

Status Report for the ISU 2018 Congress on the Four Year Plan 2014/15-2017/18

Committee: **Short Track Speed Skating Technical Committee**

Project/Function/Area of Activity: **Officials education and assessment project**

For the period since the 56th ISU Congress in Dubrovnik, the Short Track TC has followed the adopted plan for the period 2014-2018. In link with the Statement of specific results & benefits to be obtained during the period, the STSSTC has placed its focus on the following priorities:

- Continued education of Short Track Speed Skating Officials (Referees, Starters, Competitors Stewards).
- Maintenance of clear criteria and conditions for the nomination of ISU Officials and maintenance of the Officials Database (ODB) for proper evaluation of Officials' performance at ISU Events.
- Continued support of the Regional courses concept for the advancement of future International and ISU Officials.

1. Continued education of Short Track Speed Skating Officials (Referees, Starters, and Competitors Stewards):

During the last 2 years since the Congress in Dubrovnik, the STSSTC has continued its work towards the development and education of all ISU officials and also International Officials in various ways. For all ISU Officials (and also some International Officials), there was a large Seminar hosted during an international competition in Calgary in September 2016. In the summer of 2017, another seminar was hosted but only for the Referees.

The purpose of the first seminar after the congress was for everyone to familiarise and understand all of the changes to the Rules. With the group of Starters, they were filmed while performing real starts. They also developed strategies to work as a team and assist each other on starts, instead of being completely separated and responsible only for their assigned gender in competition. Hosting the Seminar during a competition has proven very successful for the Starters and for future seminars for this particular group, this practice should be maintain.

During the seminar for the Referees in 2017, the STSSTC experimented with a new video replay examination using the Race Report System (RRS) in order to collect DATA on which type of infringements are completely clear for all of our Referees and which ones need further explanation/practice, clarification. The main goal is still the pursuit of consistency amongst all of them in making their decisions, so that they are understood by spectators, athletes and broadcasters. With the use of the RRS, we can know exactly the decisions of every referee watching the video at the same time without any external influence. Eventually, the results of these video examinations will be included in the evaluation and assessment process for referees but first we need more background so we can better understand the results.

As the video replays are becoming more important in the decisions process and also with the fact that now the public and broadcasters have amazing shots from high definition cameras and many angles; it is clear that the work of the Referees is becoming more and more scrutinised and that they are now judged by what everybody sees in those replays. In that respect, the STSSTC has some proposals for rule changes to have video specialists amongst

our Referees. Over the next cycle, the goal will be to identify which ones are the most comfortable in that role which in our opinion necessitates a different sets of skills.

Also, towards the same goal of consistency, the TC has started to work on using more the ODB to save clips and educational documents and tools to eventually connect the Referees directly and share relevant information/conclusions through this platform after events instead of at the next seminar.

The project of using the RRS in all ISU Events was continued over the last 2 season and is now fully integrated and functional.

2. Maintenance of clear criteria and conditions for the nomination of ISU Officials and maintenance of the Officials Database for proper evaluation of Officials' performance at ISU Events.

A second big project that the TC has been working on is giving access to Officials to ISU Events through an apprentice program before getting officially promoted to the actual roles. Over the last 2 seasons, we have welcomed International Referees, Starters and Competitors Stewards in most of our Events and they were being full part of our teams participating in all the meeting, learning from the ISU Officials, doing the work unofficially and getting experience in a safe environment. This is a program the TC really believes in and want to see grow to all level of Officials.

3. Continued support of the Regional courses concept for the advancement of future International and ISU Officials:

Between the last congress and this one, a total of 6 regional seminars were hosted in various areas of the World including South East Asia. In many occasions, this was done jointly with a real competition giving also practical experiences in hosting events and connecting all the different roles and functions.

The TC also has a new project to produce educational Webinars that will be made accessible to Officials from all over that don't necessary have access to our Seminars. For the participants of ISU Seminars, it is also the plan to produce a montage of the main reviewed races with the conclusions and make it accessible for them at any time during the season.

In closing, on behalf of the Technical Committee, I would like to thank all of the ISU Officials for their generosity, their professionalism and their great collaboration. This group is an intricate part of the growth of our sport and we would not have the success that we have without their contribution.

The Short Track TC members are very much appreciative of everyone's collaboration.

A special thanks for recently retired officials Kelvin Nicolle and Stein Andersen and also congratulations to 2 great long time mentors and moderators of many seminars that have are also retired from our ISU group of Officials: M. Michel Verreault and M. Ken Pendrey. Both have been recently named recipients of the ISU Gold Award of Merit in recognition of more than 4 decades of contribution.

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