

# INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION

## Communication No. 1265

### Cut Resistant Clothing in Short Track Speed Skating

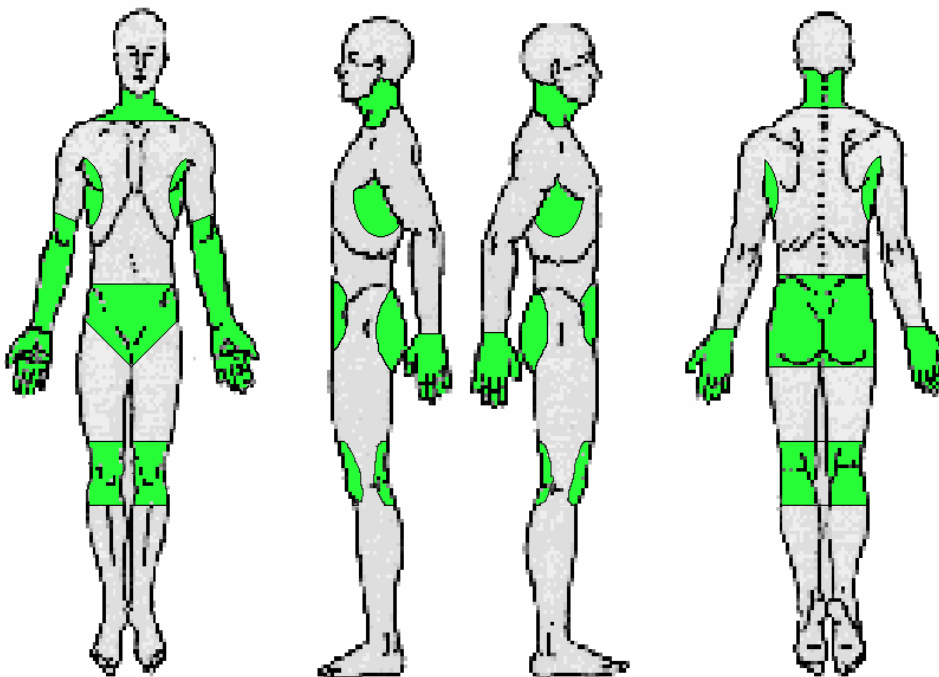
*This Communication is based on 2004 ISU Special Regulations for Short Track Speed Skating, Rule 295, paragraph 3 and will apply to all ISU Events and the Olympic Winter Games effective July 25, 2004. However the ISU strongly recommends these Cut Resistant clothing/uniforms to be worn at all ISU sanctioned events. The following replaces ISU Communication No. 1220 and updates ISU Communication No. 1159.*

#### Introduction

All participants in Short Track Speed Skating know and understand that the sport involves risks and danger of injuries, including cuts and puncture wounds, particularly those resulting from a collision or fall. ISU Members must instruct all participants to respect safety measures required to minimize such risks and dangers. In particular, Members and participants must observe all ISU initiated safety measures, including those stated in Rules 280 and 295 and in this and other Communications.

The ISU has commissioned a study of fabric standards for competition clothing/uniforms for Short Track Speed Skating including a medical assessment. The study identified the special areas of risk as those shaded in the drawing below. These include the neck, groin, axillar region, gluteal region, lower arms, hands, back and front of the knees. At a minimum, all of the areas specified in the figure below are to be protected by the cut-resistant fabric specified in this Communication

#### Areas of risk



In order to determine the suitability of competition clothing/uniforms materials for Short Track Speed Skating, tests were carried out to simulate the effect of extreme falls and determine the quality of materials. Through statistical and error analyses, the results from these tests have been correlated with test results using the same materials under international standard EN388 (this widely recognized standard will be familiar to clothing manufacturers). Using the test data, an equation has been determined which makes it possible to test a material according to standard EN388, and then calculate its suitability for Short Track Speed Skating.

### **Cut Resistant Clothing**

No limitations will be imposed on the manufacture of protective competition clothing/uniforms other than, at a minimum, the material must comply with Standard EN388. A close study of the implementation process, the world wide availability of cut resistant clothing/uniforms and practical experiences has resulted in a reconsideration of the requirements. The cut resistant material used in protective clothing according to this ISU Communication must meet as a minimum requirement the Level 2 Standard according to EN388 in a cut resistance test (resistance to cutting by sharp objects). Cut resistant protection may be either integrated in the actual competition uniforms, or be worn as special underwear.

To ensure consistency in the testing of the fabrics used, the manufacturers of cut resistant clothing/uniforms are strongly recommended to have samples of their fabric tested at SATRA Quality Assurance, Ltd., SATRA House, Rockingham Road, Kettering, Northamptonshire NN16 9JH, Great Britain, fax no +44/1536 410 626.

The report commissioned by the ISU on the cut resistant study is available free of charge for ISU Members from the ISU Secretariat. For manufacturers and other third parties, the report is available at cost of mailing. Details of the Standard EN388 are available through every national standardization institute or can be ordered from SATRA Quality Assurance Ltd.

### **Application and Control**

According to Rule 295, paragraph 2, of the Special Regulations for Short Track Speed Skating, each Skater is solely responsible that his/her personal equipment meets the highest safety criteria in order to obtain the utmost safety for the Skaters. ISU Members are herewith requested to ensure that all Skaters entering international Short Track Speed Skating competitions shall respect the above-mentioned Rule and the requirement of this Communication for their competition clothing/uniforms as soon as possible, but at the latest as of July 25, 2004.

ISU Members are requested to ensure that their competition clothing/uniform manufacturers label their products stating that the cut resistant fabrics used meet the criteria of Level 2 Standard according to EN388, and/or provide documents that confirm the requirements of the cut resistant fabric. Such document must be in English, duly dated and signed by the manufacturer and it must be provided upon request before the competition clothing/uniforms will be considered acceptable.

The ISU may carry out random controls on the use of the required cut resistant competition clothing/uniforms. Skaters must be able to present proper documentation about the uniforms and the materials used. Non-compliance with the requirement at ISU Events after July 25, 2004 will result in an immediate exclusion of the skater(s) from the respective ISU Event or Olympic Winter Games.

### **Safety Measures**

Obviously, the safety program respecting cut-resistant uniform material, together with all the other safety measures specified in the ISU Rules, cannot absolutely assure full protection for all competitors under all conditions. Experience demonstrates that stumbles and falls occur in this high-speed ice sport. All ISU Members and their clubs, coaches and officials who conduct training programs are admonished to teach safe skating techniques during training and to insist upon compliance by their competitors with ISU rules during competitions.

Milan,  
June 28, 2004  
Lausanne,

**Ottavio Cinquanta**, President  
**Fredi Schmid**, General Secretary