

Communication No. 2361

(Update January 6, 2021 – paragraph 4.1.b)

ISU Speed Skating Championships 2021 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 2020/21

1. Calendar and distribution of distances / race

Event	Place	Date	Program
ISU European Speed Skating Championships (Allround and Sprint combinations)	Heerenveen, NED	16.01.2021	Sprint: 500-L, 500-M, 1000-L, 1000-M Allround: 500-L, 500-M, 3000-L, 5000-M
		17.01.2021	Sprint: 500-L, 500-M, 1000-L, 1000-M Allround: 1500-L, 1500-M, 5000-L, 10 000-M
ISU World Speed Skating Championships (Single distances and Team Pursuit)	Heerenveen, NED	11.02. 2021	3000-L, 5000-M,
		12.02. 2021	500-L, 500-M, TP-L, TP-M
		13.02. 2021	Semi Finals MS-L & MS-M, 1000-M, 1000-L, Finals: MS-L, MS-M
		14.02. 2021	1500-L, 1500-M, 5000-L, 10 000-M
ISU World Junior Speed Skating Championships	Hachinohe City, JPN	19.02.2021	500-L, 500-M, 1500-L, 1500-M, Semi Finals: MS-L, MS-M
		20.02.2021	1000- L, 1000-M, 3000-L, 5000-M
		21.02.2021	TP-L, TP-M, TS-L, TS-M, Finals: MS-L, MS-M

TP: Team Pursuit, MS: Mass Start

2. Qualifying events

ISU Championships will be held in accordance with relevant parts of the 2018 ISU Special Regulations and Technical Rules for Speed Skating, respective Council decision, ISU Communications No. 2278 and 2360 ISU World Cup Speed Skating and Guidelines for ISU Events During the COVID-19 Pandemic. ISU World Cup Competitions held in November-December 2019 count as Qualifying events for the ISU European and ISU World Speed Skating Championships 2021. For the ISU World Speed Skating Championships 2021 also the ISU World Single Distances Speed Skating Championships 2020 and ISU World Cup Competitions scheduled in January 2021 count as qualifying events.

3. Entry quotas and qualification process

3.1. The ISU European Speed Skating Championships 2021

3.1.1. Entry quotas for competitions in Sprint Combination:

- In accordance with Rule 208, paragraph 2.4, the number of Competitors in the ISU European Sprint Speed Skating Championships 2021 are set to a maximum of 20 Ladies and 20 Men.

- European ISU Members qualify quota places based on the combined results (one best 500m and one best 1000m) of the same Skaters from any of the Qualifying events for ISU Championships 2020 (i.e World Cup Competitions held November-December 2019). Total points for the two distances will be calculated according to Rule 265, paragraph 3.

3.1.2. Entry quotas for competitions in Allround Combination:

- In accordance with Rule 208 paragraph 2.4, the number of Competitors in the ISU European Allround Speed Skating Championships 2021 are set to a maximum of 20 Ladies and 20 Men.
- European ISU Members qualify quota places based on the combined results (one best 1500m and one best 3000m\5000m) of the same Skaters from any of the Qualifying events for ISU Championships 2020 (i.e. World Cup Competitions held November-December 2019). Total points for the two distances will be calculated according to Rule 265, paragraph 3.

3.1.3. Exceptional entry quotas

- ISU Members not earning quota places for a Championship competition according to 3.1.1 and 3.1.2 above may exceptionally get maximum one quota place, pending the total number of entries for the competition concerned. Such allocation of quota places is only considered based on a specific request (for a named Skater) from the ISU Member, as per information circulated to European ISU Speed Skating Members on 11 November 2020, and with priority for requests received by the indicated deadline 1 December 2020. The further priority order for exceptional quota allocations will be as follows:
 - 1) Members without quota places in any other competition of the Championships
 - 2) Total points (as per Rule 265, paragraph 3) for the two applicable qualifying distances based on the best achieved qualifying times (see paragraph 4.1 below) of the Skaters concerned.

3.1.4. Reserve List

For each competition of the Championships a reserve list will be applied for reallocation of rejected quota places, based on the priority order for exceptional entry quotas as per paragraph 3.1.3 above, with preference for ISU Members that have not yet been allocated a quota place.

3.2. The ISU World Speed Skating Championships 2021 (Single Distances and Team Pursuit)

3.2.1. Entry quotas

Quota places for ISU Members will be allocated for each distance/competition according to results from the World Single Distances Championships 2020 and a special qualification ranking list ("SQRL time ranking") as per Rule 208, paragraph 2.1.2, based on the best results achieved in World Cup competitions counting as Qualifying events for the World Single Distances Speed Skating Championships 2020 and in World Cup competitions held during the season 2020/21. For the Mass Start the "SQRL points ranking" will be compiled by applying the maximum number of World Cup points achieved by a Skater in one single World Cup competition.

The following quota places are pre-allocated based on the results from the World Single Distances Championships 2020:

- 500, 1000 and 1500 m (Ladies and Men): 14
- 3000 m Ladies and 5000 m Men: 12
- 5000 m Ladies and 10000 m Men: 6
- Team Pursuit (Ladies and Men): 6
- Mass Start (Ladies and Men): 12

The remaining quota places will be allocated according the "SQRL time ranking" as defined above. For ISU Members that have been pre-allocated quota places their best ranked Skaters for the SQRL time ranking corresponding to the number of these pre-allocated quota places will be disregarded for the further allocation of quota places. Rejected pre-allocated quota places will be reallocated according to the SQRL time ranking. Thus, if some Members will not use their pre-allocated quotas, these will be added to the quota places to be allocated by SQRL time ranking.

Pre-allocated quotas are shown in Annex#1 to this Communication. Members should confirm use of pre-allocated quotas before 1 February 2021.

Maximum number of Skater per Member per distances/competitions are (Rule 208, paragraph 2.1.1):

- 3 Skaters for each of the: 500, 1000, 1500 (Ladies and Men), 3000 (Ladies) & 5000 (Men);
- 2 Skaters for each of the: 5000 (Ladies), 10000 (Men), Mass Start (Ladies and Men);
- 1 team for the Team Pursuit.

3.2.2. Reserve List

Lists of 6 reserve quota places for each of the individual competitions and 3 reserve quota places for the Team Pursuit will be established based on the SQRL time ranking. 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, for 5000m Ladies and 10000m Men, where no World Cup Competitions are scheduled during the season 2020-21, rejected quota places may exceptionally be reallocated to ISU Members without a quota place, based on a specific request for a Skater who participated at ISU World Cup Competitions in January 2021. The priority order for such exceptional quota allocation would be the best result of the Skaters concerned in the 3000m resp. 5000m from these World Cup Competitions. Any further reallocation of quota places will be made according to the Reserve list.

3.2.3. Mass Start competition rules

The Mass Start competition will be organized based on ISU Technical Rule 241 paragraph 5 and 253, paragraph 4 b). Semi-finals will be skated unless the number of entered Competitors will be less than 20.

a) The composition of the two semi-finals (SF 1 and SF 2) shall be based on the SQRL ranks of the entered Competitors, as follows:

- The best ranked Competitor will be placed in SF1, the 2nd and 3rd ranked Competitors in SF2, the 4th and 5th ranked Competitors in SF1, etc.
- However, each semi-final race can have maximum one Competitor from the same ISU Member. The second ranked Competitor from the same country will therefore have to be placed in a different semi-final than the best ranked Competitor.
- If some Competitors are not listed in the SQRL ranking list, these Competitors will be placed thereafter and their starting position will be decided by lot.

b) The 8 best ranked Skaters from each semi-final qualify for the Mass Start final. In the final, the Competitors are given helmet cover numbers as follows: The winner of SF 1 gets white cover with number 1, the winner of SF 2 gets blue cover with number 2, the second ranked Skater of SF 1 gets white cover with number 3, the second ranked Skater of SF 2 gets blue cover with number 4, etc.

In case of advancement of more than one Skater from the same semi-final the helmet cover numbers assigned will be decided by lot.

c) The Final results classification will be based on the following ranking:

1. Competitors from the Final;
2. Competitor(s) having qualified or advanced to the Final, but withdrawing from the Final or being disqualified in the Final;
3. Competitors not qualified for the Final will be ranked as follows:
 - total number of sprint points gained;
 - skaters with a tie in total sprint points gained will be ranked according to time at finishing line;
 - time at the finishing line;
 - number of laps skated;
 - in case of a tie in the number of laps skated, Competitors will be ranked according to their last intermediate time.

3.3. The ISU World Junior Speed Skating Championships 2021

3.3.1. Entry quotas

In accordance with Rule 208, paragraph 2.6., the entry quotas (per gender) for an ISU Member at the ISU World Junior Speed Skating Championships 2021 will be limited to maximum 5 Skaters in total. Below summary table of entry quotas for an ISU Member per distance/competition.

	500m	1000m	1500m	3000m	5000m	Mass Start	Team competitions
Ladies	5	4	4	4	---	2	1 team of 3 Skaters
Men	5	4	4	---	4	2	1 team of 3 Skaters

For the Allround competitions only Skaters who have been entered for all four Single Distances may be entered.

For each distance/competition (except 500m) only 1 substitute may be entered.

3.3.2. Mass Start competition rules

The Mass Start competition will be organized based on ISU Technical Rule 253, paragraph 4 b). Final classification will be determined according to Rule 265, paragraph 6. Mass Start Competitions may be organized with semi-finals.

a) The maximum number of Competitors in the event will be 48. In case of more than 48 entries, entry quotas will be allocated to ISU Members (with a maximum quota of 2 Competitors each) based on the 1500m qualifying time of Skaters from the respective ISU Members. At first all ISU Members will be allocated one quota place. Then a second quota place will be allocated to ISU Members according to the rankings in the 1500m of the second-best Skater from the ISU Member. After all 48 places have been allocated to ISU Members a reserve list of 3 Skaters will be made available.

The table below shows the number of Competitors in each semi-final and final.

Number of entries for Mass Start	Up to 24	>24
Number of Competitors in the Final of the Mass Start	all	16
Number of Competitors in each Semi-Final of the Mass Start	-	Up to 24

b) Seeding of the Skaters will be based on the best approved qualifying times of the 1500m. Skaters without qualifying times on the 1500m will be placed thereafter by lot.

In case of semi-finals, not more than one Competitor from the same ISU Member can participate in the same semi-final race. The second ranked Competitor from the same country will therefore have to be placed in a different semi-final than the best ranked Competitor.

The 8 best ranked Skaters from each semi-final qualify for the Mass Start final. In the final, the Competitors are given helmet cover numbers as follows: The winner of SF 1 gets cover with number 1, the winner of SF 2 gets cover with number 2, the second ranked Skater of SF 1 gets cover with number 3, the second ranked Skater of SF 2 gets cover with number 4, etc.

In case of advancement of more than one Skater from the same semi-final the helmet cover numbers assigned will be decided by lot.

c) The final results classification shall be according to paragraph 3.2.3. c) above.

4. Qualifying times

To qualify for participation in ISU Speed Skating Championships, Skaters must have achieved certain Qualifying times (Rule 208, paragraph 1.2.) Results achieved under the same conditions as required for valid Qualifying times will be used also for seeding purposes and to determine the grouping of Skaters for the drawing of pairs for distances where no specific qualifying time limit applies (Rules 240, 242 and 243).

4.1. Conditions for valid Qualifying times

- a) The result must have been achieved before the last date of entry for the 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 ISU Communication No. 2340 (or, when applicable, in ISU Communication No. 2272 for the season 2019/20).
- b) Due to the current Covid-19 pandemic situation and the limited amount of available competitions of the categories listed in sub-paragraph a) above, results also from other competitions may be considered as applicable for achieving qualifying times at the discretion of the ISU, upon specific request to the ISU Speed Skating Technical Committee.
- c) Automatic timekeeping (Rule 251) must have been used in the Competition concerned.
- d) Only qualifying times achieved since July 1, 2019 will be considered for the grouping of Skaters for the drawing of distances.

4.2. Required Qualifying times

The ISU Speed Skating Technical Committee has determined Qualifying times required for participation in ISU Speed Skating Championships 2021. For all ISU Championships, except for the ISU World Junior Speed Skating Championships, two alternative sets of Qualifying times have been defined. The slower Qualifying time, listed in (brackets), applies for results achieved outside the high-altitude ice rinks in Calgary (Olympic Oval), Salt Lake City (Utah Olympic Oval) and Ürümqi (Xinjiang Ice Sports Center). The following Qualifying time limits apply:

4.2.1. ISU European Sprint Speed Skating Championships:

To be entered a Skater must have achieved the following Qualifying times:

Ladies:	500m:	40,00 (40,50)	or	1000m:	1.20,00 (1.21,00)
Men:	500m:	36,20 (36,60)	or	1000m:	1.11,90 (1.12,80)

4.2.2. ISU European Allround Speed Skating Championships:

To be entered a Skater must have achieved the following Qualifying time:

Ladies: 1500m: 2.03,00 (2.05,00) or 3000m: 4.24,00 (4.28,00)
Men: 1500m: 1.51,00 (1.52,50) or 5000m: 6.48,00 (6.52,00)

4.2.3. ISU World Single Distances Speed Skating Championships

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

	500m	1000m	1500m	3000m	5000m	10 000m
Ladies	40,00 (40,50)	1.20,00 (1.21,00)	2.03,00 (2.05,00)	4.24,00 (4.28,00)	7.25,00 (7.32,00) or 4.15,00 (4.20,00) at 3000m	----
Men	36,20 (36,60)	1.11,90 (1.12,80)	1.51,00 (1.52,50)	----	6.48,00 (6.52,00)	13.40,00 (13.50,00) or 6.35,00 (6.40,00) at 5000m
<i>For the Mass Start and Team competitions: any of the above distance Qualifying times apply. Exceptionally, for maximum one Skater per ISU Member, the following Qualifying times may apply:</i>						
Ladies	----		2.10,00	----		
Men			1.57,50			

4.2.4. 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:

	500m	1000m	1500m	3000m	5000m	For the Allround Championships
Ladies	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	----	7.05,00 or 4.05,00 at 3000m	
<i>For the Mass Start and Team competitions: any one of the above distance Qualifying times apply. Exceptionally, for maximum one Skater per ISU Member the following Qualifying times may apply:</i>						
Ladies			2.17,00			
Men			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 Nos. 1628 and 1797 on Declaration forms.

5.1. Preliminary entries

The preliminary entry shall give realistic information of the number of Competitors, with provisional names, that the ISU Member intends to enter for the Championships, with indication (when relevant) of participation in the respective distances/competitions of the Championships.

5.2. Final entries

Based on the entry quotas as determined according to Paragraph 3 above (except for quotas allocated according to Paragraph 3.1.3), the final entries of Competitors, including maximum one substitute per 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, ISU World Speed Skating Championships

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 Representative of the ISU Speed Skating Technical Committee may request verification of the identity and the date of birth of any entered Competitor, as a condition for accepting the entry.

A Skater will be considered as entered for the Allround Championship competition only if the Skater is entered for all the 4 (four) single distances which constitute the Allround competition.

ISU Members must indicate in the final entries if they will take part in the Team Pursuit and/or the Team Sprint competitions. The final entries of the team participants will have to be confirmed at the Team Leaders' meeting prior to 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 223, paragraph 1.b) and c). This applies both for individual distances and for Team competitions (Team Pursuit and Team Sprint).

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 Nos. 2055 and 2221 (or any further updates of these Communications) are respected.

6.2. Citizenship/Residence requirements and clearance procedures

In accordance with Rule 109 of the ISU Regulations and ISU Communication No. 2030 (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) will be paid only for Competitors participating in the Championships, not for substitutes who do not compete.

Tubbergen,
December 8, 2020
Lausanne,

Jan Dijkema, President

Fredi Schmid, Director General