

INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION

Communication No. 1336

QUALIFICATION AND ENTRIES FOR THE SPEED SKATING EVENTS AT THE 2006 OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES (OWG 2006)

This ISU Communication complements information that has already been published by IOC/TOROC (in the TOROC Explanatory Book for Speed Skating) on the Qualification system and the Competition Rules for the XX Olympic Winter Games, Torino 2006. It also adds specific details and explanations to the relevant parts (Rule 221 and Rule 225) of the 2004 ISU Special Regulations for Speed Skating concerning qualification, entries and drawing procedures for the Olympic speed skating events.

1. Events

WOMEN	MEN
500 meters	500 meters
1000 meters	1000 meters
1500 meters	1500 meters
3000 meters	5000 meters
5000 meters	10 000 meters
Team pursuit (6 laps)	Team pursuit (8 laps)

2. Quotas

IOC ATHLETES QUOTA: 170 skaters
NOC QUOTA: Maximum 20 skaters, maximum 10 Women and maximum 10 Men.

3. Qualification system

3.1 General principles

Qualification is achieved by reaching the qualifying times set by ISU for the respective distances (see table of applicable times below). A National Olympic Committee (NOC) may enter in the OWG 2006 only athletes that have reached the qualifying times for the distances (events) concerned. For the Team Pursuit events only skaters that have reached the qualifying times for at least one individual event (distance) may be entered.

For the following events participation is restricted to a specified number of skaters or teams:

Women: 3000 m (28 skaters), 5000 m (16 skaters), Team pursuit (8 teams)

Men: 5000 m (28 skaters), 10000 m (16 skaters), Team pursuit (8 teams).

For these events the NOC entry quotas are determined by specifically designated qualifying competitions, as explained in paragraph 3.4 below.

3.2 Qualifying Times

- a) Two levels of qualifying times will apply:
- The B level qualifying times represent the minimum level that must have been achieved for a skater to be eligible to start in the distance concerned at the OWG 2006.
 - The A level qualifying times apply in the case that a NOC would enter more than one skater for a distance. All skaters entered by the NOC for the distance must then have achieved the A level qualifying time to be eligible to start.
- b) The following qualifying times apply for OWG 2006 (see Rule 221, paragraph 1):

Distance	Qualifying times Women		Qualifying times Men	
	<i>A level</i>	<i>B level</i>	<i>A level</i>	<i>B level</i>
500 m	39.50	40,00	36.00	36.50
1000 m	1.20.00	1.21.00	1.11.50	1.12.50
1500 m	2.02.00	2.03.50	1.49.50	1.51.00
3000 m	4.21.00	4.24.00	n.a.	n.a.
5000 m	4.15.00 (3000 m) or 7.15.00	4.15.00 (3000 m) or 7.15.00	6.39.00	6.44.00
10 000 m	n.a.	n.a.	6.33.00 (5000m) or 13.35.00	6.33.00 (5000m) or 13.35.00

The above listed qualifying times are *provisional*, and given *under the following reservation*:
In case the expected number of entered skaters at the OWG 2006 – with consideration of applicable entry quotas for NOCs and distances – would exceed the overall IOC quota of 170 skaters, the ISU may issue a revised set of qualifying times. Before the end of December 2005 the ISU will advise ISU Speed Skating Members on the qualification situation for the OWG 2006 Speed Skating events, and indicate whether or not the above given qualifying times will need to be revised (see also section 4 of this ISU Communication).

Because of the provisional status of the above listed qualifying times, ISU Speed Skating Members are *recommended* to consider the achievement of the A level set of qualifying times as a necessary condition to enter skaters for the OWG 2006.

Qualifying times must have been achieved at certain ISU sanctioned Competitions, as defined in the ISU Special Regulations for Speed Skating, Rule 221, and under conditions specified in paragraph 3.3 below.

3.3 Conditions for recognition of achieved qualifying times

- a) *Qualifying time period*: Skaters need to achieve qualifying times during the qualifying period *October 1, 2005 – January 15, 2006* (exception only for results achieved at the OWG 2006, as specified in subparagraph b) below).
- b) Qualifying times need to be achieved at the following competitions:
- ISU Championships and qualifying events for ISU Championships;
 - ISU World Cup Speed Skating Competitions and other (if any) ISU Events;
 - International Competitions open to all ISU Members, announced according to ISU Regulations, Rule 110, paragraph 2;
 - Country matches announced according to ISU Regulations, Rule 110, paragraph 2;
 - National Championships organized by the ISU Member, including events officially declared by the ISU Member concerned as National Olympic Trials;
 - Results from 3000 m for Women and 5000 m for Men at the OWG 2006 may be recognized only as applicable qualifying times for 5000 m for Women and 10000 m for Men, respectively.
- c) For Country matches and National Championships/National Olympic Trials to be considered for achievement of qualifying times, the organizing ISU Member should announce to the ISU Secretariat by October 1, 2005 the program as well as the planned date and place for such events. A copy of the announcement should be sent to the ISU Secretariat four weeks before the first day of the event (see ISU Regulations, Rule 104, paragraph 14 c). If no notification has been given to

the ISU Secretariat two weeks prior to such events, results achieved may not be recognized as valid qualifying times.

- d) If an ISU Member, during the qualifying period, intends to organize International Competitions which have not been listed in ISU Communication **1333** on International Speed Skating Competitions 2005/2006, the announcement must be sent to the ISU General Secretary at least four weeks prior to the event (see Rule 110) in order that these competitions may be considered for achievement of qualifying times.
- e) At competitions considered for achievement of qualifying times, the Referees and Starters at the competitions must be included in the lists of Speed Skating Referees and Starters as published in ISU Communication No. **1325** or any amendments to this Communication.
- f) Automatic timekeeping procedure, in accordance with Rule 246, must be used at all competitions considered for achievement of qualifying times.
- g) Anti-Doping tests in accordance with the current ISU Anti-Doping Code must be organized at all competitions considered for achievement of qualifying times.
- h) Sufficient verification of the achieved times must be submitted to the ISU Secretariat, see also paragraph 3.4 below.

3.4 Verification and final approval of achieved qualifying times

- a) The ISU Speed Skating Technical Committee is responsible for the final approval of achieved qualifying times.
- b) An ISU Member organizing competitions (other than ISU Events) in which the required qualifying times are achieved by some skaters, are requested to send immediately the complete list of results for the distance(s) concerned by fax to the ISU Secretariat.
- c) The ISU Member is responsible for submitting to the ISU verification of the *best achieved qualifying time* per distance for each skater who will be entered for the OWG 2006. The verification shall include the date and venue where the time has been achieved. Unless the time has been achieved at ISU Championships or World Cup Competitions, a copy of the list of results must be enclosed. Furthermore, the verification must include a statement from the organizing ISU Member that all conditions for recognition of achieved qualifying times, as stated in paragraph 3.3 above, have been fulfilled. The information must reach the ISU Secretariat (by fax to +41 21 612 66 77 or by e-mail to info@isu.ch) *not later than January 15, 2006*.

3.5 Number of participating skaters per NOC and per event - Selection criteria

- a) The total number of entered skaters per NOC, for all speed skating events in total, may not exceed ten (10) Women and ten (10) Men.
- b) The maximum of four (4) skaters per NOC may be entered in each of the individual events (distances) 500, 1000 and 1500 meters. The maximum of three (3) skaters per NOC may be entered in each of the individual events (distances) 3000, 5000 and 10000 meters. The maximum of one team per NOC may be entered for each of the Team Pursuit events.
- c) For the 500, 1000 and 1500 meters there is no specific upper limit to the total number of skaters in each event.
- d) For the 3000 meters for Women and 5000 meters for Men, a maximum of twenty-eight (28) skaters will be permitted in each event (distance). If more than 28 skaters have been entered, the *selection of the 28 participants* will be made on the following basis, counting only 3 skaters from each ISU Member (see Rule 221, paragraph 5):
 - 1) skaters who are among the best 12 in the current World Cup ranking for the long distances, by order of ranking;
 - 2) skaters from a time ranking list for the respective distance based on results only from World Cup Speed Skating Competitions held during the 2005/2006 season, by order of ranking. However priority is given to enable participation from most of the NOCs having entered skaters who have reached the applicable qualifying time. Therefore, as soon as 24 skaters have been selected from the World Cup ranking and time ranking lists, skaters from ISU Members that have no skaters among those already selected, would be given priority in the further selection;

- 3) a NOC may replace maximum one of its qualified skaters according to 1) and 2) above by another skater who has achieved the qualifying time for the distance.
 - 4) if some NOCs do not enter a number of qualified skaters that is sufficient to fill their entry quota as determined according to the above criteria, additional skaters will be selected from the World Cup time ranking list, again with preference for skaters from ISU Members that have not already been represented with a selected skater;
 - 5) if there would be a tie in the time ranking list when the last (28th) skater is to be selected, this selection will be decided by lot;
- e) For the 5000 meters for Women and 10 000 meters for Men, a maximum of sixteen (16) skaters will be permitted in each event. NOCs having skaters among the best sixteen (16) in the 3000 meters for Women and the 5000 meters for Men in the Torino 2006 Olympic Winter Games will have the right to enter a corresponding number of skaters, with the following exceptions:
- 1) a NOC having skaters among the best 8 in the current World Cup ranking for the long distances (3000 and 5000 meters for Women; 5000 and 10 000 meters for Men) will be permitted to enter at least the same number of skaters (maximum three (3)), subject to achieved qualifying time;
 - 2) if a NOC has not acquired the right to enter a skater based on any of the criteria above, but the NOC has a skater among the best 10 in the World Cup points ranking or in the time ranking list from the World Cup Competition held over the distance during the season 2005/2006, the NOC concerned will be permitted to enter this (one) skater, subject to achieved qualifying time;
 - 3) skaters entered according to 1) and 2) above will replace entries of skaters based on the last qualifying position(s) in the 3000 meters Women and in the 5000 meters Men, respectively, in OWG 2006;
 - 4) if some NOCs do not enter a number of qualified skaters that is sufficient to fill their entry quota, additional entries from other NOCs will be allowed based on the final results of the 3000 meters Women's and the 5000 meters Men's races at the OWG 2006, until a number of 16 skaters is reached in each distance;
 - 5) if there is a tie in the last qualifying position, the last (16th) entry will be decided by lot.
- f) For the Team Pursuit events a maximum of 8 participating teams will be permitted in each event. The selection of the 8 teams, and a number of reserve positions, will be made on the basis of results from Team Pursuit races held at World Cup competitions during the season 2005/06. The top 8 ranked national teams from these competitions will qualify, with the next ranked national teams in reserve positions. However, the host nation (ITA) of the OWG 2006, as well as NOCs with a team placed among the 3 best in any one of the qualification competitions, will be given priority in the selection. The selection of the 8 teams will therefore be made in the following steps (which also determines the ranking order for the reserve positions):
- 1) host nation (ITA);
 - 2) winners of Team Pursuit World Cup competitions 2005/06;
 - 3) second placed national teams from Team Pursuit World Cup competitions 2005/06;
 - 4) third placed national teams from Team Pursuit World Cup competitions 2005/06;
 - 5) other national teams, by order of Team Pursuit World Cup ranking 2005/06.
- In case of ties at step 4 above, the order of selection will be based on the Team Pursuit World Cup ranking 2005/06.

3.6 Qualification competitions

The following World Cup competitions will determine the selection of skaters/teams and the allotment of NOC quota for the events with a restricted number of entries:

- a) 3000 and 5000 meters Women, 5000 and 10 000 meters Men:
- Calgary, November 12-13, 2005 (3000m Women, 5000m Men)
 - Salt Lake City, November 18-20, 2005 (3000m Women, 5000m Men)
 - Heerenveen, December 3-4, 2005 (5000m Women, 10 000m Men)
 - Torino, December 9-11, 2005 (3000m Women, 5000m Men)
 - OWG Torino (5000m Women, 10 000m Men)

Since the World Cup rankings for the long distances are based on the total points from 3000 and 5000 meters (Women) and from 5000 and 10 000 meters (Men), the World Cup results from the 5000 m (Women) and 10 000 meters (Men) may have an impact also on the entry quotas for 3000 m (Women) and 5000 m (Men), respectively.

- b) Team Pursuit, Women and Men:
- Calgary, November 12-13, 2005
 - Heerenveen, December 3-4, 2005
 - Torino, December 9-11, 2005.

4. Entries and entry procedures

4.1 General

- Entries for the OWG 2006 must be made according to the IOC rules. Reference is made to the TOROC Explanatory Book for Speed Skating, in particular Ch. 3.1.
- Immediately after the closing of the qualifying period (January 15, 2006) the ISU will inform ISU Speed Skating Members and NOCs concerned regarding provisional lists of skaters having achieved qualifying times and regarding provisional lists of qualification places (entry quotas) for events with a limited number of qualified participants.
- Not later than January 23, 2006, NOCs must confirm to the ISU their use of qualification places according to provisional qualifying lists issued by the ISU, as per item b) above.
- Not later than January 28, 2006, the ISU will modify qualifying times (if necessary, according to provisions mentioned in paragraph 3.2 above), and inform NOCs about final lists of qualified skaters and allocated qualification places.
- The deadline for TOROC to receive entry forms submitted by NOCs is January 30, 2006.
- For each entered skater, the NOCs need to declare for which events (individual distances and/or Team Pursuit) it considers the skater to be entered as a competitor or substitute.

4.2 Entry procedures for each event (Entry by distance)

- For each event, names of competitors and substitutes (respecting the applicable entry quotas) shall be submitted to TOROC not later than three (3) days before the event is skated (See Rule 221, paragraph 9). For the Team Pursuit events minimum 3 and maximum 5 competitors (plus potential substitutes) must be submitted. If more than one substitute has been entered for an event, their order of priority should be given.
- For *3000 m Women and 5000 m Men* a preliminary list of qualified skaters and ranked reserves will be issued by the ISU Speed Skating Technical Committee after the last qualification competition (World Cup in Torino, December 9-11, 2005). This will be a preliminary qualification list, as it is subject to the actual entries of skaters for the OWG 2006 made by NOCs. As soon as the complete set of NOC final entries ("Entry by name") for the Speed Skating events at OWG 2006 have been received by the ISU, an updated qualification list, with ranked reserve positions, will be issued by the ISU Speed Skating Technical Committee. For each NOC, the entries of competitors and substitutes for these events may only consist of skaters mentioned in the qualification list for the distance concerned, or (according to paragraph 3.5 d) above) by maximum one other skater who has achieved the applicable qualifying time. When the final entries for the event, according to item a) above, have been received by TOROC, the definitive list of selected skaters and ranked reserve positions will be issued. If some of the 28 selected skaters are withdrawn before the draw, a corresponding number of entered skaters from the respective reserve list will be admitted.
- For *5000 m Women and 10 000 m Men* an initial list of NOC entry quotas (with reserve positions) will be issued by the ISU Speed Skating Technical Committee immediately after the races of 3000 m Women and 5000 m Men at OWG 2006, respectively. For a NOC included in the reserve list to retain a possibility to have its initially allotted entry quota increased, it is necessary that additional skaters (who have achieved the qualifying time) are entered as numbered substitutes. In

the case that some NOCs would not make full use of their allotted entry quota, such additional entries according to the ranked reserve list of NOC quotas will be admitted.

- d) For the *Team Pursuit events* a preliminary list of qualified teams and ranked reserves will be issued by the ISU Speed Skating Technical Committee after the last qualification competition (World Cup in Torino, December 9-11, 2005). This qualification list is provisional, subject to the actual entries of skaters made by NOCs. As soon as the full set of NOC entries for the OWG 2006 have been received by the ISU, an updated qualification list, with ranked reserves, will be issued by the ISU Speed Skating Technical Committee. This list will only include NOCs that have entered at least three (3) qualified skaters for the individual Speed Skating events at the OWG 2006, and that have indicated an intention to participate in the Team Pursuit event concerned. By the deadline for the final entries for the Team Pursuit events (3 days before the respective event), NOCs that are included in the reserve list of qualified Team Pursuit teams, are recommended to submit a *provisional entry* of a team. If some of the 8 selected teams would not be entered or would be withdrawn before the start of the event, entries of a corresponding number of teams from the ranked reserve list will be admitted.
- e) A NOC may compose its pursuit team differently for the different races (phases) included in the *Team Pursuit event*, but can only use a maximum of 5 different skaters for the complete set of races. The names of these maximum 5 skaters, and possible substitutes, must be submitted by the deadline given in item a) above. For each phase (race) the NOC may select their team of 3 skaters among any of the maximum 5 skaters entered for the event. The names of skaters (the team of 3 skaters) for each phase of the Team Pursuit event must be submitted to the Referee by a deadline announced by the TOROC competition management. In case of an injury after the team (of 3 skaters) has entered the competition track, a substitution will be permitted if an ISU Withdrawal Form has been presented to and accepted by the Referee. The condition that a maximum of 5 skaters can compete for the team throughout the event, applies also in the case of such a substitution.

5. Drawing procedures and specific competition rules

5.1 Individual events

For the drawing of each event (distance) the participants will be placed in groups based on an individual time ranking of the skaters according to the results they have achieved only in World Cup Speed Skating Competitions or World Championships during the season 2005/2006. Skaters without results from World Cup Competitions or World Championships will be ranked thereafter, according to their best approved qualifying times. These time ranking lists will be issued by the ISU Speed Skating Technical Committee following the deadline for *Entries by distance* for the event concerned. Details concerning the grouping and the subsequent drawing of pairs are given in the ISU Special Regulations for Speed Skating, Rule 225, paragraphs 2 and 3. For the second race of the 500 meters, Rule 225, paragraph 1, applies.

5.2 Team Pursuit events

- a) *The composition and starting order of heats* for the first phase (preliminaries) of the Team Pursuit events will be determined according to the ranks of the respective ISU Member (NOC) in the World Cup Team Pursuit ranking 2005/06. The two best ranked teams will start in the last heat; the teams ranked 3 and 4 will start in the second last heat, etc. The times achieved in the first phase will determine the composition of heats for the second phase, and these times will also be decisive in the case of tie-breaks (see below). It is therefore essential that both teams in each heat of the preliminaries will finish their race, even in situations when overtaking (see Rule 256, paragraph 1) would occur.

The detailed procedure for the composition and starting order of heats for the subsequent phases are given in ISU Special Regulations for Speed Skating, Rule 225, paragraph 4.

If a team does not complete a race in the quarter-finals, semi-finals or finals (i.e. in races after the first phase) with a valid result, it will be considered the loser of the race.

b) Tie-breaking rules:

- Ties in the first phase (preliminaries) will be resolved by the initial ranking of the national teams, i.e. their ranks in the World Cup Team Pursuit ranking 2005/06. This rule will also apply if several teams do not complete their race in the first phase with a valid result.
- Ties in the quarter-finals and semi-finals will be resolved by the time ranking from the first phase (the preliminaries).
- Ties in the finals will not be resolved – these ties will persist. However, if both teams in a final race do not complete their race with a valid result, such a tie will be broken by the time ranking from the first phase (the preliminaries).

c) Final ranking rules (see also Rule 225, paragraph 4).

1. The winner of the A-Final
2. The loser of the A-Final
3. The winner of the B-Final
4. The loser of the B-Final
5. The winner of the C-Final
6. The loser of the C-Final
7. The winner of the D-Final
8. The loser of the D-Final.

d) Medal awards criteria

- Medals will be awarded to those team members who have participated as one of the three skaters of the team in at least one of the phases of the event.
- If some of the (maximum 5) entered members of the team have not participated as one of the three skaters of the team in any of the phases of the event, the skater(s) concerned will not be awarded a medal.
- According to the above mentioned criteria, a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 5 members of a medal winning team may be awarded a medal.

Milano

August 4, 2005

Lausanne

Ottavio Cinquanta, President

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