

SPEED SKATING CANADA

HIGH PERFORMANCE BULLETIN

#182 – Bye Request Policy (SHORT TRACK)



September 2018

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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2018/19 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.

Principles of the Bye

An athlete may apply for a Bye to obtain a place on a Team or entry to the field of a competition in accordance with 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 Committee 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, a skater sometimes does not have the opportunity to fully 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 and/or qualities to other athletes being considered for selection.

Byes are not to be considered as a standard route for selection, and an athlete will not be accorded something through a bye that s/he has not previously shown the ability to earn through the normal means. In the evaluation of an athlete should not elevate them to a level that is deemed beyond their previous performances.

3. Rules for requesting a bye

- a) For selection to a team: Only athletes who have placed in the top 10 of one of the following competitions in the current or previous season will be eligible to request a bye:
 - Canadian Short Track Championships
 - Canadian Junior Short Track Championships
 - Canadian Senior Selections (#1 or #2)
- b) Bye requests must be made in writing to the respective HPC (see deadlines in the relevant HP bulletin)
- c) Unless physically incapable, only the skater requesting a Bye can submit the request.
- d) 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, in which case the athlete must agree, to allow for further independent medical review after the Bye request has been submitted.
- e) 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. Types of bye requests and deadlines

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 time and date specified in Bulletin 179**. The HPC Representative must formally announce all Bye requests received by the deadline at the coaches' 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, equipment breakage or other unforeseeable extenuating circumstance 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 Items 3(d) above under Rules for Requesting a bye for the reporting requirements for equipment breakage)

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

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 Canadian Short Track Championships).

The Bye must be requested **within 48 hours** following the final selection event. The Bye application **must state clearly** what the skater is requesting, and provide appropriate documentation (medical, etc).

5. Conditions for Granting a Bye

- a) When considering whether or not to grant a bye, the HPC must first evaluate:
 - (1) The medical condition of the athlete
 - (2) The degree to which the athlete has followed the prescribed rehabilitation process and medical team directives in recovering from their injury.
 - (3) The athlete's readiness to compete according to feedback received the medical team and the athlete's coach(es).
- b) If any of the above is not at a level satisfactory to the HPC, the bye may be refused on this basis alone.

In all cases, the HPC has the right to 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 HPC must also receive assertion from the coach that the athlete is ready to compete at the appropriate level for the competition in question.

In such cases, the HPCST will specify the date on which the performance and medical assessment will be made.

6. Process for reviewing a Bye application

The following outlines the process for considering Bye requests.

- 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 submitted, they will be assessed individually and on their own merit.
- c) The HPC will review the facts and evaluate the athlete based on a number of elements.

For team selection, this may include, but is not limited to the following (in no particular order):

- Future podium potential
- International performances and experience (limited to ISU World Cups, Senior and Junior World Championships, and the FISU Universiades)
- National performances
- Recent training and testing performances
- Readiness for competition
- Commitment to the program

For inclusion into the field of entry, this may include, but is not limited to the following (in no particular order):

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

- Current world rankings of the athletes
 - Long term athlete development
- d) The HPC will establish a revised ranking of athletes based upon the relevant selection event(s) and the appropriate evaluation stated above.
- 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, and the coaches.

Specific to World Junior Championships and FISU Games teams

The same basic philosophy for granting a bye will be used as for other competitions, however the evaluation of the request will be limited to the committee’s assessment of whether the athlete in question has demonstrated superior performance in a senior national or junior international event than other athletes being considered for selection.

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 20, 2018.