

INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION

Communication No. 2038

Mass start Races at ISU Speed Skating Events

SAFETY MEASURES and RACING RULES

(Complementing ISU Special Regulations Rule 223, paragraph 1, and ISU Technical Rule 253, paragraph 4 b)

1. General

This Communication is an update of ISU Communication No. 1957 which was issued for the season 2015-16. It contains important regulations on safety measures, making it mandatory for Competitors to wear certain safety gear and racing suits with specific qualities.

1.1. Race format

Mass start events may be organized in a single round format with a Final race only, or in two rounds with Semi-Finals and a Final.

2. Distances and Track

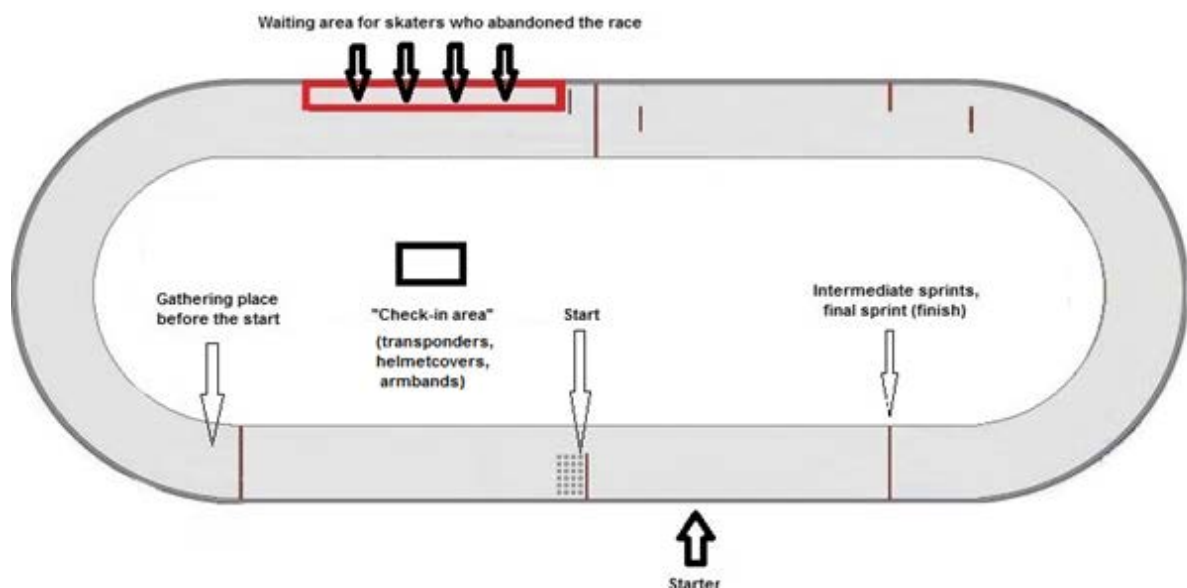
2.1. Distances

- 16 laps for Ladies and Men;
- 10 laps for Junior Ladies, Junior Men and for "Neo-Seniors" (Ladies & Men) competing at Junior World Cup Competitions.

2.2. Track demarcation

Use of warm up lane: The competition track generally 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.

2.3. Track organizational diagram



3. Race procedures

3.1. Equipment

- *Transponders for timekeeping* must be worn by Competitors (Rule 223, paragraph 5);
- *Helmet covers** with numbers corresponding to the start list;
- *Armbands** shall be worn for easy identification as follows:

	<i>Skater №1</i>	<i>Skater №2 from same country</i>	<i>Skater №3 from same country</i>	<i>Skater №4 from same country</i>	<i>Skater №5 from same country</i>
<i>ISU World Cups ISU Championships</i>	no armbands	yellow armbands on both arms			
<i>ISU Junior World Cups</i>	no armband	yellow armband	white armband	red armband	blue armband

**as provided by the organizer (see also Rule 223, paragraph 6)*

3.2. Preparation of the races

- Start positions are assigned according to the Mass start (Junior) World Cup Ranking. For the first (Junior) World Cup Competition see details in the respective ISU Communication;
- If races are organized with Semi-Finals, entered Skaters will be placed in the Semi-Finals according to their seeding or Ranking, according to the following procedure:
 - Top seeded Skater: Semi-Final A;
 - 2nd and 3rd seeded Skaters: Semi-Final B;
 - 4th and 5th seeded Skaters: Semi-Final A, etc.

If the rules of the Competition restrict the number of Skaters from the same country in each Semi-Final, the allocation of Skaters to the Semi-Finals will be adjusted accordingly.

- The Final shall consist of a limited number of the best ranked Skaters from each Semi-Final, with the same number of Skaters qualifying from each Semi-Final. In the case of withdrawal of a Skater qualified for the Final, this Skater will be replaced in the Final by the next ranked Skater from the Semi-Final concerned:
 - If a qualified Skater from Semi-Final A would withdraw from the Final, then this Skater will be replaced in the Final with the next ranked Skater from Semi-Final A
 - If a qualified Skater from Semi-Final B would withdraw from the Final, then this Skater will be replaced in the Final with the next ranked Skater from Semi-Final B

3.3. Start

The Competitors gather at the 500m start area and will then be called to the start line by the Starter or announcer.

- The start will be in the middle of the finishing straight (1000m finishing line);
- Line up at the start in rows of 6 Skaters each, with a distance of at least 1 meter between each row. Only the inner and outer lane is used for the start rows. For presentation reasons, after the first 2 rows (12 Skaters) have been presented, the starter/announcer can call entire rows to the start;

3.4. Race organization

- After the first lap, before the 500m finishing line, a second shot will be fired by the Starter. Acceleration to gain a better position in the pack is allowed only from this moment on;
- Intermediate sprints and final sprint:
 - During the race there will be one (for junior Events) or three (for senior Events) intermediate sprints before the final sprint. For each sprint, Competitors will score points that count towards their ranking in the final result of the race;
 - For senior events the sprints will be concluded at the finishing line after 4, 8, 12 and 16 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 Junior events there will be one intermediate sprint before the final sprint. The sprints will be concluded after 5 and 10 laps; that means that the bell signal will be given when the lap counter shows 6 laps and 1 lap left.

- The finish of the race and of each of the intermediate sprints:
 - At the end of the finishing straight (500m finishing line).
- Photo finish equipment will be used to verify the position of the Competitors at the finish;
- No coaching is allowed from the ice. No team officials, staff or ~~and~~ coaches are admitted infield before and during the race.

4. Safety Measures (See also Rule 223, paragraph 1)

4.1. Mandatory safety requirements

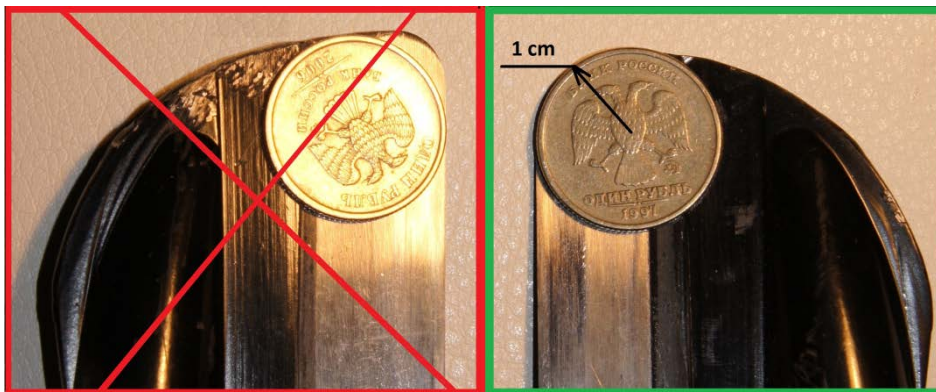
i) Each Competitor MUST wear:

- A helmet that conforms to the shape of the head. The helmet shall comply with the specifications for Short Track Speed Skating (Rule 291, paragraph 1 a);
- Cut-resistant racing suit or underwear, in accordance with specifications for Short Track Speed Skating (ISU Communication No. 1265);
- Knee-and shin guards, made of plastic or cut resistant material;
- Cut resistant gloves or leather gloves;
- Cut resistant neck and ankle protection;

Other protective gear is recommended, for example: protective eyewear.

ii) Blades:

- The back and front part of the blades must be rounded off, with an indicative radius of 1 cm (see example below).



4.2. Control of safety measures

- Safety measures will be controlled at a “check-in point” before the race, located at the transponder distribution area or as described during the Team leaders' meeting;
- Each Skater is responsible for wearing skates and safety equipment, as described above, when appearing at the start and during the whole race.

5. Racing rules and conduct of the race

5.1. General

- “Fair play” as the basic rule: no obstruction of other Competitors;
- Skaters must take care during racing to avoid causing dangerous situations;
- 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 shall remain in the coaches' box until the race is over. Technical equipment may be used for signalling overtaking;
- The Referee has to stop the race (Rule 216, paragraph 2.g) if there are safety concerns in the case of a fallen or injured Competitor(s). The race will then be stopped by a gun shot or whistle from the Starter or by the Referee. Technical equipment may be used for signaling a stop of the race:
 - The Referee decides if and when a fresh start of the race will be held;

- The full distance of the race will be re-skated if the race is stopped for safety concerns and a fresh start will be held;
- No fresh start will be allowed for Competitors who were disqualified for rule violations, who were lapped or abandoned the race before the incident happened that caused the stop of the race.
- 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.

5.2. Disqualifications

- 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. A Skater(s) may not pass the Skater with helmet cover No. 1. Breach of this rule will lead to a disqualification;
- Skaters who do not meet the safety requirements (under section No.4 above) will not be allowed to compete or will be disqualified if violating these requirements during the race;
- Serious obstruction that causes the fall of another Competitor will lead to a disqualification.

6. Ranking rules and sprint points

In each Semi-Final and Final the ranking will be determined by the accumulated points gained at the intermediate sprints and at the final sprint. Further ranking of the other Competitors is determined by their order of finish at the final sprint.

6.1. Allocation of sprint points:

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:
 - Senior events: 60 – 40 – 20 sprint points;
 - Junior events: 30 – 20 – 10 sprint points.

6.2. Race results

- 6.2.1. The first three skaters of the final sprint (places 1 to 3) will be ranked 1-2-3 in the race.
- 6.2.2. The other competitors will be ranked according to their accumulated points in the intermediate sprints, three (3) sprints for seniors and *one (1) sprint for juniors*.
- 6.2.3. For Competitors with the same total of sprint points, the order of finish in the last sprint will break the tie.
- 6.2.4. Competitors without sprint points will be ranked according to their position at the finish.
- 6.2.5. 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. If two or more Competitors abandon the race for any reason (e.g. fall, injury, broken skates) on the same lap, they will have the same final rank. If one of them earned intermediate sprint points, those points will count for breaking the tie between them. For Competitors that do not finish the race, points earned in the intermediate sprints will not be considered for the final race result, with the exception of breaking a tie as indicated above. These intermediate sprint points will not be reallocated to other Competitors.

7. Liability

ISU General Regulations, Rule 119, applies.

Tubbergen

August 24, 2016

Lausanne

Jan Dijkema, President

Fredi Schmid, Director General