

INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION (ISU)

SPEED SKATING

EVENTS

- **MEN**
 - 500 meters
 - 1000 meters
 - 1500 meters
 - 5000 meters
 - 10000 meters
 - Team Pursuit (8 laps)

- **LADIES**
 - 500 meters
 - 1000 meters
 - 1500 meters
 - 3000 meter
 - 5000 meters
 - Team Pursuit (6 laps)

The distances for the individual Skaters listed above (from 500 meters to 10000 meters for Men, from 500 meters to 5000 meters for Ladies) will be referred to as event(s)/distance(s).

ATHLETE / NOC QUOTA

Maximum number of Skaters to be entered into the 2014 Olympic Winter Games Speed Skating events (IOC Quota)

Overall Speed Skating IOC quota	180 Skaters
• Men (target number)	100 Men
• Ladies (target number)	80 Ladies

If for either Ladies or Men the respective IOC Quota target number is not reached according to the Qualifying System herewith described, the respective unused number of quota places will be credited and added to the quota of the other gender.

The basis for the unequal allocation between Men and Ladies is the actual entries in previous Olympic Winter Games and the basic understanding that, considering the depth of international Speed Skating in Men versus Ladies, the most competitive Skaters should participate.

Total overall maximum number of entered Speed Skaters per National Olympic Committee (NOC) respectively National ISU Member (NF) (NOC/NF overall quota):

Maximum **20 competitors per NOC/NF**
Maximum **10 Men and 10 Ladies per NOC/NF**

The overall quota per NOC/NF will be further restricted, depending on the allocated NOC/NF event quota places, as follows:

- a) Maximum 10 for Ladies and 10 for Men for NOCs/NFs that have been allocated quota places for all events/distances, including the Team Pursuit events.
- b) Maximum 8 for Ladies and 8 for Men for other NOCs/NFs.
- c) The total number of entered Skaters (for Ladies and Men, respectively) cannot exceed the total number of allocated quota places in the individual events/distances for the NOC/NF concerned.

Maximum number of participating Skaters per NOC/NF per event/distance

The number of Skaters entered per NOC/NF per event may not exceed:

- Four (4) in each of the individual events/distances 500, 1000 and 1500 meters.
- Three (3) in each of the individual events/distances 3000 (Ladies), 5000 (Ladies and Men) and 10000 meters (Men).
- Four (4) in each of the Team Pursuit events. The maximum of one team per NOC/NF may be entered in each event (Ladies and Men).

Maximum number of Skaters per event/distance (event/distance quota)

- 500, 1000 and 1500 meters: 36 Ladies and 40 Men
- 3000 meters for Ladies and 5000 meters for Men: 28
- 5000 meters for Ladies and 10000 meters for Men: 16
- Team Pursuit events: 8 Teams, each Team consisting of a maximum of 4 Skaters

QUALIFICATION SYSTEM

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Qualification is achieved by:

1) Allocation of NOC/NF event quotas (qualification places for each event) according to Special Olympic Qualification Classifications (SOQCs) based on results from designated ISU World Cup Competitions season 2013/14

Qualification places are earned by the National Olympic Committees (NOCs) respectively National ISU Members (NFs), based on the Special Olympic Qualification Classifications (SOQC) per event/distance resulting from the ISU World Cup Speed Skating Competitions designated by the ISU to be held during the season 2013/14 prior to the 2014 Olympic Winter Games. As per ISU Regulations, only ISU Members are allowed to enter ISU sanctioned competitions, which include ISU World Cup Competitions.

There will be SOQCs for Team Pursuit Ladies and Men and for each of the individual events/distances (500 meters, 1000 meters, 1500 meters, 3000 meters and 5000 meters for Ladies; 500 meters, 1000 meters, 1500 meters, 5000 meters and 10000 meters for Men).

2) Achievement of Qualifying Times

To be eligible to be entered for the 2014 Olympic Winter Games within the qualifying places earned by the respective NOC/NF, Skaters must have achieved ISU Qualifying Times in the period between 1 July 2013 and 13 January 2014. The applicable qualifying time standards and conditions for approval of achieved qualifying times will be announced in an ISU Communication, no later than 1 July 2013.

3) Use of allocated quota places (entries by name for each event/distance)

Upon confirmation by the ISU of the quota places earned by the NOCs/NFs, the subsequent entries by name to the 2014 Olympic Winter Games (to be made within the applicable deadlines), are at the discretion of the respective NOC/NF. All entries are subject to the entered competitors being eligible according to ISU and IOC rules as well as having reached the Qualifying Times set by ISU for the respective events/distances.

SYSTEM IN DETAIL

1) Definition of Special Olympic Qualification Classification (SOQC)

- a) SOQCs will be calculated according to criteria based on the ISU rules for the ISU Speed Skating World Cup classification and the ISU rules for qualification for the ISU World Single Distances Championships, as published in the ISU Regulations and dedicated ISU Communications. Each SOQC will combine two sets of rankings:
 - i) A ranking according to the World Cup points earned on the occasion of the designated World Cup Competitions ("SOQC points ranking");
 - ii) A ranking based on the best times per skater achieved on the occasion of the designated World Cup Competitions ("SOQC times ranking").
- b) In case of a tie in either of the two ranking lists, the Skater with the better rank in the other list will get the higher rank in the SOQC. However, ties in the SOQC points ranking should first be resolved by the ISU World Cup ranking rules, if possible.
- c) For each event/distance the *highest ranked* SOQC positions will consist of a certain number of Skaters/Teams (for each NOC/NF, counting only Skaters inside the maximum NOC/NF quota for the event/distance concerned) from the *SOQC points ranking* as follows for each event/distance:

o 500, 1000 and 1500 meters (Ladies and Men)	20 Skaters
o 3000 meters Ladies, 5000 meters Men	16 Skaters
o 5000 meters Ladies and 10000 meters Men	10 Skaters
o Team Pursuit Ladies and Men	6 Teams
- d) The remaining part of the SOQC will be based on the *SOQC times ranking*.
- e) For the long distances (3000 and 5000 meters for Ladies, 5000 and 10000 meters for Men) the *SOQC points ranking* will be based on the total of World Cup points achieved for both of the two distances, in accordance with ISU World Cup rules. The *SOQC times ranking* will be based on times achieved in the distance concerned only.

2) Allocation of quota places to NOCs/NFs

The NOC/NF quota places for each event/distance will be provisionally allocated by 23 December 2013 according to the Special Olympic Qualification Classification (SOQC) for the event/distance, based on results from designated ISU World Cup Competitions season 2013/14.

The event/distance quotas are:

- For 500, 1000 and 1500 meters: 36 Ladies and 40 Men, out of which maximum 4 per event/distance per NOC/NF
- For 3000 meters Ladies and 5000 meters Men: 28 each, out of which maximum 3 per event/distance per NOC/NF
- For 5000 meters Ladies and 10000 meters Men: 16 Ladies and 16 Men, out of which maximum 3 per event/distance per NOC/NF
- For Team Pursuit: 8 Ladies' Team and 8 Men's Team, out of which maximum 1 Ladies' Team and 1 Men's Team per NOC/NF, with each Team consisting of maximum 4 Skaters

For each event, quota places for each NOC/NF will be allocated according to the position of Skaters or Team from the NOC/NF concerned in the SOQC for the event, respecting the following conditions and exceptions:

- a) When an NOC/NF has been allocated the maximum allowed NOC/NF event quota (four (4) for 500, 1000 and 1500 meters; three (3) for 3000 & 5000 meters Ladies and 5000 & 10000 meters Men), additional Skaters from this NOC/NF will not be considered in the further allocation of quota places.

- b) An NOC/NF that has achieved *no quota place* for an event/distance according to the respective SOQC, will be allocated **one** quota place, to the disfavour of the last qualifying place based on the SOQC, in the following cases:

For 500, 1000, 1500 meters (Ladies & Men), 3000 meters Ladies, 5000 meters Men:

If a Skater from the NOC/NF was placed among the top 16 in the final 2012/13 World Cup ranking (for 3000m Ladies and 5000m Men, the World Cup Ranking for the long distances apply), or among the top 16 in the 2013 World Single Distances Championships for the distance concerned.

For 5000 meters Ladies, 10 000 meters Men (event/distance quotas of only 16):

If a Skater from the NOC/NF was placed among the top 8 in the final 2012/13 World Cup ranking (for the long distances) or among the top 8 in the 2013 World Single Distances Championships for the distance concerned.

- c) Team Pursuit (*Event quota of 8 Teams, 1 Team per NOC/NF*):
The Host NOC/NF has the right to enter a Team for each of the Team Pursuit events.
- d) If there is a tie in the SOQC determining the last quota place for an event/distance, this position will be decided by a random draw, done by the ISU Director General in the ISU Secretariat by 22 December 2013 in the presence of an independent auditor.
- e) When the maximum total of quota places for an event/distance (as specified above) has been reached, the next SOQC positions per event/distance will constitute a reserve list of quota places. For the individual events/distances the reserve list consists of six (6) reserve quota places. For the Team Pursuit events the reserve list consists of three (3) reserve quota places.

3) Reallocation of unused quota places

When some NOCs/NFs will reject the use of allocated quota places, unused quota places will be reallocated, on the condition that the IOC quota for Speed Skating (180 skaters) will not be exceeded. The reallocation will be done according to the ranking order in the SOQC reserve list but with the exception that *priority shall be given to NOCs/NFs that have not already been allocated a quota place for the event/distance concerned*.

4) Use of allocated quota places (entries by name for each event/distance)

Upon confirmation by the ISU of the quota places earned by the NOCs/NFs per event and in total, the subsequent entries by name to the 2014 Olympic Winter Games, to be made within the applicable deadlines, are at the discretion of the respective NOC/NF. All entries are subject to the entered competitors being eligible according to ISU and IOC rules, as well as competitors having achieved the Qualifying Times set by ISU for the respective events/distances.

The "entries by name" to be submitted before the deadline for entries of competitors for the 2014 Olympic Winter Games must indicate in which event(s) each competitor is considered for participation. For each event/distance, the number of competitors indicated can be a maximum of one more than the allocated NOC/NF quota for the event/distance. When on site of the Olympic Winter Games the final entries for each *individual event/distance* is made (deadline: 3 days prior to the event), the NOC/NF can only enter competitors according to these indications in the "entries by name". For the Team Pursuit events the NOCs/NFs may select their team (consisting of 3 or 4 Skaters) at their discretion among Skaters who have been entered for some individual distance for the 2014 Olympic Winter Games.

5) Host NOC/NF qualification

The host NOC/NF will be subject to the same qualification procedure and rules for allocation of quota places as other NOCs/NFs, except for the Team Pursuit events where the host NOC/NF will have the right to enter a Team, only subject to the general conditions for entry of Skaters and Teams.

6) Qualifying Times

Only Skaters having achieved the ISU Qualifying Times in accordance with the following procedure may be entered for the 2014 Olympic Winter Games:

To be entered for an individual event/distance, a Skater must have achieved the qualifying time for the event/distance concerned. To be entered for the Team Pursuit event, a Skater must have reached the Qualifying Time for at least one of the individual events/distances.

Conditions for recognition of achieved Qualifying Times

Skaters need to achieve Qualifying Times during the period 1 July 2013 - 13 January 2014. Only the following competitions will be considered for achievement of Qualifying Times:

- ISU Championships and qualifying events for ISU Championships.
- ISU World Cup Speed Skating Competitions (to be announced in an ISU Communication no later than 1 August 2013).
- International Competitions open to all ISU Members (NFs), announced according to ISU Regulations; Rule 110, paragraph 2.
- Country matches announced according to ISU Regulations; Rule 110, paragraph 2.
- National Championships organized by the NFs, including competitions officially declared by the NF concerned as National Olympic Trials.

For Country matches and National Championships/National Olympic Trials to be considered for achievement of Qualifying Times, the organizing NF must announce to the ISU Secretariat by 1st October 2013 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 no later than two weeks before the first competition day.

Moreover, ISU Regulations must be respected and in particular, but not limited to, the following conditions must be met in order for competitions to be recognised 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 recognised Speed Skating Referees and Starters for the season 2013/14, as published in the annual ISU Communication (*No. to be announced*), or any amendments to this Communication.
- Anti-Doping tests in accordance with the current ISU Anti-Doping Rules must be organised at the Competition.

Verification and approval of achieved Qualifying Times

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

The NFs are responsible for submitting to the ISU verification of the *best achieved Qualifying Time* per event/distance for each Skater intending for participation in the 2014 Olympic Winter Games.

The qualifying times will be announced by the ISU not later than 1 July 2013 and published in an ISU Communication

CONFIRMATION/REJECTION/ADJUSTMENT OF QUOTA PLACES TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE OVERALL IOC QUOTA FOR SPEED SKATING

After the conclusion of the qualification process for allocation of quota places for the respective events, the ISU will announce the provisionally allocated quota places. NOCs will have to confirm and/or reject their use of these quota places to the ISU Secretariat before 14 January 2014.

If these responses from the NOCs would indicate that the overall IOC Speed Skating quota of 180 Speed Skaters will be exceeded, the maximum number of competitors for individual events/distances will be adjusted, with the consequence that some NOCs will lose provisionally allocated quota places for the events concerned.

NOCs will be informed about the adjustments in allocated quota places prior to the deadline for submission of final entries for the 2014 Olympic Winter Games.

REALLOCATION OF UNUSED QUOTA PLACES

Unused quota places will be reallocated on a continuous basis for each event/distance, based on the reserve lists and other criteria and conditions stated above.

ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS

The ISU Special Regulations and Technical Rules for Speed Skating give details concerning the submission of final entries for each event/distance, for the seeding of Skaters and the drawing of pairs/heats.

PROVISIONAL QUALIFICATION PROCESS TIMELINE (subject to minor date adjustments and information to be added)

1 July 2013	ISU announces Qualifying Times
1 July 2013 – 13 Jan 2014	Period for achieving Qualifying Times
1 August 2013	ISU announces qualifying competitions (Speed Skating World Cup Competitions) to determine the Special Olympic Qualifying Classifications (SOQC) and subsequently NOC/NF quota places.
1 November 2013 – 15 December 2013	ISU Speed Skating World Cup competitions determining the SOQC
23 December 2013	ISU informs NOCs/NFs about provisionally allocated quota places based on the SOQC for the respective events/distances, and on the provisional overall NOC/NF quota (total number of Skaters that may be entered) based on the allocated quota places per event.
7 – 14 January 2014	NOCs to inform ISU about confirmation and/or rejection of provisionally allocated quota places, both for each event/distance and in total.
9 – 16 January 2014	ISU to inform relevant NOCs regarding the reallocation of quota places that will have to be confirmed by the NOC within 24 hours. Lack of a NOC response to the ISU within this deadline will be considered as a refusal of the offered quota place.
17-24 January 2014	ISU to inform NOCs with copy to NFs about adjustments (if necessary) in total event quota places (maximum number of participants per event/distance) and any reallocation or withdrawal of quota places.
24 January 2014	End of re-allocation process
27 January 2014	Deadline for Sochi 2014 Organizing Committee to receive entry forms by name submitted by the NOCs.