

Communication No. 2730

ISU Speed Skating Championships 2026 Qualification process, quotas and entry procedures

This Communication contains detailed information on the qualification process, quotas and entry procedures for ISU Speed Skating Championships for the season 2025/26.

1. Calendar and Distribution of Distances/Competitions

Event	Place	Date	Program
ISU European Speed Skating Championships (Single Distances and Team Competitions)	Tomaszów Mazowiecki POL	09.01.2026	TS-W, TP-M, 3000-W, 1000-M
		10.01.2026	TS-M, 500-W, 5000-M, 1500-W
		11.01.2026	TP-W, 1500-M, 1000-W, 500-M, MS-W, MS-M
ISU World Junior Speed Skating Championships	Inzell GER	27.02.2026	500-W, 500-M, 1500-W, 1500-M, Semi Finals: MS-W, MS-M
		28.02.2026	1000-W, 1000-M, 3000-W, 5000-M
		01.03.2026	TP-W, TP-M, TS-W, TS-M, Finals: MS-W, MS-M, MR
ISU World Speed Skating Championships (Sprint and allround combinations) (s=Sprint / a=Allround)	Heerenveen NED	05.03.2026	500-W(s), 500-M(s), 1000-W(s), 1000-M(s)
		06.03.2026	500-W(s), 500-M(s), 1000-W(s), 1000-M(s)
		07.03.2026	500-W(a), 500-M(a), 3000-W(a), 5000-M(a)
		08.03.2026	1500-W(a), 1500-M(a), 5000-W(a), 10000-M(a)

TS: Team Sprint, TP: Team Pursuit, MS: Mass Start, MR: Mixed Relay
s: Sprint, a: Allround

2. Qualifying Events

ISU Championships will be held in accordance with relevant parts of the 2024 ISU Special Regulations and Technical Rules for Speed Skating, respective Council decisions, and ISU Communication No. 2728 ISU World Cup Speed Skating.

For the **ISU European Speed Skating Championships 2026** (Single Distances and Team Competitions) the following events count as qualifying events:

- ISU World Cup Competitions #1 to # 4 to be held during November – December 2025.

For the **ISU World Speed Skating Championships 2026** (Sprint and Allround combinations) the following events count as qualifying events:

- ISU World Cup Competitions #1 to # 5 to be held during season 2025/26

3. Entry Quotas and Qualification Process

3.1. The ISU European Speed Skating Championships 2026 (Single distances and Team disciplines Competitions)

3.1.1. Entry Quotas

In accordance with Rule 208, paragraph 2.4 of the 2024 ISU Special Regulations & Technical Rules for Speed Skating, the entry quotas at the ISU European Speed Skating Championships 2026 will be as follows¹:

- a) Maximum total number of participants for each of the following events:
- 500, 1000, 1500 (Women and Men) - 20 Skaters
 - 3000 (Women) & 5000 (Men) - 16 Skaters
 - Mass Start (Women and Men) - 20 Skaters
 - Team competitions (Women and Men) - 6 Teams
- b) Maximum number of Skaters/Teams per European ISU Member per distances/competitions are:
- 3 Skaters for each of the events: 500, 1000, 1500 (Women and Men), 3000 (Women) & 5000 (Men)
 - 2 Skaters for the Mass Start events: Women and Men
 - 1 Team for each of the Team competitions.
- c) Each ISU Member may enter a maximum of 10 Women and 10 Men (substitutes included). Maximum one (1) substitute can be entered for each individual distance/event. For the Team Pursuit and Team Sprint competitions (6) six Skaters are eligible to compete, if they meet the qualifying time, and the final (4) four Skaters will be confirmed at the Team Leader's Meeting the day before the event with the (3) three competing Skaters confirmed at least one hour before the event.
- d) The allocation of entry quotas will be determined based on the SQRL for World Cup points and World Cup season's best time ranking from the ISU World Cup Competitions #1 to #4 held during November – December 2025, as follows (see Rule 208, paragraphs 2.1.2. and 2.4.2):

Women	Men	SQRL Points Ranking	SQRL Times Ranking
500m, 1000m, 1500m (20)	500m, 1000m, 1500m (20)	15	5
3000m (16)	5000m (16)	12	4
Mass Start (20)	Mass Start (20)	20	
Team competitions (6)	Team competitions (6)	5	1

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.

3.1.2. Reserve List

Lists of 10 reserve quota places for each of the individual competitions and 6 reserve quota places for each of the Team competitions will be established based on the special qualification ranking list (SQRL) as per Rule 208, paragraph 2.1.2. The reserve list will be applied for reallocation of rejected quota places, with preference for ISU Members that have not yet been allocated a quota place.

However, if the hosting ISU Member has its best ranked Skater or Team in the reserve list, then the hosting ISU Member will in any case be allocated one quota place for the competition concerned, at the disadvantage of the otherwise last qualified quota place.

3.2. The ISU World Speed Skating Championships 2026 (Sprint and Allround Combinations)

3.2.1. Entry Quotas for Competitions in the Sprint Combination¹:

a) In accordance with Rule 208, paragraph 2.3 of the 2024 ISU Special Regulations & Technical Rules for Speed Skating, the entry quotas (per gender) for an ISU Member at the ISU World Sprint Speed Skating Championships 2026 are set to a maximum of 28 Women and 28 Men.

b) The table below includes ISU Members that have been pre-allocated quota places (but maximum 2 quota places per ISU Member) according to their number of Skaters placed among the 16 best in the ISU World Sprint Speed Skating Championships 2024:

ISU Member	Women	Men
Austria	1	--
Belgium	--	1
Canada	--	1
China	1	1
Estonia	--	1
Germany	1	2
Great Britain	1	--
Italy	--	1
Japan	2	1
Kazakhstan	1	--
Korea	2	2
Netherlands	2	2
Norway	--	2
Poland	2	1
USA	2	1
		--
Total	15	16

c) Remaining quota places will be allocated according to a special qualification ranking list (SQRL) as per Rule 208, paragraph 2.3.2., based on the combined results (one best 500m and one best 1000m) of Skaters from the same ISU Member from any of the ISU qualifying events during the 2025/2026 season. Total points for the two distances will be calculated according to Rule 265, paragraph 3. For the first SQRL position for the ISU Member, it will be the total points for their best 500m Skater and their best 1000m Skater. For the second SQRL position for the ISU Member, it will be the total points for their second best 500m Skater and their second best 1000m Skater. For the third SQRL position for the ISU Member, it will be the total points for their third best 500m Skater and their third best 1000m Skater.

d) In the SQRL a maximum of 3 best Skaters for each of the distances from each ISU Member will count in the ranking.

e) To gain additional quota places, an ISU Member must have more Skaters among the 20 best in the SQRL than their pre-allocated quota places. However, an ISU Member, will in any case keep its pre-allocated quota places according to the table above. Thus, if some ISU Members would have fewer Skaters among the 20 best in the SQRL compared to their pre-allocated number of quota places, then the otherwise last qualified quota place(s) will be replaced by the pre-allocated quota places concerned.

3.2.2. Entry Quotas for Competitions in the Allround Combination¹:

a) In accordance with Rule 208, paragraph 2.2, of the 2024 ISU Special Regulations & Technical Rules for Speed Skating, the entry quotas (per gender) for an ISU Member at the ISU World Allround Speed Skating Championships 2026 are set to a maximum of 24 Women and 24 Men.

b) The table below includes ISU Members that have been pre-allocated quota places (but maximum 2 quota places per ISU Member) according to their number of Skaters placed among the 12 best in the ISU World Allround Speed Skating Championships 2024.

ISU Member	Women	Men
Belgium	--	1
Canada	2	--
China	1	--
Italy	1	2
Japan	2	2
Korea	--	1
Netherlands	2	1
Norway	1	2
Switzerland	1	--
USA	1	1
Total	11	10

c) Remaining quota places will be allocated according to a special qualification ranking list (SQRL) as per Rule 208, paragraph 2.2.2, based on the combined results (one best 1500m and one best 3000m for Women and one best for 1500m and one best for 5000m Men) of Skaters from the same ISU Member from any of the ISU qualifying events during the season 2025/2026. Total points for the two distances will be calculated according to Rule 265, paragraph 3. For the first SQRL position for the ISU Member, it will be the total points for their best 1500m Skater and their best 3000m/5000m Skater, Women and Men respectively. For the second SQRL position for the ISU Member, it will be the total points for their second best 1500m Skater and their second best 3000m/5000m Skater, Women and Men respectively. For the third SQRL position for the ISU Member, it will be the total points for their third best 1500m Skater and their third best 3000m/5000m Skater, Women and Men respectively.

d) In the SQRL a maximum of 3 best Skaters for each of the distances from each ISU Member will count in the ranking.

e) To gain additional quota places, an ISU Member must have more Skaters among the 20 best in the SQRL than their pre-allocated quota places. However, an ISU Member, will in any case keep its pre-allocated quota places according to the table above. Thus, if some ISU Members would have fewer Skaters among the 20 best in the SQRL, compared to their pre-allocated number of quota places, then the otherwise last qualified quota place(s) will be replaced by the pre-allocated quota places concerned.

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.

3.2.3. Reserve List

Lists of 10 reserve quota places for each of the Competitions will be established based on the SQRL. The reserve list will be applied for reallocation of rejected quota places, with preference for ISU Members that have not yet been allocated a quota place for the distance/competition concerned.

However, if the hosting ISU Member has its best ranked Skater or Team in the reserve list, then the hosting ISU Member will in any case be allocated one quota place, at the disadvantage of the otherwise last qualified quota place.

3.3. The ISU World Junior Speed Skating Championships 2026

3.3.1. Entry Quotas

In accordance with Rule 208, paragraph 2.5, the entry quotas for an ISU Member at the ISU World Junior Speed Skating Championships 2025 will be limited to a maximum of **5 Skaters** per gender in total¹. Below is the summary table of entry quotas for an ISU Member per distance/competition.

	500m	1000m	1500m	3000m	5000m	Mass Start	Team competitions
Women	5	4	4	4	---	2	1 team of 3 Skaters
Men	5	4	4	---	4	2	1 team of 3 Skaters Mixed Relay: 1 team of 1 W-1M

Competitors entered for all four individual distances, meeting the applicable qualifying times for each distance, are eligible to compete in the Allround competition.

For each individual distance/competition only 1 substitute may be entered. For the Team Pursuit, Team Sprint and Mixed Relay competitions (5) five Skaters are eligible to compete, if they meet a qualifying time. The final (4) four Skaters will be confirmed at the Team Leader's Meeting the day before the event. The (3) three competing Skaters confirmed for Team Pursuit and Team Sprint at least one hour before the event. The (2) two competing skaters for Mixed Relay at least one hour before the event.

3.3.2. Mass Start Competition Rules

The Mass Start competition will be organized based on ISU Technical Rule 243, paragraph 4 and 257, paragraph 2.1. In the case of semi-finals, qualification to the Final will be in accordance with Rule 241, paragraph 5.b). Final classification will be determined according to Rule 265, paragraph 6.

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. Qualifying Times

To qualify for participation in ISU Speed Skating Championships, Skaters must have achieved Qualifying times (Rule 208, paragraph 1.2).

4.1. Conditions for Valid Qualifying Times

a) The qualifying time must have been achieved since July 1, 2024, and before the last date of entry for the **Senior** Championship concerned in one of the following Competitions:

- National Championships sanctioned by the ISU Member concerned
- ISU Championships
- ISU World Cup Competitions or ISU Junior World Cup Competitions
- International Speed Skating Competitions listed in the annual ISU Communications.

b) Automatic timekeeping (Rule 251) must have been used in the Competition concerned.

c) Only season best times achieved since July 1, 2025, will be considered for the grouping of Skaters to determine the start lists.

d) For World Junior Speed Skating Championships, the qualifying time must have been achieved since July 1, 2024, and before the last date of entry for the World Junior Championships. 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.

4.2. Required Qualifying Times

The ISU Speed Skating Technical Committee has determined Qualifying Times required for participation in the ISU Speed Skating Championships 2025. The following Qualifying time limits apply:

4.2.1. ISU Speed Skating Championships:

To be entered a Skater must have achieved the following Qualifying times indicated for the competition concerned (for possible exceptions, see paragraphs 3.1.2, 3.2.3 and 3.3.2 above):

	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
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	1.25,00
					Men	1.16,00
						1500m
						2.10,00
						1.57,50

For Allround Combination: an entered Skater must have achieved one of the following Qualifying times:

	1500m	3000m	5000m
Women	2.02,00	4.22,00	
Men	1.50,50		6.42,00

For Sprint Combination: an entered Skater must have achieved one of the following Qualifying times

	500m	1000m
Women	40,00	1.20,00
Men	36,20	1.12,00

4.2.2. ISU World Junior Speed Skating Championships

To be entered a Skater must have achieved the Qualifying time indicated for the Single Distance Championship competition concerned:

Competition Selection:							
	500m	1000m	1500m	3000m	5000m	For the Allround Championships	
Women	42,50	1.25,00	2.12.00	4.45,00	----	A Skater must have achieved the listed qualifying time for all the Single Distances.	
Men	38,50	1.16,00	1.58,00	----	4.05,00 at 3000m		
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	1500m
					Women	1.28,00	2.17,00
					Men	1.19,00	2.03,00

5. Entries

The ISU online entry system must be used both for preliminary entries and for final entries. For final entries relevant requirements in the ISU Regulations must be observed. See also ISU Communication No. 1628, or any further update of this Communication, and Declaration forms.

5.1. Preliminary entries

The preliminary entry shall provide the number of Competitors, with provisional names, that the ISU Member intends to enter for the Championships, indicating which distances the skater or team will participate in.

5.2. Final Entries

Based on the entry quotas as determined according to Paragraph 3 above (except for quotas allocated according to Paragraph 3.1.2, 3.2.3 and 3.3.2), the final entries of Competitors, including maximum one substitute per individual distance/competition, are at the discretion of the respective ISU Member. However, all entered Competitors must have achieved the respective Qualifying time limits set by the ISU, as specified in Paragraph 4 above. A maximum of one substitute may be entered for each Championship or each Championship distance/competition (except Junior World Championships, where substitutes for each distance/competition must be amongst the maximum 5 Skaters (per gender) entered for the Championships).

5.2.1. ISU European Speed Skating Championships (Single Distances and Team Competitions), ISU World Speed Skating Championships (Sprint and Allround Combinations)

Information on allocation of quota places will be issued separately by the ISU.

The final entries cannot exceed the number of allocated quota places, including reserve quota places, for the respective Championship or competitions.

ISU Members intending not to use all their allocated quota places are requested to inform the ISU Secretariat as soon as possible, and preferably well before the deadline for final entries.

5.2.2. ISU World Junior Speed Skating Championships

Information on the date of birth for the entered Competitors must be included in the final entries. The Referee or the ISU Speed Skating Technical Committee Representative may request verification of the identity and the date of birth of any entered Competitor, as a condition for accepting the entry.

ISU Members must indicate in the final entries if they will take part in the Team Pursuit, Team Sprint and Mixed Relay competitions. For the Team Pursuit, Team Sprint and Mixed Relay competitions (5) five Skaters are eligible to compete, if they meet a qualifying time. The final (4) four Skaters will be confirmed at the Team Leader's Meeting the day before the event. The (3) three competing Skaters confirmed for Team Pursuit and Team Sprint at least one hour before the event. The (2) two competing skaters for Mixed Relay at least one hour before the event.

6. Other Conditions

6.1. National Team Uniforms

ISU Members are responsible for ensuring that the entered Competitors wear racing suits and other team uniforms with identical design, as approved by the ISU, according to Rule 224, paragraph 1.b) and c). This applies both for individual distances and for Team competitions (Team Pursuit, Team Sprint and Mixed Relay).

ISU Members are also responsible for ensuring that requirements concerning team uniform design, use of trademarks, advertising, etc. stated in Rule 102, paragraph 6, and ISU Communication No. 2508 (or any further updates of this Communication) are respected.

6.2. Citizenship/Residence Requirements and Clearance Procedures

In accordance with Rule 109 of the ISU Regulations and ISU Communication No. 2526 (or any further update of this Communication), all Competitors who do not have the nationality of the ISU Member by which they have been entered or who, although having such a nationality, have in the past represented another ISU Member, must produce an ISU Clearance Certificate.

6.3. Expenses

Expenses as mentioned in Rule 137, paragraph 10 f) and g) will be paid only for one Team leader and for Skaters competing in the Championships, not for substitutes who do not compete.

June 30, 2025

Jae Youl Kim, President

Colin Smith, Director General