

SPEED SKATING CANADA

HIGH PERFORMANCE BULLETIN

#170 – Bye Request Policy (SHORT TRACK)



August 2015

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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2015 / 16 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 2015-16, Bulletin 170 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 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.

PROCEDURES FOR THE ALLOCATION OF BYES

1. Purpose

To provide procedures 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 his/her own, an athlete sometimes does not have the opportunity to fully compete in the 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(s) being considered for selection.

3. Rules for requesting a bye

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

- 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 have been reported to and verified by the race referee or HPC representative immediately following the race in which the equipment breakage occurred.
- e) Bye requests for selection to the World Junior Championships team/FISU Games team will not be evaluated based upon the Bye point system. See **6. Conditions for granting a bye** for details.
- f) Bye requests for the field of entry to the current Canadian Junior Short Track Championships will only be accepted from skaters who attained at least 16th place at the Canadian Junior Short Track Championships the year prior.

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 **by the time and date specified in Bulletin 167**. The HPC Representative must formally announce all Bye requests at the coaches 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 any or all 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 HPCST will review the bye request(s).
- b) The Bye Point system will be used for head-to-head comparison of athletes in the relevant ranking. The point system will not be applicable for team status in the case of a "Major Injury/Illness" or to the field of entry to any national competition or for selection to the World Junior Championships or FISU Games (see below under 6. Conditions for Granting a Bye)
- c) In cases where multiple Bye applications are submitted they will be assessed individually and on their own merit. The request from the athlete with the highest Bye Points will be considered first.
- 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

For Selection to a team:

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 for each competition held within the last 12 months according to the Bye Point System noted below. These points will then be tallied for all skaters in the ranking and those requesting the Bye. For requests related to the World Junior Championships/FISU Games team – please see dedicated section below.

The total points of the athlete requesting the bye will be compared against the total 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 Process 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.

For National or Development Team Status:

Bye requests for team status for the following season will only be considered in the event that the athlete making the request currently has a National or Development team status. The granting of such bye requests will be limited to the highest status that the athlete has held in the last two years.

For National team status:

The athlete's team status will be granted if the ranking s/he achieves following the application of bye points is within the range for team selection outlined in Bulletin 169.

In the case that the athlete requesting the bye was qualified for, but was medically withdrawn from entering in at least two distances (excluding the 3000m) at any of the three selection competitions counting towards a Senior national ranking, the bye will be evaluated on the discretionary criteria for "Major Injury/Illness" listed below and NOT on the bye point system.

For Development team status:

All bye requests for development team status will be evaluated according to the discretionary criteria for "Major Injury/Illness" listed below and NOT on the bye point system.

Any athlete selected to either the National or Development team based on being awarded a bye by discretionary evaluation will be in addition to those selected to the team through ranking or through the application of bye points, rather than as a replacement of ranked skater.

For Major Injury/Illness and development team status bye requests, the HPCST will evaluate a number of elements including, but not limited to the following:

- a) Future podium potential
- b) International performances and experience
- c) National performances
- d) Recent training and testing performances
- e) Commitment to the program

For inclusion in the field of entry:

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

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 based on 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. This evaluation will not be made based upon bye request points earned by any of the athletes under consideration.

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 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 made.

POINT GRID

Ranking	FULL POINT GRID*									
	Fall WCup Sel	WC 1	WC 2	WC 3	WC 4	SR. CND Champs	WC 5	WC 6	World Champs	SR. Nat Open Sel # 2
1	16	10	10	10	10	16	10	10	20	6
2	14	7	7	7	7	14	7	7	16	5
3	12	5	5	5	5	12	5	5	14	4
4	10	3	3	3	3	10	3	3	12	3
5	8	2	2	2	2	8	2	2	10	2
6	6	1	1	1	1	6	1	1	8	1
	Best 2 distances	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 Senior Canadian Championships (SR. CND Champs) or best 2 distances as per Fall World Cup Selections (Fall WCup Sel).
2. **International events:** Points will be allocated for each distance but **only the best 3** world cups during the 12-month 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 SR. Nat Open Sel #2.

Bye Request Grid

Request	Senior International Team Selection	Team Status			Junior World Championships team -or- FISU Games team	Canadian Competition Field of Entry	
		For National Team Status	Major Injury/Illness	For Development team status			
Special considerations	None	Athlete was medically withdrawn from entering in fewer than 2 distances (excluding 3000m)	Athlete must have been medically withdrawn from entering in at least 2 distances from among the 3 selection competitions (excluding 3000m)	Athlete must have had development team status the previous year	None	Specific to Junior Canadian Championships: bye can only be considered if athlete finished within top 16 at previous year's Championships	
		Must have had NT or DT team status the previous year. Can only obtain highest status that has been held in the last two years.					
	Pre-competition illness/injury	See Bulletin 167	Within 48 hours of the final day of the qualifying competition			See Bulletin 167	Within 48 hours of the final day of the qualifying competition
	In-competition illness/injury/equipment breakage	Within 24 hours of competition in which injured or ill				Within 24 hours of competition in which injured or ill	
		Specific to equipment breakage: Incident must be reported to race referee or HPC representative immediately following the race in which the breakage occurred					
Method of evaluation	Bye Point system		Discretion				
Basis for evaluation	Athlete requesting bye must have earned at least 5 bye points more than athletes in the selection ranking over the last 12 months in order to be inserted above him/her.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Future podium potential b) International performances and experience c) National performances d) Recent training and testing performances e) Commitment to the program 		Must demonstrate clear superiority at Senior national competition or Junior International competition		Comparison of athletes on these criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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

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 August 18, 2015.