

# SPEED SKATING CANADA HIGH PERFORMANCE BULLETIN

#183 – NextGen  
(SHORT TRACK)



**September 2018**  
**Revised January 2019**

## **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.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION .....	3
OBJECTIVE .....	3
DEFINING PROGRESSION TOWARDS MEDAL POTENTIAL IN SHORT TRACK SPEED SKATING .....	3
NEXTGEN IDENTIFICATION CRITERIA FOR 2018-19.....	4
NEXTGEN IDENTIFICATION CRITERIA FOR 2019-20.....	5
NEXTGEN RANKING LIST.....	5
PRIORITIES FOR NEXTGEN PROGRAM .....	6

## **Background information**

The Speed Skating Canada (SSC) Short Track NextGen program was created to ensure athletes advance to their maximum potential through development, training and competition opportunities, in order to be the best in the world when it is time to perform, in particular at World Championships, and at the Olympic Games. The program is supported by Own the Podium (OTP), the Canadian Olympic Committee (COC) and the Canadian Sport Institutes.

While other programs provide support to athletes that have already shown medal potential, NextGen funding supports athletes who show progression toward medal potential and is therefore an investment in the long-term success of the sport.

Funding for the program is received on an annual basis as part of the envelope provided to High Performance from Sport Canada and the COC, based on the recommendation by OTP.

## **Objective**

The objective of the Next-Gen program is to **identify athletes** that have shown promising performances early in their development and **provide targeted support** based on their needs to ensure that they are competitive and can **win a podium for Canada** on the world stage in **5 to 8 years**.

## **Defining progression towards medal potential in Short track speed skating**

Early comparative research into the commonalities amongst high performing short track athletes at World Championships and Olympic Games revealed that those who earned podiums at that level, 1) were very likely (over 80%) to have earned a podium at the Junior World Championships, (2) earned their first international podium of significance (World Championships or Olympic Games) at approximately the same age (between 19 and 20 years old), and (3) exhibited the ability to be competitive at high speeds early on, with Canadian athletes falling within the norms for all categories.

Taken together, these three (3) findings were used to generate a matrix of performance thresholds for different stages along the athlete development pathway that will allow for the identification of athletes progressing towards a podium at significant international competitions.

These criteria reflect the reality of the actual performance level within each identified development stage.

The goal for identification via these criteria is not to identify the best Canadian skaters by development stage, but to target those who show the strongest potential in the short, medium, and long-term (5-8 years).

The NextGen list will be generated at the completion of each season. However an athlete can subsequently be added to the list at any time during the season if they attain the current time standard for their development stage. Similarly, at the end of a season athletes who no longer attain the stated criteria for their development stage will be removed from the NextGen list for the following season.

By the time an athlete falls outside of the listed development stages, the expectation is that the athlete will have met more stringent performance criteria more narrowly focused on high level results, rather than on progression and the potential for performance.

## **NextGen Identification Criteria for 2018-19**

Based on the findings from research in 2017-18, three (3) different criteria have been retained to qualify for the NextGen ranking:

- Criteria 1: International results (World Junior Championships and World Cups)
- Criteria 2: Canadian Senior and Junior ranking
- Criteria 3: Performances by times (500m, 1000m and 1500m)

Similarly, a relevant development stage range has been established which corresponds to the ages that would be 5-8 years from the average first podium at a significant competition (World Championships, Olympic Games). These stages correspond to the International Skating Union age categories of Neo-Senior, Junior A and Junior B. The performance expectations associated with each, progressively increase as the athlete proceeds closer to the Neo Senior stage.

Through their performances, athletes can achieve elements under each section of the criteria.

The standard D is the initial entry point into the Next-Gen program. Athletes that already show promising results begin their pathway here.

A table summarizing the criteria entitled “Table of NextGen Criteria for 2018-19” can be found on page 7.

Criteria:

- International: athletes can attain elements for each standard at World Junior Championships and/or World Cups / Senior World Championships
- National: Athletes can attain elements through adjusted Senior Ranking and/or Junior Ranking at the end of the season (calculated before retirements)

- Time: A time element that is calculated on a yearly basis at the end of each season based on the World's best Junior A times for the distances of 500m, 1000m or 1500m over the past 3 seasons and will be updated each season according to the times skated

Athletes can be included in the NextGen ranking at any point during the season by posting results that match or better any of the elements stated above.

The reference to Talent ID in red at the bottom of the grid below will be used to begin the identification process of young athletes that are not yet of age to attend the National competitions. Most top Canadian athletes were also performing at this stage and this group will aid SSC in identifying them sooner.

The Talent ID group are the top athletes that emerge from the Canada-East/West championships for 12-13-14 year olds. In the future, the intent is to have Talent ID camps run by SSC for those athletes to give them access to top National coaches, training venues and sport specialists to help guide them in their development toward the High Performance Pathway.

## **NextGen Identification Criteria for 2019-20**

With the ISU decision to change the World Junior championships to a single distance event (no overall ranking), the 2019-2020 Next-Gen Criteria will reflect this change.

SSC will use an average of the best two (2) distances that a skater races at the 2019 World Juniors Championships in place of the overall ranking element from the previous year.

~~At the end of the 2018-2019 season, the time standards will be updated accordingly.~~

A table summarizing the criteria entitled "Table of NextGen Criteria for 2019-20" can be found on page 8.

## **NextGen ranking list**

To create a ranking system with the NextGen pool of athletes, the following prioritization will be used:

- Tier 1: Athletes having attained element(s) in each of the 3 criteria, then
- Tier 2: Athletes having attained element(s) in 2 criteria, then
- Tier 3: Athletes having attained element(s) in 1 criterion

To rank multiple athletes within the same tier, the total number of elements an athlete attains will be used. Therefore, those athletes who attain more elements will be ranked higher. If athletes are still tied within the tier, the athlete with the better adjusted National Senior ranking will be favoured. If all athletes within the tier do not have an adjusted Senior ranking, the Junior ranking will be used to break the tie. Finally, if all athletes do not have a Senior or Junior ranking, then the best 500m will be used to break the tie.

## **Priorities for NextGen program**

The NextGen Criteria will be used to identify talent at an early stage, and will therefore help guide selection into camps, competitions, training groups, etc. Based on recent research indicating that Canadian short track's single most distinguishing deficiency in terms of preparation for success at the highest level of competition is the low number of international level competitions our athletes have participated in prior to arriving at the highest level, this will be the priority area of support for the 2018-19 season.

SSC has identified stage appropriate international competitions to be added to the High Performance competition calendar, at which NextGen athletes will receive priority consideration. The details of this are contained in HP Bulletin 179.

# Table of NextGen Criteria for 2018-19

NextGen Criteria 2018-2019														
Age category as of July 1, 2017	Criteria 1					Criteria 2			Criteria 3					
	International			ISU World Cups/Worlds		Canadian Senior Ranking Overall	Canadian Junior Ranking	Can Junior rank Can Est/ Can West	Time Standard Performance					
	World Junior Championships	Overall	Relay	Individual	Relay				WOMAN			MEN		
	Single			Top 8 in 50% of races (minimum 2)	Podium	Top 8			500	1000	1500	500	1000	1500
Standard Neo-Senior Up to Senior 1 (19 as of July 1st)				Top 8 in 50% of races (minimum 2)	Podium	Top 8			Avg top 3 <b>43.10</b>	Avg Top 3 <b>1:29.66</b>		Avg Top 3 <b>40.74</b>	Avg top 3 <b>1:23.99</b>	
Standard A Up to Junior A2 (18 as of July 1st)	3	6	Top 2	Top 8 in 50% of races (minimum 2)	Podium	Top 10	Top 2		Avg top 6 <b>43.47</b>	Avg top 6 <b>1:30.47</b>		Avg top 6 <b>40.95</b>	Avg top 6 <b>1:24.32</b>	
Standard B Up to Junior A1 (17 as of July 1st)	6	10	Podium	Selection to World cups	Participate in final	Top 12	Top 5		Avg top 10 <b>43.87</b>		Avg Top 10 <b>2:22.57</b>	Avg top 10 <b>41.14</b>		Avg Top 10 <b>2:14.27</b>
Standard C Up to Junior B2 (16 as of July 1st)	12	16	Podium	Selection to World cups	Participate in Semi final	Top 15 girls / Top 20 boys	Top 10		Avg top 16 <b>44.27</b>		Avg Top 16 <b>2:24.39</b>	Avg top 16 <b>41.39</b>		Avg Top 16 <b>2:15.18</b>
Standard D / Up to Junior B1 (15 as of July 1st)		Qualification				Top 25 girls / Top 32 boys	Top 15		Top 3 Canadian for age			Top 3 Canadian for age		
Talent ID / U12 - U13 - U14							Top 4 U15	Top 4 + special invitations						
	Once on list, remain for the season but an athlete can join the list anytime													
	***Ranking positions based on adjusted rankings from byes BEFORE retirement						times are valid until new times are calculate (april each year)							
	Next-Gen ranking list will be created according to the following:													
	Top tier: Any athletes that meet all 3 criteria													
	Second tier: Any athletes that meet 2 criteria													
	Third tier: Any athletes that meet 1 criteria													
	*** in order to rank the athletes, the total number of elements across all criteria will be used to differentiate													
	** if ties, National Senior ranking will give priority to best ranked athlete													
	** if no Senior ranking then National Junior ranking will be used													
	** if no Junior ranking then best 500m time will be used													

# Table of NextGen Criteria for 2019-20 (updated)

NexGen Criteria 2019-2020														
Age category as of July 1, 2018	Criteria 1 International					Criteria 2 National			Criteria 3 Time Standard Performance					
	World Junior Championships		ISU World Cups/ Worlds			Canadian Senior Ranking Overall	Canadian Junior Ranking	Can Junior rank Can Est/ Can West	International Junior time ranking (Avg last 3 years)					
	Single	2 distances	Relay	Individual	Relay				WOMEN			MEN		
						500	1000	1500	500	1000	1500			
Standard Neo-Senior Up to Senior 1 (19 as of July 1st)				Top 8 in 50% of races (minimum 2)	Podium	Top 8			Avg top 3 43.10	Avg Top 3 1:29.67		Avg Top 3 40.74	Avg top 3 1:23.99	
Standard A Up to Junior A2 (18 as of July 1st)	3	Average ranking of 6 over best 2 distances	Top 2	Top 8 in 50% of races (minimum 2)	Podium	Top 10	Top 2		Avg top 6 43.47	Avg top 6 1:30.47		Avg top 6 40.95	Avg top 6 1:24.32	
Standard B Up to Junior A1 (17 as of July 1st)	6	Average ranking of 10 over best 2 distances	Podium	Selection to World cups	Participate in final	Top 12	Top 5		Avg top 10 43.84		Avg Top 10 2:22.58	Avg top 10 41.13		Avg Top 10 2:14.29
Standard C Up to Junior B2 (16 as of July 1st)	12	Average ranking of 16 over best 2 distances	Podium	Selection to World cups	Participate in Semi final	Top 15 girls / Top 20 boys	Top 10		Avg top 16 44.27		Avg Top 16 2:24.32	Avg top 16 41.37		Avg Top 16 2:15.19
Standard D Up to Junior B1 (15 as of July 1st)	Qualification		Selection to World cups			Top 25 girls / Top 32 boys	Top 15		Top 3 Canadian for age (2x500m)		Top 3 Canadian for age (2x1500m)	Top 3 Canadian for age (2x500m)		Top 3 Canadian for age (2x1500m)
Standard E Up to Junior C2 (14 as of July 1st)	Qualification		No Access due to Age restrictions			Top 25 girls / Top 32 boys	Top 20		Top 3 Canadian for age (2x500m)		Top 3 Canadian for age (2x1500m)	Top 3 Canadian for age (2x500m)		Top 3 Canadian for age (2x1500m)
Talent ID: 14 as of July 1st									Top 4 14 (junior C2) not identified in Standard E					
Talent ID: 12 and 13 as of July 1st									Top 4 + special invitations					

Approved by the High Performance Committee - Short Track on September 06 2018

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