

INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION

Communication No. 1914

Mass start Races for ISU Speed Skating Events 2014-15

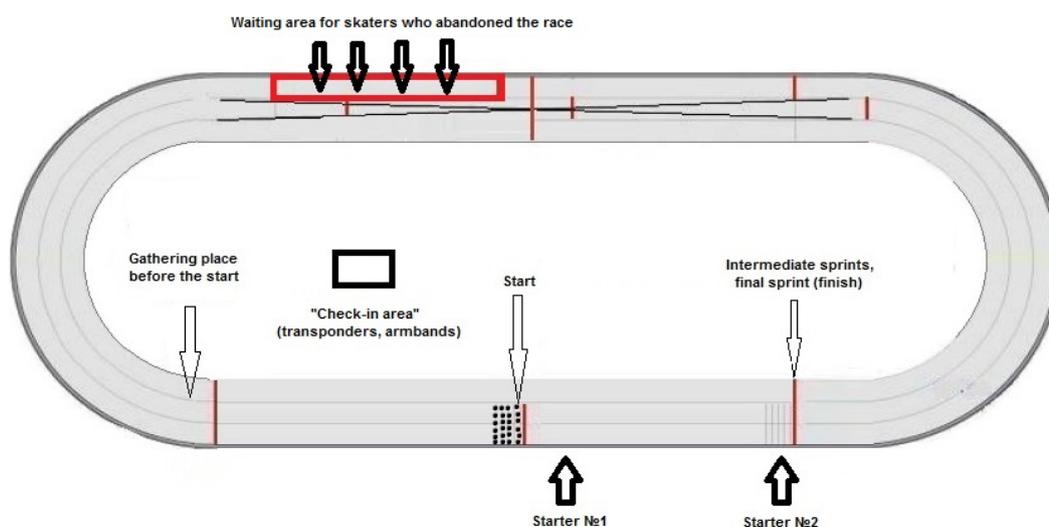
RACING RULES and SAFETY MEASURES

Complementing ISU Technical Rule 253, paragraph 4b and ISU Communication Nos. 1887 and 1889

Track and Distances

- **Track:** The competition track includes the warm-up lane. However, if deemed necessary to keep an adequate and safe radius of the competition track, a demarcation restricting use of the innermost part of the ordinary warm up lane can be implemented upon decision of the Referees in consultation with the Representative of the ISU Speed Skating Technical Committee.
- **Distances:** 16 laps for Ladies and Men; 10 laps for Junior Ladies and Junior Men.

"FIELD OF PLAY" SETUP DIAGRAM FOR MASS START COMPETITIONS



Race procedures

- Competitors must wear **transponders for the timekeeping** (Rule 223, paragraph 5).
- **Armbands**, as provided by the organizer (Rule 223, paragraph 6) shall be worn as follows: Skater #1 from the country will wear no armbands. Skater #2 must wear yellow armbands on both arms for easy identification.

For Junior World Cups: Skater #1 of the country will wear no arm band. Other Skaters will wear only one armband, as follows: Skater #2 will wear white, Skater #3 will wear red, Skater #4 will wear yellow and Skater #5 will wear blue armband.

- The Competitors gather at the start area of the 500m, and will then be called to the start line by the Starter. The start will be in the middle of the finishing straight (1000m finishing line).
- Competitors line up at the start in rows of 6 Skaters each, with a distance of at least 1 meter between each row. The inner and outer lane is used for the start rows. Start positions are assigned according to the Mass start World Cup Ranking or Mass start Junior World Cup Ranking. For the first ISU World Cup Competition or first ISU Junior World Cup Competition refer to ISU Communications No. 1887 or 1889.

- Competitors moving forward and out of their starting row before the shot is fired will be disqualified.
- The first lap must be skated “in one group” without fast accelerations. Breach of this rule will lead to a disqualification.
- The first lap counts as part of the overall distance to be skated. This means that the countdown of laps starts running from the first gunshot.
- Before the 500m finishing line, after the first lap, a second shot will be given. From this moment on it is allowed to accelerate to gain a better position in the pack.
- The finish of the race, and of each of the intermediate sprints, is at the end of the finishing straight (500m finishing line).
- During the race there will be four sprints: three intermediate sprints and the final sprint. For each sprint Competitors will score points that count towards their ranking in the final result of the race.

The sprints will be concluded at the finishing line after 4, 8, 12 and 16 full laps (counting the first lap). A bell signal will be given one lap before each sprint; that means when the lap counter shows 13 laps, 9 laps, 5 laps and 1 lap left.

- For Juniors, there will be two sprints: one intermediate sprint and the final sprint. The sprints will be concluded after 5 and 10 full laps; that mean that the bell signal will be given when the lap counter shows 6 laps and 1 lap left.
- Competitors overtaken by the leader with one lap must abandon the race immediately. Lapped Competitors and other Competitors abandoning the race must move to the outside of the track and enter the coaches' box on the crossing straight as soon as possible after they have been overtaken or abandoned the race, and remain in the coaches' box until the race is over.
- Photo finish equipment will be used to verify the position of the Competitors at the finish.

Safety Measures (See also Rule 223, paragraph 1)

Each Competitor must wear:

- A **helmet** that conforms to the shape of the head. For ISU World Cups and ISU Championships the helmet shall comply with the specifications for Short Track Speed Skating (Rule 291, paragraph 1 a)
- **Shin guards**, made of plastic or cut resistant mesh material
- **Cut resistant or leather gloves**
- **Cut resistant neck and ankle protection**

Other protective measures are strongly recommended, for example:

- cut-resistant racing suit or cut-resistant underwear
- protective eyewear
- The back and front part of the blades **must** be rounded off, with an indicative radius of 1 cm (see picture below).

NOT ALLOWED

ALLOWED



- Each Skater is responsible for wearing skates and safety equipment as described above, when appearing at the start and during the whole race.
- Safety measures will be controlled at the “check-in point” for the race, located at the transponder distribution area. Skaters who do not meet the safety requirements will not be allowed to compete or will be disqualified if violating these requirements during the race.

Racing rules and conduct of the race

- Basis racing rule of “Fair play” – no obstruction of other Competitors. Skaters are required to take care during racing to avoid causing dangerous situations.
- Serious obstruction that causes the fall of another Competitor will lead to a disqualification.
- The Referee has the duty to stop the race (Rule 216, paragraph 1 g) if there are safety concerns in the case of fallen or injured Competitor(s). The race will then be stopped by a gun shot or whistle from the Starter or by the Referee. The Referee decides if and when a fresh start of the race will be held.
- If the race is stopped for safety concerns and a fresh start will be held, the full distance of the race will be reskated. Competitors who were disqualified for rule violations, who were lapped or abandoned the race before the incident causing the race to be stopped, will not be allowed a fresh start.
- If a “crash” occurs during the first lap with a large group (6 or more) of Skaters involved, the race will be stopped, and a fresh start will then follow immediately.
- No coaching is allowed from the ice and no team officials are admitted in the infield during the race.

Ranking Rules and Sprint Points

- The ranking will be determined by the accumulated points gained at the intermediate sprints and at the final sprint. The points awarded for the sprints are as follows:
 - Intermediate sprints: The first three (3) Skaters will earn: 5 – 3 – 1 sprint points
 - Final sprint: The first three (3) Skaters will earn: 60 - 40 - 20 sprint points; Juniors will earn 30 - 20 – 10 sprint points.
- Competitors finishing the race will be ranked according to their accumulated points in the four (4) sprints (in the two – 2 – sprints for Juniors). However, the points system is such that the winners of the final sprint (places 1 to 3) will be ranked 1-2-3 in the race, but for the other top ranks (4th place and beyond) the points from the intermediate sprint(s) could be decisive.
- For Competitors with the same total of sprint points, the order of finish from the last sprint will break the tie.
- Competitors without sprint points will be ranked according to their position at the finish.
- For Competitors that do not finish the race, points earned in the intermediate sprints will not be considered for the final race result. These intermediate sprint points will not be reallocated for other Skaters.
- Competitors not finishing the race will be ranked according to the number of laps they have completed before being lapped or otherwise having abandoned the race.

Liability

- Rule 119 applies.

Milano,
October 31, 2014
Lausanne,

Ottavio Cinquanta, President

Fredi Schmid, Director General