

Communication No. 2729

ISU Junior World Cup Speed Skating 2025/26, including International Competitions for "Neo-seniors"

1. General Conditions

- a) The ISU Junior World Cup will be organized as a series of International Competitions subject to regulations given in this ISU Communication. The Junior World Cup series is an ISU Event. Relevant parts of the ISU General Regulations apply, in particular Rules 105, 106 and 136. Rule 224, paragraph 1 b) and 1 c) regarding national team uniforms will apply with the adjustments as mentioned in 2c) below.
- b) As per Rule 105, paragraph 1 a), the national (domestic) TV rights and advertising rights for each Competition in the ISU Junior World Cup 2025/26 belong to the organizing ISU Member. Before concluding any commercial agreements, the organizers should, however, consult the ISU Director General in order to prevent conflicts with ISU contracts. The international TV rights belong to the ISU. If a TV production is available, then the organizers shall provide the international TV signal at no cost to the ISU and its designated TV companies.
- c) Each Competition of the ISU Junior World Cup 2025/26 will include races for juniors (as defined in Rule 108 and paragraph 2d) below) and for "Neo-seniors" (as defined in paragraph 2.e below), in two separate divisions with separate list of results and rankings. Both divisions, to be named "Juniors" and "Neo-Seniors", are considered to be part of the same ISU Event, and are governed by the same rules and regulations, if not otherwise specified in this Communication.
- d) An ISU Memorandum specifying obligations and guidelines for the organization of the ISU Junior World Cup Speed Skating 2025/26 will be available to the hosting ISU Members and the Organizing Committees.
- e) For each Competition in the ISU Junior World Speed Skating 2025/26 the ISU Speed Skating Technical Committee assigns a Representative, who shall observe that the competitions are conducted in accordance with this Communication, ISU statutes and ISU Memorandum.

In this Communication, the ISU Junior World Cup Speed Skating 2025/26 is sometimes referred to with the shorter term "ISU Junior World Cup" and the abbreviation "JWC". The terms "Juniors" and "Neo-seniors" will refer to the races and rankings of the two respective divisions.

2. Competition Rules

- a) The ISU Junior World Cup consists of a series of Competitions for the following distances/competitions:

<u>Women, individual:</u>	500, 1000, 1500, 3000m and Mass Start races*
<u>Women, teams:</u>	Team Pursuit (6 laps) and Team Sprint (3 laps)
<u>Men, individual:</u>	500, 1000, 1500, 3000m and Mass Start races*
<u>Men, teams:</u>	Team Pursuit (8 laps) and Team Sprint (3 laps)
<u>Mixed Relay, teams:</u>	Relay (6 laps)

* See paragraph 5.2 below

- a) The ISU Junior World Cup Speed Skating 2025/26 ranking for each distance/competition is determined by the accumulated points for each Skater or national team (one classification for all Team competitions) over the season.
- b) The competitions are open to all ISU Speed Skating Members, subject to entry quotas and required qualifying times. Participating competitors need to wear racing uniforms clearly identifying the ISU Member concerned.
- c) As per ISU Rule 108, participation in the **Juniors division** is open to:
 - **Juniors A and B** born in the period 1 July 2006 – 30 June 2010
- d) Participation in the **Neo-Seniors division** is open to:
 - **Skaters** born in the period 1 July 2002 – 30 June 2006
- e) In each division the Competitors who currently have the highest rank on the distance concerned will skate in the last pair of the distance; the Competitors currently ranked 3rd and 4th will skate in the second to last pair, etc. The same principle applies for the Team competitions.
- f) For Mass Start the position at the start for JWC-1 will be determined by lot and for the next Events it will be organized according to the current ranking of the division.
- g) Prize money as determined by the ISU and a special trophy for the winner and diplomas for 2nd and 3rd place will be awarded for the overall classification of each distance/competition for the Juniors division of the ISU Junior World Cup Speed Skating 2025/26. A special trophy for the winner and diplomas for 2nd and 3rd places will be awarded for the overall classification of each distance/competition of the Neo-Seniors division.
- h) Non-European ISU Members, travelling to JWC 1 and JWC 2, may request a travel contribution up to CHF 500 per Skater, subject to the conditions below. The contribution will be transferred to the ISU Member concerned by the end of the season.
 - i. The actual contribution may depend on the total number of requests received.
 - ii. Travel duration for the longest part of the connections to the Event, must be a minimum of 6.5 hours by airplane.
 - iii. The ISU Member concerned must bring a Coach/Team leader at their own cost.
 - iv. The support per ISU Member is limited to a maximum of 4 competitors per ISU Member for the Junior World Cup Speed Skating series.

To request this contribution, the official application (Appendix A) must be sent within 15 days following the completion of the ISU Junior World Cup Competition(s) concerned, along with the corresponding invoice on the ISU Member letterhead, to: fabrice.prahin@isu.org.

3. ISU Junior World Cup Competitions 2025/26

JWC#	Dates	Place	Program
1	29 – 30.11. 2025	Milano, ITA	Day 1: 1000, 3000, Team Pursuit Day 2: SF MS*, 500, 1500, MS Finals
2	06 – 07.12.2025	Collalbo, ITA	Day 1: 1000, 3000, Mixed Relay Day 2: SF MS**, 500, 1500, MS Finals**
3	21 – 22.02.2026	Inzell, GER	Day 1: 1000, 3000, Team Sprint Day 2: SF MS**, 500, 1500, MS Finals**

*SF MS – Semifinals Mass Start

**SF MS and MS Finals for JWC 2 and JWC 3 may use an elimination format

4. Entry Rules

4.1. 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 event, 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 for Day 1 or according to paragraph 6.1.d) below for Day 2. No

substitutions will be accepted at the draw meeting providing such meeting is held. See also paragraph 6.1.

Replacement of a Competitor by an entered substitute *after the draw* may be **exceptionally** accepted, but only if the Referee has been duly informed **at least two hours before the start of the distance**. See also 6.3.e) below.

4.2. Entry Quotas

- a) Counting both divisions Juniors and Neo-seniors an ISU Member¹ may enter a maximum of:
 - 20 Competitors (10 Women, 10 Men) for JWC 1 and JWC 2.
 - 16 Competitors (8 Women, 8 Men) for JWC-3 (JWC "Final").
 - 1 team for each team competition (Team Sprint and Team Pursuit) per gender in each division. Up to two (2) Junior Skaters may take part in a team competition in the Neo-Seniors division, but not vice versa.
 - 1 team for Mixed Relay in each division (1 Junior skater may take part in Mixed Relay in the Neo-Senior division, but not vice versa).
- b) For the JWC-3 "Final" an ISU Member¹ may only enter:
 - Junior Skaters who have scored JWC points in the Juniors division during the season 2025/26.
 - Junior Skaters who have been entered (in preliminary or final entry) for the ISU World Junior Championships 2026 and achieved qualifying times mentioned below.
 - Neo-senior Skaters according to paragraph 4.2.a) and 4.3.
- c) The maximum number of Competitors/Teams from each ISU Member per Event is listed in the table below.

Summary Table of Entry Quotas for an ISU Member per Division/Category/Distance/Competition

Division		500m, 1000m	1500m, 3000m	Mass start	Team competitions
Juniors	Women	4 (4/3*)	3	2	1 team
	Men	4 (4/3*)	3	2	1 team
Neo-seniors	Women	4 (4/3*)	3	2	1 team
	Men	4 (4/3*)	3	2	1 team

* Quota for JWC-3 Final: 4 entry quotas allowed in the 500m, 3 in the 1000m.

¹ Reference is made to ISU Communication No. 2469, paragraph 2.a) according to which and until further notice, no individual belonging to the Russian Skating Union and Skating Union of Belarus shall be invited, entered and allowed to participate in International Competitions, ISU Championships and other ISU Events.

4.3. Qualifying Times

Entered Skaters must have achieved applicable qualifying times for the respective distances:

	Juniors				Neo-Seniors			
	500m	1000m	1500m	3000m	500m	1000m	1500m	3000m
Women	45,00	1.30,00	2.20,00	5.00,00	42,50	1.25,00	2.12,00	4.45,00
Men	41,00	1.22,00	2.07,00	4.25,00	38,50	1.16,00	1.58,00	4.05,00
For Mass Start and Team Events : any of the above distance Qualifying times apply.								
Only for Team Events : for maximum one Skater per ISU Member, the following Qualifying times may apply:						1000m		
				Women		1.33,00		
				Men		1.25,00		

For a result to be valid as a qualifying time, it must have been achieved in the period between July 1, 2024, and the entry deadline for the ISU Junior World Cup Competition concerned. Documentation (specifying date and venue of the competition) of the achieved time must be available.

5. Competition Formats and Rules

5.1. Individual Distances

- For each individual distance all Skaters entered for the same Division compete together.
- Quartet starts should be used for the 3000m. Quartets may be used for the 1000m and 1500m.

5.2. Mass Start Races

- Distances are 10 laps for Women and for Men, in both divisions.
- However, in case of Elimination race format, see the valid ISU Communication “Mass Start and Team Races at ISU Speed Skating Events – Safety Measures, Promotion Initiatives and Race Organization”.
- The warm-up lane is considered as part of the racing track (if not otherwise decided by the Referee and the ISU Speed Skating Technical Committee Representative).
- Mass Start races will be organized based on ISU Technical Rules 243, paragraph 4, 257 and 265, paragraphs 6.1 and 6.4 and details given in the valid ISU Communication “Mass Start and Team Races at ISU Speed Skating Events – Safety Measures, Promotion Initiatives and Race Organization”.
- Maximum quota for each ISU Member: 2 Competitors per gender in each Division.
- Mass Start Competitions may be organized with semi-finals.
- Mass Start Competitions may be organized as an elimination race.
- The table below shows the number of Competitors in each semi-final and final.

Number of entries for Mass Start	Up to 24	>24
Number of Competitors in each Semi-Final of the Mass Start	-	Up to 24
Number of Competitors in the Final of the Mass Start	all	16

- In case of exceeding the total number of entries, entry quotas will be allocated to ISU Members based on the ranking of Skaters from the respective ISU Members in the final classification in the 3000m distance concerned:
 - First, each ISU Member will be allocated one quota place.
 - Then a second quota place will be allocated to ISU Members according to the rankings in the 3000m of the second-best Skater in that competition from the ISU Member.
- For division "Neo-Seniors" in the JWC “Final” (JWC-3) quota places will be based on the current JWC ranking, within a maximum entry quota of 2 Skaters per Member.

5.3. Team Competitions

- a) Team Sprint competitions will consist of national teams of 3 Skaters. Distances are 3 laps for Women and Men.
- b) Team Pursuit competitions will consist of national teams of 3 Skaters. Distances are 6 laps for Women and 8 laps for Men.
- c) Mixed Relay will consist of national teams of 2 Skaters (One Woman and One Man). Distances are 6 laps: 3 laps for Women and 3 laps for Men skated in accordance with Rule 256, paragraph 3.1.
- d) Team competitions will be organized based on ISU Technical Rules 256 and 265, paragraph 5 and 7, and details given in ISU Communication No. 2651 or later updates of this Communication.
- e) The deadline for entry of names of the Skaters that may compete in the Team (possibly more than 3 names) will be announced by the Referee at the Team leaders' meeting the day before the Team competition. A maximum of 2 Junior Skaters can be entered on a Neo-Senior team for Team Pursuit and Team Sprint. A maximum of 1 Junior Skater can be entered on a Neo-Senior team for the Mixed Relay.

- f) The final composition of the team shall be declared by the Team leader not later than 60 minutes before the start of the Team competition concerned.
- g) In each Team event, the starting order of the entered Teams will be decided by an open draw (no seeding of the Teams).

5.4. Demonstration Events

Subject to the consent of the ISU Speed Skating Technical Committee, the organizer of an ISU Junior World Cup Competition may add demonstration events to the program. Entry rules and conditions for demonstration events should be included in the announcement.

6. Drawing, Composition of Pairs and Start Lists

6.1. Draw Meeting and Team Leaders' Meeting

- a) A Team leaders' meeting may take place before the first day of the Competition (in person or online), with the purpose to confirm the final entries and to present race schedules and other logistical information.
- b) 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.
- c) Before the first day of a Competition there may be a draw meeting to announce the start lists.
- d) For the second day the start lists will be determined by the Referee based on the confirmed final entries and the rules given below. Changes to final entries must be confirmed by submitting the required forms at the latest 15 minutes after the final race of Day 1.

6.2. Drawing at the First Competition for the Event

- a) Individual distances (both divisions): Arrangement of the pairs shall be made according to Rule 243, paragraph 1) based on the ranking of seasonal best times. Highest ranked Competitors shall be placed in the last pair.
- b) Mass Start: The position of Competitors at the start line is determined by an open draw.
- c) Team events: See paragraph 5.3.g) above.

6.3. Pairing and Drawing at the Following Competitions

- a) Competitors in each division shall be paired or, for Mass Start, lined up at the start according to their ISU Junior World Cup, as follows:
 - Competitors - with JWC points will be ranked first, according to their current rank.
 - Competitors without JWC points will be ranked thereafter, according to their best achieved JWC result (time) 2025/26. For Mass Start this further ranking will be determined by lot.
 - Competitors without results from JWC Competitions 2025/26 will be ranked thereafter, according to their seasonal best time for the distance concerned. For Mass Start this further ranking will be determined by lot.
 - The starting order shall be opposite to the ranking order of the Competitors, so that the Competitors with the lowest rank start in the first pair, etc. The better ranked Competitor in a pair shall start in the inner lane.
- b) In the case of an odd number of Competitors, the first pair shall consist of a single Skater.
- c) In quartet starts the four Competitors with the best JWC ranking shall form the last quartet, and only the first quartet may be incomplete.
- d) In case of withdrawals after the draw meeting, pairs shall be rearranged according to ISU Rule 245, paragraphs 1-3.

7. ISU Junior World Cup Ranking System

7.1. Competitions Counting

All competitions count for the JWC rankings for the respective distances/competitions in each division. For the Team competitions (Mixed Relay, Team Sprint and Team Pursuit) the results are combined into one ISU Junior World Cup team competition ranking.

7.2. Awarding of ISU Junior World Cup Points (in each division)

Rank	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Points	60	54	48	43	40	38	36	34	32	31	30	29
Rank	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Points	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17
Rank	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
Points	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5
Rank	37	38	39	40								
Points	4	3	2	1								

* Points for Mixed Relay will be equally given towards Men and Women Teams final rankings.
Points for Mass Start will be distributed based on final results classification, according to Rule 265, paragraph 6.3 d).

7.3. Points for Tied Ranks

If two or more Skaters (or teams) have obtained the same rank in an event, each Skater (or team) will receive the full points scored for this tied rank.

7.4. ISU Junior World Cup Ranking Rules

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

- The Skater/Team with the higher number of Junior World Cup victories.
- The Skater/Team with the highest score of points in any single competition (race).
- The Skater/Team with the next higher score of points in any single competition (race).
- For Mass Start the Skater with the highest score of points from the (next) previous race.
- The Skater/Team with the best time achieved in the Junior World Cup for the distance/competition concerned.
- If not possible to determine using criteria a) to e) above, then it is done by lot/draw.

8. Prizes

8.1. Prize Money

In the Junior division prize money will be awarded for the 3 best Skaters or Teams in the final ISU Junior World Cup ranking for each individual distance and for the Team competitions:

Rank	Individual Distances, Including Mass Start	Team Competitions – Combined Ranking (per Team/Country)
1	CHF 800,-	CHF 2400.-
2	CHF 400,-	CHF 1500.-
3	CHF 250,-	CHF 1200.-

In case of ties, the prize money amount awarded will be the average amounts for the applicable ranks. The prize money is transferred by the ISU to the respective ISU Members on the conditions that apply for ISU Championships (see ISU Communication No. 2516 or later updates).

8.2. Other Prizes

For each division (Junior and Neo-Senior) a special trophy for the winner and diplomas for the 2nd and 3rd place in each distance/team competitions will be presented by the ISU based on the final ISU Junior World Cup ranking for the season 2025/26.

9. Cancellations

9.1. Cancellation of a Competition

If an organizing ISU Member considers it impossible to hold the ISU Junior World Cup Competition it has been allotted according to the schedule given in paragraph 3, it must urgently give the reasons in writing to the ISU Secretariat to permit the ISU to authorize the cancellation. If circumstances during a Competition would make it impossible to complete the scheduled race(s), the Referee in consultation with the ISU Speed Skating Technical Committee Representative is authorized to cancel distances or races. The ISU Speed Skating Technical Committee decides if cancelled distances or races shall be re-scheduled for another date and/or another venue.

9.2. Cancellation of Status as an ISU Junior World Cup Competition

For each division (Junior and Neo-Senior), a Competition will retain its status as an ISU Junior World Cup Competition only if at least five ISU Members are represented with Competitors. JWC points will only be awarded for distances/team competitions with Competitors/teams from at least three ISU Members.

10. Distribution of Results

The organizer of a Competition must immediately send complete results of the races (ranking lists with finishing times and results by pairs) by email to the below-mentioned address.

The organizer should ensure that results are posted continuously during the Competition at an announced Internet website. The official protocol of results, in appropriate digital format, must be sent without delay to the ISU Secretariat in Lausanne.

11. ISU Junior World Cup Speed Skating Coordination

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

International Skating Union, Fabrice Prahin

fabrice.prahin@isu.org

June 30, 2025

Jae Youl Kim, President

Colin Smith, Director General