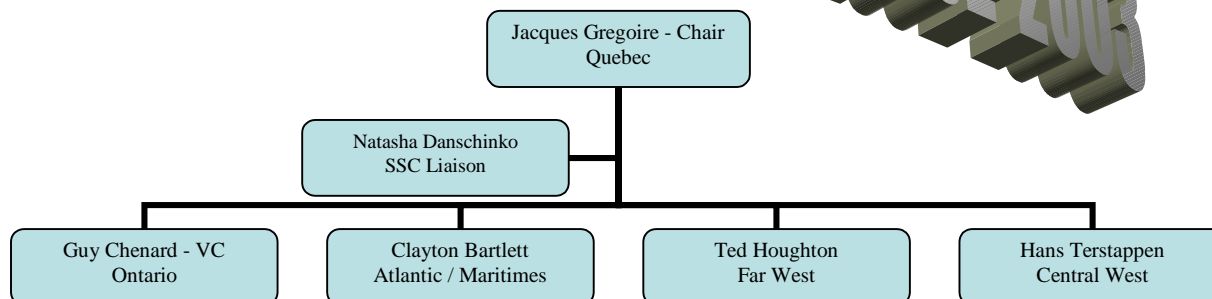




OFFICIALS BULLETIN 2002-2003



Important Dates

Please remember the following deadlines for requests for upgrades for Level 3 and above are:

Level 4-5 – March 1

Level 3 – April 15

Congratulations

to Jim McClements and Michel Verrault who represented SSC at the 2002 Salt Lake City Olympics as Referee and Starter respectively.

Congratulations

as the ODC is pleased to announce that they have selected Sandra Chenard as Competitor Steward for the 2003 FISU Games (21st Winter Universiade) in Tarvisio, Italy.

**ISU SHORT TRACK OFFICIALS CLINIC
"SPEED SKATING IN FLORIDA?"**

Submitted By: Ted Houghton Level 5 Starter

The bi-annual ISU Short Track Officials seminar was held September 18-21, 2002 in Ft Lauderdale, Florida where 78 officials and 7 facilitators representing 19 countries gathered. Canada was well represented by 6 Referees; 4 Starters and 1 Competitor's Steward.

It is a requirement that ISU Championship List officials attend such seminars to ensure retention of their status and, given the relative proximity, SSC was, as part of its commitment to development and upgrading requirements, also was able to send 5 officials from the International List.

The format had the participants split in to three groups - with a mix of each position - who then attended position specific workshops throughout the seminar. The purpose behind this was twofold:

- to allow each participant to be fully conversant with the latest rule changes/amendments as passed at the 2002 ISU Congress in June.
- to further promote the "team" approach, among the senior officials, that the ISU Short Track Technical Committee has been engendering for the past four plus seasons.

A presentation by the ISU Short Track Management Commission - comprised of 4 members and chaired by Jean Dupre (SSC Director General) - allowed us to better understand its function. This Commission (formed by the ISU in 1999) has as its primary goal the promotion of World Cup Short Track events and the sport in general by making the World Cup events attractive to athletes; sponsors and the global media. This includes having a standardized World Cup format; raising the level of excellence of the World Cup each year and allowing and encouraging organizers to produce high quality events with the non-technical assistance and support of the Commission. The Commission is also charged with developing and implementing a plan to ensure revenue generation to both the host organizers and the

World Cup circuit as a whole. Presently the ISU provides a relatively small amount to assist in hosting Short Track World Cup events. It is hoped, with the realization of the Commission's mandate, that overall and sustainable revenue generation will grow these events in appeal to athletes; ISU members and the global media thereby making them a more marketable commodity. It was noted and is recognized that officials play a critical role in these events beyond the technical expertise they each bring to the events and each are charged with promoting these events.

Reinier Oostheim, a member of the ISU Short Track Technical Committee from Germany, reviewed the last 2 seasons of competitions - based on submitted Referees reports - where the ISU appointed the officials. This included World Cups; European and World Championships and the Olympic Winter Games. The purpose behind this was to review where the ISU and its members could improve the competitions. It was generally agreed that the standard of on-ice official's activity has improved while off-ice there is a large opportunity for ISU members and hosting committees to greatly improve.

There was general discussion around the roles and responsibilities of officials at ISU events. This included the emphasis on daily pre and post meetings with the official's team at each event and need for the discussions to be constructive and direct. It was also made clear that, as a team, official's performance discussions should be kept within the team and reported through the appropriate channels.

Within SSC and the branches, the need to promote the "team" approach remains a high priority and it is one each of us should be active in pursuing.

Much discussion as to the primary rules and regulations officials must follow took place with specific reference to the ISU Special Rules pertaining to Short Track. Also reviewed was the official's advancement process as well as the manner in which officials may be removed from either the Championship or International List.

As a note, the primary distinction between the two lists is that those on the Championship List may be appointed by the ISU for World Cups; European and World Championships and the

Olympic Winter Games whereas those on the International List may be appointed by either their own country (or another country) to officiate at other ISU sanctioned competitions where the ISU has not specifically instructed the organizers to appoint Championship List officials. This could include CODA; Can-Am and National Championship events in Canada. While it is noted that various events are identified on the annual ISU calendar of events, it is not a requirement that Championship List officials be appointed to these competitions unless mandated by the ISU.

The three position-specific workshops allowed for interaction amongst officials to discuss the latest ISU Rule changes and perhaps, more importantly, allowed for discussion to better ensure consistency and unanimity when it came to interpreting and enforcing the Rules and Regulations.

* The Competitors Steward workshop included a review of the ISU rules by which the Competitors Stewards must abide as well as a better understanding of when and how teams should register for an event and the enforcement of the rules around late entries. For example, at the Olympic Winter Games Qualifying Competition, October 2001 in Salt Lake City had the Competitors Stewards followed the existing rules, 11 of the 29 member countries would have NOT been allowed to participate, thereby eliminating their countries from potential participation at the Winter Olympic Games. This would have included some high ranked skaters who did, indeed, win medals.

A new process, for ISU events, has now been put in place with the onus squarely on the shoulders of the member countries.

Perhaps the biggest change is that there will no longer be Team Leaders Meetings unless "special" circumstances demand and that the composition of the races will be completed 3 hours before the official draw.

Within the Canadian officials present, it was discussed that perhaps the elimination of the coaches meeting (the Team Leaders equivalent) could be instituted. The consensus was this would be better left to the discretion of the branches.

* The Starters workshop included reference to ISU Rule changes which included the removal of

the pre-start line; the use of the middle three tracks for the semi-final and finals of the 500m and much discussion as to the equipment of the skaters. There was discussion around specific instances involving skaters and starters over the past two years.

Example (a): Is this allowed?

A skater falls and is injured before the apex block. He is unable to assume his number 3 position at the start line. On the restart, the skater in position number 4 lines up where skater number 3 was.

Example (b): Is this appropriate?

Six skaters come to the line for 1000m final due to advancements. Assistant Referee tells skater #6 to stand behind.

- should the starter speak up and tell #6 he has rights to the start line?

Example (c): Is Referee's action appropriate?

A skater is interfered with and falls before the apex block. The Starter is looking away and neither sees nor recalls race. Chief Referee stops race on his own with whistle after 1/2 lap.

See explanations at end of article.

* The Referee's workshop included rule interpretation and much discussion over the equipment rules:

Rule 293

2. Skaters with defective skates (e.g. broken skate blade) will not be allowed to start or re-start in any race.

5. A skater who removes his/her equipment before the end of the race shall be disqualified.

The defective skates are self explanatory but how it does extend to broken laces, loose posts and the need to reburr. Officials were told that "no time" is to be extended to cover the repair/replacement of these items and the skater is to be excluded from the race.

Item 5 is far reaching.....an example would be where the lead skater in the 1500m/3000m laps the field, comes in to the centre of the ice and

removes his/her neck guard/gloves before the last skater crosses the finish line. The skater who removed their equipment shall be disqualified.

Another example is where the neck guard, having come loose during the race, is discarded by the skater. That skater shall be disqualified.

All and any equipment as defined by ISU Rule 294 (1) and by SSC Rule N4-103 will be impacted by this ISU ruling.

Another item which provoked much discussion was found under new ISU Rule 291 5 (i) which states " If the Referee is in doubt concerning a possible infraction, to assist in making a decision, the Referee is authorized to view video/instant replay of the incident under consideration if readily available."

There are three provisos and two conditions under which such assistance may be employed. A full explanation of this rule can be found within ISU Bulletin 1184 together with the ISU Council's interpretations.

Also in ISU Bulletin 1184 will be found the amendment to Rule 123, Paragraph 8 which, in summary, now requires Referees to consider protests respecting infringements of the racing rules. Since SSC follows ISU rules, all Short Track Referees should fully familiarize themselves with this very important amendment which runs contrary to immediate past practice in Canada.

Finally, ISU Rule 291 - 17 deals with the announcements of disqualification's and now says that "disqualification's "specifying where and how the skater(s) concerned made an infringement and whether there is an advancement....must be announced, when requested by the Referee, by the announcer."

Further explanation of the impact of this will be forthcoming.

The seminar concluded with separate tests for each of the 3 official's positions - Referees; Starters and Competitors Stewards followed by a review of the answers for all participants.

The seminar facilitators enjoined the participants with the reminder that regional clinics must be held over the next 2 years, by the participants, to ensure all short track skating members receive the information and to aid in the consistency of rule interpretation by all officials throughout the short track speed skating community.

I was pleased to be able to attend this session representing Canada and I have welcomed the opportunity to impart to you some of the highlights of this meeting as we engage in another season of exciting and fulfilling officiating.

Answers to Examples:

Point (a):

The skater must re-take his starting position in the event of a false start or a fall. His starting position, in the example given is position number 4. By endeavoring to start at position number 3 is potentially giving him an advantage over the other skaters. It is the responsibility of the Assistant Referee ISU Rule 291, 7 (d) to direct the skaters to their starting positions. The Starter may bring the matter to the Assistant Referee's attention if the skater assumes an incorrect starting position.

Point (b):

It is not appropriate for the Ass. Referee to place skater number 6 behind the other skaters. All skaters, advanced or not, draw for the starting position and have a right to the start line.

It is NOT, however, the right or duty of the starter to speak up in this instance.

Point (c):

While the Referee has the right to stop any race - ISU Rule 290 - there was consensus that all starting activities remain in the hands of the Starter which is covered in ISU Rule 293. In the example given, how can the Referee know, without doubt, that the Starter did not see the incident and, therefore, how can he, the Referee stop the race because of it?

**ISU REFEREE'S COURSE
GOTHENBERG SWEDEN OCTOBER 10-
13, 2002**

Submitted by Morley Bruce and Jim McClements

The course was organized as a problem solving learning experience. Referees of the World Cups, World Championships and Olympic Games were asked to describe problems and issues they faced in the past year. The new ISU Speed Skating rules and the new World Cup Rules (ISU Communication 1177 available on the ISU Website) were discussed, with input from all of the participants.

In addition there were group work sessions that focused on working as a team. The groups were determined by using the teams assigned to the ISU championships. Finally there was a written test that had to be completed by all the participants.

The following is a summary of the new ISU Speed Skating Rules and World Cup procedures:

1. Rule 205 – Demarcation of tracks. For ISU events held indoors the track demarcation must be a solid painted line as well as movable blocks. This does not apply to outdoor facilities.
2. Rule 206.3 - Protection mats. There are more stringent requirements for protective mats for ISU events. This reads as double padding on the corners and single mats for the straight-aways. Other designs are acceptable; therefore there is a clause that states that organizers of ISU events must submit a plan to the technical representative for approval.
3. Rule 220.5 – Qualifying Events for the World All-Round Championships. Starting in 2003/04 there is an option (b) that would have two qualifying events: European Championships and a non-European event. For the non-European event there are two possibilities one competition or two competitions (North America - Oceania and Asia). (Note All-Round is the term used in the ISU rules it is not a typing error.)
4. Rule 223.2 – Drawing at ISU Championships. A Team Leaders Meeting is now required and team leaders are required to attend. Referees are to take attendance. (*Recommend this be adopted by SSC.*)
5. Rule 223.3 - Drawing at ISU Championships. A computer program can now be used at the draw. This is a rule to empower the development of such a program. Concerns were raised that this be an official program approved and controlled by the ISU. (*Recommend that SSC consider this as well but with sufficient control by SSC.*)
6. Rule 224.4 - Drawing at All-Round Championships. The selection for the entrants for the fourth distance has changed slightly. If the last skaters are equally ranked on the two lists, the tie-breaker has changed to points after three distances. It used to be from the third longest distance.
7. Rule 224.4 - Drawing at All-Round Championships and Rule 261 - Participation in all distances and Rule 270.3 - Disqualification. In events where the number of skaters in the final distance is limited or if the event is determined by total points (including two race 500 meter competitions (such as Olympics or World Single Distance) the skaters must have completed all distances to skate the final distance. The rule also directly references that disqualified skaters are not permitted to compete in the final distance. One should also consider Rule 270.4 – Disqualification, which states that a fall is not a basis for disqualification, unless the skater fails to complete the race. This means that not completing the race after a fall is not a DNF but is a disqualification.
8. Rule 227.2 - Drawing at the World Junior Championships. Twenty-four skaters shall qualify for the final distance.
9. Rule 227.4 - Drawing at the World Junior Championships. Seeding for the pursuit

- is based on the countries second fastest skater in the men's 3000 and the ladies 1500.
- holders (both established at the World Single Distance Championships 2001 in Salt Lake City).
10. Rule 238.3 – Starter. Electronic equipment is allowed to help the starter detect false starts (photo-cells and cameras).
 11. Rule 246.2 - Automatic Time Keeping. Photo Finish equipment can be used as the primary system to determine the time and order of finishers.
 12. Rule 246.6 - Automatic Time Keeping. Photo Finish or video equipment can be used as a backup system to check or improve the accuracy of manual times if the automatic timing system fails.
 13. Rule 250.3 – Starting procedures. Red light signs can be used as stopping signal 50 to 60 meters down the track.
 14. Rule 250.3 – Starting procedures. False starts may now be indicated by sets of lights in each lane. White for first false start and red for second false start (disqualified).
 15. Rule 257.4 – Allowance of a fresh start. If two skaters, who started in the same lane, are allowed a fresh start, the lower numbered pair starts in the outer lane in the fresh start (exception is second race sprint competition where the skaters have to stay in the designated lanes).
 16. Rule 269 and 123.8 - Protests. This new rule empowers referees to use relevant video to review race. The word relevant is interpreted as either official video or media video and not personal video of a coach, parent or team leader.
 17. Rule 273.1 – World records. There is a new world record combined result of two 500s. However it will only be recognized if it is in a competition that declares the 500 winner by total points. This is only events like the Olympics or World Single distances and does not include regular sprint championships. The Council recognized Hiroyasu Shimizu 68.96 and Catriona LeMay Doan 74.72 as the World Record
 18. Rule 275.3 - Starting Procedures Quartet Starts. It is now possible to start quartets for the 1000, 3000, 5000 and 10000 on opposite sides of the track at the same time with one shot from the gun. Note this requires new starting procedures and two independent sets of timers or a second electronic finish line.
 19. Rule 275.3 - Starting Procedures Quartet Starts. The color of the arm-band for outer lane second pair of a quartet is now blue.
 20. Rule 276.1 c - Racing suits. The skater's names may now be displayed on racing suits.
 21. Rule 276.1 c - Warming-up suits. The skater's names may now be displayed on warm up suits.
 22. Rule 276.3 - Communications equipment. Skaters are not allowed to wear any communications equipment.
 23. World Cup Bulletin 1177. There are a number of changes in the World Cup Format:
 - a. There will be two 100 meter competitions that will count for bonus points in the 500 World Cup Championship: One competition is an elimination model until there are 8 skaters left then it is a winner take all. The other is a one-race competition winner take all.
 - b. There will be two All-Round combination events in the World Cup (short combination (ladies 500 m, 1000m 1500m and 3000m men's 500m, 1500m, 3000m and 5000m)). One competition will be bonus points for the 1500m World Cup and the other for the long distance World Cup Championship.

- c. The pursuit relay will be an official event in one competition.
- d. There is a new alternated draw procedure for the top 6 skaters in which the top ranked skater based on World Cup points in that event gets to chose the lane and pair they will race in and the opponent for that pair, the highest ranked remaining skater gets to chose next, etc.

24. Interpretation 1 Rule 257.2 Allowance of a fresh start. In the Olympics one of the corner cones was also a camera (14 ounces). Concerns were raised about what to do if one skater kicks this cones and it interferes with the other skater. This lead to a sub-committee reviewing this situation and they made a more general recommendations that were agreed to by the referees.

If a skater steps on a corner marker this is not an obstacle and is not a reason for a fresh start.

If a skater kicks a corner entry cone or a Photo Finish marker on their own this is not a reason for a fresh start.

However if a skater is interfered by a corner cone or a Photo Finish marker kicked first by the other skater this is an obstacle and has a right to a fresh start and the best of the two times shall count.

25. Interpretation 2. That starters not be allowed to use the phrase “no false start” to indicate that there was not a false start. The reason is that for individuals who do not speak English as a first language this is difficult to interpret.
26. There will not be an ISU referees meeting next year for financial reasons. The ISU did request that members be certain to carefully document the efforts of referees on the championship list and international list. Efforts include competitions, communications and

official’s development tasks. It was clear that this type of documentation should also be clear for nominations to these lists.

DRAW PROBLEMS

The following draw problems were discussed at the referees meetings. They are not easy draws and the rules do not clearly cover all of the solutions. If you complete the draws including your rationale and submit it to SSC ODC you will receive an explanation and an interpretation for each draw exercise.

1. World Sprint 500m. In the first group of 8 skaters the following skaters (skater number - country) were drawn in the following order:

7-USA, 8-USA, 6-NED, 4-JPN, 5-JPN, 1-CAN, 3-CAN and 2-CAN

This means that 7-USA was drawn first, 8-USA was drawn second and 2-CAN was last drawn.

The task is to list the pairs. Be sure to explain why each skater is in each pair and lane referring to appropriate rules.

2. World Championships 5000m. In the first group of 6 skaters the following skaters (skater number - country) were drawn in the following order:

5-RUS, 6-BEL, 4-NED, 1-NED, 3-NED AND 2-NED

This means that 5-RUS was drawn first, 6-BEL was drawn second and 2-NED was last drawn.

The task is to list the pairs. Be sure to explain why each skater is in each pair and lane referring to appropriate rules.

3. World Championships 5000m. In the first group of 6 skaters the following skaters (skater number - country) were drawn in the following order:

4-NED, 1-NED, 3-NED, 2-NED 5-RUS AND 6-BEL

This means that 4-NED was drawn first, 1-NED was drawn second and 6-BEL was last drawn.

The task is to list the pairs. Be sure to explain why each skater is in each pair and lane referring to appropriate rules.

4. Final distance world championships:

Results	Order
5000m	after
men	3 distances
23-NED	33-RUS
22-NED	23-NED
24-NED	39-USA
1-BEL	7-CAN
33-RUS	24-NED
29-POL	13-ITA
39-USA	31-RUS
16-JPN	25-NOR
27-NOR	17-JPN
7-CAN	40-USA
14-JPN	29-POL
13-ITA	16-JPN
18-KAZ	3-CAN
36-SWE	1-BEL
3-CAN	18-KAZ
17-JPN	6-CAN
31-RUS	10-GER
40-USA	19-KAZ
10-GER	4-CAN
41-USA	41-USA
25-NOR	36-SWE
4-CAN	14-JPN
6-CAN	27-NOR
19-KAZ	22-NED (DQ)

This means that 23-NED was first in the 5000m, 22-NED was second in the 5000m and that 33-RUS was leading in points after

3 distances and that 23-ned was second in points after 3 distances.

The task is to list the pairs. Be sure to explain why each skater is in each pair and lane referring to appropriate rules.

DRAW EXERCISES

The referees who are able to attend the ISU referees courses have the advantage of being involved in the discussions linked to the interpretation of the rules. These are very beneficial as it is a chance to voice one's views and listen to other's ideas and concerns. The report in another section of the bulletin summarizes most of the discussion and the agreed to interpretations. However there are also structured small group sessions and an exam, which is also discussed. While the ideal is to be involved in the discussions second best is to try them on your own or perhaps with a group of local officials.

To help make this possible, these exercises are available from the SSC office. For those who are on the international list of referees and those who would like to be considered for higher levels of certification the SSC ODC recommends that you obtain these, complete them as well as these draw exercises included in this Bulletin and submit them to the SSC - ODC no later than December 1st. Jim McClements has agreed to review these.

While these are not formally required to remain on the International List or for higher accreditation the results will be reported to the ODC and will be an optional part of the documentation for accreditation.

**ISU Referees' Course
Gothenburg October 2002**

Name: _____

TEST

Below are statements. Some of them are **Right** and some are **Wrong**. Check in the **Right** box and indicate on the line provided the **Rule Number** where it can be found. If you checked **Wrong** please correct the statement in the space provided.

- | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Manual timekeeping system is not sufficient for World Cup Competitions.
Rule #: _____ | Right
<input type="checkbox"/> | Wrong
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. The times are considered official as soon as they are announced through the loud speakers.
Rule #: _____ | Right
<input type="checkbox"/> | Wrong
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. All standards on the inner ice surface must be at least 5m inside the inner demarcation line.
Rule#: _____ | Right
<input type="checkbox"/> | Wrong
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. When entering, skaters in international competitions nicknames are permitted.
Rule #: _____ | Right
<input type="checkbox"/> | Wrong
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Entries for ISU Championships can be made by the ISU member or the skaters themselves.
Rule #: _____ | Right
<input type="checkbox"/> | Wrong
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. In the World Junior Championships the men race 8 laps in the Team Pursuit competition.
Rule #: _____ | Right
<input type="checkbox"/> | Wrong
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. If a skater is allowed a fresh start, the time of the second race shall count.
Rule #: _____ | Right
<input type="checkbox"/> | Wrong
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. In the World Junior Championships 16 skaters are allowed to skate the last distance.
Rule #: _____ | Right
<input type="checkbox"/> | Wrong
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. In International Competitions there should be 2 track officials in each curve.
Rule #: _____ | Right
<input type="checkbox"/> | Wrong
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10. Automatic timekeeping is not compulsory for recognition of World records.
Rule #: _____ | Right
<input type="checkbox"/> | Wrong
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11. It is not allowed to use photocells to disclose false starts.
Rule #: _____ | Right
<input type="checkbox"/> | Wrong
<input type="checkbox"/> |

- | | | | |
|-----|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 12. | Appointed referees and starters for ISU Championships must be invited by the organizing member not less than 3 months before the start of the Championships.
Rule #: _____ | Right
<input type="checkbox"/> | Wrong
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 13. | For ISU Championships the organizing member must pay the travel expenses for all the appointed referees and starters.
Rule #: _____ | Right
<input type="checkbox"/> | Wrong
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 14. | Coaching is allowed by means of radio equipment as long as it is done on the crossing straight.
Rule #: _____ | Right
<input type="checkbox"/> | Wrong
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 15. | The entrance fees for ISU Championships are determined by the organizing member in consultation with the ISU Speed Skating Technical Committee.
Rule #: _____ | Right
<input type="checkbox"/> | Wrong
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 16. | In quartet starts the skaters starting in outer lane in second pair are identified by blue armbands.
Rule #: _____ | Right
<input type="checkbox"/> | Wrong
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 17. | Snow is not allowed for division between the 2 tracks and demarcation of the curves.
Rule #: _____ | Right
<input type="checkbox"/> | Wrong
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 18. | The Referee decides upon all protests made and other matters in dispute.
Rule #: _____ | Right
<input type="checkbox"/> | Wrong
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 19. | If the Referee has to stop the race over 1 distance and postpone the competition to the following day before all the entered skaters have completed the distance will have to skate the distance on the following day.
Rule #: _____ | Right
<input type="checkbox"/> | Wrong
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 20. | Each timekeeper should use only 1 watch.
Rule #: _____ | Right
<input type="checkbox"/> | Wrong
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 21. | For recognition of World records the track must be a Standard Skating Track of 400m or 333.33m.
Rule #: _____ | Right
<input type="checkbox"/> | Wrong
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 22. | When drawing for the first World Cup Competition of the distance the Referee determines the number of entered skaters in each drawing group according to their individual World Cup ranking the previous season.
Rule #: _____ | Right
<input type="checkbox"/> | Wrong
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 23. | When changing lanes the skater leaving the inner lane is always responsible for any collision.
Rule #: _____ | Right
<input type="checkbox"/> | Wrong
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 24. | The skater has the right to have a rest of at least 40 minutes between the ordinary race and the fresh start.
Rule #: _____ | Right
<input type="checkbox"/> | Wrong
<input type="checkbox"/> |

- | | | | |
|-----|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 25. | If there are 2 winners in one distance, no silver medal is awarded.
Rule #: _____ | Right
<input type="checkbox"/> | Wrong
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 26. | Quartet starts may not be used in ISU Championships. | Right
<input type="checkbox"/> | Wrong
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 27. | Snow may be used as protection against accidents.
Rule #: _____ | Right
<input type="checkbox"/> | Wrong
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 28. | Skaters who are allowed a fresh start shall always start in the same lane on the second race as in the ordinary race.
Rule #: _____ | Right
<input type="checkbox"/> | Wrong
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 29. | A skater who is disqualified in one of the 3 first distances in World Sprint Championships, is not allowed to start in the final distance.
Rule #: _____ | Right
<input type="checkbox"/> | Wrong
<input type="checkbox"/> |

ISU Speed Skating Referees' Course
Gothenburg Oct. 10 – 13 2002
Practice of Rules and Regulations
(working in small groups)

For each of these identify any rules that apply and provide your reasons for your responses. The reasons or rationale is more important than the answer.

1. As the referee for a speed skating competition you have to approve that the necessary measures have been taken to avoid all accidents. What would you control to make sure that you can approve the track for the competition?

2. What subjects do you as the referee find important and useful to present/discuss at the team leaders' meeting (at ISU Events)?

3. As referee you shall announce the ice preparation procedure before the draw (meeting). What information do you (also as member of the ICE Commission) find necessary to make the "right" decision concerning the ice preparation procedure, and from whom will you get this information?

4. As referee you should find yourself a position where you are able to watch every pair in the competition very well. Where would you prefer to stay during the races?

Give reason(s) for your choice!

5. When you come to a new place to officiate as referee, you will probably meet a lot of unknown officials. You are dependent on good cooperation with and information from these officials to make the correct decisions during the competition. What would you do before and during (and after?) the competition to make certain that it will be a fair competition?

6. How would you as referee share different tasks with the assistant referee?
Give a short reason for your answer.

7. Which incidents could make you as referee consider to warn a skater, and how would you give the warning?

8. You are the referee and have drawn the pairs the day before the competition. One hour before the start of the races you are informed that two of the skaters are withdrawn from the competition. Because of the withdrawals two skaters have been left to start alone in each pair. They were drawn to start in pair no. 3 outer lane and pair no. 9 outer lane respectively.

What do you do?

9. a) Which skater is responsible in case of a “collision” on the crossing straight?

b) What if the “collision” happens between two skaters from different pairs of a quartet start?

c) Is there any exception to this?

10. Will you as the referee of the World Sprint Championships allow a skater who has not completed all preceding races in the championship to start in the last distance? Which rule?

11. If two skaters have the same (and best) total of points (the same total time) after the second race of the 500 meters in the World Single Distances Championships, which of the two skaters is the winner? Which rule?

12. Who is responsible for the times in the protocol?

13. When are the times official? And what does it mean that the official times may not be questioned?

14. Who can lodge a protest?

15. As referee you have to watch everything very carefully during the competition and make decisions based on information from other officials and on your own observations. Shortly after what you perceive as a false start some coaches rush up to you and complain about the starting. What would you do in such a situation?

16. The referee is often considered “almighty”, but he does not decide upon everything during a speed skating competition. In which situations does he not decide?

17. If the automatic timing fails, the official times will be based on the result from the manual timekeeping. But you may also use other kind of equipment to determine the times, for instance:

18. Suppose a coach withdraws his skater after the drawing has taken place, and the skater comes to you (the referee) and says that he wants to start. What do you do? In which rule(s) can you find the answer to this question?

New Focus on Development

Submitted by Guy Chenard

Readers of the Officials section of the SSC Information Manual (Section O) know the outline of the published Officials Development Program. Basically, the Officials Development Committee takes responsibility for development after an official attains Level 3A. Below that level, SSC activity is limited to conducting clinics (Level 3), and providing manuals and guidance for clinic conductors. Branches are expected to maintain standards and provide opportunities for junior officials to gain experience and proficiency.

Mindful of the need for succession planning (officials are not immune to aging), senior referees and starters have observed and assessed several of their juniors in recent seasons. We are pleased to report that our observations have revealed a very good caliber of officiating. Unfortunately, while officials were generally proficient at their own level, very few were judged ready to move up, owing largely to limited experience and lack of familiarity and confidence with the next level of competition.

This is not a particularly surprising turn of events as most Branches host national age-class championships only infrequently, let alone open-class or international competitions.

Predictability, however, won't cure a developing shortage of senior officials, especially in Long Track (Olympic Style). Thus the ODC, armed with Board-approved funding, is extending its development tentacles, so to speak.

This next season, and in the future if funding continues, the ODC will appoint selected Level 3B officials as assistants at some higher level competitions, to gain experience and work with our most senior officials. If an official shows promise, appointments will continue until that official is ready to upgrade. The ODC hopes that the resultant exposure and mentoring will bear fruit in the next few years. Appointment of Level 3A officials for assessment and development purposes will also continue, as will cross-pollination of selected officials from Mass Start to Olympic Style competition.

This coming season, officials from five different Branches will benefit from developmental

assignments, and a few more will receive formal assessment and coaching. The result should be enhanced opportunity, increased knowledge and better proficiency for the targeted officials, along with dollar savings for hosting organizations as the ODC covers expenses for officials whom it appoints for development purposes.

Beyond Mechanics and Style - Intuitive Officiating

Submitted by Guy Chenard

We ODC members are often asked to state our standards for evaluating officials, mostly as they concern deciding whether or not to upgrade. Invariably, the answer leaves the questioner unsatisfied because, notwithstanding published standards, the final decision usually rests on contextual, subjective and difficult-to-explain observations. Fortunately for us, speed skating officials are not the only ones affected by this phenomenon, it seems to be universal as it concerns top-flight officials. Virtually all competitive sports resort the same kind of assessment method.

We recently came across an excellent book entitled *Successful Sports Officiating* compiled by Jerry Grunski, the Editor of *Referee Magazine*. It features several articles by sport psychologists and successful officials in several professional and amateur sports. It makes no mention of speed skating but gives much very useful information on developing top-notch officiating skills and would make good reading for any official. Of interest today are observations on qualities or characteristics of top-flight officials.

Most of these qualities are well known because they are also required of more junior officials. For instance, officials at all levels must: know the rules, know the language of the particular sport (i.e. *impeding*, not *charging*), know and apply the mechanics of officiating of their sport, etc. Good officials must also display integrity, courage, judgment, decisiveness and consistency, again at every level of every sport. The need for proficiency in communicating in the manner prescribed by the sport, whether through words or signals, is also taken for granted. *Style* in officiating is less well understood although everyone seems aware of it.

Style is the manner of officiating. Everyone has seen the two extreme styles. The *laissez-faire* official who lets “players just play, without interfering very much” may honestly believe that less is best, or simply lack experience, knowledge or confidence. These officials often “*get in trouble by not making calls when they are essential.*” The *rulebook* official does the opposite. He/she applies the letter of every rule, always, and also applies the strictest possible interpretation of each rule. Such officials usually fare better than the previous kind, but rigid and unflinching application of every rule in every case can amount to unfairness. Says our book: “*Applied in an overly rigid manner, rules of play can actually be used to sabotage their intent.*” In fact, skaters as a group have been known to complain of unnecessarily strict officiating.

The best kind or *style* of officiating, of course, is *contextual* or as described in our book: *Advantage/Disadvantage*. Here, officials:

Take charge of a game and run it as smartly and efficiently as possible, letting the players play when only minimal intervention is necessary, but intervening decisively when events in the game show that control needs to be applied.

These officials follow the spirit of the rules and do not act like overzealous enforcers of the letter of the law.

Readers may have noticed that top-flight officials seem to always be looking at the right place, to be where the action is, and to understand when an act that borders on a violation creates unfairness. Elite-level officiating takes a sixth sense: a deep sense or feeling of what the sport is about and unconscious sensitivity to small cues that allow one to anticipate what is developing and where it will happen. Says Jerry Grunski:

The point is that a genuinely savvy official makes distinction about play action and penalizes behavior that is clearly illegal while bypassing calls on action that doesn't impinge on the spirit of the rules.

(...) It means that an official must make discrete judgments about a game's intricacies. It means, too, that a considerable amount of experience is necessary before an official can reach this point of making rapid-fire, astute decisions. (...) Officials who approach this point in their development are considered top-of-the-line.

Those among us who may believe that such philosophy doesn't apply to our sport should read paragraph 2a of Rule 292, which states the racing rules:

The general racing rule is that the competitors by their way of skating shall contribute to the honest sporting and safe progress of the race in order to determine the result of the race on its merit.

This is the golden rule that officials must enforce. What follows simply supports the statement.

So, there it is. Most officials never reach the last level of development, just as most athletes never make the national team. In our case, SSC acquires a direct interest in officials when they become candidates for officiating at national championships or above. Evaluators consequently look for evidence of the sixth sense. Canadian officials are the best in the world and we intend to keep it that way. Our athletes deserve nothing less. However, we are in good company. The talent, in context, has many names: airmanship, seamanship, horsemanship, etc. . . .

The Fine Points of 'Crosstrack'

Submitted by Guy Chenard

Short track Rule 292 spells out six (slowing down has been deleted) individual infractions that are considered "breaches of the racing rules" and result in disqualification. *Crosstrack* is one of them; in fact it is the second most often observed foul, after impeding. There is nevertheless some confusion as to what constitutes *crosstrack* and it is often interpreted incorrectly.

The problem begins with the definition given in Rule 292: "*Improperly crossing the course of, or in any way interfere with another competitor.*" "*In any way interfere*" suggests that the other popular foul, *impeding*, is contained within the definition of *crosstrack*, which causes some confusion and consequent decisions by referees citing *crosstrack* when *impeding* would be the proper call, and vice-versa. How does one distinguish between the two fouls?

One answer is to read both definitions together, keeping in mind that they are intended to describe different infractions. In this context, *impeding* clearly describes a contact infraction while *crosstrack's* definition dovetails almost perfectly with what would be understood by most spectators as cutting-off the other skater. That, we believe, is the intent of the rule. "*Improperly crossing the course*" of another skater requires that one actually step out of his/her own course into that of the other competitor and thereby force the other skater to veer, slow down, or otherwise check his progress. *Crosstrack* must therefore involve footwork by the offending athlete, otherwise the infraction becomes *impeding*, or *kicking out* if the body is used to obstruct at the finish line. The skater being passed almost always commits it.

Crosstrack most often occurs in one of two locations, coming out of corners or going into them. Typically at domestic competitions, the skater in the lead comes out of the corner wider than he/she would like then steps left to correct the mistake and prevent the next skater from passing. Young athletes will often telegraph the maneuver by glancing back before stepping left. In long track mass start competition, skaters sometimes veer to the right and the infraction has

been described as "drifting." Committing *crosstrack* going into corners is a choice of elite athletes who are often successful in getting the passing skater disqualified. The infraction entails stepping left just before or at the first corner block to prevent someone from passing on the inside, and many international skaters do it regularly without glancing back. This is a challenging move for a referee to judge. The secret is to remain alert to the relative position of the first corner block. More rarely, *crosstrack* can be observed near the middle of the corner, in what is referred to as "closing the door."

The trick to catching *crosstrack* infractions is to observe the skaters from an offset of about 45 degrees, front or back, so that both the course change and distance between the skaters involved can be seen. For "closing the door" *crosstrack*, the off-ice referee in the applicable corner is in the best position to see the action. In any event, remember that *crosstrack* must include an attempt to change lanes. Leaning is never *crosstrack*.

Excellence . . . Really?

Submitted by Guy Chenard

SSC, we are told, aims to promote excellence throughout its operation, and most members accept the statement at face value. There is little doubt that much effort is being spent doing just that, at least with athletes. However, we recently chanced across a short thought by well-known American mythologist and philosopher Joseph Campbell that set us wondering:

"I think excellence in living is a fine purpose. The Greeks were humanists. The Platonic mandate was "Know Thyself." The philosophical papers of the period have to do with conduct and virtue, virtue in the sense of excellence, not in the sense of good-versus-evil. This is a point that Nietzsche brings out in Beyond Good and Evil. He distinguishes between what he calls "slave morality" (...) doing what you're told, being good and not bad and "master morality" which (...) is the kind of excellence achieved by one who is competent in something. (...) There is something exhilarating about the idea of sheer excellence and aggressive

performance: "I get in there and do it!" as opposed to "Everything's okay and I submit."

So, following Nietzsche, the lion of virtue is the one who tears a lamb to pieces, and the bad one is the one that won't. But from the lamb's point of view, the bad lion is the one that eats him. And so, what you find in slave morality is that the people of excellence, the masterly ones, are regarded as bad. It really is so.

With the idea of the masterly ones, we get the idea of elitism. "Elitism? Elitism is bad!" Have you ever heard that said? It's slave morality speaking. I recall lecturing at the University of Oklahoma to a select group of outstanding students from colleges all over the country. (...) One of the professors later told me that one student came to him and said: "Having only excellent students in this group is elitism." The professor replied: "The program is for people who are up to the scholarship." "No," the student

argued, "it's elitism and shouldn't be on this campus." So the professor said, "I'll tell you what I'll do, Bill. I'm going to recommend to the football coach that you play defensive halfback. What do you think?" He got the idea. The only place where excellence is appreciated is on the athletic field".

Are we guilty of slave morality? Promoting excellence in our athletes is easy. By the time they attract SSC's attention, they have already reached an uncommon level of excellence. Not so with others, whether volunteer organizers, officers, officials or employees. There, the range of performance is much wider. Do we ever say one thing and reward something else? Punish excellence and reward mediocrity? Put political expediency ahead of good performance?

The ODC's mandate remains to develop and nurture good lions. The rest of us need to support proper leonine virtues, and not expect lions to eat grass or to negotiate the lamb's surrender before every meal.

**ODC Level 3 Upgrades
2001-2002**

NAME	PROV.	LEVEL
1. Susan Cook	ON	Level 3 Recorder
2. Cheryl Leonard	BC	Level 3 Judge
3. Joan Beldam	BC	Level 3 Timer
4. Lanyin Osborne	BC	Level 3 Meet Coordinator
5. Jim Allison	BC	Level 3 Lap Recorder
6. Maralyn Leger	BC	Level 3 Judge
7. George Moore	BC	Level 3B Starter
8. Mike Phillips	AB	Level 3A Starter
9. Richard Austin	AB	Level 3 Timer
10. Brian McConnell	MB	Level 3 Finish Time Judge
11. Richard Nichol	MB	Level 3 Timer
12. Jacques Michaud	QC	Level 3 B Starter
13. Gilles Ferragne	QC	Level 3 B Referee
14. Ghislain Rheaume	QC	Level 3 B Referee
15. Robert Bourassa	QC	Level 3 Meet Coordinator
16. Daniel Martin	QC	Level 3A Referee
17. Dany Lemay	QC	Level 3 Announcer
18. Rod Johnston	SK	Level 3A Starter
19. Randy Wrubleski	SK	Level 3 Recorder
20. Margaret Campbell	SK	Level 3 Meet Coordinator
21. Chantal Brideau	NB	Level 3 Meet Coordinator
22. Peter Wilkes	NB	Level 3 Lap Recorder
23. Susan Cole	NB	Level 3 Timer
24. Robert Laurie	NB	Level 3 Announcer
25. Robert Walsh	NB	Level 3 Finish Line Judge
26. Brian Hominick	NB	Level 3 Finish Line Judge
27. Cathy Hurley Teed	NB	Level 3 Electronic Timer
28. Doug Gillis	NB	Level 3 Lap Recorder
29. Kathy English	NB	Level 3 Clerk of the Course
30. Mary Beth Widderschoven	NB	Level 3 Recorder

OFFICIAL'S ASSIGNMENTS – 2002/2003

MEET, LOCATION, DATE	REFEREES	STARTERS
Can-Am Circuit Short Track, Montreal, QC, October 24-26, 2002	Michel Verrault - men Daniel Martin – women	Guy Marcoux - women Gilbert Tremblay – men
Can-Am Circuit Short Track, Campbellton, NB, November 23-24, 2002	Jacques Gregoire - m Clayton Bartlett - w Ghislain Rheume – development	Gilbert Tremblay - w Hans Terstappen – m
Can-Am Circuit Long Track, Calgary AB, November 29 – Dec. 1, 2002	Jim McClements – m- Assessor Wayne Fleming – w Vim Kok – development	Bob Ireland – m Rod Johnston - w
Short Track Junior Team Trials, Chicoutimi, QC, December 15-16, 2002	Yvon Patry m Robin Newton-Smith – w	Darrell Haack - w Jean Lemieux – m
Short Track Team Trials #1, Montreal QC, December 19-22, 2002	Guy Chenard - m Jacques Gregoire – w	Guy Marcoux - m Tom Johnson – w
Canadian All-Round Championships, Calgary, AB, January 2-6, 2003	Jim McClements - m - Assessor Dave Thomson – w	Ted Houghton - w - Assessor Yves Belanger - m
Canada Cup #2, Ottawa ON, January 24-26, 2003	Guy Chenard – m - Assessor Greg Franks – w	Darrell Haack -m Jeff Polakoff – w
Canadian Mass Start Long Track, Red Deer, AB, February 1-2, 2003	Wayne Fleming - m Rod Fisher – w	Don Hicks - m Eugene Hearn – w
North American Mass Start Long Track, Calgary, AB, February 8-9, 2003	Leo Descheneaux	Mike Phillips
Can-Am Circuit Short Track, Belleville, ON, February 8-9, 2003	Guy Chenard – m Assessor Daniel Martin - w Dan Weibe – development	Tom Johnson - m Phil Laing – w
Canada Winter Games Long Track, Campbellton, NB, February 24-28, 2003	Morley Bruce - m Leo Descheneaux – w	Pierre Bouchard - m Yves Belanger – w
Canada Winter Games Short Track, Campbellton, NB, February 24-28, 2003	Jacques Gregoire - m Daniel Gingras - w Kitty Beal - development Clayton Bartlett - development Laurie Murchison – development	Gilbert Tremblay - m Tom Johnson – w
Canada Cup #3, Ste-Foy, QC, March 7-9, 2003	Jim McClements – m - Assessor Robin Newton-Smith – w	Pierre Bouchard - m Hans Terstappen – w
Canadian Short Track Open Trials #2, Calgary, AB, March 7-9, 2003	Daniel Gingras - m Roch Loignon – w	Ted Houghton – m Guy Marcoux – w
North American Short Track, Milwaukee, USA, March 28-30, 2003	Yvon Patry	Phil Laing
Canadian Age Class ST Team Trials #3, Montreal, QC, April 3-6, 2003	Roch Loignon- m - Assessor Dave Thomson - w Kitty Beal – development	Gilbert Tremblay - m Don Hicks - w
North American Marathon Long Track, Morey,	TBD	

OFFICIALS DATABASE

A database is being developed to track the history and career of an Official at Speed Skating Canada. The project is done in Microsoft Access and the design consists of three major components (called tables).

- Officials (first name, last name, address and all other detailed information)
- Event/Meet schedule (name, location, date, sanction and other event data)
- Accreditation (current category and level)

All the information about Officials and Events are being collected. For Meet Coordinators, this system should assist in approaching eligible accredited Officials for the required positions.

Future expansion of this system will include the requirements for each category (e.g. Timer / Finish Line Judge, Recorder) and the link to the Officials/Event summary. With this information, it can be determined whether the Official has fulfilled his/her criteria to move up a level (that still does not mean that the individual will be “promoted”, it only indicates that the requirements have been fulfilled). Evaluation reports can be scanned and used for reference.

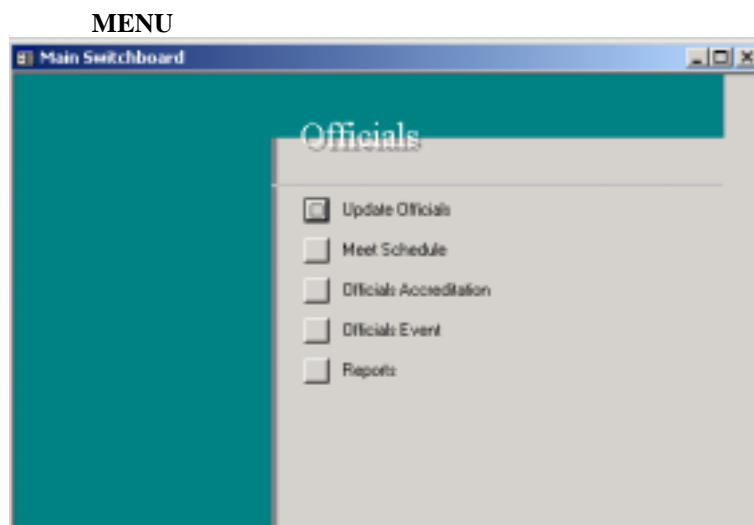
Current status:

The above mentioned “tables” have been set up and populated for level 3 and up.

Events have been included for one year to test the link to the Officials who attended.

Officials have been put in the several categories. One person can have several functions and different levels. He/She can be a Timer Level 2 and Referee ST Level 3

How the process works:



The first screen will be a “menu” where you select the form for your next step. Next you select one of the listed fields. “Update Officials”, “Meet Schedule” and “Officials Events” are displayed as examples below.

ON-LINE EDITING

Add Officials

Official Information

Here you can enter all the information for an Official. Address, Phone numbers, e-mail addresses can be included. This information can be extracted from the Officials portion of the Red Book and should reflect the same data

Add Events

Event Information

Here you can add new meets or change existing events

Officials for Events

Officials for Events

Event Name	Event Type	Event Title	Event Description	Event Location	Event Date	Event Start Time	Event End Time
27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27
28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28
29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29
30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31
32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32
33	33	33	33	33	33	33	33
34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34
35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35
36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36
37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37
38	38	38	38	38	38	38	38
39	39	39	39	39	39	39	39
40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40
41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41
42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42
43	43	43	43	43	43	43	43
44	44	44	44	44	44	44	44
45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45
46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46
47	47	47	47	47	47	47	47
48	48	48	48	48	48	48	48
49	49	49	49	49	49	49	49
50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50

Pick an event. List all Officials allocated to this meet. You can go to the next meet, list all meets, check who has officiated.

REPORTING

There are several reports available now. More reports can be developed with the addition of historical data to the database. Some examples of current reports:

- Meets officiated by accredited Officials - by Official's name - by Meet name
- Meet assignments per season
- List all accredited Referees; List all Level 2 Timers in Ontario.

<i>Events assigned to officials</i>				
<i>Event Name</i>	<i>Event Type</i>		<i>Start Date</i>	<i>End Date</i>
<i>SEASON 01-02</i>				
<i>Coia International</i>	<i>Short Track</i>	<i>Calgary</i>	<i>12-Oct-01</i>	<i>14-Oct-01</i>
		Houghton Ted	Staters-Short Track	Level 5-World Championships
		Lalson Rick	Referees-Short Track	Level 5-World Championships
<i>CAN-AMF</i>	<i>Olympic Style</i>	<i>Calgary</i>	<i>23-Nov-01</i>	<i>25-Nov-01</i>
		Bouchard Pierre	Staters-Olympic	Level 4-International Competitions
		Beauregard Yves	Staters-Olympic	Level 4-International Competitions
		Bruce Mike	Referees-Olympic	Level 4-International Competitions
<i>Canadian All-Round / Sp</i>	<i>Long Track</i>	<i>Calgary</i>	<i>30-Nov-01</i>	<i>02-Dec-01</i>
		Thompson Dave	Referees-Olympic	Level 3-National Championships
		Bruce Mike	Referees-Olympic	Level 4-International Competitions
		Chenard Guy	Referees-Olympic	Level 4-International Competitions
		Beauregard Yves	Staters-Olympic	Level 4-International Competitions
		Bouchard Pierre	Staters-Olympic	Level 4-International Competitions

Report outlines the meets attended during a season

What's next.

The Database is now being populated by the ODC to track all Level 3 Officials and up. "Empty" databases can be defined for Provincial Associations to keep track of their Officials. Possibilities are endless. Timing, maintenance and accessibility are ongoing concerns to keep this project alive.

ON BEHALF OF SSC AND ODC WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH EVERYONE A SAFE AND ENJOYABLE 2002-2003 SPEED SKATING SEASON.