

Demonstration event at ISU World Cup Speed Skating Final 2019/20 Heerenveen, NED

Mixed Gender Relay Races Competitions Safety measures and organization of the races

1. General conditions

This Communication complements ISU Rule 261, paragraph 2 and ISU Communication No. 2278 and contains important regulations on organization, racing rules and safety measures of the Mixed Gender relay races.

Participants in the competition will be teams of two Skaters (one Lady and one Man). A team may consist of Skaters from the same ISU Member (a national team) or of Skaters from two different ISU Members (a mixed-national team).

2. Safety measures for the Mixed Gender Relay races

All safety measures specified in ISU Communication No. 2195 apply.

3. Entries, distances and track

3.1. Entries, drawing

Every ISU Member having earned entry quotas for the ISU World Cup Speed Skating Final 2019/20 in Heerenveen, NED, may enter one or more teams, i.e. NED1, NED2, etc. Only Skaters entered for individual events in the ISU World Cup Speed Skating Final (including substitutes) are allowed to be entered for this event.

The deadline for entry of Skaters competing for each Team (possibly more than 2 names) shall be announced to the Referee at the Team leaders' meeting the day before the first competition day. In the case of a mixed-national team, the entry has to be confirmed by both Team leaders concerned. The final composition of the Team shall be declared by the Team leader not later than 30 minutes before the start of the event.

Helmet numbers, start lists and starting position for the Teams will be decided by lot.

3.2. Distance

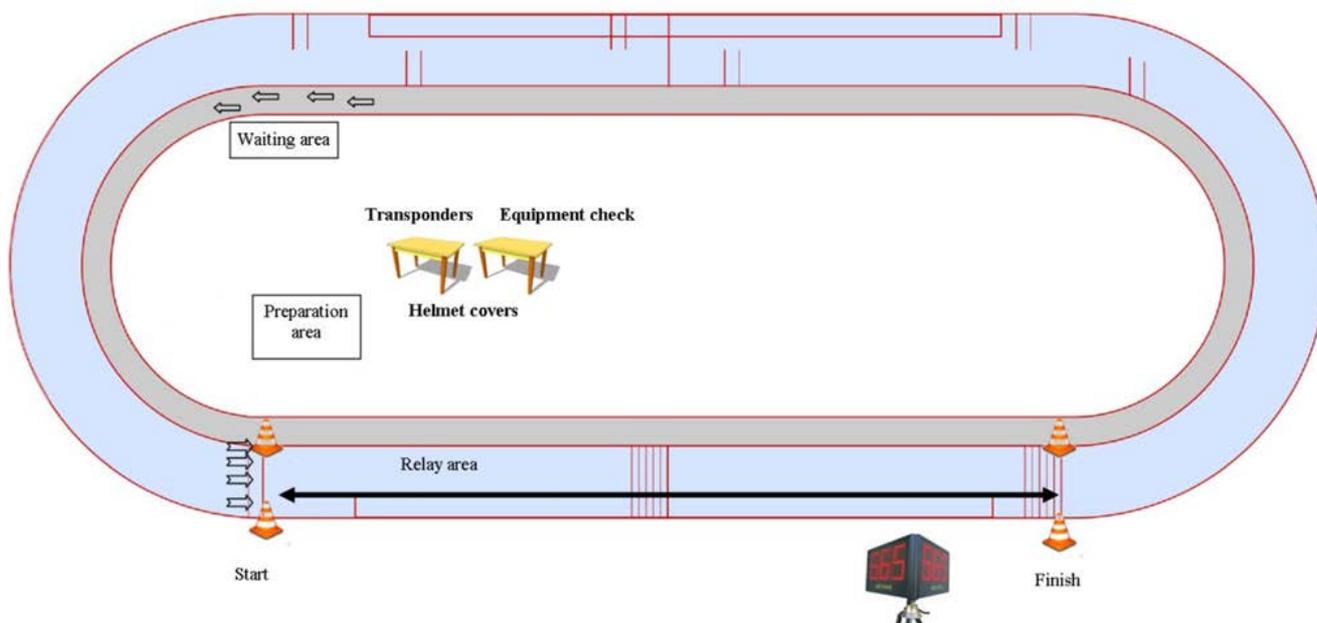
Distance is 6 laps, 3 laps to be skated by each Skater.

3.3. Track demarcation and set up

The track must be laid out with only one competition lane, e.g. by making use of the demarcation between the inner lane and the warm-up lane on a standard track.

The beginning and end of the changeover (relay) area will be suitably marked by cones.

3.4. Track organizational diagram for Mixed Team races



4. Race procedures

4.1. Equipment

- Transponders for timekeeping must be worn by Competitors;
- For each heat, each team shall wear different identification means during the race: helmet covers or bibs.
 - Team 1: Shall wear white helmet cover;
 - Team 2: Shall wear blue helmet cover and so on.

4.2. Preparation of the races

Depending on the number of Teams entered, races may be organized in pursuit format (Rule 261, paragraph1) or single start place race format (Rule 261, paragraph 2.b).

- Maximum 4 (four) teams are allowed to compete in one heat. All non-competing teams shall remain in/or near the preparation area in the infield;
- Teams will be allowed on the ice coming from the preparation area after the conclusion of the previous heat. For the first heat, the teams will be instructed when to enter the ice, approximately one minute before the start of the race. The Ladies Skaters shall move directly from the preparation area to their respective start lines while the Men Skaters shall move to the waiting area;
- No coaches are allowed on ice and no coaching allowed from infield;

4.3. Starting procedures

- The start will be at 500m starting line;
- In case of Pursuit format, start and finish will be in the middle of the straights;
- The starting procedure will be according to Rule 255, paragraph 2. Only one False Start is allowed per heat. The Team of the Skater committing the second False Start will be disqualified.

5. Racing rules

- During races, tactics and changeover are at the discretion of the teams as far as the below mentioned racing rules are respected.
- The relay to the other Skater in the team has to take place with a touch and that touch has to be obvious, clearly shown so that it can be easily seen by the Referee or Assistant Referees. It is possible to relay like in Short Track Speed Skating (push from behind). The Referee shall decide when a touch has been "obvious" and is responsible for observing all relaying for this particular purpose, with the support of the Assistant Referees.

- The first full lap is to be skated by the Lady Skater. After completion of the first lap the Lady Skater passes the relay to her teammate. The Man Skater shall skate the next 2 laps before he passes the relay to the Lady Skater in the team. The Lady Skater shall skate the next two laps and passes the relay to the Man Skater who skates the final lap and finishes the race.
- After having passed the relay to his/her teammate, the Skater shall skate straight and move to the warm-up lane only when all other teams have passed to avoid collision.
- Skaters ready to take over the relay shall accelerate in the warming up lane.
- Every Skater from the Team has to take the Relay twice: Lady 1 lap - Man 2 laps - Lady 2 laps - Man 1 lap and pass the relay inside the designated Relay Area.
- Changeover to the next Skater in the team must take place between the beginning of the finishing straight and before the entry to the curve (relaying area).
- Breach of any of the above-mentioned racing rules will lead to disqualification of the Team.

The Team with the best time over 6 laps will be declared the winner. Team with the second-best time will be ranked second and so on.

6. Prizes

The Organizing Committee may present special prizes to the winner, 2nd and 3rd placed Teams.

7. Liability

ISU General Regulations *Rule 119, applies.*