

Status Report for the ISU 2022 Congress on the Four Year Plan 2018/19-2021/22

Committee: Short Track Speed Skating Technical Committee

Project/Function/Area of Activity: Official's education and assessment project

For the period since the 57th ISU Congress in Seville, the Short Track TC has followed the adopted plan for the period 2018-2022. In link with the Statement of specific results & benefits to be obtained during the period, the STSSTC has placed its focus on the following priorities:

- Continued education of Short Track Speed Skating Officials (Referees, Starters, and Competitors Stewards) keeping them informed of Rules changes, procedures and technical development of the sport and ensuring consistency of interpretation.
- Maintenance of clear criteria and conditions for the nomination and re-nominations of ISU Officials
- Continue to develop the apprentice program for International W & ISU Officials
- Continue the development of the RRS and an Officials' Database for proper education and evaluation of Officials' performances at ISU Events.
- Creation and development of a specialty for video Referees

1. Continued education of Short Track Speed Skating Officials (Referees, Starters, and Competitors Stewards):

During the last 4 years since the Congress in Seville, the STSSTC has continued its work towards the development and education of all ISU officials and also International Officials in multiple ways and has developed many new tools. Here is a brief summary of what was done:

- Summer 2018: The creation of a written Guidance on Racing Rules to have one common reference document for everyone.
- Summer 2018: a Seminar for all ISU Officials and International W.
- Summer 2019: a Seminar for all ISU Referees and International W
- Season 2019-2020: 8 Workshops for Referees
- Summer 2020: Virtual Seminar for all ISU and International Officials
- Summer 2020: Creation of a Database for Clips of infringements from all ISU Events
- Season 2020-2021: 12 Workshops for ISU & International Referees using a mix of Live events (EC & WC) and clips quizzes,
- Summer 2021: Virtual Seminar for all ISU and International Officials
- Summer 2021: Creation of a Refereeing System for virtual work with the E-learning team.
- Season 2021-2022: 12 workshops for ISU and International Referees using a mix of Live events and clips quizzes and testing the new virtual refereeing system.
- Season 2021-2022: Development of a digital tool for training of the interval for Starters & Workshops (2)

With the pandemic, we were forced to integrate new ways to educate our officials and are quite proud to now have many new tools what will remain very useful and even better for the future and significantly reduce costs for education of all categories of officials.

2. Maintenance of clear criteria and conditions for the nomination of ISU Officials and maintenance of the Officials Database for proper evaluation of Officials' performance at ISU Events.

The TC has established a list of criteria for being promoted and for staying on the ISU list of officials. These criteria include examinations, performances in Events, evaluations and participation in Seminars and Workshops.

3. Continue to develop the apprentice program for International W Officials:

Welcoming new officials in ISU Events as apprentices is a great way to provide them with the opportunity of getting significant experience in a safe environment and show the TC that they are ready for the promotion. For the last 2 seasons, unfortunately, we lost many live opportunities but with the recent virtual multiple training sessions, we were able to welcome a very large group of International Officials in all our activities and identify great prospects from many countries.

4. Continue the development of the RRS and an Officials' Database for proper education and evaluation of Officials' performances at ISU Events.

All the tools developed by the TC on races decisions have for purposes to improve consistency amongst the Referees with their decisions, to give clear guidances to the coaches so that skaters know what to do and not do to avoid penalties in order to reduce the overall number of infringements, and also to speed up the process of finalizing decisions after races when there are some.

The Race Report, System, the Clip Database, the Digital Refereeing System and the written guidance are all great steps in that direction.

We are now able to have both RRS data and the clips stored together in the Clip Database. With this, it is possible for the TC and for the Referees to view the clips with the final decision associated to it. This is fairly new and it will take a bit more time to fully make proper usage of it for education and also evaluation purposes.

5. Creation and development of a specialty for Video Referees:

The video specialty was established 4 years ago. At the same time, the Event Director was successful in implementing the new Instant Video Replay system using the TV production. This has changed the way of working for video referees quite significantly and the sets of skills necessary to perform in that position is quite different from being on ice and from what it used to be. These specialists have to communicate clearly and quickly with the referee, share the proper camera angles for the replays, make their own quick decisions and also finalize the right clip selection to release after a decision is made. Special trainings were done over the last 4 years to develop the skills, the best process for finalizing the races, the best camera angles to check depending on where infringements happen, etc. Much more work is necessary. We are still beginners with these new important technologies.

In closing, on behalf of the Technical Committee, I would like to thank all the ISU Officials for their generosity, their professionalism, and their great collaboration. The last 2 years have been challenging in many ways and they had to invest much more time and energy to learn new skills, new process, new tools and they did it with such an open mind. We are extremely grateful for their openness and trust.

This group is an intricate part of the growth of our sport, and we would not have the success that we have without their contribution.

A special thanks to all the Officials that have retired during the past 4 seasons. You all have given decades of your time to Short Track and have been amazing contributors.

March 2022

Nathalie Lambert

Chair of the Short Track Speed Skating Technical Committee