

Status Report for the ISU 2022 Congress on the Four Year Plan 2018/19-2021/22

Committee:	Short Track Speed Skating Technical Committee
Project/Function/Area of Activity:	Coaches/Skaters education & monitoring of Technical Rules

For the period since the 57th ISU Congress in Seville, the Short Track TC has followed the adopted plan for the period 2018-2022. 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:

- Continue to work on providing the safest environment for the athletes
- Continue to work on improving our “show” and contributing to the growth of short track
- Continue to exchange with and work on the education of Short Track Speed Skating Coaches
- Maintenance of clear and up-to-date competition Rules and procedures in line with the development of the sport.
- Continue to work on ideas of new race formats and new events for our various competitions.
- Work on web base content for the education of coaches (videos, webinar, blog) in collaboration with the development commission
- Continued assistance and information to Members seeking technical advice at the beginning level.
- Continue to exchange and share best practices with other ISU disciplines and also the various commissions.

1. Athletes’ safety:

In collaboration with the Sport Director, the medical commission, and the Council, the STSSTC has continued its work to ensure the best possible environment for the athletes. Since season 2018-2019, all ISU Events have been hosted on rinks that have movable padding system or hybrid systems and following the guidance from the new communication 2128. In July 2021, a new communication on equipment of Skaters was released with higher standards for cut resistant racing suits for all skaters. Tracking of injuries was done and information shared with the medical commission. The STSSTC has also received the approval of the council for a budget for testing racing suits fabrics to identify the best ones available on the market. These fabrics testing will be done over season 2022-2023.

2. Improvement of “our show” and growth of short track:

One big step that was approved in the last congress was a new scheduled number of skaters in races which has made the 1500m a much more interesting event. It has also made all our B finals more interesting with more skaters in them. With more skaters in the main program that also helped OC have more local athletes qualified for their spectators.

Another important improvement was the creation of the Guidance for Racing Rules and a code with sentences to describe penalties that are now released on top of a video clip of the infringements.

3. Continued education of Short Track Speed Skating Coaches and indirectly of athletes:

The committee has made it a priority to organise regular meetings with the coaches and team leaders throughout every season. For both seasons 2018-2019 and 2019-2020, 3 meetings took place, and the last 2 season with the pandemic, one virtual meeting was

organised before the beginning of each season. With each meeting, the goal was to give the possibility to all TL + coaches to ask questions, voice preoccupations, issues, ideas for rule changes and for the future. Coaches and Team Leader were consulted and had the opportunity to provide input on all major ideas that the TC has been working on for proposals for the 2020, and now the 2022 congress. These meetings were also important occasions for the TC to explain the rule changes that were accepted in 2018, and 2021, and the guidance on racing rules. These recurring meetings seems to be very constructive, so it is the intention to keep them for the next quadrennial and in relation with the education of athletes to also host a workshop directly with the athletes perhaps with the help of the E-Learning Team.

4. Continued maintenance of up-to-date technical rules in line with the growth and the development of the sport:

The sport continues to grow quite fast in both the number of participants and the calibre of skating. At the junior level, the format of the World Championship was changed for a single distance format and that was very successful and enabled us to reduce the overall number of races without reducing the overall number of participants.

Another important task that the TC has worked in is the standardisation of our rules for all ISU Events & Olympic Games. We have made some steps towards this with some rule changes in 2018 and 2021, but many were postponed until now, so we hope to complete that transition after this congress.

Finally, to support the growth and prestige of the world cup circuit and also to solve the issue of the super final 3000m that is not so successful, the TC has worked on the idea of having all championships standardized as single distances format but to keep the concept of an all-round champion based on the world cup circuit over all distances. (Very similar to the Big Cristal Globe in many winter disciplines). If supported by the congress, ISU would be able to promote leaders in the world cup throughout the season and to elevate the status of the world cup as a series and not separate events like it is currently.

5. Continue to work on ideas for new race formats and events in Short Track:

The TC had been working very hard for many years, on the development of a new event with the hope to have another Olympic Event in the future. During the last congress, an official proposal was made with the collaboration of the Sport Director and the council to the IOC with the hope of an extra Event for short track at the occasion of the 2022 Olympic. The Mixed Team Relay 2000m was accepted shortly after and during the last 4 years, the TC has worked in finalizing the rules for that new event and improving it to have everything in place for its debut in Beijing. Despite a complete season without racing it, it was very successful at the Games and 12 ISU Members were able to take part in it for the first time.

6. Sharing ideas and best practices with other ISU disciplines/commission

During the last 4 years the STSSTC had the opportunity collaborate with the council, the SSTC, the Development Commission, the Medical Commission, the Athletes Commission, the Covid Working Group, and even the Figure Skating disciplines with some E-Learning Team Initiatives. We are now stronger with these exchanges of ideas and best practices. From the exchanges with the Figure Skating group and E-Learning, we now have a new remote refereeing system for our officials inspired by theirs. We also collaborated with the Development Commission and the SSTC for education tools for the Starters.

In closing, on behalf of the Technical Committee, I would like to thank the ISU President, the Vice-President Speed, the Council Members, the legal advisors, all various commissions members, the E-Learning Group, Alexander Kibalko and the members of the SSTC for their great support and cooperation during the past 4 years. I would also like to thank all the Staff of the ISU Office for all the help and support, and especially Hugo Herrnhof and Fabrice Prahin.

The Short Track TC members are very much appreciative of everyone's collaboration and the great support.

On a more personal note, I would like to thank all my committee colleagues. Kim So Hee, Wim de Deyne, Christoph Milz. Satoru Terao and Reinier Oostheim. You have worked harder than ever throughout the pandemic to adapt, be creative, try things, and find solutions. We had to learn a lot of new tools and do a lot of extra homework to master new skills and all of you embraced these challenges fully and positively. I am grateful for the great collaboration of everyone.

March 2022

Nathalie Lambert

Chair of the Short Track Speed Skating Technical Committee.