

APPENDIX 3 – 2026 OLYMPIC TEAM 2026 OLYMPIC SELECTION POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Short Track Speed Skating

Important notes:

- a) You will 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.

December 20, 2024

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1. Eligibility

The ISU determines Canada's eligibility to enter skaters in the 2026 Olympic Games. Skaters aged 17 or older as of July 1, 2025, are eligible ([ISU Rule 108](#)).

2025-26 Racing Pool Ranking

Note that for all references to the 2025-26 Racing Pool Ranking, details of the composition of this ranking can be found in Appendix 2 (2025-26 Racing Pool).

According to Canada's qualification quota, the 2026 Olympic team will be selected according to the following scenarios:

2. Selection of skaters for a Canadian quota of 5 skaters per gender (full quota - qualified relay)

Team Composition

Sequence of Decisions and Team Selection Criteria:

Step 1: Finalist A in the 2025-26 World Tour

The first 3 places will be selected in this order of priority:

Select the top three individual finalists from the 4 World Tour events in the 2025-2026 season over any of the 3 individual distances. They will be ranked as follows:

- A-Number of medals
- B-Best results (1 Gold, 2 Silver, 3 Bronze)
- C-Best positions in final A

Tiebreaker:

Best position in the overall and final rankings of the 2025-2026 World Tour (rankings established based on the best rankings per distance).

If the tie persists: best ranking of the 2025-26 Final Racing Pool Ranking created following the 2025 Canadian Championships.

If fewer than 3 athletes have participated in at least one A final, the remaining places will be filled as follows in order of priority:

- a) Best skaters in the final ranking of the 2025-2026 World Tour in any distance and not previously selected. Must be at least in the top 12 of the final 2026 World Tour ranking by distance.

Tiebreaker:

1- Best result over a distance in a stage of the 2025-26 World Tour.

2-Best position in the overall and final ranking of the 2025-2026 World Tour (ranking established based on the best rankings for the 3 distances).

3- Best ranking of the 2025-26 Racing Pool Final Ranking created following the 2025 Canadian Championships.

- b) *Best ranking of the 2025-26 Racing Pool Final Ranking created following the Canadian Championships 2025.*

Step 2: Overall Distance Classification - World Tour 2025-26

The 4th position will be selected as follows:

Best skater of the overall and final 2025-2026 World Tour ranking for a distance that has not been selected until now. Must be at least in the top 12 of this world ranking.

Tiebreaker:

1- Best result over a distance in a stage of the 2025-26 World Tour.

2-Best position in the overall and final ranking of the 2025-2026 World Tour (ranking established based on the best rankings for the 3 distances).

3- Best ranking of the 2025-26 Racing Pool created following the 2025 Canadian Championships.

Step 3: Applying for a Bye

Up to 1 approved Bye request spot

If an application has been made for a Bye, the SSC Short Track Olympic Selection Committee will review the application per the Bye policy (see Appendix C) for a selection to the 2026 Olympic Team. If an athlete (eligible to request a Bye) applying for a Bye is considered by the SSC Olympic Selection Committee - Short Track as:

- Equal to or superior to the athlete ranked 3rd, this athlete will be chosen for the team in 4th place.

OR

- Clearly superior to the athlete ranked 4th, this athlete will be chosen for the team in 4th place.

In cases where multiple Bye requests are submitted, they will be evaluated individually and ranked in order according to their merit. The SSC Olympic Selection Committee - Short Track may select only one athlete per gender to the Olympic Team by way of Bye in accordance with this step 2.

Step 4: Discretionary Choice(s)

5th place and 4th place as needed

The SSC Olympic selection committee - short track will choose:

- 1 skater from the Racing Pool for 4th place according to the discretionary selection criteria (see Appendix 2: Section 1.3) if no Byes are granted for this 4th place in step 2 above and no athlete meets the criteria in step 3 above. Only athletes who are named in the 2025-2026 final Racing Pool (or, if applicable, an alternate, if the alternate reaches the podium at a World Tour stage) will be eligible for this 4th place.
- 1 skater from the Racing Pool for 5th place based on discretionary selection criteria (see Appendix 2: Section 1.3). Only athletes who are named to the final 2025-2026 Racing Pool (or, if applicable, an alternate, if the alternate reaches the podium at a World Tour stage) will be eligible for this 5th place.

To avoid any confusion, an athlete (or athletes) who applies for, but is not granted, a Bye under step 2 may still be considered for selection under step 4.

3. Selection of skaters for a Canadian quota of 4 skaters per gender (qualified relay)

Team Composition

Sequence of Decisions and Team Selection Criteria:

Step 1: Finalist A in the 2025-26 World Tour

The first 2 places will be selected in this order of priority:

Select the top 2 individual finalists from the 4 World Tour events in the season over any of the 3 individual distances. They will be ranked as follows:

- A-Number of medals
- B-Best results (1 Gold, 2 Silver, 3 Bronze)
- C-Best positions in final A

Tiebreaker:

Best position in the overall and final ranking of the 2025-2026 World Tour (ranking established based on the best distance rankings).

If the tie persists: best ranking of the 2025-26 Final Racing Pool Ranking created following the 2025 Canadian Championships.

If fewer than 2 athletes have participated in at least an A final of a 2025-26 World Tour stage, the remaining places will be filled as follows in order of priority:

- a) Best skaters in the final ranking of the 2025-2026 World Tour in a distance not previously selected. Must be at least in the top 12 of this World ranking by distance.

Tiebreaker:

- 1- Best result over this distance in a stage of the 2025-26 World Tour.
- 2-Best position in the overall and final ranking of the 2025-2026 World Tour (ranking established based on the best distance rankings).
- 3- Best ranking of the 2025-26 Racing Pool Final Ranking created following the 2025 Canadian Championships.

- b) Best ranking of the 2025-26 Racing Pool Final Ranking created following the 2025 Championships Canadians.

Step 2: Overall Distance Classification - World Tour 2025-26

The 3rd position will be selected as follows:

Best skater of the overall and final 2025-2026 World Tour ranking for a distance who has not yet been selected. Must be at least in the top 12 of this World ranking by distance.

Tiebreaker:

- 1- Best result over this distance in a stage of the 2025-26 World Tour.
- 2-Best position in the overall and final ranking of the 2025-2026 World Tour (ranking established based on the best distance rankings).
- 3- Best ranking of the 2025-26 Racing Pool Final Ranking created following the 2025 Canadian Championships.

Step 3: Applying for a Bye

Up to 1 approved Bye request spot

If an application has been made for a Bye, the SSC Short Track Olympic Selection Committee will review the application per the Bye policy (see Appendix C) for selection to the 2026 Olympic Team. If an athlete (eligible to request a Bye) applying for a Bye is considered by the SSC Olympic Selection Committee - Short Track as:

- Equal to or superior to the athlete ranked 2nd, this athlete will be chosen from the team in 3rd place.

OR

- Clearly superior to the athlete ranked 3rd, this athlete will be chosen from the team in 3rd place.

In cases where multiple Bye requests are submitted, they will be evaluated individually and ranked in order according to their own merit. The SSC Olympic Selection Committee - Short Track may select only one athlete per gender to the Olympic Team by way of Byes in accordance with this step 2.

Step 4: Discretionary Choice(s)

4th place and 3rd place as needed

The SSC Olympic Selection Committee - Short Track will choose :

- 1 skater from the Racing Pool for 3rd place according to the discretionary selection criteria (see Appendix 2: Section 1.3) if no Byes are granted for this 3rd place in step 2 above and no athlete meets the criteria in step 3 above. Only athletes who are named in the 2025-2026 final Racing Pool (or, if applicable, an alternate, if the alternate reaches the podium at a World Tour stage) will be eligible for this 3rd place.
- 1 skater from the Racing Pool for 4th place based on discretionary selection criteria (see Appendix 2: Section 1.3). Only athletes who are named to the final 2025-2026 Racing Pool (or, if applicable, an alternate, if the alternate reaches the podium at a World Tour stop) will be eligible for this 4th place.

To avoid any confusion, an athlete (or athletes) who applies for, but is not granted, a Bye under step 2 may still be considered for selection under step 4.

4. Selection of skaters for a Canadian quota of 3 skaters per gender (non-qualifying relay)

Team Composition

Sequence of Decisions and Team Selection Criteria:

Step 1: Finalist A in the 2025-26 World Tour

The first 2 places will be selected in this order of priority:

Select the top 2 individual finalists from the 4 World Tour events in the season for any of the 3 individual distances. They will be ranked as follows:

- A-Number of medals
- B-Best results (1 Gold, 2 Silver, 3 Bronze)
- C-Best positions in final A

Tiebreaker:

Best position in the overall and final ranking of the 2025-2026 World Tour (ranking established based on the best distance rankings).

If the tie persists: best ranking of the 2025-26 Racing Pool Final Ranking created following the 2025 Canadian Championships.

If fewer than 2 athletes have participated in at least an A final of a 2025-26 World Tour stage, the remaining places will be filled as follows in order of priority:

- a) Best skaters in the final ranking of the 2025-2026 World Tour in a distance not previously selected. Must be at least in the top 12 of this World ranking by distance.

Tiebreaker:

1- Best result over this distance in a stage of the 2025-26 World Tour.

2-Best position in the overall and final ranking of the 2025-2026 World Tour (ranking established based on the best distance rankings).

3- Best ranking of the 2025-26 Racing Pool created following the 2025 Canadian Championships.

- b) *Best ranking of the 2025-26 Racing Pool created following the 2025 Championships Canadians.*

Step 2: Applying for a Bye

Up to 1 approved Bye request spot

If an application has been made for a Bye, the SSC Short Track Olympic Selection Committee will review the application per the Bye policy (see Appendix C) for selection to the 2026 Olympic Team. If an athlete applying for a Bye (eligible to apply for a Bye) is deemed by the SSC Short Track Olympic Selection Committee to be significantly superior to the athlete ranked 2nd, that athlete will be selected to the team in 2nd place.

In cases where multiple Bye requests are submitted, they will be evaluated individually and ranked in order according to their own merit. The SSC Olympic Selection Committee - Short Track may select only one athlete per gender to the Olympic Team by way of Byes in accordance with this step 2.

Step 3: Discretionary Choice(s)

3rd place by gender

The SSC Olympic selection committee - short track will choose:

- 1 skater from the Racing Pool for 3rd place (if no Byes are granted for this 3rd place at stage 2) based on discretionary selection criteria (see Appendix 2: Section 1.3). Only athletes who are named to the final 2025-2026 Racing Pool (or, if applicable, an alternate, if the alternate reaches the podium on a World Tour) will be eligible for this 3rd place.

To avoid any confusion, an athlete (or athletes) who applies for, but does not receive, a Bye under step 2 may still be considered for selection under step 3.

5. Skater selection for a Canadian quota of 2 skaters per gender

Sequence of decisions and team selection criteria:

Step 1: Finalist A in the 2025-26 World Tour

Up to a maximum of 2 places

Select the top 2 individual finalists from the 4 World Tour events in the season over any of the 3 individual distances. They will be ranked as follows:

- A-Number of medals
- B-Best results (1 Gold, 2 Silver, 3 Bronze)
- C-Best positions in final A

Tiebreaker:

Best position in the overall and final ranking of the 2025-2026 World Tour (ranking established based on the best distance rankings).

If the tie persists: best ranking of the 2025-26 Racing Pool Final Ranking created following the 2025 Canadian Championships.

If fewer than 2 athletes have participated in at least one A final, the remaining places will be filled as follows:

- (1) If 1 athlete has participated in a World Tour A final, go to step 2 and step 3 below.
- (2) If no athlete has participated in a World Tour A final, a single skater will be selected in the following order of priority:
 - a) The best skater in the final ranking of the 2025-2026 World Tour in one distance. Must be at least in the top 12 of the World ranking by distance.

Tiebreaker:

- 1-Best result over this distance in a stage of the 2025-26 World Tour.*
- 2-Best position in the overall and final ranking of the 2025-2026 World Tour (ranking established based on the best distance rankings).*
- 3- Best ranking of the 2025-26 Racing Pool Final Ranking created following the 2025 Canadian Championships.*

- b) Best ranking of the 2025-26 Racing Pool Final Ranking created following the 2025 Canadian Championships.*

Step 2: Applying for a Bye

Up to 1 approved Bye request spot

If an application has been made for a Bye, the SSC Short Track Olympic Selection Committee will review the application per the Bye policy (see Appendix C) for selection to the 2026 Olympic Team. If an athlete applying for a Bye (eligible to apply for a Bye) is deemed by the SSC Short Track Olympic Selection Committee to be equal to or superior to the athlete ranked 1st, that athlete will be selected to the team in 2nd place, and thus the final selection will be completed.

In cases where multiple Bye requests are submitted, they will be evaluated individually and ranked in order according to their own merit. The SSC Olympic Selection Committee - Short Track may select only one athlete per gender to the Olympic Team by way of Byes in accordance with this step 2.

Step 3: Discretionary Selection (if required)

2nd place by gender

The SSC Olympic selection committee - short track will choose:

- 1 skater from the Racing Pool for 2nd place (if no Byes are granted for this 2nd place at stage 2) based on discretionary selection criteria (see Appendix 2: Section 1.3). Only athletes who are named to the final 2025-2026 Racing Pool (or, if applicable, an alternate, if the alternate reaches the podium on a World Tour) will be eligible for this 2nd place.

To avoid any confusion, an athlete (or athletes) who applies for, but does not receive, a Bye under step 2 may still be considered for selection under step 3.

6. Skater selection for a Canadian quota of 1 skater per gender

Sequence of Decisions and Team Selection Criteria:

Step 1: Finalist A in the 2025-26 World Tour

Appointment of a skater

Select the best individual finalist from the 4 stages of the 2025-2026 World Tour season in any of the 3 individual distances. If more than one athlete has reached at least one A final they will be ranked as follows:

- A-Number of medals
- B-Best results (1 Gold, 2 Silver, 3 Bronze)
- C-Best positions in final A

Tiebreaker:

Best position in the overall and final ranking of the 2025-2026 World Tour (ranking established based on the best distance rankings).

If the tie persists: best ranking of the 2025-26 Racing Pool Final Ranking created following the 2025 Canadian Championships.

If no athlete has participated in at least one A final, a place will be allocated as follows in order of priority:

- a) The best skater in the final ranking of the 2025-2026 World Tour in one distance. Must be at least in the top 12 of the World ranking by distance.

Tiebreaker:

1-Best result over this distance in a stage of the 2025-26 World Tour.

2-Best overall and final position on the 2025-2026 World Tour (ranking based on the best distance rankings).

3- Best ranking of the 2025-26 Racing Pool Final Ranking created following the 2025 Canadian Championships.

- b) *Best ranking of the 2025-26 Racing Pool Final Ranking created following the 2025 Canadian Championships.*

Step 2: Applying for a Bye

Up to 1 approved Bye request spot

If an application has been made for a Bye, the SSC Short Track Olympic Selection Committee will review the application per the Bye policy (see Appendix C) for selection to the 2026 Olympic Team. If an athlete applying for a Bye (who is eligible to apply for a Bye) is deemed by the SSC Short Track Olympic Selection Committee to be CLEARLY SUPERIOR to the 1st ranked athlete, that athlete will be selected to the team, replacing the athlete identified in step 1.

In cases where multiple Bye requests are submitted, they will be evaluated individually and ranked in order according to their own merit. The SSC Olympic Selection Committee - Short Track may select only one athlete per gender to the Olympic Team by way of Byes in accordance with this step 2.

7. Relay Team Selection Process

Athletes named to the 2026 Olympic Team will be eligible to compete in the relay at the 2026 Olympic Winter Games. However, the National Team Head Coach will determine the composition of the relay team for each round at the 2026 Olympic Winter Games.

8. Mixed Relay Team Selection Process

Athletes named to the 2026 Olympic Winter Team will be eligible to compete in the Mixed Relay at the 2026 Olympic Winter Games. However, the National Team Head Coach will determine the composition of the mixed relay team for each round at the 2026 Olympic Winter Games.

If the team quota is less than two individual athletes for either gender, but the mixed relay has qualified for the 2026 Olympic Winter Games, the remaining place on the mixed relay team will be chosen as a discretionary selection from the Racing Pool based on the mixed relay's performance in one of the four SOQC World Tour events.

9. Provisional Entries for Individual Distances

To optimize the preparation of Olympic team athletes, the SSC Short Track Olympic Selection Committee will confirm individual distance entries for the 2026 Olympic Winter Games as soon as possible after the Special Olympic Qualification Competitions (SOQC) in which Canada will be awarded individual distance places.

VENUES AND DATES FOR SPECIAL OLYMPIC QUALIFYING COMPETITIONS (SOQC)

- World Tour 1: October 2025- Montreal, Canada
- World Tour 2: October 2025 - Salt Lake City, USA
- World Tour 3: November 2025 - Gdansk, Poland
- World Tour 4: November 2025 - Netherlands

WHATEVER THE NUMBER OF PLACES IN THE TEAM, THE SEQUENCE OF DECISIONS FOR INDIVIDUAL DISTANCES (500 M, 1000 M, 1500 M) WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

STEP 1: Distance Classification

Select the best individual finalist(s) from the 4 stages of the World Tour in the 2025-2026 season

Potential scenarios:

- **3 places available for the distance = 2 skaters selected according to the order of priority below.**
- **2 or 1 place available for the distance = 1 skater selected according to the order of priority below.**

If several athletes have reached at least an A final, they will be ranked as follows:

A-Number of medals

B-Best results (1 Gold, 2 Silver, 3 Bronze)

C-Best positions in final A

Tiebreaker:

Best overall and final ranking in the 2025-2026 World Tour (ranking based on best distance ranking).

If the tie persists: best ranking of the 2025-26 Racing Pool Final Ranking created following the 2025 Canadian Championships.

If no athlete has participated in at least one A final, the allocation will be determined as follows in order of priority:

- a) The best skater(s) in the overall and final ranking of the 2025-2026 World Tour over one distance. Must be at least among the top 12 in this World ranking.

Tiebreaker:

- 1. Best result over this distance in a stage of the 2025-26 World Tour.*
- 2. Best overall and final ranking in the 2025-2026 World Tour (ranking based on best distance ranking).*

If the tie persists: best ranking of the 2025-26 Racing Pool Final Ranking created following the 2025 Canadian Championships.

- b) Best ranking of the 2025-26 Racing Pool Final Ranking created following the 2025 Canadian Championships.*

STEP 2: Discretionary Choice (not applicable if only one place in the distance is available)

It will be determined at the absolute discretion of the National Team Head Coach from among the rest of the 2026 Olympic team. This decision may be postponed until the official deadline for registering the distance for the 2026 Olympic Winter Games, to allow the coaching staff to gather all the data required for the Canadian team's optimal performance.

10. Final Entries - Performance Readiness for the Olympic Games 2026

Final entries to the 2026 Olympic Winter Games, in all cases, depends on the determination of each athlete's "performance readiness" status, based on input from the support team present at the Games and the Olympic coaches' assessment of each athlete's preparation and performance status. This determination of performance readiness will include an assessment of the athlete's state of health.

The National Team Coach will make the final decision(s), with the approval of the Olympic team manager.

11. Alternates

The SSC Olympic Selection Committee - Short Track will select an alternate athlete for each gender after Olympic Team selection to adequately prepare these athletes in the event of injury, illness, dismissal, or withdrawal of an Olympic Team member prior to the Games. The alternate for each gender will be an athlete chosen at discretion from the 2025-26 Racing Pool who was not selected to the Olympic team (see Appendix 2: Section 1.3).

The alternate will be expected to follow the same training and competition program as the 2026 Olympic Team and may be replaced in his or her role at any time if the National Team Coach does not believe the athlete is adequately meeting the expectations agreed to when he or she accepted the alternate position. The alternate will not travel automatically with the Olympic team to the 2026 Olympic Games.

12. Replacing Athletes

At any time, the SSC Olympic Selection Committee - Short Track reserves the right to replace an athlete if medical advice dictates that competing may be potentially harmful to the selected athlete and/or that the athlete has not sufficiently recovered from a previous or existing injury to compete at the appropriate level as assessed by the 2026 Olympic Team Head Coach (National Team Coach) involved. Similarly, the SSC Olympic Selection Committee - Short Track has the right to replace an athlete named to the team who withdraws or declines his or her place on the 2026 Olympic Games team.

Athletes subject to replacement because of the above will be replaced by the alternate identified in section 11.

Please note that any substitution after nomination to the COC (January 21, 2026) is subject to the approval of the COC Team Selection Committee. Any such substitutions after January 26, 2026, are also subject to the IOC's late athlete replacement policy.

13. Conditions in the Event of Injury/Illness

If an athlete is injured or becomes ill after selection to the 2026 Olympic Team, he/she must demonstrate adequate medical and performance recovery by a date specified by the SSC Olympic Selection Committee - Short Track. The determination of what constitutes an adequate recovery will be made by the SSC Olympic Selection Committee - Short Track with input from SSC medical staff and the respective Olympic team's National Team Coach and will be based on an assessment of the athlete's ability to compete at the same level that earned him or her selection to the 2026 Olympic Team. Only SSC's authorized medical staff will be able to determine whether the condition of the injury/illness will prevent the athlete from being part of the 2026 Olympic team.

If an athlete is subsequently deemed medically unfit by the SSC medical team to compete at the 2026 Olympic Winter Games, he/she may be replaced per Section 12 and the COC Athlete Replacement Procedure, or per the competition rules that apply to the 2026 Olympic Winter Games based on the timeframe prior to the Games.

14. Dismissal of an Athlete Once Selected

The SSC Olympic Selection Committee - Short Track may, at any time, advise the Chair of the High-Performance Advisory Council (HPC-HPC) to remove and/or disqualify an athlete from consideration for nomination to the Canadian Olympic Team or to remove an athlete after selection. The decision regarding such removal or disqualification shall be at the absolute and exclusive discretion of the Chairperson of the HPAC-ST, in accordance with the HPAC's mandate.

Team dismissal may be based on the following:

1. The skater's behaviour is incompatible with the COC Athlete Agreement, the 2026 Olympic Winter Games Conditions of Participation Form, and/or SSC's Ethics Policy and Code of Conduct and/or the Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent and Address Maltreatment in Sport (UCCMS).

<http://www.speedskating.ca/sites/speedskating.ca/files/int100-ethiqueetcodeconduite.pdf>

2. Violation of anti-doping policy or procedure as described by the IOC, ISU, or CCES.
3. Conduct that is in any way detrimental to the team and/or the image of Speed Skating Canada, the Canadian Olympic Team, or the National Team Program.

Speed Skating Canada will notify the affected athlete in writing of the decision.

15. Appeals

Any appeal of nomination decisions made per this Olympic Selection Policy and Procedures must be filed under Speed Skating Canada's [Appeals Policy](#).



ADDITIONAL APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT DATES

DATE	ITEM
January 2025	2026 Olympic selection policy and procedures published and distributed
June 2025	Deadline for signing and returning the SSC 2025-2026 Athlete Agreement
Spring 2025	ISU communication
May 2025	High-performance bulletins published and distributed; Nomination of teams for the World Tour and World Championships; National competition formats.
August 23 to 31, 2025	Canadian Short Track Championships (Montreal, Quebec)
October-November 2025	Four SOQC events (Appendix 2)
December 2025	2026 Olympic team nominations announced
December 2025 (to be confirmed)	Appeal deadline
January 15, 2026	Deadline for signing and returning the COC's Athlete Agreement and Conditions of participation form
January 21, 2026	Official deadline for team nomination and COC registration by sport

APPENDIX B : SPEED SKATING CANADA ATHLETE NOMINATION AGREEMENT FOR THE 2026 OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES

(Name of Skater)

I, the above athlete, consent to be considered for nomination by Speed Skating Canada (SSC) to the 2026 Canadian Olympic Team. In giving this consent, I declare that:

1. I have received a copy of the selection policy and procedures for the 2026 Olympic short track team.
2. I understand that the 2026 Olympic Short Track Team Selection Policy and Procedures may be amended from time to time to reflect unforeseen circumstances as per Section 4 of the main document. I will be bound by the 2026 Olympic Short Track Team Selection Policy and Procedures as amended and acknowledge that such changes will be posted on the SSC website.
3. I respect the "eligibility criteria" as listed in the 2026 Olympic Short Track Team Selection Policy and Procedures.
4. I will abide by all SSC policies and procedures, including additional policies and procedures as explained in the SSC National Team Athlete Agreement.
5. Speed Skating Canada's nominations for the Games (as described in Sections 2 to 6 of this document / Appendix 3) are subject to review and final approval by the COC, in the reasonable discretion of the COC Team Selection Committee, per the Olympic Charter, this Agreement, the COC Team Selection Policy for the Games ([available on the Games Portal](#)), applicable laws and the policies and guidelines referred to in this Agreement.
6. If selected by the COC as a member of the 2026 Canadian Olympic Team, I will abide by all policies, procedures, and team rules pertaining to participation in the 2026 Olympic Winter Games as a member of the 2026 Canadian Olympic Team and as provided to me by the COC.

Skater's Signature

Date

Witness

Signature of Witness

APPENDIX C: CRITERIA FOR THE ALLOCATION OF BYE FOR SELECTION TO THE 2026 OLYMPIC POOL AND TEAM

1) Goal

- a) The purpose of this section is to provide guidelines to the SSC Olympic Selection Committee - Short Track for granting Byes.

2) Bye allocation philosophy

- a) Due to exceptional circumstances (e.g. illness, injury, equipment breakdown, etc.) and through no fault of their own, athletes may not have the opportunity to participate in designated selection competitions. In this situation, the athlete is eligible to apply for a Bye from selection to the relevant team.
- b) The basic philosophy for selecting an athlete by granting a Bye is that the athlete receiving the Bye has achieved equal and/or significantly superior performances in previous competitions to those of one or more athletes considered for selection.

3) Availability of Byes

- a) For the purposes of the 2026 Olympic selection policy and procedures, Byes will be available for: 1) selection to the Racing Pool (Appendix 2); and 2) selection to the 2026 Olympic team (Appendix 3 - this document).

4) Rules for requesting a Bye

The Bye policy will only apply to selection for specific competitions/events or teams.

- a) Bye requests must be submitted in writing to the SSC Olympic Selection Committee - Short Track (see deadlines below).
- b) Unless physically unable to do so, only the skater requesting the Byes may submit the request.
- c) If the request for Bye is made due to illness or injury, the athlete must provide documented evidence from a sports medicine practitioner of the illness or injury. The SSC Olympic Selection Committee - Short Track has the right to request, and in this case, the athlete must agree to allow an additional independent medical examination after receipt of the Bye request.
- d) If the Bye request is made because of equipment failure, it must be reported to and verified by the race referee or the SSC Olympic Selection Committee - Short Track representative immediately after the race in which the equipment failure occurred.

5) Eligibility: General Conditions for applying for a Bye

Bye requests will be evaluated in two categories:

- a) To become a member of the Racing Pool team
 - Pre-competition illness or injury or other unforeseen extenuating circumstances that prevent an athlete from participating in the 2025 Canadian Short Track

Championships as per Appendix 2 (Section 1.2 - Step 4) of the 2026 Olympic Selection Policy and Procedures;

- To be eligible, the skater must also meet the criteria of Article 8-C of Appendix C (below).
- b) To be a member of the Olympic team
- Pre-competitive illness or injury or other unforeseen extenuating circumstances that prevent an athlete from participating in the 2025 Canadian Short Track Championships and the SOQC Racing Pool Selection (but the athlete is granted a Bye to be included in the Racing Pool at Step 4 of Section 1.2 of Appendix 2 and/or in one or more World Tour events to be selected to the Olympic Team under Appendix 3 (this document) of the 2026 Olympic Selection Policy and Procedures.
 - To be eligible, the skater must also meet the criteria of Article 8-D of Appendix C (below).

6) ***Procedure for requesting a Bye***

a) 2025 Canadian Short Track Championships

- i. If the athlete is ill or injured before the start of the 2025 Canadian Short Track Championships, he/she must request a Bye before the coaches' meeting at the competition. The SSC Olympic Selection Committee - Short Track representative must officially announce all Bye requests at this meeting so that all other competitors are aware of the possibility of a Bye being granted.
- ii. A Bye request will be deemed ineligible if the skater subsequently competes in the 2025 Canadian Short Track Championships and the SOQC Racing Pool Selection.
- iii. If injury, illness, equipment failure, or any other unforeseeable extenuating circumstance occurs during the 2025 Canadian Short Track Championships and SOQC Racing Pool selection, a request for Bye must be made within 24 hours following the last day of competition of the 2025 Canadian Short Track Championships unless the athlete is physically unable to make such a request (in such a case, the athlete's coach may make the request). (see section 4 (d) above of the rules for requesting a Bye from equipment breakdown reporting requirements)

b) World Tour

- i. If the athlete is ill or injured before the start of a World Tour stop, or if injury, illness, equipment failure, or any other unforeseeable extenuating circumstance occurs during a World Tour stop, a request for Bye must be made within 24 hours following the last World Tour stop of the season (CSQO no. 4) unless the athlete is physically unable to make such a request (in such a case, the athlete's coach may make the request).
- ii. A Bye request will be deemed inadmissible if the skater subsequently competes in the World Tour for which he/she requested a Bye.

c) In All Categories

The Bye request must clearly state what the athlete is asking for and provide supporting documents (medical file, race report, referee's report, etc.).

7) **Procedure for examining a request for Bye**

The following describes the procedure for considering Bye requests.

a) Selection of the SOQC Racing Pool

- i. After the 2025 Canadian Short Track Championships and the SOQC Racing Pool selection, the SSC Olympic Selection Committee - Short Track will meet (in person or via conference call/video) to review any eligible Bye requests submitted for selection to the SOQC Racing Pool.
- ii. In cases where several Bye requests are submitted, they will be evaluated individually and on their own merits.
- iii. The SSC Olympic Selection Committee - Short Track will review the facts and supporting evidence, assess the athlete against the criteria described in Appendix C, and determine whether the athlete meets the criteria in Appendix 2 Section 1.2, Step 4 of the 2026 Olympic Selection Policy and Procedures to be selected into the Racing Pool through a Bye.

b) Olympic Team Selection

- i. At the end of the last stage of the World Tour (CSQO no. 4), the SSC Olympic Selection Committee - Short Track will meet (in person or by telephone or video conference) to review any eligible Bye requests submitted for selection to the Olympic Team.
- ii. In cases where several Bye requests are submitted, they will be evaluated individually and on their own merits.
- iii. The SSC Olympic Selection Committee - Short Track will review the facts and supporting evidence and evaluate the athlete against the criteria described in Appendix C and in Appendix 3 (sections 2 to 6) of the 2026 Olympic Selection Policy and Procedures (where applicable, depending on the number of quotas available).
- iv. The SSC Olympic Selection Committee - Short Track will name the team for the 2026 Olympic Games, which will be communicated, with supporting rationale, to athletes requesting a Bye, athletes directly affected by the Bye request, coaches, and athlete representatives.

8) **Detailed Conditions for granting a Bye**

a) In considering whether or not to grant a Bye, with or without conditions, the SSC Olympic Selection Committee - Short Track must first :

- i. Assess the athlete's medical status.
 - The degree of rigor with which the athlete has followed the prescribed rehabilitation procedure and the medical team's instructions during recovery from injury.
 - His ability to participate in SOQC short track events or the 2026 Winter Olympics based on feedback from SSC's medical team and his coaches.

b) If anything in the above does not meet a level satisfactory to the SSC Olympic Selection Committee - Short Track, the Bye may be refused on this basis alone.

c) **Bye Requests** for the SOQC Racing Pool Team

The skater must meet one of the following criteria to be eligible to apply for a Bye:

- Participate in an individual A Final at a 2024-2025 World Tour event
- Selected for the 2025 World Championships team

- Position among the top 8 in one of the individual distances in the final ranking of the 2024-2025 World Tour
- Skate in an A Final in the gender relays at the World Tour in the 2024-2025 season

d) **Bye Requests** for the 2026 Olympic Team

The skater must meet one of the following criteria to apply for a Bye:

- Participate in an individual A Final at a World Tour event in the 2024-2025 or 2025-2026 season
- Selected for the 2025 World Championships team
- Position among the top 8 in one of the distances individual World Tour Final Rankings for the 2024-2025 season or the 2025-2026 season
- Skate in a World Tour A Final in the gender relays in the 2024-2025 season or the 2025-2026 season

9) Conditional Bye

- a) In some cases, the SSC Short Track Olympic Selection Committee may grant a "conditional Bye" to athletes recovering from injury or illness. In such cases, the SSC Olympic Selection Committee - Short Track may impose certain conditions for the athlete to maintain the selection status obtained through the Bye. To lift the condition, the SSC Olympic Selection Committee - Short Track must obtain medical confirmation that the athlete who has obtained the conditional Bye will not be affected by a significant physical/psychological limitation that would prevent him/her from competing at the level found by the SSC Olympic Selection Committee - Short Track at the time he/she obtained the conditional Bye. The SSC Short Track Olympic Selection Committee must also obtain confirmation from the coach that the athlete is ready to compete at his/her previous level in the competition in question.
- b) The SSC Olympic Selection Committee - Short Track will indicate the date for the performance and medical evaluation.