RED BOOK SUMMARY OF CHANGES 2026

For use as a guide only. The 2026 Red Book is the official resource for reference.

Note: A thorough update and restructuring of SSC's Red Book are planned for implementation in 2027-28.

blank = no change

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B3-201 (NEW)	16	**New Requirement:** Skaters need to identify their PTSO representation for competition purposes. **Rationale:** PTSOs do not currently have the ability to track if skaters are identifying as members of other PTSOs when competing in regional competitions. This has an impact on competition eligibility and team selection for PTSOs. This addition will allow SSC to support PTSOs in requiring that skaters identify their primary representation each season.
B3-202 (NEW)	16	**New Process:** Process for skaters to request a change in PTSO representation. **Rationale:** There are legitimate reasons for skaters to change their PTSO representation during a season. This rule is intended to facilitate appropriate transitions while discouraging representation changes that could undermine the integrity of competition or conflict with the principles of fair play. The objective is to support athlete mobility where justified, while

		ensuring a fair and transparent competitive environment for all participants. One key example is addressed in the paragraph: ***A registrant who fails to qualify for a national competition while representing their designated PTSO shall not be eligible to compete in that same competition during the same season under the representation of another PTSO, regardless of any subsequent change in provincial or territorial representation.*** This rule is particularly important for events such as the Canada Winter Games, where it is essential to prevent situations in which skaters "shop around" for the team that offers the greatest competitive advantage. At the same time, there are legitimate reasons for a skater to change their representation, and such moves can support the growth and development of the sport in emerging regions. The intent of this rule is to balance these interests through a process that is fair, transparent, and applied consistently.
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B12-601	34	FR only: update name of CDAG certification alignment with CAC terminology
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C2-101 (NEW)	36	**Alignment:** Ensure track certification process meets the ISU standards for events hosted in Canada.
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C6-400 (MOVED)	n/a	**Category Correction:** Moved to C11 – The Yellow Card and Red Card rules for Long Track were misplaced in the C6 Short Track Rules section. The new Section C11 supports both LT and ST regarding yellow and red cards.
C6-401 (MOVED)	n/a	See C11-100 for Long Track Yellow and Red Cards

C6-402 (MOVED)	n/a	See C11-200 for Short Track Yellow and Red Cards
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C11 (NEW)	48	**Category Correction:** YC and RC for both LT and ST.
C11-100 (NEW)	48	**Alignment & Category Correction**: YC & RC specific to LT updated based on changes to ISU rules and implementation processes in Canada. Primary change from the 2025 version of the Red Book is the removal of "1a" and "1b" as written in the previous rule C6-401
C11-200 (NEW)	49	**Category Correction:** YC & RC specific to ST.
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E1-301 (NEW)	66	**Alignment:** Outlines planned recognition for International Masters records, given the removal of national records within these age categories.
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E2-300	67	**Deleted Rules** from 2025 Red Book, no longer relevant in current competition context: Rule E2-301 | Mass Start Records Rule E2-302 | Record Ineligibility
E2-301	67	**Rule renumbering:** Previous E2-303
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E2-306 (REMOVED)	n/a	**Rule renumbering**
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Appendix C	72	**Update & Alignment:** The Level 4 Crash Protection requirements have been revised to better align with the performance level of skaters participating in Youth Championship events and with existing guidance regarding appropriate rink dimensions. **Rationale:** Level 4 Crash Protection is intended for skaters with a KEF value greater than 0.90. A skater weighing 72.6 kg (160 lb) – which would be over the 97th percentile for weight in 13-year-old boys – competing at typical Youth Championship speeds would have a KEF value below 0.90 and would therefore require only Level 3 Crash Protection. When the Youth Championship age groups were revised to remove 14 and 15-year-olds, the corresponding crash protection requirements were not adjusted to reflect the lower athlete profile. At the same time, smaller rink dimensions were permitted to support competition opportunities and sport development in emerging regions of the country. The continued application of Level 4 Crash Protection requirements to this athlete group created operational challenges, particularly on NHL-sized rinks (25.9 m / 85 ft wide), where the amount of available racing space on the straightaways can be significantly reduced. **Solution:** Recognizing that Level 3 Crash Protection is sufficient for athletes in this racing category, the revised approach permits an adapted Level 4 configuration on approved smaller

		rinks. This approach exceeds the minimum Level 3 standard while continuing to encourage clubs to work toward full Level 4 protection wherever feasible. The change balances athlete safety, facility realities, and competition access, while supporting the gradual enhancement of crash protection systems so that clubs are prepared to accommodate athletes as they progress to higher performance levels.
Appendix D	80	**Update:** Guidance regarding cold weather events for younger athletes and recommendations for when to delay or cancel events. **Rationale:** Some PTSOs requested that the cold-weather temperature guidelines be revised to permit racing at colder temperatures. However, a more comprehensive review of the available evidence ultimately supported maintaining the current temperature threshold. The research also identified evidence suggesting that younger participants may require additional protection and that participation restrictions could be warranted at warmer temperatures than those currently applied. A comparison with other winter sports that involve relatively low respiratory demands, such as snowboarding and alpine skiing, found that these sports generally maintain a temperature threshold of -21°C. ISU Rule 216 also imposes an air temperature limit of -20°C for outdoor racing. This supports retaining the current -21°C threshold for speed skating events, including shorter distances such as the 500 m and 1000 m, which typically last less than 90 seconds. Despite their shorter duration, the evidence does not support lowering the threshold for these events.
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