

Communication No. 2722

Qualifying competitions and qualifying times for Speed Skating events at the 2026 Olympic Winter Games

The qualification system for the XXV Olympic Winter Games, Milano Cortina 2026 is outlined in a dedicated document issued by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and International Skating Union (ISU) on 1 July 2024. In accordance with the aforementioned document, the ISU hereby announces the applicable qualifying competitions and qualifying times for Speed Skating events at the 2026 Olympic Winter Games.

1. Qualifying Competitions for determination of event entry quotas

1.1. The event entry quotas for the respective individual distances / events: for Women 500, 1000, 1500, 3000, 5000 meters and Mass Start and for Men 500, 1000, 1500, 5000, 10 000 meters and Mass Start, will be determined by the Special Olympic Qualification Classification (SOQC) based on results from the following ISU World Cup Speed Skating Competitions:

- ISU World Cup Salt Lake City (USA) November 14-16, 2025
- ISU World Cup Calgary (CAN) November 21-23, 2025
- ISU World Cup Heerenveen (NED) December 5-7, 2025
- ISU World Cup Hamar (NOR) December 12-14, 2025

500, 1000 and 1500 meters will be skated at all the above-mentioned Competitions.

5000m Women and 10 000m Men will be skated only at the ISU World Cup Competition to be held in Heerenveen on December 5-7, 2025, and the results from this Competition will count for the 5000m Women and 10 000m Men Special Olympic Qualification Classification (SOQC) **time ranking**. World Cup points gained in the 3000m Women and 5000m Men at the three other above-mentioned Competitions will count for the SOQC **points ranking** for 5000m Women and 10 000m Men, respectively.

Moreover, the results from the 5000m Women and the 10 000m Men at the World Cup Competition in Heerenveen on December 5-7, 2025 will also count for the SOQC **points ranking** for the 3000m Women and 5000m Men, respectively.

1.2. The event entry quotas for Team Pursuit, Women and Men, will be determined by the Special Olympic Qualification Classification (SOQC) based on results from the following ISU World Cup Speed Skating Competitions:

- ISU World Cup Salt Lake City (USA) November 14-16, 2025
- ISU World Cup Calgary (CAN) November 21-23, 2025
- ISU World Cup Hamar (NOR) December 12-14, 2025

2. Qualifying times

Only Skaters having achieved the ISU Qualifying Times in accordance with the following procedure may be entered for the 2026 Olympic Winter Games:

	Women	Men
500 m	39,50	35,70
1000 m	1.18,00	1.10,50
1500 m	1.59,50	1.48,00
3000 m	4.12,00	N/A
5000 m	7.20,00 or 4.08,00 (3000 m)	6.30,00
10 000 m	N/A	13.30,00 or 6.25,00 (5000 m)
Mass Start	Any qualifying time above	Any qualifying time above

To be entered for an individual distance, a Skater must have achieved the Qualifying Time for the distance concerned. To be entered for the Team Pursuit event or for the Mass Start event, a Skater must have reached the Qualifying Time for at least one of the individual distances.

3. Conditions for recognition of achieved Qualifying Times

3.1. Skaters need to achieve Qualifying Times during the period *July 1, 2025 – January 18, 2026*.

3.2. Only the following competitions will be considered for achievement of Qualifying Times:

- ISU Championships.
- ISU World Cup Speed Skating Competitions (as listed in section 1 above).
- International Competitions open to all ISU Members, announced according to ISU General Regulations, Rule 110.
- National Championships organized by the ISU Members, and competitions officially declared by the ISU Member concerned as National Olympic Qualification competitions.

3.3. For National Championships/National Olympic Qualification competitions to be considered for achievement of Qualifying Times, the organizing ISU Member must announce to the ISU Secretariat *by October 1, 2025* (see Rule 104, paragraph 14.c) the program as well as the planned date and place for such competitions. A copy of the announcement for the competition must be sent to the ISU Secretariat not later than two weeks before the first competition day.

Moreover, ISU Regulations must be respected, in particular, but not limited to, the following conditions must be met in order for competitions to be recognized for achievement of Qualifying Times:

- Automatic timekeeping equipment must have been used at the competition.
- The Referees and Starters at the competition must be included in the lists of ISU recognized Speed Skating Referees and Starters for 2025/26, as published in ISU Communication No. 2710, or any amendments to this Communication.
- Anti-Doping tests in accordance with the ISU Anti-Doping Rules and ISU Anti-Doping Procedures must be conducted at the competition based on the most recent ISU Communications.

4. Verification and approval of achieved Qualifying Times:

The ISU Speed Skating Technical Committee is responsible for the approval of achieved Qualifying Times.

The ISU Members are responsible for submitting to the ISU verification of the best achieved Qualifying Time per event/distance for each Skater intending to participate in the 2026 Olympic Winter Games. The verification shall include the date and venue where the time has been achieved. Unless the time has been achieved at an ISU Championship or an ISU World Cup Competition, a copy of the list of results must also 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 above) have been fulfilled. This information must reach the ISU Secretariat (by e-mail to fabrice.prahin@isu.org) *not later than January 19, 2026*.

June 19, 2025

Jae Youl Kim, President

Colin Smith, Director General