

SPEED SKATING CANADA

HIGH PERFORMANCE BULLETIN

#146 - SHORT TRACK



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HIGH PERFORMANCE BULLETINS

The High Performance Committee – Short Track (HPCST) will issue bulletins periodically throughout the season informing skaters, coaches and associations of any update and/or changes to selection criteria, competitions, etc.

The HPCST reserves the right to modify or change the enclosed policies in the event that exceptional circumstances arise and that any such changes are clearly in the best interest of the high performance program. In these situations all athletes and coaches will be advised of any changes as soon as they are confirmed by the HPCST.

2010 / 11 Short Track Selection Criteria

Nomination:

The High Performance Committee - Short Track will name the athletes who qualify for the various 2010 / 11 teams at the 2010 Annual Review meeting in April.

The HPCST will select skaters as detailed below.

Other skaters may be added on the basis of the skater being awarded an injury card from the AAP or at the absolute discretion of the HPCST.

PLEASE NOTE: Selection to the National Team or Development Team is **provisional** until any and all bye requests have been resolved. The intention for the 2010-11 season is to carry only 8 athletes on the respective women's and men's national teams in light of any bye requests. Special considerations may be considered in exceptional circumstances only.

National Team Selection – 2010/ 2011 season

The 2010 / 11 National Team will be selected on the basis of the following:

1. The 5 men and 5 women selected for the 2010 Winter Olympic Games.

The 3 (or 2 if an alternate is selected for the Olympic Games) highest ranked men and women from the final 2009 / 10 Canadian Rankings not already selected above.

Development Team Selection – 2010 / 2011 Season

The 2010 / 11 Development Team will be selected on the basis of the following:

1. Athletes ranked 9 – 14 in the final 2009 / 10 Canadian Rankings
2. Junior skaters who finished in the top 8 and top 1/3 of the field in an individual distance or overall in the 2010 Junior World Championships.

NOTE: Athletes who have been a previous World Championship Team member for more than 3 years (consecutively or in total) are not eligible for selection as a Development Team member. Exemptions are considered in cases of injury and will be dealt with in accordance with the procedures listed in Appendix A: Bye Policy.

Normally, a skater can remain a Development Team member for a maximum of four (4) years (consecutively or in total). Please note that any years that a junior-aged skater is a member of the Development Team are not considered as part of this 4 year maximum.

Support for the Development Team will be decided at the discretion of the HPCST on the basis of performance history, current performance indicators and future potential.

Talent 2018 Squad – 2010 / 2011 season

Selection to the Talent 2018 Squad will be limited to skaters who are also eligible to receive Training Centre card support from Sport Canada. The specific selection criteria for the Talent 2018 Squad will be as follows:

1. Skaters who have previously (during the last 2 seasons) represented Canada at the World Junior Championships and are not already selected to the National or Development teams. Athletes will be prioritized according to their overall performances at the World Junior Championships. If there is a tie in ranking performance, the athlete with the most recent result at the World Junior Championships will be prioritized.
2. Skaters who have previously (during the last 3 seasons) competed at the Canadian Junior Championships will be considered based on their 2009-10 Canadian Rankings.

Please Note: Talent 2018 Squad positions are determined by the number of 6 month cards available from Sport Canada following the approval of all National and Development team cards. The HPC at their discretion may decide not to allocate all remaining Sport Canada 6 month cards.

Notification:

Athletes will be advised of their selection to either the National Team or Development Team following the Annual Review Meeting of the HPCST in April.

PLEASE NOTE: Selection to the National Team, Development Team and Talent 2018 Squad are **provisional** until any and all bye requests have been resolved and commitments made to the 2010-11 team programs.

Confirmation of Team Membership:

Athletes have 2 weeks following the official announcement of the 2010 / 2011 Teams to confirm acceptance of their position on the Team.

Confirmation of Team membership indicates a commitment by the skater to participate fully in the National / Development Team program, they are available for selection to any representative team and will participate in the respective selection events for these teams. Confirmation of Team membership also confirms acceptance of the Terms and Conditions of the SSC National / Development Team Agreement.

If SSC does not receive confirmation from the athlete that they accept their position on the Team they will be regarded as having declined their position and any associated benefits. Any extensions to this confirmation period must be requested in writing by the athlete and will only be considered in exceptional circumstances.

Replacement of Skaters:

If a skater subsequently withdraws from the National Team prior to the Fall World Cup Selections of the 2010 / 2011 season, they may be replaced in the National Team by the next ranked Development Team skater. That Development Team skater may subsequently be replaced by the next ranked skater from the 2009 / 10 Canadian Rankings. If a skater withdraws from the Development Team prior to Fall World Cup Selections, they may be replaced in the Development Team by the next ranked skater from the 2009 / 10 Canadian Rankings. Please note all replacements are at the absolute discretion of the HPC.

If a skater withdraws from the National Team or Development Team after the Fall World Cup Selections, they will NOT be replaced.

Athlete Assistance Program 2010 / 2011 Carding Criteria

Introduction

The aim of this document is to describe the criteria that will be used by Speed Skating Canada for nominating athletes for Sport Canada's Athlete Assistance Program (AAP) for the 2010/11 carding year.

The Sport Canada policy and procedures which govern the AAP and the establishment and application of criteria can be found on Sport Canada's website

<http://www.pch.gc.ca/pgm/sc/pol/athl/index-eng.cfm>

For any matters related to the Athlete Assistance Program Nomination or de-carding, all appeals must follow the Policies and Procedures of Sport Canada's Athlete Assistance Program (AAP)

Section 13.1 <http://www.pch.gc.ca/pgm/sc/pol/athl/114-eng.cfm>

For the 2010/11 carding year, SSC is allocated a maximum of 66 Senior Cards or equivalents for both long track and short track programs. International Cards are no longer considered above the quota and will be drawn from SSC's allocation of Senior Cards. Senior Cards may be converted to Development Cards, with two Senior Cards converting to three Development Cards. In addition SSC is able to award development cards for a 6 month-period. These cards are restricted to those skaters who meet the Talent 2018 Criteria.

The High Performance Committee of the LT and ST programs are responsible for nominating athletes for carding in their respective program.

Eligibility

Only skaters named to either of the Speed Skating National or Development Teams or Talent 2018 Squads are eligible to be nominated to Sport Canada for AAP Carding.

AAP support is subject to athletes' availability to represent Canada in major international competitions, including the World Championships and Olympic Games. The athlete must be a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident of Canada on the date of the beginning of the carding cycle, and the athlete must have been a legal resident in Canada (student status, refugee status, work visa or permanent resident) for a minimum period of one year before being considered for AAP support.

Short Track Vs. Long Track

Athletes that decide to change programs (from Short Track to Long Track or vice versa) will be evaluated on the criteria of the program they are joining unless otherwise agreed by both HP Committees. In either event, the athlete must meet carding criteria. For an athlete changing programs and qualifying with the appropriate carding criteria, there will be a maximum number of additional years at the respective carding level. For example, 3 additional years at Senior national level, 2 additional years at Development level.

Injury Cards

The High Performance Committees - Short Track or Long Track can add a skater to the National Team or Development Team according to past performances. A carded athlete who is the victim of an injury or illness which compromises his/her participation in a ranking meet may be nominated for carding based on the AAP policy on "Curtailed of Training and Competition for Health-related Reasons". For nomination purposes, the Athlete will be ranked at the same position as he/she was in the program in the previous year (e.g., Racing Team members, Top 16 at the Worlds, etc.) with the performance of the previous year.

An athlete will receive an injury card at the same level as the previous year except in the case of C1 card which will be awarded at the SR level.

Priorization Of The Cards

Cards are allocated in the following priority order:

1. Senior International cards;
2. Senior cards (including C1); and
3. Development cards - Junior
4. Development cards – Training Centre – Development Team
5. Development cards – Training Centre – Talent 2018

The number of cards for each program will be dependent on the number of cards at the Senior level that each program will qualify for. If, for Short Track and Long Track, more athletes qualifies than the total number of cards available (e.g. 66 for 2009-10), then the prioritization between programs at the Development Card Level (Development criteria and Training Centre criteria) will be based on the ratio of Senior level cards for each program. Please note that injury cards and Maintenance cards will count in the determination of ratio. Carding allocations will be reviewed by Sport Canada following the 2010 Olympic Games, therefore the number of cards allocated to Speed Skating Canada is subject to change.

Please note that if less athletes in a program qualify for carding than the number of cards in this program, then the unused cards will be transferred to the other program.

The balance of the 66 cards not allocated to National or Development Team athletes will then be allocated to the Talent 2018 Squad program.

SSC Support

Athletes who are selected to the SSC National Team but do not receive AAP carding support from Sport Canada will receive replacement funding from SSC at the 2010 / 11 Training Centre Card level of funding.

Athletes who are selected to the SSC Development Team but do not receive AAP carding support from Sport Canada will receive replacement funding from SSC at half the 2010 / 11 Training Centre Card level of funding.

SSC will only provide funding for living allowance. SSC will not provide any of the other AAP allowances such as tuition support. SSC may provide a maximum total of 4 years of support for a skater who does not receive AAP carding support.

SHORT TRACK

Senior International Card Criteria (SR1, SR2)

Criteria : Finish in the top 8 (based on 1 entry / event) or 12 (based on 2 entries / event) and also in the top 1/2 of the field

Competition: 2010 Winter Olympic Games

Each distance at the 2010 Winter Olympic Games, including the Relay, will be individually evaluated from the rank obtained in the concerned final.

Skaters not skating the final will be evaluated in the following way:

- Skaters skating the semi-final will be evaluated first from the performance points obtained in that distance. If there is a tie in the performance points, the fastest time in the time ranking of the distance will count.
- Skaters skating in the quarter-final will then be evaluated from the performance points. If there is a tie in performance points, the fastest time in the time ranking of the distance will count.
- Remaining skaters will then be evaluated from the performance points. If there is a tie in performance points, the fastest time in the time ranking of the distance will count.

Each member of the Relay Team will be evaluated according to the results of the team in the relay. To be eligible under this criteria in the Relay events, the athlete must have participated in at least the race that qualifies the team for the top 8 finish.

Athletes that qualify for carding under the Senior International criteria are eligible for two years of AAP support, with the card for the first year referred to as an SR1 Card and the card for the second year referred to as an SR2 card. The second year is subject to the athlete being re-nominated by Speed Skating Canada, a training and competitive program approved by Speed Skating Canada and Sport Canada and signing the AAP application and SSC/Athlete agreement.

Senior National Card Criteria (SR, C1)

Senior National cards are intended to support athletes with the potential to reach Senior International cards status. Athletes are expected to improve each year to maintain Senior National card level.

The nomination and acceptance of athletes will be based on consideration of the following:

- Skaters selected to the National Team (8 male and 8 female plus injury cards)

An athlete is generally expected to be Senior National (including C1 Card) carded for no more than five (5) years, at which time it would be expected that Senior International criteria have been met. Further

carding at that time could be discussed based on the athlete's improvement, actual results over the carding period, future potential, etc.

Development Card

There are 2 types of criteria used to determine Development Cards.

These are:

1. Development criteria for junior skaters only
2. Training Centre criteria for junior and post junior skaters.
3. Training Centre criteria for Talent 2018 Squad

Speed Skating Canada will prioritize the nomination for Development Cards in the following priority order:

1. Development Criteria – Junior

Cards awarded, based on Development Criteria – Junior, may be available for a period of 12 months for young athletes showing exceptional potential as demonstrated by their performances at the World Junior Championships

The nomination and acceptance of athletes will be based on consideration of the following:

- a) Athletes should have placed top 8 and top 1/3 of the field in an individual distance, or overall, at the Junior World Short Track Championships.

2. Training Centre Criteria – Development Team

Training center cards may be available to junior and post junior skaters who demonstrate high performance potential.

Development Team skaters not already carded will be prioritized according to the following:

- a) 2009 / 10 Canadian ranking per gender
- b) Prioritization at the same rank between genders will be done based on the time skated compared to the World record. Please note that the individual Olympic distances will be used. The competitions where the time can count are the Canadian Open Short Track Championships, National Selection trials, World Cups, International Competitions or World Championships.

NB junior age skaters will be compared to the Junior World Record whilst post junior age skaters will be compared to the Senior World Records.

3. Training Centre criteria – Talent 2018 Squad

Selection to the Talent 2018 Squad will be limited to skaters who are eligible to receive Training Centre card support from Sport Canada. The specific selection criteria for the Talent 2018 Squad will be as follows:

1. Skaters who have previously (during the last 2 seasons) represented Canada at the World Junior Championships and are not already selected to the National or Development teams. Skaters will be prioritized based on their 2009-10 Canadian Ranking.
2. Skaters who have previously (during the last 3 seasons) competed at the Canadian Junior Championships will be prioritized based on 2009-10 Canadian Rankings.

Training Centre Card Eligibility:

1. Skaters who have previously been carded at Senior Level (including C1) for more than 2 years are not eligible to receive a TC Card.
2. Training Centre carding will be offered for a maximum of 4 years (consecutive or total) at the post junior level. The 4th year of support will be decided at the discretion of the HPC based upon the pattern of development during their previous 3 years in the Development Team.

Appendix A

OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES TO THE HIGH PERFORMANCE COMMITTEES FOR THE ALLOCATION OF BYES

UPDATED – May 2006

1. Purpose

To provide guidelines to the High Performance Committees in the granting of byes.

2. Philosophy of Team Selection

The philosophy for team selection is to select the athletes that will achieve the best possible result for Canada at different competitions (Olympic Games, World or Continental Championships, World Cups, etc).

The Long Track (HPC-LT) and Short Track (HPC-ST) High Performance Committees are determined to make the selection to these teams as objective as possible. To ensure this occurs the HPC-LT and HPC-ST will use, wherever possible, objective criteria such as time, placing at a specific competition/s, and ranking etc. as the foremost criteria in selecting athletes.

These criteria will be used at specified selection event/s or a series of specified events.

In nominating the specific selection event/s, the HPCs will only nominate an event that occurs after the confirmation of the relevant selection policy.

In all cases it is the intent of the HPC that selection is earned through current performances in the specific selection events.

However, in exceptional circumstances an athlete may not be able to compete in the relevant selection events. In this instance the athlete is eligible to apply for selection under the Bye Clause as detailed below.

3. Bye Clause Selection Philosophy

(The Bye Clause will only apply to selection for specific competitions / events. The Bye Clause will not apply for nominations by SSC to Sport Canada's, Athlete Assistance Program. In the case of a major injury, the AAP Injury Card procedures will be implemented to handle this situation)

Due to exceptional circumstances (e.g. illness, injury, equipment break, etc) and through no fault of their own, a skater sometimes does not have the opportunity to compete in the nominated selection event/s. In this situation the athlete may be eligible to apply for a bye selection to the relevant team.

The basic philosophy for selecting an athlete by granting a bye is that, all things being equal, the skater given the bye has clearly demonstrated superior performances in previous competition to other athletes being considered for selection.

A bye request is considered as the last means by which an athlete can gain selection and is intended to provide for exceptional circumstances outside the normal selection criteria rather than being part of the normal means by which an athlete can gain selection.

4. Procedures under which a bye application can be made.

- a) Bye requests must be made in writing to the respective HPC (**see deadlines below**)
- b) Unless physically incapable, only the skater requesting a bye can submit the request.
- c) If the bye request is made on the basis of an illness or injury the skater must provide documented evidence from a sports medicine practitioner. The HPC has the right to request further independent medical review after the bye request has been submitted.
- d) If the bye request is made on the basis of equipment breakage this must be reported to and verified by the race referee or HPC representative immediately following the race in which the equipment breakage occurred.

5. Conditions for applying for a Bye

i. Bye request for a specific competition in the current skating season

Bye requests will be considered in two categories:

- a) *Pre-competition illness or injury that prevents an athlete from competing in the ranking / selection event.*

If the skater is ill or injured before the beginning of the competition, he/she must request a bye before the Coaches' meeting at the competition. The HPC Representative must formally announce all bye requests at this meeting so that all other competitors are made aware of the possibility of a bye being granted.

A bye request will be ruled ineligible if the skater subsequently competes in the selection event.

In the case of selection being based upon a cumulative ranking from multiple events, a skater is eligible to apply for a Bye request to a subsequent ranking event if they are prevented from competing in one of the ranking events due to a pre-existing illness or injury.

b) Injury, illness or equipment breakage during the selection event.

A bye request must be made **within 24 hours** following the end of the competition unless the skater is physically incapable of making this request (in such a case, the skater's coach may make the request).

(See Clause 4d above for the reporting requirements for equipment breakage)

In both categories the bye request **must state clearly** what the skater is asking for, and supporting documentation (medical, race referee report etc) must be attached. The relevant HPC should also have confirmation (medical or other, if not a medical problem) that the athlete will be at 100% of his/her capacity (physical, psychological, etc) to participate in the competition for which he/she has requested a bye.

ii. Bye request to a specific Team or a Competition for the season following the selection event/s.

This process is for the selection to a specific team such as the National Team or Development Team or for competitions in the next skating season but before the next selection competition/s (such as the Fall World Cups).

The bye must be requested **within two weeks** following the final selection event. The bye application **must state clearly** what the skater is requesting, and appropriate documentation (medical, etc) **must be attached**.

The relevant HPC should also have confirmation (medical or other, if not a medical problem) that the athlete will be at 100% of his/her capacity (physical, psychological, etc) to be on the Team or participate in the competition to which he/she has requested a bye.

6. Process for reviewing a Bye application

The following steps are involved in the process of considering a request for a bye.

- a) Following the final selection event for the respective team / event, the HPC meets (in person or via conference call) to review the facts.
- b) In cases where multiple bye applications are lodged they will be assessed individually and on their own merit.
- c) The three elected members of the HPC (who are not in conflict of interest) will review the facts and make a recommendation (with supporting rationale). If all three elected members of the HPC are in conflict of interest, then the High Performance Program Director (HPPD) will make the recommendation regarding the bye request.

- d) If relevant, the HPC will establish a revised ranking of athletes based upon the selection event/s and an assessment of previous performances from those who have requested a bye.
- e) From this revised ranking, the final selections will be made.
- f) These final selections will then be named as the “Team” and will be communicated to the skater/s requesting the bye, skater/s directly affected by the bye request, the coaches, and athletes' representatives.

7. Conditions for Granting a Bye

The basic question the HPC must answer is whether the skater requesting the bye has a recent history of performances or other factors as listed below that demonstrate clear superiority of the skater requesting a bye to those of other athletes in consideration for selection.

The HPC must also be certain that the athlete requesting the bye would be able to compete at a similar level in the event or team for which they seek selection. The HPC may award a “Conditional Bye” to skaters recovering from injury or illness. In this situation the skater may have certain conditions imposed. This could include, but is not limited to such things as a certain time frame, performance requirement etc.

In order to make these decisions, the HPC will evaluate a number of elements including, but not limited to the following.

- a) Head-to-head competition results of the athletes being considered for selection.
- b) Past performances of the skater requesting the bye,
- c) Results of the selection competition (by skaters in contention for the team),
- d) Recent training and testing performances

In evaluating past performances, the HPC will assign priority to those performances from the 12 month period prior to the final selection event.

However, this is occasionally not possible because of injuries, or the lack of opportunity for the skaters to compete. In such instances performances beyond this 12 month period will be considered but will assume a lower value in assessing the bye request.

i. Long Track

In long track, the HPC-LT may award a bye to a skater who is:

0.5 sammelagt points faster than the last skater selected in a specific distance (that would mean 0.5 seconds in the 500m, 1 second in the 1000m, 1.5 seconds in the 1500m, 3 seconds in the 3000m, 5 seconds in the 5000m, and 10 seconds in the 10000m) or

0.5 sammelagt point per race skated for a selection over cumulative points (4 distances skated = 2 sammelagt points, 500m skated twice = 1.0 sammelagt point)

In assessing the past performances of the skater requesting the bye and the history of the skaters involved, the HPC-LT will give priority to the best time (in sanctioned events) of the skaters involved during the last 12 months including the selection competition(s).

In the case of a multiple event selection (World Sprint, World All-round, Continental, Junior World, etc), if a skater cannot complete the selection competition due to injury, illness or special circumstances, the missing distances will be evaluated by using the best time rule (in the last 12 months) for the skaters involved.

ii. Short Track

In short track, the general guideline is that the HPC-ST judges that the athlete being granted a bye would have finished clearly ahead of the last skater selected

In making this judgement the HPC-ST will evaluate a number of elements including, but not limited to the following.

- a) Head-to-head competition results of the athletes being considered for selection.
- b) Past performances of the skater requesting the bye,
- c) Results of the selection competition (by skaters in contention for the team),
- d) Recent training and testing performances
- e) Current world rankings of the athletes

8. Appeals

Following the announcement of the "Team" the athlete/s affected by the bye request decision has/have the opportunity to appeal this decision in accordance with the Speed Skating Canada Appeal Policy. (refer to SSC Appeals Policy RES 100)

Approved by the High Performance - Long Track on March 27, 2000.
Approved by the High Performance - Short Track on October 5, 2000.
Updated on October 3 and 4, 2001.
Long Track Update: August 15, 2002
Revised: May 2006
Short Track Update: September 2006