

SPEED SKATING CANADA

HIGH PERFORMANCE BULLETIN

#161 - 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.

2014 / 15 Short Track Selection Criteria

Nomination:

The High Performance Committee - Short Track will confirm the athletes who qualify for the 2014 / 15 National Team and Development Team respectively within the 2 weeks immediately following the World Short Track Championships and National Team Selections #2 scheduled March 14 – 16 and March 20 – 23, 2014 respectively.

The HPCST will select athletes as detailed below. Additional athletes may be added on the basis of the athlete being awarded an injury card from the AAP or in special circumstances evaluated by 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 2014-15 season is to carry only 8 athletes on the respective women's and men's national teams. Additions to this number will only be considered in exceptional situations.

National Team Selection – 2014/ 2015 season

The 2014 / 15 National Team will be selected on the basis of the following:

1. The 5 male and 5 female athletes selected for the 2014 Winter Olympic Games.
2. Replacement athlete(s) sent to the 2014 Winter Olympic Games.
3. The following athlete(s) ranked within the top 8 from the adjusted 2013-2014 final Canadian Rankings following bye requests

Development Team Selection – 2014 / 2015 Season

The 2014 / 15 Development Team will be selected on the basis of the following:

1. Athletes ranked 9 – 12 from the adjusted 2013 – 14 final Canadian Rankings following bye requests.
2. Junior athletes in their final year of junior eligibility who finish top 3 in the overall final classification at the 2014 Junior World Championships.
3. Junior athletes, excluding those in their final year of eligibility, finishing in the top 6 in the overall final classification at the 2014 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. Normally, an athlete 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 athlete is a member of the Development Team are not considered as part of this 4 year maximum.

Additional years of SSC Development Team status will be decided at the discretion of the HPCST on the basis of performance history, current performance indicators and development pathway based on SSC's LTPAD model. To be considered for SSC support an athlete must demonstrate improved or at least equivalent performance to that of the previous year.

Notification:

Athletes will be advised of their selection to either the National Team or Development Team immediately following confirmation by the HPCST. **PLEASE NOTE:** Selection to the National Team and Development Team are **provisional** until any and all bye requests have been resolved and commitments made by athletes to the 2014-15 team programs.

Confirmation of Team Membership:

Athletes have 2 weeks following the official announcement of the 2014 / 2015 Teams to confirm acceptance of their position on the Team by returning a signed copy of the athlete intent document and the SSC National / Development Team Athlete Agreement.

Confirmation of Team membership indicates a commitment by the athlete to participate fully in the National / Development Team program and that 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 Athlete Agreement.

If SSC does not receive signed 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 approved in exceptional circumstances.

Replacement of Skaters:

Following confirmation to the 2014 –15 National Team, if an athlete subsequently withdraws from the National Team prior to the Fall World Cup Selections of the 2014 / 2015 season (September), the next ranked Development Team skater **may** be elevated to National Team status. Consequently, the resulting vacancy on the Development Team **may** be filled by the next ranked skater from the 2013 / 14 final adjusted Canadian Rankings.

Similarly, following confirmation of the 2014-15 Development Team, if an athlete withdraws from the Development Team prior to the Fall World Cup Selections of the 2014 / 2015 season (September), the resulting vacancy **may** be filled by the next ranked athlete from the 2013 / 14 final adjusted Canadian Rankings.

If an athlete withdraws from the National Team or Development Team after the Fall World Cup Selections, the vacancy on either team will not be filled.

All replacements will be evaluated and determined by the HPC with consideration to individual development progress on the basis of performance history, current performance indicators with respect to SSC's LTPAD model, as well as program objectives and budgetary implications.

Athlete Assistance Program 2014 / 2015 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 2014/15 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>

SSC has been allocated 50 Senior Cards by Sport Canada for both long track and short track programs. Sport Canada will announce the new quotas in the spring of 2014. Therefore SSC number of cards may change for the 2014-15 carding cycle.

Senior Cards may be converted to Development Cards, with two Senior Cards converting to three Development Cards.

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

Eligibility

Only athletes named to Speed Skating Canada's National Team or Development Team are eligible to be nominated to Sport Canada for AAP Carding.

AAP support is subject to athletes' availability to represent Canada in international competitions, including World Cups, World Championships and Olympic Games. Any withdrawal from any international competitions is subject to HPCST approval. 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 Long Track to Short 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 may add an athlete 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 "Curtailment 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. Note the first injury year will not count towards the maximum allowances of carding at the TC and SR National levels. Subsequent injury years will count towards the standard limits.

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

Please note that if fewer 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.

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 2013 / 14 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 2013 / 14 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, relocation assistance, etc. SSC support for an athlete who does not receive AAP carding support will be limited to a maximum of 2 years. Additional years may be added in special circumstances evaluated by the HPCST.

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Senior International Card Criteria (SR1, SR2)

Criteria: Finish in the top 8 (based on 1 entry / event) and in the top 1/2 of the qualification field for either individual distance events or the relay

Competition: **2014 Winter Olympic Games**

500m: From the final distance classification at the 2014 Winter Olympic Games
1000m: From the final distance classification at the 2014 Winter Olympic Games
1500m: From the final distance classification at the 2014 Winter Olympic Games
3000m Relay: From the final distance classification at the 2014 Winter Olympic Games
5000m Relay: From the final distance classification at the 2014 Winter Olympic Games

Each member of the Relay Team will be evaluated according to the results of the team in the relay. To be eligible under the relay criteria, the athlete must have participated in either the semi final or final that qualifies the Relay 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 athletes only
2. Training Centre criteria for junior and post junior athletes

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:

1. Junior athletes in their final year of junior eligibility who finish top 3 in the overall final classification at the 2014 Junior World Championships.
2. Junior athletes, excluding those in their final year of eligibility, finishing top 6 in the overall final classification at the 2014 Junior World Championships.

Prioritization of qualified athletes will be done based on highest overall final classification at the 2014 Junior World Championships. In the event of a tie in final overall classification, the athlete with the highest finish in an individual distance will be prioritized.

2. Training Centre Criteria – Development Team

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

Development Team athletes not already carded through World Junior Championships criteria will be prioritized according to the following:

- a) 2013 / 14 final adjusted Canadian ranking per gender

Prioritization at the same rank will be done based on the highest overall ranking at the Canadian Championships. If there is a tie in highest overall ranking at the Canadian Championships, the athlete with the highest finish in an individual distance at the Canadian Championships will be prioritized.

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.