*

While perusing Referee Magazine for 'quotable quotes' during the summer, we came across an interview with Major League Baseball umpire Tim Tschida. Says Tim:

“Officiating is probably the highest level of competition that a person can participate in. You’re competing with perfection, competing with yourself and everyone who’s ever been an official, trying to be right every single time you make a decision.

Hitters don’t try to hit 1.000; they’re happy if they hit .300. Field goal percentage in basketball? You name all the percentages that players try to play at; it’s nothing like officiating.

Officiating requires constant diligence. You’re competing with being right. That’s your goal, and that’s the bar. To me, that’s the greatest challenge any job can present.”

We agree, of course. In fact, we can’t help thinking he may have understated his point. Competing with perfection? Yes, of course, but not just perfection, rather with everyone’s perception of perfection. People are generally reluctant to criticize athletes, coaches and other volunteers but, for some reason, officials are fair game. Everyone will let you know, without hesitation, every time they dislike a call. This adds up to pressure plus, all the time and regardless of the level of competition.

Coincidentally, the next issue of Referee Magazine profiled Clay Anderson, an American astronaut who is also a basketball referee. As he sees it: “The two careers mesh quite nicely.”

“As an official, you are trained to respond to situations that develop very quickly. The amount of pressure on you can be tremendous. You are expected to be in top condition, both physically and mentally, and to make calm, cool decisions for every aspect of the game, including administration.”

Need we add, we again emphatically agree. So take a bow, officials. You’re in good company!

SHORT TRACK NOTES

There Is Always More To It Than Meets The Eye...

By: *Guy Chenard*

One subject that keeps recurring as an item of controversy, about which everyone seems to have an opinion concerns a referee’s decision to stop a race, and the implications or aftermath thereof. As usual, there are rules that address such decisions but, also as usual, there remains intentionally a fair amount of room for

interpretation. Our intention here is to shed some light on this apparently murky subject.

First the terminology. A **re-start** occurs when a race in progress is stopped. Rules provide for that race to be re-started immediately the reason for the stoppage is cleared. A **re-run** occurs when it is necessary to re-race an event after it is completed. In this case, the skaters involved are entitled to the standard 20-minute rest before the reprise.

Next, a few general considerations. Re-starting a race always changes the chemistry of that race; that is, the second race is different from the first. In most cases, some athletes may be (dis) advantaged as compared to the original race. Leaders often expend more energy during a race than skaters who may be farther back. It follows that stoppage late in a closely contested race tends to advantage athletes who were not doing particularly well in the first instance. Most referees can relate examples of the phenomenon. Then, re-running a race out of sequence always disrupts the flow of a competition, and can also disadvantage the skaters involved by submitting them to more racing than other competitors in the same group. The predictable result is that referees are and should be inclined to let races finish if at all practicable.

What, then, are the conditions that demand that a race be re-started or re-run? Most re-runs result from seeding errors (some) wrong competitors raced. Re-starts are caused by irregularities during a race in progress. Ignoring starting irregularities for which the rule is well understood, there are three basic reasons for stopping and re-starting a race.

Selection Meets

Easy things first: The annual High Performance Bulletin (HPB) states that, in the 3000M race of the senior selection meet and the super 1500M of the junior selection competition, the referee should stop the race *if a skater in contention for the team is fouled*. The representative of the High Performance Committee shortly before the race identifies protected skaters to the referee. The interrupted race is then re-raced immediately, minus any disqualified skater, and in accordance with any further condition specified in the HPB (number of laps left, for instance).

The wording of this rule makes it clear that the intent is not to eliminate hazards inherent to short track skating. Rather, it aims to prevent and correct intentional fouling and minimize the consequences of thoughtless skating on innocent competitors at designated competitions.

Fallen Skaters

Referees will also stop races after falls *if a fallen skater needs immediate assistance, if that skater is lying on the racing track and unable to get out of the way, or if debris (i.e. banners, etc) are blocking or obstructing the skating path*. The main point here should be obvious, everything is left to the referees' judgement, and many variables come into play. This explains, we suppose, why referee's decisions whether or not races are stopped are often subjected to much Monday morning quarterbacking by some coaches and spectators.

Generally, as pertains to needing assistance, the term *immediate* means just that. Referees know that races last anywhere from about 45 seconds to 3 minutes (3000M excepted). Therefore, unless the situation is considered an

emergency, the race will probably not be stopped, especially if the fall occurs late in the race. Decisions to stop a race because the racing track is obstructed are affected by the speed of the race, number of laps remaining, exact location and extent of the obstruction, etc. Whenever a race is stopped out of concern that someone is hurt or because a skater is blocking the track, that skater is not allowed to compete in the re-started race. Referees may summon first-aid personnel to assist skaters who are lying on the ice. Skaters who leave under their own power are their coach's responsibility after they are off the ice.

Racing Irregularities

The rule in play here is ISU 292, paragraph 5a:

If during a race any irregularity affecting the result does take place, the Referee may (our emphasis) stop the race and order an immediate re-start of the race. If the race has been completed, the Referee may order a re-run of the race after respecting the rest time according to Rule 282, paragraph 2.

This rule applies to all domestic competitions, as there is no Canadian rule that contradicts it. It also requires interpretation.

Basically, this rule is almost identical to the first one discussed above; it is meant to prevent athletes from being cheated out of medals, not to eliminate common hazards in short track racing. Also, the rule is usually only applied in finals as referees use their power to advance to redress irregularities in preliminary rounds.

The wording of this rule, however, leaves more room for interpretation than the HPB rule that governs selection meets. This makes it more difficult to apply consistently. Opinions may range from “*When in doubt,*

Whistle!” to “*Never whistle unless the skater was intentionally taken out!*” Not surprisingly, neither approach is especially productive. As always, the best choice lies somewhere in the middle, and discussion between referees and with more senior referees will help standardize the application of this last-resort remedy.

As a minimum, the referee should observe that, but for the irregularity, the fouled skater would almost certainly earn a medal in that race. A secondary but also important consideration concerns the probable effect on other skaters. For instance, there is a difference between a leader being taken out 10 meters before the finish, and the third place skater suffering the same fate one-half lap behind the leaders.

There are few absolutes in short track refereeing, and this isn't one of them. As always, discussion between colleagues helps in preparing for difficult decisions, as does returning to basic principles. In this case, the main considerations are first *Fairness to all skaters in the race*, and second *Effective management of the competition*.

ISU REFEREES AT “FESTIVAL VIVES LAMES”

By: Robert Bourassa

Last March, the Montréal St-Michel Speed Skating Club, hosted the "Festival Vives Lames" speed skating competition. There were a total of 330 skaters, comprised of Level II and III Quebec area skaters. The meet was a 2-day competition.

To give an idea of the size of the meet, we served approximately 175 meals per day to our volunteers, coaches and officials.

We used two rinks inside the arena, one rink was for Level III competitors and the second one was for Level II skaters. You have to keep in mind that Level III skaters are beginners in speed skating and are also very young. The “Festival Vives Lames” was organised as a reward to all the skaters for the work they had previously accomplished over the past season.

In order to show our appreciation for their work, and show them how important they are to our sport, the organising committee invited ISU level officials to officiate at the “Festival Vives Lames” competition. We enlisted the help of these ISU officials, and asked them if they would officiate for the kids. The response from our officials was outstanding as they were honoured to fulfil such request.

Officials, Roch Loignon, Guy Chenard, Guy Marcoux, Gilbert Tremblay and Jacques Grégoire participated on one ice surface and thoroughly enjoyed their time spent there. All of the officials went on the ice with the young children dressed similarly as if they were to officiate at a National Level competition, sporting their blazers, shirts and ties. Their professionalism was a

pleasant surprise to the large number of parents and skaters, as the officials gave the young skaters an opportunity to witness first hand what a National Level official looks like in competition. It was a kind gesture by the officials and was greatly appreciated by the fans. Many of the skaters thought that the Officials were going to work because of their shirt and ties. An Official's presentation was held as each was individually introduced to the crowd. The introductions drew a loud applause from the audience, which is often a rarity for officials.

A special thanks must go out to Roch Loignon who could hardly walk but nothing could keep him from participating in such an event.

Over on the other rink, officials Daniel Gingras, Gilles Ferragne, Jacques Michaud, Yvon Tremblay, Ian Grégoire and Pierre Davreux could be seen. They too did a fantastic job working with the young skaters. However, it seemed that they did not appreciate their presentation of the officials because after introducing them one by one, I announced “now we are presenting real officials”. The “real officials” that I was referring to were the ISU level officials. Again, there was a thunderous applause from the spectators. The second round of applause from the crowd was unbelievable and overwhelmed all of the officials in attendance.

Regardless of the authority and level of our officials, they showed the parents, fans, organisers and especially all of the young skaters, that they have a genuine love for the sport of speed skating.

Note: Even Sandra Chenard participated as a chief judge and she did so in French, which was a great challenge for her.

OFFICIAL'S ASSIGNMENTS – 2001/2002

MEET, LOCATION, DATE	REFEREES	STARTERS
CODA International Competition, Calgary, October 12-14, 2001	Chief: Roch Loignon	Chief: Ted Houghton
National CAN-AM, Montreal, October 20-21, 2001	Chief: Yvon Patry Assess: Jacques Gregoire	Chief: Gilbert Tremblay
National Olympic Trials (ST), Abbotsford, November 16-25, 2001	Chief: Roch Loignon (men) Assist: John Trowbridge (women) Assist: Guy Chenard Assist: Jacques Gregoire Assist: Jack Nicholson Assist: Louis Charles Tessier	Guy Marcoux (men) Ted Houghton (women)
International CAN-AM (LT), Calgary, November 23-25, 2001	Chief: Morley Bruce (men) Assist: Jim McClements (women)	Darrel Haack (men) Hans Terstappen (women)
National Cdn. All-Round LT, Calgary, November 30 – December 2, 2001	Chief: Dave Thomson (men) Assist: Morley Bruce (women)	Yves Belanger (men) Bob Ireland (women)
National Olympic Trials (LT), Calgary, December 17-21, 2001, December 28-31, 2001	Chief: Jim McClements (women) Assist: Morley Bruce (men)	Hans Terstappen (men) Bob Ireland (women)
National Junior Trials, Montreal, December 22-23, 2001	Chief: Robin Newton-Smith (women) Assist: Wayne Fleming (men) Assess: Guy Chenard	Tom Johnson (men) Gilbert Tremblay (women)
National CAN-AM, Montreal, January 12-13, 2002	Chief: Jack Nicholson	Chief: Bob Ireland
CODA Pre-Olympic Winterfest (LT), Calgary, January 26-29, 2002	Chief: Roch Loignon (women) Assist: Leo Descheneaux (men)	Guy Marcoux (women) Yves Belanger (men)
CODA Pre-Olympic Winterfest (ST), Calgary, February 1-3, 2002	Chief: Guy Chenard (men) Assist: Jacques Gregoire (women)	Tom Johnson (men) Gilbert Tremblay (women)
National Canada Cup #2 (Junior Champ), Saskatoon, February 1-3, 2002	Chief: Dave Thomson (men) Assist: Wayne Fleming (women)	Phil Laing (men) Eugene Hearn (women)
North American LT, Milwaukee (USA), February 1-3, 2002	Robin Newton-Smith	Jeff Polakoff
National Mass Start, Sault Ste-Marie, February 9-10, 2002	Chief: Wayne Fleming (men) Assist: Leo Descheneaux (women)	Jeff Polakoff (men) Eugene Hearn (women)
National CAN-AM, Chicoutimi, February 16-17, 2002	Laurie Murchison	Chief: Jean Lemieux

MEET, LOCATION, DATE	REFEREES	STARTERS
National Canada Cup #3, Ste-Foy, March 1-3, 2002	Chief: Leo Descheneaux (women) Assist: Jacques Sauvageau (men)	Hans Terstappen (women) Jean Lemieux (men)
Senior Canadian Open Championship, Montreal, March 8-10, 2002	Chief: Guy Chenard (men) Assist: Daniel Gingras (women)	Tom Johnson (men) Guy Marcoux (women)
National North American, Cambelton, April 5-6-7, 2002	Rod Fisher	Hans Terstappen
National Canadian, Dartmouth, March 29-31, 2002	Chief: Clayton Bartlett (men) Assist: Jacques Gregoire (women)	Yves Belanger (women) Jean Lemieux (men)

UPGRADES

Level	Name	Title	Province
Level 5 Upgrades	Jacques Gregoire Ted Houghton	Referee ST Starter ST	Quebec British Columbia
Level 4 Upgrades	Daniel Gingras	Referee	Quebec
Level 3 Upgrades	Kitty Beal	3B Referee	New Brunswick
	Gregg Franks	3B Referee	Ontario
	Rebecca Anderson Mike Rivet Nancy Landon Rick Hunt	Timer Lap Counter Clerk of the Course Track Steward	Ontario Ontario Ontario Ontario
	Sue Spencer Peter Gibson	Clerk of the Course Clerk of the Course	British Columbia British Columbia
	Gloria Davis Andrena Taylor	Timer Clerk of the Course	Alberta Alberta
	Rick Gellner Kathy Fromback	Finish Judge Timer	Saskatchewan Saskatchewan
	Michael Makowsky	3B Starter	Saskatchewan

MEMBERS OF THE OFFICIAL'S DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Name	Region	Email
Jacques Gregoire (Chair)	Quebec	Jacques.gregoire@axa-assurances.ca
Guy Chenard (Vice Chair)	Ontario	Chenard@netrover.com
Ted Houghton	Far West (BC, Yukon)	Kiwioz@telus.net
Hans Terstappen	West (NWT, AB, SK, MB)	Hansterstappen@home.com
Clayton Bartlett	Atlantic (NB, P.E.I., NS, NF)	Roclan@ns.sympatico.ca

Welcome from SCC Liaison

Hello to all the Officials working with Speed Skating Canada. My name is Natasha Danschinko and I will be your point of contact for the upcoming season. I recently graduated from the University of Ottawa with a Masters Degree in Sports Administration. I also have an undergraduate degree in Physical Education and a Baccalaureate in Education. I hope that my experience as an athlete albeit hockey, and my education will help make my transition a smooth one. I look forward to our ongoing working relationship, as this is a busy and exciting year for everyone. Please do not hesitate to contact me at the office at 613-260-3669 or at ndanschinko@speedskating.ca.

TOP 10 SIGNS YOU ARE NOT CUT OUT TO BE A STARTER

1. On exposure to loud noises you curl up like a frightened armadillo
2. Uncontrollable urge to break into your own medley of songs whenever you are handed a microphone
3. Tendency to point Starter's pistol and fire at Speed Skaters guilty of false start
4. Bladder problem that frequently results in an unannounced break between "Take your Marks" and the Starting Signal
5. Tendency to substitute a 44 Magnum for the Starters pistol whenever the Referee isn't looking
6. Strong urge to do a little target practice between starts of long races
7. Being caught carrying out a little paramutual betting operation behind the Starter's podium
8. Inability to pretend to be paying attention to the Referee
9. Threatening Referee with Pistol saying "How fast can you dance" every time he / she questions your Starting technique
10. Tendency to play "Russian Roulette" with Starter's pistol when bored at meets

Adapted from the original text written by British Columbia Swim Officials' Association