

# Communication No. 2728

## ISU World Cup Speed Skating 2025/26

### 1. General Conditions

- a) The ISU World Cup Speed Skating 2025/26 will be organized as a series of International Competitions subject to regulations given in this ISU Communication. The World Cup series is an ISU Event. Relevant parts of the ISU General Regulations apply, in particular Rules 105, 106 and 136.
- b) International TV rights and advertising rights for the ISU World Cup Speed Skating 2025/26 belong to the ISU. Organizers of Competitions are obliged to respect commercial and TV contracts entered into by the ISU. Before concluding any commercial agreements, the organizers should consult the ISU Director General in order to prevent competition conflicts with ISU contracts.
- c) An ISU Memorandum, specifying contractual obligations and guidelines for the organization of ISU World Cup Speed Skating Competitions, will be made available to organizing ISU Members and Organizing Committees.
- d) For each World Cup Competition, the ISU assigns an ISU Representative and an ISU Speed Skating Technical Committee Representative, who shall observe that the Competition is conducted in accordance with regulations in this Communication, ISU Statutes and ISU Memorandum.

### 2. ISU World Cup Speed Skating Competitions 2025/26

#### 2.1. Competition Calendar and Distribution of Distances/Races

If not otherwise decided, distances in Division A will be skated according to the following programs and order of distances:

WC	Place	Date	Program
1	Salt Lake City, USA	14 November 2025, Friday 15 November 2025, Saturday 16 November 2025, Sunday	3000-W, 5000-M, 1000-W, 1000-M 500-W, 500-M, 1500-W, 1500-M TP-W, TP-M, 500-W, 500-M, MS-W, MS-M
2	Calgary, CAN	21 November 2025, Friday 22 November 2025, Saturday 23 November 2025, Sunday	3000-W, 5000-M, 1000-W, 1000-M 500-W, 500-M, 1500-W, 1500-M TP-W, TP-M, 500-W, 500-M, MS-W, MS-M, MR
3	Heerenveen, NED	05 December 2025, Friday 06 December 2025, Saturday 07 December 2025, Sunday	5000-W, 1500-M, 1000-W 10 000-M, 1500-W, 1000-M 500-W, 500-M, MS-W, MS-M, TS-W, TS-M
4	Hamar, NOR	12 December 2025, Friday 13 December 2025, Saturday 14 December 2025, Sunday	500-W, 500-M, 1500-W, 1500-M 1000-W, 1000-M, 3000-W, 5000-M TP-W, TP-M, 500-W, 500-M, MS-W, MS-M, MR
5	Inzell, GER	23 January 2026, Friday 24 January 2026, Saturday 25 January 2026, Sunday	500-W, 500-M, 1500-W, 1500-M 1000-W, 1000-M, 3000-W, 5000-M 500-W, 500-M, MS-W, MS-M, TS-W, TS-M

W – Women, M – Men, MS – Mass Start, TP – Team Pursuit, TS – Team Sprint, MR – Mixed Relay

#### 2.2. ISU World Cup Competitions serving as Qualifying events for ISU Speed Skating Championships 2026 and for Olympic Winter Games 2026

##### 2.2.1. World Cups №1 to №4 are Qualifying Events for:

- the ISU European Speed Skating Championships 2026 (Single distances and Team Competitions).
- the Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026

### 2.2.2. World Cups №1 to №5 are qualifying events for:

- the ISU World Speed Skating Championships 2026 (Allround and Sprint Combinations).

The qualification process for the above-mentioned ISU Championships 2026 is described in Rule 208, with details given in the annual ISU Communication to be released in due course. Details of the qualification process for the Olympic Winter Games 2026 are given in Rule 209, in ISU Communication No. 2722 and in a dedicated document issued by the International Olympic Committee and ISU on July 1, 2024.

## 3. Competition Rules

- a) The ISU World Cup Speed Skating is organized in the following competition categories for the season 2025/26:

**Women, individual competitions:** 500, 1000, 1500, 3000 / 5000m, Mass Start races (16 laps)  
**Women, team competitions:** Team Pursuit (6 laps), Team Sprint (3 laps) and Mixed Relay (6 laps)

**Men, individual competitions:** 500, 1000, 1500, 5000 / 10000m, Mass Start races (16 laps)  
**Men, Team competitions:** Team Pursuit (8 laps), Team Sprint (3 laps) and Mixed Relay (6 laps)

- b) The World Cup ranking for each competition category is determined by the accumulated World Cup points for each Skater or national team (for the Team competitions) over the season.  
c) Individual competitions are organized in a format where Skaters compete in two divisions, A and B. The Skaters with the currently best World Cup ranking in the category compete in Division A. Each competition day has a core session of Division A races for all the events skated that day.  
d) Entry quotas for ISU Speed Skating Members are based on the World Cup rankings 2024/25.  
e) Prize money, as determined by the ISU, will be awarded for each Competition and for the final World Cup ranking in each competition category.

### 3.1. Entry Rules

#### 3.1.1. Entries of Competitors

ISU Members must submit their entries using the *ISU Online entry system* at <https://ssk-entries.isu.org>. The entries must indicate the distance(s) to be skated by each entered Competitor, including maximum one substitute per distance, and entries for team competitions. An entered Competitor may be replaced by an entered substitute *not later than at the Team Leaders' meeting preceding the draw* for the distance or at a specifically announced deadline. Replacement of a Competitor by an entered substitute *after the draw* may be **exceptionally** accepted, but only if the Referee has been informed **at least two hours** before the start of the first race (Division A or Division B) of the distance.

#### 3.1.2. Qualifying Times

Entered Skaters must have achieved qualifying times for the respective distances, as follows:

	500m	1000m	1500m	3000m	5000m	10 000m
Women	40,00	1.20,00	2.02,00	4.22,00	4.22,00 at 3000m	----
Men	36,20	1.12,00	1.50,50	----	6.42,00	6.42,00 at 5000m
<b>For Mass Start and Team Events:</b> any of the above distance Qualifying times apply.						
<b>Only for Team Events:</b> for maximum one Skater per ISU Member, the following Qualifying times may apply:						
		1000m	1500m			
	Women	1.25,00	2.10,00			
	Men	1.16,00	1.57,50			

- a) For a result to be a valid qualifying time, it must have been achieved in the period between *July 1, 2024*, and the entry deadline for the ISU World Cup Competition concerned. Qualifying times will be verified using the Online Entry System (OES) database. Documentation (specifying date and venue of the competition) of the achieved time may be requested.
- b) For the Qualification World Cups (WC-1 to WC-5), a Skater having achieved the qualifying time for only one of the two distances counting in the qualification of quota places for the ISU World Championships (for the Allround combination: 1500 and 3000m for Women, 1500 and 5000m for Men; for the Sprint combination: 500 and 1000m Women and Men), may be entered also for the other distance. However, in each World Cup Competition an ISU Member may enter for each category (Allround and Sprint) maximum one such Skater (per gender) without the required qualifying time for the other distance counting for the quota qualification.

### 3.1.3. Entry Quotas for World Cups

- a) Entry quotas for individual competitions are based on the final World Cup rankings 2024/25 for the respective competition categories, with a maximum entry quota of 5 for each individual competition. However, for the Mass Start competition each ISU Member will be eligible for the maximum entry quota of 2 (subject to qualifying times).
- b) For the Team Pursuit and Team Sprint competitions an ISU Member may enter only one team per gender (Women and Men). For the Mixed Relay an ISU Member may enter only one team consisting of one Woman and one Man.
- c) The organizing ISU Member of an ISU World Cup Competition will be granted maximum entry quotas for all distances at the Competition.
- d) Entry quotas for the individual distances are determined as follows:

Number of Skaters in Top 40 ( <i>max 5 Skaters per Member counted</i> ) in the final World Cup ranking 2024/25 of the distance	None (0)	1	2	3-4	5 or more
Entry quotas for the distance in season 2025/26	1	2	3	4	5

**Summary Table of Entry Quotas for ISU World Cup Competitions 2025/26**

#	ISU Member	WOMEN				ISU Member	MEN				ISU Member
		500	1000	1500	3000 5000		500	1000	1500	5000 10000	
1.	AUT	2	2	2	2	AUT	1	2	2	1	AUT
2.	BEL	2	2	3	2	BEL	2	2	4	3	BEL
3.	CAN	4	4	4	5	CAN	4	4	3	3	CAN
4.	CHN	4	3	5	5	CHN	5	4	3	4	CHN
5.	CZE	1	2	3	4	CZE	1	1	2	2	CZE
6.	DEN	2	2	2	1	DEN	1	1	1	2	DEN
7.	ESP	1	1	1	1	ESP	2	2	1	1	ESP
8.	EST	1	1	1	1	EST	2	2	1	1	EST
9.	FRA	1	1	1	2	FRA	1	1	2	2	FRA
10.	GER	3	3	3	4	GER	2	4	4	4	GER
11.	HUN	1	1	1	1	HUN	1	2	2	1	HUN
12.	ITA	3	2	3	3	ITA	2	3	4	5	ITA
13.	JPN	5	5	5	5	JPN	5	5	5	5	JPN
14.	KAZ	3	4	3	3	KAZ	3	1	1	1	KAZ
15.	KOR	3	4	3	1	KOR	4	4	2	2	KOR
16.	NED	5	5	5	5	NED	5	5	5	5	NED
17.	NOR	2	2	2	3	NOR	4	3	5	5	NOR
18.	POL	4	4	2	2	POL	4	4	2	3	POL
19.	SUI	1	2	2	2	SUI	1	1	2	3	SUI
20.	TPE	2	1	1	1	TPE	1	1	1	1	TPE
21.	USA	5	5	4	3	USA	4	4	4	3	USA

ISU Speed Skating Members not listed in the table above, may enter a maximum of 1 Skater for each distance<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> For Skating Union of Belarus and Russian Skating Union, and skaters from Belarus and Russia, please refer to ISU Communications Nos. 2469, 2680 and 2708.

## 4. Competition Formats

### 4.1.1. Individual Competitions Skated in Separate Divisions

For each individual competition the entered Skaters compete in two separate divisions with the currently best ranked Skaters competing in Division A, the remaining Skaters in Division B. The number of Skaters and Team Pursuit Teams (Women and Men), are indicated in paragraph 4.1.2 below.

### 4.1.2. Number of Competitors/Teams in Division A

- a) For 500, 1000 and 1500m, Women and Men:
  - Division A will consist of 20 skaters.
- b) For 3000m Women and 5000m Men:
  - Division A will consist of 16 skaters.
- c) For 5000m Women and 10000m Men:
  - Division A will consist of 12 skaters.
- d) For Mass Start, Women and Men:
  - i. If 24 or less Skaters have been confirmed before the start list has been issued, all Skaters will compete in Division A, or
  - ii. If 25-32 Skaters have been confirmed before the start list has been issued, 16 Competitors will initially be selected for Division A, or
  - iii. If more than 32 Skaters have been confirmed before the start list has been issued, 20 Competitors will initially be selected for Division A.
  - iv. In the scenarios ii. and iii, above, the 3 best Skaters from Division B based on their overall finishing rank, plus one Skater with the most intermediate sprint points (any ties will be broken by the order of finish), not overall points, will be promoted to Division A on the same weekend. The four skaters promoted from Division B will be added to Division A.
  - v. Skaters promoted from Division B to Division A on the same weekend, will provisionally be awarded World Cup points based on their result in Division B, but those points will be cancelled if they gain at least the same number of World Cup points in Division A.
- e) For Team Pursuit, Women and Men:
  - Division A shall consist of 8 Teams, remaining Teams will compete in Division B.

*In the case of many late withdrawals for a distance (event), the ISU Technical Committee Representative and the ISU Representative may exceptionally determine a different number of participants in Division A than specified above (and summarized in the table below), based on the approved Time schedule for the World Cup Competition.*

**Summary Table Regarding Number of Competitors for Division A:**

Number of Entries	Number of Competitors in Division A			
	WC № 1-5			
	Up to 20	Up to 24	25-32	>32
500 / 1000 / 1500	all	20	20	20
3000L / 5000M	16	16	16	16
5000L / 10000M	12	12	12	12
Team Sprint	all	all	all	all
Mixed Gender Relay	all	all	all	all
Mass Start (* before promotion from Div B)	all	all	16*	20*
<b>Number of Entries</b>	<b>Up to 8</b>	<b>Up to 10</b>	<b>&gt;10</b>	<b>-</b>
Team Pursuit	all	8	8	-

#### **4.1.3. Selection of Skaters/Teams for Division A (for Mass Start see 4.1.2 d) above)**

- a) In the *first Competition* the 2024/25 World Cup ranking determines the number of quota places for the ISU Member in Division A for the competition category concerned (subject to the entry quotas listed in paragraph 3.1.3, and the maximum of 2 Skaters from the same ISU Member for Mass Start).

ISU Members will be able to select their skater(s) for their quota places in Division A, given that the skater has reached the qualifying time for the distance concerned. For the individual distances (except for Mass Start) the selected skaters must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Top 40 for 500/1000/1500m or top 30 for 3000/5000m in World Cup ranking 2024/2025.
- Top 40 for 500/1000/1500m or top 30 for 3000/5000m in seasonal best time ranking.

If an ISU Member does not fulfill the criteria above for their selected Skater(s) for Division A, the ISU Member will lose their quota place(s) in Division A for the distance concerned, and the quota place(s) will be transferred to another ISU Member in accordance with the 2024/25 World Cup ranking.

- b) In *all other Competitions* (also for the first competition over 5000m Women and 10000m Men, subject to meeting the qualifying time in paragraph 3.1.2.a), the selection for Division A shall be based on the current World Cup ranks of the entered Skaters. When 500m is skated with two races in the same World Cup Competition, each race is considered a separate competition regarding the selection of Skaters for Division A.
- c) However, the following entered Skaters/Teams shall compete in Division A (this rule does not apply for the first World Cup (WC-1):
- Competitors placed among the 6 best (ties included) and Teams placed among the 3 best (ties included) in Division A in the preceding Competition.
  - Competitors ranked among the top 6 (ties included) and Teams ranked among the 3 best (ties included) in the current overall World Cup ranking.
  - The winner of Division B from the preceding Competition in the 5000m Women and 10000m Men.
  - Competitors who finished among the 3 best (ties included) in Division B in the preceding Competition when Division A will consist of more than 12 Skaters.
  - The winning Team Pursuit Team from Division B in the preceding Competition.
- d) Competitor/Team with a "Wild Card":
- A "Wild Card" for Division A must be used only the first time the Skater/Team competes in the competition (category) concerned in the World Cup 2025/26 but cannot be used in the first World Cup of the season, except for Team events.
  - If a Skater/Team withdraws after the starting lists have been published, that Skater/Team will be eligible to use the Wild Card in a subsequent competition if the Skater/Team did not compete with a final result.
  - A "Wild Card" will be granted to a Skater placed among the top 8 in the final World Cup ranking 2024/25, or among the top 6 in the 2025 World Championships (single distances).
  - A "Wild Card" will be granted to a Team Pursuit, Team Sprint and Mixed Relay team placed among the 3 best in the final World Cup ranking 2024/25, or 2025 World Championships (single distances and team competitions).
- e) Competitor/Team with a "Gold Card":
- A "Gold Card" for Division A can be used one time at any competition (category) concerned in the World Cup 2025/26, but after the "Wild Card" has been used or the Skater/Team has already taken part in the distance concerned.
  - A "Gold Card" will be granted to a Skater or Team placed number 1 (Gold) in the final World Cup ranking 2024/25, or number 1 (Gold) in the 2025 World Championships (single distances and team competitions).

#### **4.1.4. Scheduling of Division A Races**

- a) For each day of an ISU World Cup Competition the races of Division A for all events shall be scheduled as one block of races. The starting time for the block of Division A races shall be stated in the announcement.

- b) Quartet starts shall not be used in Division A.

#### **4.1.5. Scheduling of Division B Races**

- a) The races of Division B should be skated on the same day as the races of Division A for the competition concerned, before or after the Division A block. The Mass Start Division B may be skated on a different day than the Mass Start Division A. The time schedule for the races of Division B shall be announced at the Team Leaders' meeting.
- b) Quartet starts can be used for Division B.

### **4.2. Competition Format for Team Competitions**

#### **4.2.1. Team Pursuit Races**

Team Pursuit races will be organized based on ISU Technical Rule 256, paragraph 1, with National teams of 3 Skaters. Distances are 6 laps for Women and 8 laps for Men, and the race format is with two teams starting simultaneously on each side of the track.

#### **4.2.2. Team Sprint Races**

Team Sprint races will be organized based on ISU Technical Rule 256, paragraph 2, with National teams of 3 Skaters. Distances are 3 laps for Women and 3 laps for Men, and the race format is with two teams starting simultaneously on each side of the track.

#### **4.2.3 Mixed Relay**

Mixed Relay races for National teams of 2 Skaters (one woman, one man) will be organized based on ISU Rule 256, paragraph 3.4 Competition format C for relay races: Maximum 4 Teams compete in the same heat. All 4 Teams will start at the 500m starting line and finish at the main finishing line at the end of the straight. The distance for each leg shall be either 400m or 800m. The exchange zone will have a length of 50m starting at the 500m start line, ending at the 1000m finishing line. The start of the acceleration zone, where the Skaters can enter the racing lanes, will be at the apex (middle) of the curve before the finishing straight and should be marked with orange cone(s). Relaying will take place when the Skater completing a leg has touched/pushed/released the Skater who is about to start the next leg. The Skater is allowed to touch the Skater to be relayed before the exchange zone, but the actual relaying must occur in the exchange zone. A team relaying outside the exchange zone will be disqualified. Exchanges are to be made without interference to other Teams. During exchanges, changing the lane is not allowed. See the valid ISU Communication "Mass Start and Team Races at ISU Speed Skating Events – Safety Measures, Promotion Initiatives and Race Organization".

#### **4.2.4 General Rules for the Team Competitions**

- a) The Competitors must wear National Team racing uniforms of the ISU Member concerned, as approved by the ISU. All Skaters belonging to the same National Team (entered by the same ISU Member) must wear identical racing uniforms.
- b) The deadline for entry of names of the Skaters that may compete in the Team Pursuit and Team Sprint teams (up to 4 names) will be announced by the Referee during the Team Leaders' meeting. For the Mixed Relay team (up to 4 names consisting of 2 Women and 2 Men) will be announced by the Referee during the Team Leaders' meeting.
- c) The final composition of the team (3 for Team Pursuit, 3 for Team Sprint and 2 for Mixed Relay) shall be declared by the Team Leader and submitted to the Sport Expert not later than 60 minutes before the start of the Team competition concerned.
- d) For the first ISU World Cup Competition of the season the Team Pursuit, Team Sprint and Mixed Relay teams shall be seeded according to the final 2024/25 World Cup Team competition ranking. For the following Competitions the Team Pursuit and Team Sprint teams shall be seeded according to the current World Cup Team competition ranking. For Mixed Relay see 5.3.a) below.
- e) Depending on the number of entries, higher ranked teams for Team Pursuit will be selected for Division A (see 4.1.2. e). The sequence of races of the Team Pursuit are determined by seeding or ranking of the teams, with the two best ranked teams competing in the last race in Division A. However, the winning Team of Division B from the preceding World Cup Competition shall be

placed in Division A (see paragraph 4.1.3.c) above). Team Sprint and Mixed Relay races will only be competed in Division A.

#### **4.2.5 Safety Measures**

Details on the safety measures of the Mass Start and Team competitions are provided in ISU Communication No. 2636 or any further updates.

#### **4.3. Organization of Team Competitions**

Team competitions will be organized based on the relevant ISU Technical Rules and the valid ISU Communication “Mass Start and Team Races at ISU Speed Skating Events – Safety Measures, Promotion Initiatives and Race Organization”, and/or other documents issued by the ISU Speed Skating Technical Committee.

### **5. Pairing, Drawing and Start Lists**

#### **5.1. Team Leaders’ Meeting and Drawing**

- a) A Team leaders’ meeting may take place before the first day of the Competition, with the purpose of confirming the final entries and presenting race schedules and other logistical information. On subsequent days the Team leaders’ meeting will be replaced by a procedure where Team leaders submit information by a given deadline on final entries for the following day. Start lists will be distributed to the Team leaders online.
- b) On subsequent days the start lists for the following day will be determined by the Referee based on the entries confirmed at the Team leaders’ meeting or procedure as indicated above in paragraph 5.1.a) and the rules given below in paragraph 5.2.
- c) Each participating ISU Member is obliged to attend the Team leaders’ meeting, but participation is restricted to one person (the officially entered Team leader or another person authorized by the Team leader) unless another person is requested for translation purposes.

#### **5.2. Pairing and Start Lists at the First ISU World Cup Competition for Individual Distances**

- a) Before noon (12:00) on the day of the *Team Leaders’ meeting* for the Competition, the Team leaders must confirm to the Sport Expert their entered Competitors, for all distances to be skated in the Competition. The Referee then places the entered Competitors, based on their seasonal best time (for Mass Start based on the 2024/25 World Cup ranking), in accordance with the ranking positions of Skaters from the respective ISU Members in the final World Cup ranking 2024/25 in the distance concerned, respecting the entry quotas specified in paragraph 3.1.3 above. However, the Referee will take into account the right of ISU Members to select their Skaters for Division A in accordance with paragraph 4.1.3. above.
- b) For the short distances (500, 1000 and 1500m), Division A shall consist of the Competitors placed in the top 20; for the long distances (3000/5000m), Division A shall consist of the Competitors placed in the top 16. Division B shall consist of the remaining Competitors.
- c) For Mass Start the number of Competitors in Division A will depend on the number of entries, as specified in paragraph 4.1.2 d) above. The initial selection of Competitors for Division A will then be done in the same way as described above for individual distances. Division B shall consist of the remaining Competitors.
- d) The 3 best Skaters from Division B based on their overall finish, plus one Skater with the most intermediate sprint points (any ties will be broken by the order of finish), will be promoted and added to the Competitors initially selected for Division A, in accordance with paragraph 4.1.2 d).
- e) In each division, Competitors will be ranked according to their seasonal best time, except for Mass Start where Competitors will be ranked according to the final World Cup ranking 2024/25 (except that the 4 Skaters promoted from Division B to Division A on the same weekend will be ranked as the lowest ranked skaters, based on their finish in Division B.). The starting order of the pairs shall be opposite to the ranking order of the Competitors so that the Competitors with the lowest ranks will start in the first pair, and so on. The better ranked Competitor in a pair shall start in the inner lane. However, the last 3 pairs (top 6 ranked Competitors) in Division A are to be drawn by lot. In the case of an odd number of Competitors, the first pair will consist of a single Skater.

- f) Individual Neutral Athletes (AIN) from BLR and RUS who are allowed to compete in World Cups 1-4 as the qualifying competitions for the 2026 Olympic Winter Games, will be placed in the B Division.

**5.3. Pairing and Start Lists After the First ISU World Cup Competition**

- a) Competitors, both in Division A and in Division B, shall be paired according to their individual World Cup rank. An extended World Cup ranking is established by ranking Competitors with no World Cup points according to their best achieved time in World Cup races during the season 2025/26. Competitors with no results from World Cup races held during the season shall be ranked thereafter, based on their seasonal best time. The starting order of the pairs shall be opposite to the ranking order of the Competitors so that the Competitors with the lowest ranks will start in the first pair, and so on. The better ranked Competitor in a pair shall start in the inner lane. However, the last 3 pairs (top 6 ranked Competitors) in Division A are to be drawn by lot.

The better ranked Team Pursuit and Team Sprint team in a pair shall start in the finishing straight. The Team Pursuit and Team Sprint teams from the four best ranked ISU Members shall be drawn to form the two last races.

For Mixed Relay, the composition of the races shall be made by placing the Teams in the races based on the current ranking list, i.e. the number one ranked Team will be placed in the last race, the number two ranked Team will be placed in the second to last race etc., filling the races from the last race to the first race in the first instance. The second row, i.e. the second Team in each race, will be filled from the first race to the last race. The next rows will be filled alternating from the last race to the first race, and from the first race to the last race until all Teams have been placed as follows:

An example with 16 Teams competing:

<u>Race 4</u>	<u>Race 3</u>	<u>Race 2</u>	<u>Race 1</u>
Team 1	Team 2	Team 3	Team 4
Team 8	Team 7	Team 6	Team 5
Team 9	Team 10	Team 11	Team 12
Team 16	Team 15	Team 14	Team 13

An example with 15 Teams competing:

<u>Race 4</u>	<u>Race 3</u>	<u>Race 2</u>	<u>Race 1</u>
Team 1	Team 2	Team 3	Team 4
Team 8	Team 7	Team 6	Team 5
Team 9	Team 10	Team 11	Team 12
Team 15	Team 14	Team 13	

The last heat with the highest ranked team shall always consist of 4 teams and skated in the last heat (pair). Teams entered without World Cup points or time (have not competed in the World Cup during the current season) will be drawn by lot to determine their starting position.

- b) The above procedure applies also for the first (and only) competition in 5000m Women and 10000m Men, with the drawing based on the current extended World Cup ranking in the long distances, subject to meeting the qualifying time in paragraph 3.1.2).
- c) For Mass Start the selection of Skaters for Division A will be made according to paragraph 4.1.2
- d). For the starting order (line up at start), see paragraph 5.6 below.

**5.4. Rearrangement of Races**

- a) In case of withdrawals after the draw without a substitute, rearrangements of pairs will be done according to Rule 245, paragraph 1. If the non-medical withdrawal is submitted within 60' of the

start of the applicable distance, the Skater will not be eligible to compete in any other distance on the same day.

- b) After rearrangement in Division A as described in Rule 245, paragraph 1, the best ranked Competitor(s) from Division B will be promoted to Division A and be placed in the vacant spot(s) before rearrangement in Division B.
- c) In any case, if a Substitute(s) is entered, the substitute can only be placed in the vacant spot open in Division B according to Rule 245, paragraph 2.
- d) Rule 245, paragraph 3, must be respected.

### 5.5. Composition of Quartets

In the case of quartet starts, the four Competitors with the best World Cup ranking shall form the last quartet, and only the first quartet may be incomplete.

### 5.6. Mass Start Starting Order

#### 5.6.1. The First ISU World Cup Competition of the Season

In each division the seeding of the entered Skaters will be determined by the final World Cup ranking 2024/25 and this will determine the starting order (lineup). Skaters not ranked by the final World Cup ranking 2024/25 will be ranked according to their best seasonal best time for the 1500m. However, Skaters promoted from Division B will be seeded last in the A division race.

#### 5.6.2. After the First ISU World Cup Competition

The current World Cup ranking of the entered Skaters will determine the starting order. Skaters without World Cup points will be ranked according to their seasonal best time over 1500m. However, Skaters promoted from Division B will be seeded last in the A division race.

### 5.7. Team Competitions

The composition and sequence of races will be determined according to paragraph 4.2.4 above.

## 6. Points and Ranking System for World Cup Rankings

### 6.1. Points Scoring Table

Based on the results of Division A and Division B, World Cup points are awarded according to the points tables below.

Place	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
500/1000/1500/ MS (<25 or >32 entries) Division A	60	54	48	43	40	38	36	34	32	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21
Division B*	20*	19*	18*	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
3000/5000/MS (25 - 32 entries) Division A, TS and MR	60	54	48	43	40	38	36	34	32	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24*	23*	22*	21
Division B*	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
5000/10000 Division A	60	54	48	43	40	38	36	34	32	31	30	29	28*	27*	26*	25	24	23	22	21
Division B*	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
Team Pursuit races Division A	60	54	48	43	40	38	36	34	32*	31*	30*	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21
Division B*																				
Place	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40

\* Place 1-2-3 in the Division B will be awarded with extra 8-5-3 points respectively, except in Mass Start where ranks 1, 2 and 3 will not receive bonus points, but will earn promotion to Division A in the same World Cup Competition.

A skater or team with a DNF will get the same amount of WC points as if ranked in the last place in the competition concerned.

A skater promoted from Division B to Division A in the same World Cup Competition will keep the higher amount of World Cup points achieved in either of the races; World Cup points awarded from the other race will be cancelled.

In the situation when Division B is cancelled and more than 20/16/12 Skaters (or more than 6 Teams) are in Division A, points for the additional Skaters (Teams) will be awarded according to the respective Division B points chart. The same applies for Division A of the Mass Start when Skaters promoted from Division B have been added to the initially selected number of Skaters in Division A.

### 6.2. Points for Tied Ranks

If two or more Skaters (or Teams) have obtained the same rank in the classification, each Skater (or Team) will receive the full points for this tied rank.

## 7. ISU World Cup Speed Skating Ranking Rules

### 7.1. World Cup Ranking for Each Competition Category

The World Cup ranking for each competition category is determined by the number of points the Skaters (or National Teams) accumulate during the season. In the final World Cup ranking, as well as in the intermediate ranking during the season, a tie between Skaters/Teams with the same total of World Cup points will be resolved according to the following criteria, in order of priority, for determining the better ranked Skater/Team:

- a) The Skater/Team with the higher number of World Cup victories.
- b) The Skater/Team with the highest score of points in any single competition (race).
- c) The Skater/Team with the next higher score of points in any single competition (race).
- d) For Mass Start the Skater with the highest score of points from the (last) previous race.
- e) The Skater/Team with the best time achieved in the World Cup for the distance/competition concerned.
- f) By lot/draw

### 7.2. Prizes

For each distance (category) prize money will be awarded for each individual competition and for the final classification at the end of the season. For each competition, prize money is awarded to the top 3 Skaters of Division A and the top 3 Teams in the Team competitions. For the final World Cup ranking, prize money is awarded to the top 10 Skaters in each of the individual distance categories (including Mass Start competitions), and to the top 5 ranked Teams in the Team competitions.

Prize money for final ranking				Prize money for each Competition		
Place	Amount (for each individual distance category)	Place	Amount (for Team competitions )	Place	Full amount for a distance	Half* amount for a distance
1.	US \$ 16.000,-	1.	US \$ 5.000,-	1.	US \$ 1.500,-	US \$ 750,-
2.	US \$ 11.000,-	2.	US \$ 3.000,-	2.	US \$ 1.000,-	US \$ 500,-
3.	US \$ 8.000,-	3.	US \$ 2.500,-	3.	US \$ 800,-	US \$ 400,-
4.	US \$ 5.500,-	4.	US \$ 2.000,-	<b>Prize money for Team competitions</b>		
5.	US \$ 4.500,-	5.	US \$ 1.500,-	1 <sup>st</sup> team	US \$ 2.100,-	
6.	US \$ 4.000,-			2 <sup>nd</sup> team	US \$ 1.500,-	
7.	US \$ 3.000,-			3 <sup>rd</sup> team	US \$ 1.200,-	
8.	US \$ 2.500,-					
9.	US \$ 2.000,-					
10.	US \$ 1.500,-					

\* These amounts apply for each 500m race in Competitions where the distance is skated twice.

In case of ties, the prize money will be the average amount for the applicable ranking positions. The prize money for the final rankings is transferred from the ISU to the respective ISU Members on the same conditions that apply for ISU Championships (see ISU Communication No. 2516 or later updates). Payment of prize money for each individual competition is handled by the organizing ISU Member.

**During World Cup #4 (Hamar) there will be a special award ceremony for the top 3 ranked Teams in Team Pursuit and Mixed Relay based on the final ISU World Cup ranking for the season, where a special trophy will be presented by the ISU to the winners.**

**During World Cup #5 (Inzell) there will be a special award ceremony for the top 3 ranked Skaters/Teams for each distance/event, including Team Sprint, based on the final ISU World Cup ranking for the season, where a special trophy will be presented by the ISU to the winners.**

### **7.3 Award/Podium Ceremonies at each World Cup Competition**

Attending award/podium ceremonies for top 3 Skaters/Teams in Division A is mandatory at every Competition. Any Skater/Team failing to attend the award/podium ceremony will not earn any Prize Money for the event concerned.

### **7.4 Award/Podium Ceremonies for Season Overall World Cup Ranking**

Attending award ceremonies for the top 3 Skaters/Teams in each distance/event for the Season Overall World Cup Ranking is mandatory. Failure to attend the ceremony will be considered as a breach of the ISU Code of Ethics and will lead to disciplinary proceedings.

## **8. Cancellation of Competitions**

If an organizing ISU Member considers it impossible to hold the ISU World Cup Competition it has been allotted according to the schedule given in paragraph 2 above, it must urgently give the reasons in writing to the ISU Secretariat to authorize the cancellation. If circumstances during a Competition would make it impossible to complete some scheduled races, the Referee in consultation with the ISU Representative and the ISU Speed Skating Technical Committee Representative are authorized to cancel distances or races. The ISU Speed Skating Technical Committee decides if cancelled distances or races shall be rescheduled for another date and/or another venue.

## **9. World Cup Speed Skating Coordination**

Any questions concerning the rules and conditions given in this Communication or concerning the organization of ISU World Cup Speed Skating Competitions 2025/26 should be addressed to:

International Skating Union, Fabrice Prahin

[fabrice.prahin@isu.org](mailto:fabrice.prahin@isu.org)

June 30, 2025

Jae Youl Kim, President

Colin Smith, Director General