

APPENDIX 2 – SOQC 2025 RACING POOL 2026 OLYMPIC SELECTION POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Short Track Speed Skating

Important notes:

- a) You'll also find the same information in this appendix inside Master Bulletin 2025-26 when it is published in early summer 2025.

- b) This 2026 Olympic Selection Policy and Procedures document was originally written in French and has been translated into English. In the event of a discrepancy between the English and French versions, the French version will be used to understand the intended wording of the provision(s) in question. Should such a situation arise, Speed Skating Canada will ensure that any discrepancy is corrected as soon as possible and will assist anyone affected in resolving the issue.

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Basic Principle

The SSC Short Track Olympic Selection Committee will name the SOQC Racing Pool after the Canadian Championships. The SOQC Racing Pool will represent Canada at the Special Olympic Qualifying Competitions (SOQC) : the four 2025-26 ISU World Tour events.

Eligibility

The ISU determines Canada's eligibility to enter skaters in World Tour events. Skaters who are at least 17 years of age as of July 1, 2025, are eligible ([ISU Rule 108](#)).

1.1 International Performance Points

Process for obtaining international performance points

- An athlete may add up to a **maximum of 10000 points (that includes all 3 distances)** for the Overall ranking of the initial Racing Pool.
- For all 3 individual distances: the total points obtained by a skater in each of the 3 international competition contexts below will be used, **up to a max of 5000 points per distance**, according to one of the 2 following rules leading to the highest score:

a) Overall distance ranking for the 2024-25 World Tour

+

World Championships 2025

OR

b) 2024-25 World Tour results by event

+

World Championships **2025**

Three international competition contexts to accumulate performance points

Performance Points World Tour General Distance Ranking 2024-25 Season		
Performance points by distance	Podium	Points
	1	5000
	2	4000
	3	3200
	4	2560
	5	2048

Performance Points Results World Event Tour (WT) 1-2-3-4-5-6 2024-25 Season		
World Tour 1-4, only the best result will be retained	Podium	Points
	Gold	1250
World Tour 5-6, only the best result will be retained	Silver	1000
	Bronze	800

Performance Points World Championship results March 2025		
Performance points by distance	Podium	Points
	Gold	2500
	Silver	2000
	Bronze	1600

1.2 Criteria for Selecting the Initial SOQC Racing Pool

To represent Canada at the 2025 Special Olympic Qualification Competitions (SOQC) and to be eligible for nomination to the 2026 Olympic Team, athletes must first qualify for the SOQC Racing Pool following the 2025 Canadian Short Track Championships. To be eligible for nomination to the 2026 Olympic team, athletes selected from the 2025 Racing Pool must train together at the National Short Track Training Centre in Montreal.

Racing Pool: 6 men and 6 women

Step 1 - Selection Criteria Based on Individual Distance Rankings:

Winner of each distance (maximum 3 places) :

2025 Canadian Championship points by distance (see Appendix 1/ separate document)

+

International performance points per distance (see section 1.1 / in this document)

Step 2 - Best Distance Runners-Up (0 to 2 places maximum):

Prerequisite: conditional to a top 5 result per distance in the overall ranking of the 2024-25 World Tour or the World Championship 2025

2025 Canadian Championship points by distance (see Appendix 1/ separate document)

+

International performance points per distance (see section 1.1 / in this document)

Tie-breaker (Steps 1 and 2) for distance ranking:

1- Take the highest number of international performance points

2- If the tie persists, take the best result from the 3rd distance event of the 2025 Canadian Championships.

3- If the tie persists, the best time over this distance will be used to break the tie.

Note: to determine the order of the best 2nd, we will use the final overall ranking of the 2025 Canadian Championships.

Step 3 - Selection Criteria Based on Overall Ranking:

Remaining places until a total of five skaters are selected

Total of the 6 best events out of 9 at the 2025 Canadian Championships

+

Plus, total international performance points for the 2024-2025 season

Tie-breaker for overall ranking (Step 3):

1- Take the highest number of international performance points

2- If the tie persists, take the best result from a 2025 Canadian Championship event and so on to break the tie.

3- If the tie persists, use the best 1000m time from the 2025 Canadian Championships.

Step 4 - Bye Request (2 spots maximum / 4th and 5th positions only)

The SSC Olympic Selection Committee - Short Track will review all Bye requests in accordance with the Bye policy (see additional appendix "C" located in document Appendix 3 / Olympic Team).

The SSC Olympic Selection Committee - Short Track may grant a maximum of two (2) Bye requests per gender for qualification within the Racing Pool according to step 4.

When more than one athlete eligible for a Bye applies for qualification within the Racing Pool, the SSC Olympic Selection Committee - Short Track will rank the athletes, and in such circumstances, the two highest-ranked athletes by gender among those who have applied for a Bye will be analyzed.

If, after all eligible Bye requests have been received, no Bye has been granted for a particular gender, selection within the Racing Pool will continue as per step 5.

To grant a Bye for qualification within the Racing Pool, the SSC Olympic Selection Committee - Short Track must consider that the athlete requesting the Bye meets the eligibility criteria as defined in Supplementary Appendix C (located in Appendix 3).

When an athlete eligible for a Bye applies for qualification within the Racing Pool and the SSC Olympic Selection Committee - Short Track considers the athlete to be :

a) clearly superior to the athlete ranked 4th, then the athlete will be reranked in this 4th position.

then, if not reranked to this 4th position but,

b) the athlete is clearly superior to the athlete ranked 5th, then he/she will be reranked to this 5th position.

If a) or b) is met, THEN this athlete will be selected within the 2025 SOQC Final Racing Pool.

IMPORTANT: If an athlete (or athletes) is selected into the Racing Pool through a Bye, and, due to ongoing injury or illness, is unable to participate in one or more stops of the World Tour, the SSC Olympic Selection Committee - Short Track will select an alternate to participate in the stop(s) of the World Tour in which the athlete (or athletes) who has been granted a Bye is unable to participate. The alternate will be selected per the discretionary criteria set out in section 1.2, but only after all selections have been made per step 5 below.

The athlete(s) granted a Bye under this step 3, but who may not be able to participate in a World Tour stop due to injury or ongoing illness, will be considered a member of the Racing Pool for this 2026 Olympic selection policy and procedures and will retain all rights described in this document as a member of the Racing Pool. Any alternate selected to participate in a World Tour stop per this Step 2 will be granted the rights described in Appendix 3 in sections 2,3,4 and 5, as applicable, depending on the number of quotas available.

Step 5 - Discretionary Selections (1 place per gender)

After following steps 1 to 4, if applicable, the SSC Olympic Selection Committee - Short Track will choose one athlete per gender as a discretionary selection within the Racing Pool. This discretionary selection will be made per the discretionary selection criteria described in section 1.3 below. Any athlete qualified to compete at the 2025 Canadian Short Track Championships will be eligible for discretionary selection within the Racing Pool.

- To avoid any confusion, an eligible athlete who applies, but does not receive, a Bye under step 4 may still be considered for selection to the Racing Pool by the SSC Olympic Selection Committee as a discretionary selection under this step 5.

1.3 Subjective Criteria (Discretionary Choice)

For discretionary spots within the Racing Pool (by gender), the SSC Olympic Selection Committee - Short Track is responsible for nominating athletes. Based on the relevant athlete selection process outlined in this 2026 Olympic Selection Policy and Procedures document, the SSC Short Track Olympic Selection Committee will select the discretionary gender spot(s) within the Racing Pool based on performance analysis and the profile of the already selected team, and will select the athlete(s) (by gender) who, based on past performance analysis and the profile of the previously selected team, are likely to help Speed Skating Canada win the most medals possible at the 2026 Olympic Winter Games.

The SSC Short Track Olympic Selection Committee shall advise the Chair of the HPAC-ST, who shall have absolute discretion to make the final selection decision per this article. When advising the Chair of the HPAC-ST, the SSC Olympic Selection Committee - Short Track will solicit input from the National Team Coaches, who must evaluate the athletes according to the criteria below. The relative importance of each factor listed below will be decided by the SSC Olympic Selection Committee - Short Track, with input from the National Team Coaches, and each athlete considered for the discretionary place (by gender) in the Racing Pool will be assigned a score for each factor. When deciding on the relative importance of each of the factors listed below, the SSC Olympic Selection Committee - Short Track will keep in mind that the ultimate goal of the selection for the discretionary spot is to select the athlete(s) with the greatest potential to help Speed Skating Canada win as many medals as possible at the 2026 Olympic Winter Games.

When making the discretionary selection described above, the following factors may be considered by the SSC Short Track Olympic Selection Committee and the Chairman of the SSC Short Track Olympic Selection Committee:

- International performance in the relay
- Individual international performance and experience
- National performances
- Training performance
- Performance readiness
- Impact on team dynamics
- Commitment to the training program
- Medical and health status

As indicated above, each factor will be weighted and athletes considered for the discretionary spot in the Racing Pool will be assigned a score for each factor. When scoring athletes, the SSC Olympic Selection Committee - Short Track will consult with National Team Coaches.

If the SSC Olympic Selection Committee - Short Track determines that factors not listed above should be considered in the discretionary selection of the Racing Pool, it will notify eligible athletes. However, failure to notify athletes for valid and justifiable reasons (e.g., lack of time) will not invalidate any discretionary selection within the Racing Pool.

1.4 World Tour 1 and 2 - SOQC 2025: Selection Criteria for Individual Distances

1.4.1 Eligibility

The ISU determines Canada's eligibility to enter skaters in World Tour events. Skaters aged 17 or over as of July 1, 2025, are eligible ([ISU Rule 108](#)).

1.4.2 Quota

The team for SOQC events (World Tour 1 and 2) will be made up of the 6 men and 6 women from the SOQC 2025 Racing Pool.

1.4.3 Sequence of Decisions and Selection Criteria for Individual Distances

- Step 1** Select the top two skaters per gender in each distance from the 2025 Racing Pool ranking. Seeding method as described in Section 1.2 (Step 1).
- Step 2** The 3rd individual position per distance will be determined at the absolute discretion of the National Team Coach among the rest of the team in the Racing Pool. This decision may be deferred until the official registration deadline for the SOQC event, to allow the coaching staff to gather all relevant data.
- Relay** All six (6) team members will be eligible to take part in the relay. However, the National Team Coach will determine the composition of the relay team for each round at the SOQC event.

²In the event that ISU rules are updated, rendering the hyperlink provided invalid, SSC will update the applicable hyperlink in this 2026 Olympic Selection Policy and Procedures (Short Track) as soon as possible.

1.5 World Tour 3 and 4 – SOQC 2025: Selection Criteria for Individual Distances

1.5.1 Eligibility

The ISU determines Canada's eligibility to enter skaters in World Tour events. Skaters who are at least 17 years of age as of July 1, 2025, are eligible ([ISU Rule 108](#)).

1.5.2 Quota

The team for SOQC events (World Tour 3 and 4) will be made up of the 6 men and 6 women from the SOQC 2025 Racing Pool.

1.5.3 Sequence of Decisions and Selection Criteria for Individual Distances

Step 1 After SOQC events 1 and 2, select up to 2 athletes per individual distance (500m, 1000m, 1500m) who competed in at least one A Final in that distance at SOQC events 1 and 2.

If there are more than two:

- Selected skaters will be ranked according to their best result in the respective A Final.

Additional tie-breaker:

- The top-ranked skater at the 2025 Canadian Championships in this distance will be chosen.

If one or no skater reaches an A Final in the distance, then:

- a) 1 position will be reserved for the best individual result on the World Tour over the distance
- b) 1 position for the top-ranked skater at the 2025 Canadian Championships in the distance, not already selected in point a)

Note: In the event of a tie at the World Tour, we will use:

- Current ranking from World Tour 1 and 2 over the distance
- And if the tie persists: Final distance ranking at the 2025 Canadian Championships.

Step 2 The 3rd individual position per distance will be determined at the absolute discretion of the National Team Coach among the rest of the team in the Racing Pool. This decision may be deferred until the official registration deadline for the SOQC event, to allow the coaching staff to gather all relevant data.



Relay

All six (6) team members will be eligible to take part in the relay. However, the National Team Coach will determine the composition of the relay team for each round at the SOQC event.

In the event that ISU rules are updated, rendering the hyperlink provided invalid, SSC will update the applicable hyperlink in this 2026 Olympic Selection Policy and Procedures (Short Track) as soon as possible.