

SPEED SKATING CANADA

HIGH PERFORMANCE BULLETIN

#160 – Bye Request Policy (SHORT TRACK)



September 2013

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.

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2013 / 14 Short Track

Bye Request Policy

General Information

This Bulletin describes the Bye Request Policy that will be used for National & international Competitions as well as Team Nominations within the National Short Track Program, as defined by the Short Track High Performance Committee.

From this point forward for 2013-14, Bulletin 160 will serve as the only reference for the Bye request Policy.

Principles of the Bye

An athlete may apply for a Bye to obtain a place on a specific Team or entry to the field of a competition in accordance to the following guidelines. A Bye provides the opportunity to be selected to a Team for an athlete who, due to exceptional circumstances and through no fault of his/her own, is unable to qualify for the team through the normal selection competition(s) or selection process. The basic philosophy for granting a Bye is that the athlete being given the Bye has demonstrated superior performance in previous competitions.

GUIDELINES FOR THE ALLOCATION OF BYES

1. Purpose

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

2. Philosophy for allocation of byes

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

The basic philosophy for selecting an athlete by granting a Bye is that the athlete given the Bye has demonstrated superior performances in previous competitions to one or more athlete or athletes being considered for selection.

3. Rules for requesting a bye

The Bye Policy Clause will only apply to selection for specific competitions / events or Teams. 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.

- a) Bye requests must be made in writing to the HPCST (see deadlines below)
- b) Unless physically incapable, only the athlete requesting the 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 of the illness or injury. The HPC has the right to request, and the athlete will provide, 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.

4. Conditions for applying for a Bye

Bye requests will be considered in three categories:

- a) *Pre-competition illness or injury that prevents an athlete from competing in the competition*

If the athlete 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.

- b) *Injury, illness or equipment breakage during the competition*

A Bye request must be made **within 24 hours** following the final day 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 3d above for the reporting requirements for equipment breakage)

Specific to categories a) or b):

In the case of selection being based upon a cumulative ranking from multiple competitions, a skater is eligible to apply for a Bye request to a subsequent event if s/he was prevented from competing in one of the qualifying events due to an illness or injury.

- c) *Bye request to a specific National Team or Development Team or to the entry field of a competition (Fall World Cup Selections, National Qualifier, etc.) for the season following the selection competition (s)*

The Bye must be requested **within 48 hours** following the final day of the final selection competition.

In all categories:

The Bye request **must state clearly** what the skater is asking for, and provide supporting documentation (medical, race report, referee report etc).

5. Process for reviewing a Bye application

The following outlines the process for considering Bye requests.

- a) Following the final selection competition for the respective Team or competition, the 3 elected members of the HPCST will review the facts and make a decision.
- b) The Bye Point system will be used for head-to-head comparison of athletes in the national ranking. The point system will not be applicable for an entry field of any national competition.
- c) In cases where multiple Bye applications are submitted they will be assessed individually and on their own merit.
- d) The HPCST will name the Team or entry field for a competition which will be communicated, along with the supporting rationale, to the athlete/s requesting the Bye, athlete/s directly affected by the Bye request, the coaches, and athletes' representatives.

6. Conditions for Granting a Bye

When considering whether or not to grant a bye, the HPCST must first evaluate the medical condition of the athlete, the degree to which the athlete has followed the prescribed rehabilitation process, and his/her readiness to compete according to feedback received from the medical team and his/her coaches. If any of the above conditions are not at a level satisfactory to the HPCST, the Bye may be refused on this basis alone.

Following this preliminary analysis, the HPCST will assign Bye Points on the basis of competition results from the last 12 months using the Bye Point System noted below. These points will be assigned to all skaters in the ranking and those requesting the Bye.

The points of the athlete requesting the bye will be compared against the points of the first athlete in the selection event ranking list not already selected to the team in Step 1 for the respective competition. The steps for selection are described in the Selection Criteria Bulletin.

If the athlete requesting the bye has at least 5 more points than the athlete in the ranking list, that athlete will be inserted above the other athlete in the ranking. If not, the athlete requesting the bye will be compared to the next athlete in the list in the same fashion until they are appropriately placed within the adjusted final selection ranking.

When more than one Bye has been requested for a given Team/competition, the Bye from the athlete with the highest Bye Points will be considered first.

POINT GRID

Ranking	FULL POINT GRID*								
	Intact Assurance ST Selections	WC 1	WC 2	WC 3	WC 4	Selection #1	Olympic Games	World Champ	Selection # 2
1	16	10	10	10	10	16	20	20	6
2	14	7	7	7	7	14	16	16	5
3	12	5	5	5	5	12	14	14	4
4	10	3	3	3	3	10	12	12	3
5	8	2	2	2	2	8	10	10	2
6	6	1	1	1	1	6	8	8	1
	Best 2	Per distance			Overall	Per distance			Overall

Notes

1. National events: Points allocated based on the ranking defined for each specific competition. For example, overall as per National Selection #1 or best 2 distances as per Intact Insurance Short Track Selections.
2. International events: Points will be allocated for each distance but **only the best 3** world cups during the period will be considered (3000m will not be considered.)
3. An additional 6 points will be allocated to each world championship team member in order to give them the same number of points as the winner at selection #2.

Bye Requests to an entry field for a competition will not utilize the Bye Point system, rather in making the decision the HPCST will evaluate a number of elements including 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 (s) (by skaters in contention for the team),
- d) Recent training and testing performances
- e) Current world rankings of the athletes
- f) Long Term Athlete Development

In some cases, the HPC may award a “Conditional Bye” to skaters recovering from injury or illness. In this situation the skater may have certain conditions imposed. The HPC should be provided confirmation (medical or other, if not a medical problem) that there is no significant physical/psychological limitation to competition. The HPCST must also receive assertion from the coach that the athlete is ready to compete at the appropriate level for the competition in question. The HPCST will specify the date on which the performance and medical assessment will be evaluated.

7. Appeals

Following the announcement of the Team or entry field for a competition where appropriate, any 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 Committee Short Track on September 27, 2013.