

# SPEED SKATING CANADA

## HIGH PERFORMANCE BULLETIN

### #172 – Long Track



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### HIGH PERFORMANCE BULLETINS

The philosophy for team selection is to select the athletes that will achieve the best possible results for Canada at Olympic Games and World Single Distance Championships.

The HPC-LT will issue bulletins periodically throughout the season informing skaters, coaches, ODC and SSC Branches of any update and/or changes to selection criteria, competitions, etc.

**The HPC-LT reserves the right to modify or change the enclosed policies in the event that exceptional circumstances arise and that any such changes are, as the HPC-LT determines, 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 HPC-LT.**

# ***General Information***

## ***Purpose***

To provide guidelines to the High Performance Committee Long Track (HPC-LT) when considering whether to exercise its discretion and grant a bye to an athlete to a team in the event he or she does not meet the criteria for selection as defined in the High Performance Bulletin.

## ***Philosophy of Team Selection***

- Athletes will be selected based on who the HPC-LT determines are in the best position to achieve the best possible results for Canada at different competitions; such as the Olympic Games, World or Continental Championships, World Cups.
- The HPC-LT intends to select teams to such events as objectively as possible. The HPC-LT, for that purpose, and at its determination, will use criteria such as time, placing at a specific competition or competitions, and/or ranking after a series of competitions, as the primary criteria in selecting athletes.
- These criteria may be used at a specified selection event or events, or a series of specified events.
- In nominating the specific selection event or events, the HPC-LT will only nominate an event that occurs after the confirmation of the relevant selection policy.
- The HPC-LT will consider, in all cases, current performances in specific selection events as the primary method through which to earn selection.

## ***Appeals Deadline***

Following the announcement of the ratified Team for an event or events, or to the National or National Development Team roster, an athlete affected by a bye request decision or a request for special consideration has 7 calendar days within which to appeal the decision in accordance with the Speed Skating Canada Appeal Policy (refer to SSC Appeals Policy RES 100).

## ***Sport Canada's Athlete Assistance Program (AAP)***

Nothing in this Bulletin (or with respect to any decision made by the HPC-LT pursuant to this Bulletin) should be considered as suggesting that an athlete is or is not eligible for support pursuant to Sport Canada's Athlete Assistance Program (AAP). In the case of a major injury, the AAP Injury Card procedures apply.

# ***Operational Guidelines For The Allocation Of Byes***

## ***Bye Selection Philosophy***

In exceptional circumstances, as the HPC-LT determines, where an athlete has not had the opportunity, through no fault of his or own, to compete in the nominated selection event or events, the athlete may be eligible to apply for a bye selection to the relevant team.

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

The basic philosophy for selecting an athlete by granting a bye is that, all things being equal, the athlete given the bye has clearly demonstrated superior performances in previous competition to other athletes being considered for selection. In that regard, the process and considerations outlined below in section 6 will apply.

Byes apply only with respect to selection to specific competitions and/or events. Nothing in these provisions concerning byes applies with respect to nominations by SSC to Sport Canada's Athlete Assistance Program (AAP). In the case of a major injury, the AAP Injury Card procedures apply.

## ***Procedures under which a bye application can be made.***

1. Bye requests must be made in writing to the HPC-LT (see deadlines noted below)
2. Unless physically incapable, only the athlete requesting a bye is permitted to submit the request.
3. If the bye request is made on the basis of an illness or injury, the athlete must provide documented evidence from a sports medicine practitioner. The HPC-LT has the right to request further independent medical review after the bye request has been submitted.
4. 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-LT representative immediately following the race in which the equipment breakage occurred.

## **Conditions for applying for a Bye**

1. Bye request must be for a specific competition in the current skating season.
2. 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.
  - b) 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-LT 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.
3. A bye request will be ruled ineligible if the athlete subsequently competes in the selection event.
4. In the case of selection being based upon a cumulative ranking from multiple events, a athlete 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.
5. Injury, illness or \*equipment breakage during the selection event and other exceptional circumstances, all as determined in the sole discretion of the HPC-LT.
6. A bye request must be made within 24 hours following the end of the competition unless the athlete is physically incapable of making this request (in such a case, the athlete's coach may make the request).

\*See Clause 4d above for the reporting requirements for equipment breakage.

In both situations, each described in a) and b), the bye request must state clearly what the athlete is seeking, and the supporting documentation (medical, race referee report, for example) must be attached. The HPC-LT must be able to confirm that the athlete will be at 100% of his/her capacity (physical and psychological) to participate in the competition for which he/she has requested a bye. The athlete must provide the confirmation from a qualified medical practitioner or, in the case of an issue not related to an injury or illness, other attestation as may be required by the HPC-LT.

## **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 relevant HPC-LT 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-LT (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-LT are in conflict of interest, then the Long Track Program Director (LTPD) will make the recommendation regarding the Bye application.

- d) If relevant, the HPC-LT 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) Subject to d), the final selections will be made from this revised ranking.

These final selections will then be named as the Team for that event or events. This will be communicated to the athlete/s requesting a bye, athlete/s directly affected by a bye request, the coaches, and athletes' representatives.

## **Considerations for Granting a Bye**

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

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

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

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

In evaluating past performances, the HPC-LT will assign higher weighting priority to those performances from the 12 month period immediately prior to the final selection event. However, occasionally this is not possible because of injuries, or the lack of opportunity for the athletes to compete. In such instances, performances beyond this 12 month period may be considered but will be treated as having a lower weighting in assessing the bye request.

The HPC-LT may, at its absolute discretion, award a bye to an athlete who is:

- 0.5 sammelagt points faster than the last athlete 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 athlete requesting the bye and the history of the athletes involved, the HPC-LT will give priority and weighting to the best time (in sanctioned events) of the athletes 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 athlete cannot complete the selection competition due to exceptional circumstances, the missing distances will be evaluated by using the best time rule (in the last 12 months) for the athletes involved.

## ***Operational Guidelines For Special Consideration For National Or National Development Team Selection***

This process applies to selection to the National Team or National Development Team for the next skating season.

1. In exceptional circumstances, as the HPC-LT determines, where an athlete has not had the opportunity, through no fault of his or own, to compete in the nominated ranking event or events, the athlete may be eligible to apply for a special consideration for selection to the relevant team.
2. Subject to the HPC-LT's discretion as noted below, athletes are not eligible for special consideration if they were eligible to compete in the necessary competitions and/or events for ranking and had the opportunity to do so and did not achieve the stated criteria for nomination as a Team member articulated in the HPB.
3. The application for special consideration must be made within 14 calendar days following the final selection event. The application must state clearly:
  - the Team to which the athlete is seeking selection;
  - what the athlete is requesting;
  - include, at that time, all appropriate documentation, as may be determined by the HPC-LT; and, in any case, any relevant medical information on which the athlete wishes to rely.
4. The HPC-LT has the right to request further independent medical review after the request for special consideration has been submitted.
5. The HPC-LT in considering the application must be able to confirm to its satisfaction that the athlete is or will be at the commencement of the new season 100% of his/her capacity (physically and psychologically) to:
  - be a member of the Team to which he/she has requested selection;
  - participate fully in all aspects of the training programmes and activities, as determined by the appropriate coaches and the LT program director; and,
  - to compete in all competitions to which he or she earns selection.

Notwithstanding the above, the HPC-LT acting in what considers the best interests of the programme may, and exercising its absolute discretion, add an athlete to the National or National Development Team.

Approved by the High Performance Committee - Long Track on \_\_\_\_\_