

## Communication No. 2532

### Implementation of new Starting Procedure Short Track Speed Skating

The ISU Congress 2022 decided to test a new Starting Procedure for Short Track Speed Skating (“Zero False Starts”), with the possible outcome that a positive evaluation of the testing would make the new procedure effective for upcoming ISU Events in the current Congress period.

This decision is described as follows in the 2022 Special Regulations & Technical Rules for Short Track Speed Skating, Rule 298, paragraph 4.a):

- During the season 2022/23 an alternative Starting Procedure, with amendments as specified in paragraph 16 below, will be applied at several ISU Events. Subject to at least four successful Tests at ISU World Cup Competitions during the season 2022/23, by decision of the ISU Council upon report on the Tests and their evaluation by the ISU Short Track Technical Committee, this alternative procedure will thereafter be in effect for all ISU Events. It may then be used also in other International Competitions, on the condition that information is given in the Announcement of the Competition.

On the testing the Congress decided as follows, as described in Rule 298, paragraph 4.b):

- The ISU Events designated for testing the alternative Starting Procedure, the details of the rules for this procedure and the criteria to evaluate the Tests will be published in an ISU Communication.

In accordance with the Congress decision, ISU Communication 2510 was issued on September 13, 2022. The Communication specified that the testing of the new procedure would be undertaken at the following ISU Events held before year end 2022:

- The ISU 4 Continents Championships and four ISU World Cup Competitions

ISU Communication 2510 stated (in paragraph 1.4) that

- a) The ISU Short Track Speed Skating Technical Committee (STTC) is responsible for setting up the testing, and for collecting data and feedback. The Committee will prepare an evaluation report which will be submitted to the ISU Council for decision before end of 2022. The decision of the ISU Council will then be announced in an ISU Communication.
- b) The test will be evaluated as successful if the new starting procedure has been implemented without major problems at the ISU Events concerned, and that there is a positive trend towards achieving the goals described under 1.1. above (see also Rule 298, paragraph 4).

The Evaluation report prepared by the Technical Committee, concluding that the criteria for a successful testing had been achieved, was submitted to the ISU Council on December 30, 2022.

By decision of the ISU Council the testing of the new procedure has been confirmed as successful, with the consequence that the new procedure (“Zero False Starts”) will be applied for all remaining ISU Events in the season 2022/23 and in the season 2023/24.

With reference to Rule 298, paragraphs 5 to 16, the applicable rules for the Starting procedure will therefore be as follows for the remaining part of the season 2022/23 and the season 2023/24:

### **Starting procedure at ISU Events 2022/23 and 2023/24 (“Zero False Starts”)**

1. *(Modifies Rule 298/5)*

Once the Referee is satisfied that all necessary arrangements for the race to come have been taken, he will inform the Starter who will then initiate the Starting procedure.

- a) The Starter will blow the whistle.
- b) From this moment the Skaters have a limited time to come to the start line. This time may be displayed using technical equipment. Also starting from this moment, the Announcer will ask for silence, if necessary.
- c) The set time to go to the start line will be decided annually by the Technical Committee and announced at the Opening Meeting the day prior the start of each Event.
- d) Any Skater who arrives at the start line after the limited time will be given a False Start by the Starter. The announcement should be:
  - The lane position of the Skater who made the offence;
  - “False Start”;
  - “Delaying the start”;
  - “Penalty”.

2. *(See Rule 298/6)*

- a) The Skaters will line up a short distance away from the start line.
- b) In the case of a Semi-Final or Final Race where the Skaters are being introduced individually by the Announcer, they will position themselves a little further away from the start line and when introduced by the Announcer they will move forward closer to the start line.
- c) Prior to the start of a Final over an individual distance and Relay Races, the participants are introduced by the Announcer stating their full name, country, and other information for the interest of the public.  
The same procedure may be applied also for the Semi-Finals. The introduction of the Skaters/ Relay Teams can also be done before the Skaters/ Relay Teams get on the ice.

3. *(Modifies Rule 298/7)*

- a) The Starter will command:
  - “Go to the Start”.
- b) On this command the Skaters move forward to the start line and place themselves at their respective dot at the start line. The Skaters stand up straight and stand still.
- c) Until the Skater has finalized his still position, touching the Start line is not an offence.
- d) Putting the tip of the blade in the ice is an offence and a False Start will be given to the Skater concerned.
- e) The announcement of the Starter should then be:
  - The lane position of the Skater who made the offence;
  - “False Start”;
  - “Wrong Blade Position”;
  - “Penalty”.

4. *(See Rule 298/8)*

- a) The Starter will command:
  - “Ready”.
- b) The Skaters will go down and take their final starting positions immediately with the center of the body over the respective dot and keep this position.
- c) It is a False Start when the Skater:
  - Places one or both skates on or over the start line;
  - Places one or both hands on the ice;
  - Does not have both skates on the ice, i.e. full contact over the length of the blades;
  - Takes his starting position before the command “Ready”;
  - Takes his starting position too slow after the command “Ready”.

5. *(Modifies Rule 298/9)*

- a) When all Skaters are positioned in their final starting position and stand still, i.e. there is no more movement, the Starter will wait a defined period of time and then fire the gun.
- b) It is a False Start when the Skater:
  - Moves before the gun is fired;
  - Slides on or over the line before the gun is fired;
  - Moves forward on the tip of his blades.
- c) In the case of a False Start the Starter will fire the gun again and/or uses the whistle to call the Skaters back.
- d) The Skaters must return to the start line without delay. Any Skater who does not return directly to the start line will receive a warning of a False Start for delaying the start.
- e) If more than one Skater is responsible for a False Start, the concerned Skaters shall all be given a False Start.
- f) If one of the Skaters breaks from his marks, thereby causing another Skater to follow him, only the Skater at fault shall be given a False Start.
- g) If a Skater makes noise, e.g. with his skates on the ice, thereby causing another Skater to move, the Skater shall be given a False Start.
- h) Commands given by the Starter will include:
  - The lane position of the Skater who made the offence;
  - "False Start";
  - "Penalty".And if necessary any statement reasoning the False Start, e.g.:
  - Moving;
  - Wrong blade position;
  - Crossing the line.
- i) If more than one Skater made an offence, the statements above will be given for each Skater concerned.
- j) If there are multiple offences of the Starting Rule then these will be announced in the order they occurred.

6. *(Modifies Rule 298/12)*

Before a start, the equipment of the Skater may be fixed, without going beyond the Padding. At "Go to the Start" the Skaters must be fully prepared with all equipment in order. Any omission will result in a False Start for "delaying the start" and a "Penalty" will be given to the Skater concerned.

7. *(See Rule 298/13)*

- a) The announcement of an exclusion from the race will include:
  - The lane position of the Skater who made the offence leading to a penalty;
  - "Penalty".
- b) On direction of the Referee the Skater may be sent off the ice.

8. *(See Rule 298/14)*

If a Skater is interfered with before the last block of the first curve after the starting line, the Skaters shall be called back to start again. The decision whether the interference is an offence according to the Racing Rules is a decision of the Referee.

9. After recalling a start, the Starter can consult with an Assistant Referee Video before making his decision. For this purpose, a monitor to show a video recording of the start may be installed on the Starters' platform.

## **Starting Procedure for International Competitions 2022/23 and 2023/24**

For International Competitions (Competitions that are not ISU Events), Rule 298, paragraphs 5 through 15, remains in force, unless the application of the Zero False Start procedure has been announced in the Announcement of the respective Competition, in which case the Starting Procedure as described above for ISU Events will apply.

Seoul,

January 10, 2023

Lausanne,

**Jae Youl Kim**, President

**Fredi Schmid**, Director General