



U S SPEEDSKATING

**2025-2026
SHORT TRACK
SPEEDSKATING
RULES AND REGULATIONS**

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SECTION 1

GENERAL INFORMATION

Notwithstanding anything that may be printed in any written materials before or during a competition and any statements made orally at any time by any persons, including but not limited to US Speedskating (USS) Employees, Board Members, or others, the USS 2025-2026 Short Track Speedskating Regulations will take precedent in all instances. If there are amended rules and regulations or selection procedures, THEN THOSE WILL BE COMMUNICATED TO ALL COMPETITORS AT LEAST 10 DAYS IN ADVANCE OF THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE EVENT START. Those properly amended rules and regulations will supersede the original and ANY PREVIOUSLY amended rules and regulations.

In the event of a cancellation of either USS or ISU competitions, the USS Short Track Task Force will revisit all areas of the Rules and Regulations that may need to be amended.

If other, unforeseen circumstances arise that are not provided for by the regulations in this document, a reasonable and appropriate decision may be taken by the ST Program Director in consultation with the USS Executive Director, High Performance Director, and AAC representative. Such a decision may result in a deviation from the regulations provided in this document.

USS RULES OF COMPETITION

A) General. All US Short Track Speedskating Olympic Trials, Youth Olympic Trials, US Team Selection Competitions, Championships and Age Group National Championships (collectively “Competitions”) will be conducted in accordance with applicable International Skating Union (“ISU”) racing rules and regulations, unless stated otherwise. In instances of doubt or for clarity needed, the Referee in consultation with the USS Technical Representative or ST Program Director can use their discretion to resolve the situation.

The ISU racing rules, and these modifications herein are intended to be used when conducting all local club and regional competitions sanctioned by US Speedskating. The member may alter or waive certain rules provided the change is published in advance of the start of competition and/or is included on the competition entry form.

Notwithstanding any ISU rule or regulation to the contrary, for any event hosted on a rink with a five (5) track layout, the Referee shall have the authority and sole discretion to select the use of any tracks available during the competition, including in Semis and Finals rounds of the 500m.

B) ISU. All changes made by the ISU in regulations and racing rules and/or ISU communications that are applicable to these USS Rules and Regulations will be incorporated and/or adopted and go into effect the same day the ISU regulations and racing rules and/or communications take effect for competitions listed in Section 2. In instances of doubt or for clarity needed, the Referee in consultation with the USS Technical Representative or ST Program Director can use their discretion to resolve the situation.

C) Eligibility/Citizenship. A skater must be a citizen of the United States to represent/compete for the USA at the Winter Olympic Games and/or Youth Olympic Winter Games.

To represent the USA at ISU events, skaters must be a citizen of the United States or hold permanent or temporary resident cards with a valid ISU clearance certificate to compete for USA.

US Championships, US Team Selection Competitions, and other potential USS events may be open to international/foreign skaters, unless otherwise stated.

For the 2025-2026 season, any skaters who have an ISU clearance certificate to skate for another country cannot compete in the US Championships/World Tour Team Qualifier and the US Junior Championships.

The Age Group National Championships events are open to US citizens or those that have, at a minimum, a temporary or permanent resident card for the United States.

Eligibility Age Requirements. The US Championships, and US Team Selection Competitions are open to those that are ISU eligible by age unless otherwise stated. Additionally, those that are within one year of reaching the minimum ISU age for junior ISU events are able to register as well subject to qualifying time standards unless otherwise stated, i.e., Skaters must have reached the age of 14 before July 1st of the current season.

To be eligible to represent USA at an ISU event, you must still meet the ISU age requirements per ISU rule 108.

- To participate in Senior ISU events, you must be 17 by July 1st of 2025.
- To participate in Junior ISU events, you must be 15 by July 1st of 2025.

D) Relay Team Selection. At all international-level events (Olympic Games, World Tour Competitions, World Championship(s), International competitions, etc.), the assigned USS coaching staff in attendance at the event will select which skaters will skate in each round as a member of the relay team.

E) Relay Specialist

A relay specialist is a skater that has proven the ability to perform in the gender/Mixed Team relay events. The ability to perform is determined by international results from the current and previous season. Specific performance criteria will be outlined for each Team Selection event. Other performance indicators may be tracked by the Short Track Program. These may include:

- Times from electronic timing systems (that populate the Level System)
- Subjective factors
 - Ability to skate in deteriorating ice conditions
 - Relay exchange ability and cohesiveness

F) Seed Times/Qualifying Times. Submitted seed times and qualifying times for competitions must have been established between July 1 of the previous season and the date of the entry deadline for the competition to be skated, unless otherwise noted or there are limited entries. Achieved times must be equal to or faster than the standard set for each competition.

1. The US Championships, US Team Selection Competitions, qualifying times/seed times acceptable are:

- a. Qualifying times must have been achieved at any ISU, USS, or any other national governing body sanctioned competition that is printed in a published protocol and accessible online. The skater has the obligation to provide the protocol if requested.
 - b. Skaters without a national distance rank must submit a seed time for each distance for seeding purposes. Seed times must have been achieved at ISU, USS, or other national governing body sanctioned competitions using electronic timing/photo finish.
2. For Age Group National Championships, qualifying times/seed times must have been achieved at an ISU, USS or any other national governing body sanctioned competition that is printed in a published protocol and accessible online.
3. Times entered must be accurate to the thousandths of a second (m:ss.xxx). In the rare situation needed, the Short Track Program Director has discretion to approve unverifiable times.
4. Medical exceptions may be granted by the Short Tack Program Director for entry into selection events with requests approved by the USS Medical Director. These exceptions will be considered when a skater has been injured and hasn't had the ability to race but had the qualifying time prior to July 1 of the previous season. The skater will also be required to show evidence of physical readiness by skating a 500m Time Trial and achieving the event entry time standard.

G) Uniform. At all USS events, no American skater may wear a current USS issued team uniform or racing suit in a competition that he or she did not earn, and which was not issued by USS to such skater personally. All uniforms worn in USS or ISU competitions by American skaters must comply with the USS Athlete Agreement and the ISU rules on trademarks and sponsorship markings (ISU Communication 2508). No member of USS may wear a uniform with the markings of a foreign country unless they are representing another country. The Referee or the Technical Representative may issue a warning and if no corrective action is taken, the skater may be penalized.

For the Age Group National Championships and/or other international events, skaters are encouraged to wear their club or association team uniform.

H) Electronic Timing / Photo Finish.

1. Electronic timing and photo finish are scheduled to be at US Championships, Age Group National Championships, and all US Team Selection Competitions. Transponders will be used, but not limited to these events, to gather lap time data for the USS Level System rankings.
2. The time recorded by the photo finish system will be the official time. In the event that the photo finish system fails to record a time for a race or time trial then the results from the manual timekeeping plus 0.2 seconds will be the official finish time used for that race or time trial only.

I) Entry Deadline. Generally, the entry deadline is ten days prior to the first day of competition unless otherwise stated on the competition announcement. If the entry deadline falls on a weekend or US legal holiday, the entry deadline will be first day after the weekend or US legal holiday. Late entries if available will be accepted up to five days prior to the first day of competition. This will be known as the late entry deadline. If the late entry deadline falls on a weekend or US legal holiday, the late entry deadline will be first day after the weekend or US legal holiday. Late entries are subject to a \$100 late fee in addition to the event registration fee. Any entry request received less than 5 days prior to the first day of competition will need to be approved by the USS Short Track Program Director (or his/her designee) and will be subject to an extra \$200 fee.

J) Safety.

1. **Cut-Resistant Protection.** All USS member skaters are required to wear full-body cut-resistant protection (either integrated into the skinsuit or separate underwear). Please take note of ISU Communication 2636 and that USS will follow the ISU's guidance regarding the Level of mandatory and recommended equipment for the 2025-2026 season.
 - a. USS Selection competitions
 - i. Mandatory required minimum: full-body cut resistant Level 3 suit and cut resistant Level 3 gloves.
 - b. Age Group Nationals
 - i. Mandatory required minimum: full-body cut resistant Level 2 suit.
 - ii. Highly recommended: full-body cut resistant Level 3 suit.
 - c. Regional/club competitions
 - i. Highly recommended minimum: full-body cut resistant Level 2 suit.
2. **Helmet.** Safety type headgear that is in compliance with the current ASTM standard (American Society for Testing and Materials) for Short Track Speedskating must be worn. The helmet must have a regular shape and may not have protrusions (per ISU Rule 288) and must be properly strapped. For information regarding personalized helmet designs, see ISU communication 2404.
3. **Gloves.** As per ISU rule 288 (ISU Comm 2636) it is required that skaters wear Level 3 cut-resistant gloves or mitts for protection. Gloves must be predominantly white in color.
4. **Eye protection.** All skaters are required to wear appropriate safety eye protection. Eye protection should be shatter-resistant glasses or a complete visor (as per ISU comm 2636). A safety strap to hold the eyeglasses is recommended.
5. **Other.** All skaters are required to wear shin protection, padded or padded hard shell knee protection, and have neck protection of cut-resistant nature fully covering the neck (ISU rule 288).

K) Medical Procedures. Medical procedures at all USS selection competitions, and relevant events can be found in the USS Event Hosting Manual.

L) Notification. Skaters should be prepared in advance of a selection competition to accept or decline their position if they choose.

When qualified to a USS team, all skaters must notify in writing to the USS Program Director or HP Manager whether they accept or decline participation in the applicable event(s) within two hours of the completion of the selection unless otherwise stated. This is done by signing the Letter of Intent provided by and as written by USS. This applies for funded and self-funded skaters.

This commitment is used, in part, for management purposes for travel planning and determining the number of discretionary invitations that may be extended to other skaters to potentially fill the quota.

Skaters must be prepared to travel with the team on the dates identified by US Speedskating and the ST Program Director. Skaters must have the appropriate information (passports, etc.) available for team processing at the qualifying event.

All additional expenses incurred by USS, should a skater change their commitment, will be at the cost of the skater. This commitment to attend or not attend the event(s) is binding. Skaters are committed to race the events in which they have qualified and agree to compete based on their signed Letter of Intent, unless determined otherwise by the appointed coaching staff and team leaders in attendance.

M) Athlete Agreement. Funding for the various camps, international events (World Tour and/or development), and ISU Championships will be provided only to skaters that have signed the USS Athlete Agreement from the current season and have met the applicable qualification and time standards.

N) Replacement Skaters. In the event any qualifying skaters decline their positions on any team, the USS ST Director, Head Coach, and the ST Task Force Athlete Representative have discretion to name replacement skater(s). Unless USS deems necessary (i.e., filling spots for a relay team or naming a relay specialist), USS will comply with its “NO MOVE UP” policy. The procedure for replacing a qualifying skater is detailed below under each respective International Event Qualifying Criteria.

O) Other International Events. USS may identify development competitions opportunities seen as opportunities for developing skaters for which they may select a traveling team. These traveling teams may have full, partial or no funding provided, and support is at the sole discretion of USS for other international event opportunities. Other international events may include such events as but not limited to the ISU Junior World Cups, FISU Games, Mountain Classic, Canadian Invitational, Western Elite, Quebec Cups or other international events not listed.

To select a traveling team, the previous qualification event and/or other international events may be used along with results and rankings from the previous season and current Level System results. Consideration will be given around timing of what events will be used for team selection given the logistic of booking travel and will be done on a case-by-case basis for each event.

If the event opportunity is considered “Development”, skaters identified may be restricted to ‘Neo-senior’ which is defined as ISU Junior age or up to 3 years post their Junior eligibility. Funding and support of any senior skaters for these development events, if eligible, is at the sole discretion of the USS Short Track Program Director.

USS reserves the right to select athletes unable to compete at previous selection event(s) due to a verifiable illness, injury, or exceptional circumstance directly to the traveling team for an international event.

P) Coaching Policy.

1. International Events.

- a. USS will select the coaches to represent USS and its teams at the international events listed herein. These coaches will be the USS National Training Program (NTP) coaches unless USS determines the need for additional support by Non-NTP coaches as members of the official USS coaching delegation.
- b. Non-NTP coaches selected as members of the official USS coaching delegation must be USS Certified Level 3 coaches or approved by USS as working toward obtaining their Level 3.
- c. The USS Short Track Coaching Policy is not applicable to the Winter Olympic Games.

2. **US Domestic Events.** All coaches must be USS Certified Level 2 or above to receive coaching credentials for the USS Short Track events listed herein.

Q) USS Officials Competition Eligibility

1. A USS Official who has a family member competing in an USS International Team Selection Event is **ineligible** to be a Starter, Referee or Assistant Referee for the same gender as the family member.
 - a. The term “family member” includes all persons who, due to their relationships, may reasonably appear to be in a conflict of interest position regarding a competing skater.

2025-2026 QUALIFIED MEDAL CONTENDERS FOR ISU EVENTS

Kristen Santos-Griswold

- 2024-2025 Results:
 - 1st in the 2024-25 500m ISU World Tour Classification
 - 2nd in the 2024-25 1500m ISU World Tour Classification
 - 5th in the 2024-25 1000m ISU World Tour Classification
 - 1st in the 2024-25 Overall World Tour Classification (Crystal Globe)

Corinne Stoddard

- 2024-2025 Results:
 - 2nd in the 2024-25 1000m ISU World Tour Classification
 - 3rd in the 2024-25 1500m ISU World Tour Classification
 - 3rd in the 2024-25 Overall World Tour Classification (Crystal Globe)

A Medal Contender wishing to invoke their medal contender status must proceed as identified in the ‘medal contender process’ in section 5.

SECTION 2

USS DOMESTIC QUALIFICATION AND RANKING COMPETITIONS / EVENTS

US SPEEDSKATING SHORT TRACK US CHAMPIONSHIPS –

September 11-14, 2025, Salt Lake City, UT

The US Championships will serve as the qualifying event for selection of the World Tour Team and Fall Junior World Cups. Pending results from the World Tour Competitions 1-4, US Championships may also serve as the qualifying event for nomination of the Olympic Team.

- All information pertaining to the nomination of the Olympic Team is documented in the “Athlete Selection Procedures - 2026 Olympic Winter Games - Short Track Speed Skating” and can be found on the [USS website](#).

The US Championships shall run under ISU rules, except where noted herein.

- This event is open to US citizens or those that have, at a minimum, a temporary or permanent resident card for the United States with an ISU clearance certificate to represent the United States in international competitions. Any skaters who have an ISU clearance certificate to skate for another country cannot compete in the US Championships.
- To compete in the US Championships, all skaters must meet the entry time standard of:
 - Women 500m of 48.50
 - Men 500m of 46.00
- Exceptionally because this event will serve for selection the 2025-2026 World Tour Team and Olympic Team, 2 groups will be created:
 - The A group will be open to athletes who have reached the age of 17 before July 1st of the current season.
 - The B group will be open to athletes who have reached the age of 14 before July 1st of the current season.

See USS Rules of Competition, Section C for Eligibility/Citizenship and Section E for Seed times/Qualifying times.

US SPEEDSKATING SHORT TRACK US JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS –

December 19-21, 2025, Salt Lake City, UT

The US Junior Championships will serve as the qualifying event for selection of the World Junior Championships Team and substitutes for the World Championships Team. The US Junior Championships shall run under ISU rules, except where noted herein.

- This event is open to US citizens or those that have, at a minimum, a temporary or permanent resident card for the United States with an ISU clearance certificate to represent the United States in international competitions. Any skaters who have an ISU clearance certificate to skate for another country cannot compete in the US Junior Championships.
- To compete in the US Junior Championships, all skaters must meet the entry time standard of:
 - Women 500m of 48.50
 - Men 500m of 46.00
- This event is open to athletes who have reached the age of 14 before July 1st of the current season.

- Relays will be mandatory for all skaters at the US Junior Championships. Depending on the final number of skaters, some athletes may not skate the relay.

See USS Rules of Competition, Section C for Eligibility/Citizenship and Section E for Seed times/Qualifying times.

DOMESTIC EVENT QUALIFICATIONS, STANDARDS, FORMATS & PROCEDURES

DIVISIONS.

1. All events will consist of a single division per gender.
2. An age group competition may be held in conjunction as requested by the local organizing committee with approval from USS.

COMPETITION FORMATS.

1. The US Championships and US Junior Championships events will be conducted as an **All Finals – Elimination** progression.
 - a. The scheduled number of skaters in each round and in the Final races will be according to the qualification table published on the USS website.
 - b. For qualifying rounds and lower finals, the number of skaters per race may be higher. In the event the number of entries in a division are lower than normal, the competitor steward in consultation with the technical representative, may alter the qualification schedule.
 - c. Finals will be run in reverse alphabetical order. The order of Finals between genders may be altered for the purpose of the production of the event. Final races with only one skater will not be run, that skater will receive the highest rank for that final race. Final races with only two skaters will be run.

EVENT QUALIFICATION TIME STANDARDS.

To compete in events, all skaters must meet the entry time standard of:
US Championships and US Junior Championships

- Women 500m of 48.50
- Men 500m of 46.00

See USS Rules of Competition, Section C for Eligibility and Section E for Seed times/Qualifying times.

COMPETITION SCHEDULES.

1. The ranking list used for seeding will be provided at the team/coaches meeting held the day before the competition. Meeting times will be designated in the event information.
2. The competition schedule will be finalized after skater check-in is complete and will be available at the team/coaches meeting.
3. Relays, gender-specific and/or Mixed Team will be added to each competition. All skaters registered have to participate unless there is evidence from a USS approved medical doctor of

inability to skate based on a medical reason. Scheduling relay rounds will be discussed in the coaches meeting.

4. Make-up of the races for the single distances will be posted during the warm-up session each racing day.
5. The draft schedule for the USS events shall be as follows but may be amended as needed by the LOC and the competition officials in consultation with the USS technical representative:
 - a. The schedule for US Championships, US Jr Championships Qualifier shall be as follows:
 - Day 1: 1500m (1) & 500m (1) Qualifying Rounds and Finals
 - Day 2: 1000m (1) & 1500m (2) Qualifying Rounds and Finals
 - Day 3: 500m (2) & 1000m (2) Qualifying Rounds and Finals

MAKE UP OF QUALIFYING ROUNDS, SEEDING AND PROGRESSION RULES.

1. For the US Championships, US Junior Championships, ranking and seeding the first Qualifying Round of each distance (1500m (1)/500m (1)/1000m (1)) will be according to the National Distance Ranking. Skaters without a National Distance Ranking will be placed on the Seeding List after the Skater with a National Distance Ranking according to their best time from July 1, 2024 to the start of the event. These times must be submitted in their registration entry form. The seeding list for the first Qualifying round of each distance (1500m (2)/500m (2)/1000m (2)) will be the previous respective distance classification. Ties for seeding will be broken by random draw.
2. Seeding will always be done in a clockwise serpentine manner. Lane position for the first qualifying round of each distance will be according to the seeding list for that distance. The order in which the heats will race will be according to the seeding order.
3. For subsequent Qualifying Rounds, direct qualifiers and any additional (+) qualifiers by next fastest place shall be ranked according to the current distance classification and seeded into the next qualifying round. In case of equal times over the distance, a draw will establish the order. Lane position will be decided by times skated in the previous round.

COMPETITION POINT SYSTEM.

Final Points will be awarded in individual distances according to the following table.

Rank	Points	Rank	Points	Rank	Points	Rank	Points	Rank	Points
1	10000	16	874	31	143	46	29	61	8
2	8500	17	743	32	129	47	27	62	7
3	7225	18	631	33	116	48	24	63	6
4	6141	19	536	34	104	49	21	64	5
5	5220	20	456	35	94	50	19	65	4
6	4437	21	410	36	84	51	18	66	3
7	3771	22	369	37	76	52	17	67	2
8	3206	23	332	38	68	53	16	68*	1
9	2725	24	299	39	62	54	15		
10	2316	25	269	40	55	55	14		
11	1969	26	242	41	50	56	13		
12	1673	27	218	42	45	57	12		
13	1422	28	196	43	40	58	11		
14	1209	29	177	44	36	59	10		
15	1028	30	159	45	33	60	9		

* Skaters ranked 68th and beyond in the distance classification will also receive 1 point

1. Final Points will be awarded in descending order following the ranking of the distance classification. Final points will not be awarded in the case of a DNS in the first round or a YC or RC in any round.
2. In the case of a tie, all Skaters involved will receive points awarded for their rank (i.e. tie on 2nd- both Skaters will receive 8500 pts). The points for the subsequent ranking place (i.e. 3rd) will not be awarded. Points will resume with the subsequent ranking place (i.e. 6141 pts for 4th place).

DISTANCE CLASSIFICATION.

For each distance, a final classification will be made in which the skaters are ranked in the following order:

1. By Final round beginning with group/block A, then B, then C, etc.
2. Within the respective Final group/block; first all skaters that finished the race in the order of finishing; then skaters without a finish place will be in the following order: Did Not Finish, Penalty, and Did Not Start. Results in previous qualifying rounds are disregarded; ties in final group/block will remain tied.
3. Skaters that did not qualify to skate in a Final round will be ranked within their respective Qualifying round with ties broken first by finish order in subsequent previous Qualifying rounds; then by best time skated in any race over the distance; further ties will not be broken.
4. Any skater that qualified for or was advanced to a next round but cannot start due to medical reasons will be recorded as a Did Not Start (DNS) in that round to determine their rank in the distance classification.
5. Skaters that Did Not Finish (DNF) in the 1st qualifying round will be ranked with the same ranking.

6. Skaters that received a Penalty in the 1st qualifying round will be ranked next with the same ranking.
7. Skaters that receive a Yellow Card in **any round** will be ranked next with the same ranking.
8. Skaters that receive a Red Card in **any round** or Do Not Start (DNS) the 1st qualifying round will not receive a rank but listed at the bottom of the distance classification in the following order: RC, DNS.

COMBINED DISTANCE CLASSIFICATION (CDC)

A classification made by combining the final classifications of the same two distances. Skaters shall be ranked in the following order:

1. Highest total number of Final Points
2. Combined distance ranking over both distances
3. Best ranking achieved in one of the two distances.
4. Best Time in any race over the two distances.

SPECIAL OVERALL CLASSIFICATION

A classification made by combining the best four (4) out of six (6) Distances included in the Overall Classification.

Skaters shall be ranked in the following order:

1. Highest total number of Final Points over the best four (4) out of six (6) distances.
2. Best combined ranking over the best four (4) out of six (6) distances.
3. Best ranking in one (1) out of the best four (4) distances.
4. Highest rank in the Overall Classification

OVERALL CLASSIFICATION

The Overall Classification combines the combined distance classifications in the following order:

1. Highest total number of Final Points
2. Combined ranking over all combined distance classifications.
3. Best rank achieved in one of the combined distance classifications and subsequent best rankings.
4. Best Time over the middle distance (1000m).

SANCTIONS AND CONSEQUENCES: SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

1. A table that describes sanctions and consequences can be found in the respective qualification tables published on the USS website.
2. In accordance with ISU, the end of any race is declared by the Referee. However, notwithstanding any ISU rule or regulation to the contrary, any skater who has not yet finished, including in finals, may be declared finished by the Referee, but no time shall be assigned to such skater.

3. A withdrawal form must be submitted if withdrawing from a distance or the remainder of the competition. In the event a skater withdraws from the competition, they will remain ranked in the Overall Classification based on the results of their completed distances.

MAKE-UP OF EXHIBITION RELAY TEAMS FOR USS COMPETITIONS.

1. While relay events are considered exhibition races, those who register for USS events are showing intent to participate in relay events and should be prepared to race any/all relay events if assigned to a team. These exhibition races are critical development opportunities and may help with relay team selection and possible team selections in the future.
2. Seeding the teams for exhibition relay events (both gender specific and Mixed Team relay events) will be done by the Competitors Steward using the 500m submitted seed times in consultation with the Tec Rep and/or USS Representative on site.
3. The composition of teams will be discussed/announced in the coaches meeting.

SECTION 3

USS INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS / EVENTS AND QUALIFYING

RESERVATION

USS reserves the sole right, at any time, to make changes to the funded competition schedule and is not obligated to send staff or fund a team to any international events or any particular competition. Only athletes that qualify for international events or competitions (as designated below) are eligible to be entered in and/or have travel costs covered for such events or competitions. If a qualified athlete chooses not to attend, it will be the USS Short Track Program Director or his/her designee's decision to replace that athlete's position at the event/competition. Funding may or may not be covered. See the USS athlete services grid for an overview of services and benefits with international teams.

For the ISU events held by USS on home soil efforts may be made to fill the quota spots to represent our country. Note, however, that athletes not making the funding times are still considered self-funded athletes as per the Athlete Services Grid.

2026 US CHAMPIONSHIPS (ISU WORLD TOUR COMPETITIONS 1-4)

Competition Schedule Format:

The 2026 Short Track U.S. Championships will follow the format below (Figure 1).

DATE	EVENT(S)
Day 1: September 11, 2025	Skate-In
Day 2: September 12, 2025	1500 (1) semis/finals 500 (1) quarters/semis/finals
Day 3: September 13, 2025	1000 (1) quarters/semis/finals 1500 (2) semis/finals
Day 4: September 14, 2025	500 (2) quarters/semis/finals 1000 (2) quarters/semis/finals

Figure 1 – Competition Schedule Format

Seeding:

1. Seeding for the first qualifying round of each distance (1500m (1), 500m (1), 1000m (1)) will be according to the National Distance Ranking. Skaters without a National Distance Ranking will be placed on the Seeding List after the skater with a National Distance Ranking according to their best time from July 1, 2024 to the start of the event. These times must be submitted in their registration entry form.
2. Seeding for the first qualifying round of each distance (1500m (2), 500m (2), 1000m (2)) will be according to the National Distance Ranking following results from 1500m (1), 500m (1), 1000m (1).

Eligibility. ISU Rule on Eligibility determines the criteria for submitting USA entries for these competitions.

Entry Quotas. USS will have a maximum quota of 6 spots per gender for the ISU World Tour Competitions as per ISU Rules and Regulations and ISU Communication 2717.

Participation and Funding Requirements (World Tour Competitions 1 - 4)

1. The athlete has signed the USS Athlete Agreement for the current season.
2. The athlete has qualified as per the selection procedures.
3. For World Tour Competitions 1- 4 USS may fund a team of up to 5 men and 5 women. USS reserves the right to reduce the funded team size (by gender or World Tour event) based on predicted international competitiveness based on the following criteria:
 - a. For World Tour Competitions 1-4, skaters having met one of the following funding time standards at an ISU or USS sanctioned event between January 1, 2024, and the conclusion of US Championships.
 - 500m (women): 43.75 500m (men): 41.50
 - 1000m (women): 1:30.50 1000m (men): 1:26.00

USS reserves the right to fund the next qualified skater(s) if needed for the relay. Skater(s) who do not meet the funding time standard may elect to self-fund as long as they are ranked in the top 6 according to the following selection procedures.

4. Skaters may elect/declare to compete in World Tour Competitions 1 & 2, but they must commit to the pair of events unless approved by the ST Program Director (i.e. skaters cannot elect to go to World Tour Competition 1 but not World Tour Competition 2). The rationale for this is both financial and logistical. A skater's letter of intent is a commitment to travel with the team to World Tour Competitions 1 & 2 unless otherwise approved by the ST Program Director.

Selection Procedures (World Tour Competitions 1 - 4) – Team Selection

1. The first four (4) athletes will be selected as follows:
 - a. The first ranked skater in each combined distance classification (CDC) (500m, 1000m and 1500m) at US Championships will be named to the team. There is no roll down if skaters are the same winners of another CDC.
 - b. If a medal contender invokes their medal contender status, they may be named to the 2025-2026 World Tour Team. There will be a maximum of two (2) medal contenders per gender.
 - c. The second ranked skater in each Combined Distance Classification (500m, 1000m, and 1500m) at US Championships may be selected on the 2025-2026 World Tour Team. In the event the maximum quota of four skaters is exceeded by points 1.a. and 1.b., ties will be broken as follows:

- i. Skater with the highest ranking in that respective distance from the 2024-2025 ISU World Tour Individual Distance Classification as long as they ranked in the top 30 in that distance.
 - ii. Highest ranked Skater(s) in the Special overall classification
 - iii. Skater(s) with the highest two (2) Combined Distance Classifications
 - iv. Skater(s) with the highest overall classification
 - 2. USS reserves the right to select a relay specialist to the 2025-2026 World Tour Team. A relay specialist skater may be named by either of the two options:
 - a. The Relay Specialist may be a skater who can meet the two following criteria:
 - i. Ranked in the top 8 of the special overall classification from US Championships
 - ii. Member of the 2024-2025 World Tour team and/or 2025 World Championships Team and achieved 3 top 4 finishes in the same relay event (gender or Mixed Team). A skater must earn the top 4 finish by competing in the semi-final or the final of the relay event that the result was achieved.
 - b. Or, there is evidence from a USS approved medical doctor of inability to qualify for the team based on a medical reason. The skater still needs to meet point 2.a.ii. above.
- Relay Specialists may be selected in consultation between the ST Program Director, USS Head Coach and Short Track Task Force Athlete Representative as per “Rules of Competition 1D”.
- 3. Remaining position(s), bringing the 2025-2026 World Tour Team up to five (5) per gender, will be selected as follows:
 - a. Skater(s) with the highest Special overall classification
 - b. Skater(s) with the highest two (2) Combined Distance Classifications
 - c. Skater(s) with the highest overall classification
 - 4. Funding of a potential 6th skater is at the discretion of USS. The selection will be as follows:
 - a. Skater(s) with the highest Special overall classification
 - b. Skater(s) with the highest two (2) Combined Distance Classifications
 - c. Skater(s) with the highest overall classification

Selection Procedures (World Tour Competitions 1 - 4) – Allocation of Start Positions

For each distance, start positions will be allocated as follows for World Tour Competitions 1-2:

- 1. Combined Distance Classifications from US Championships and 2024-2025 World Tour Classifications will be used to determine who will compete in each individual distance at the ISU SOQC events. The following will apply for individual distance selection:
 - a. The winner in each Combined Distance Classification from US Championships will have priority to compete in that distance.
 - b. The next skater with the highest 2024-2025 World Tour Classification in each distance will have the second start position if they meet the following performance criteria
 - i. Top 24 in the 2024-2025 World Tour Distance Classification
 - 1. If the skater in point 1.a. and 1.b. are the same, USS will roll down as long as the skater is ranked in the top 20 in a 2024-2025 World Tour Distance Classification.
 - c. In the event that skaters through point 1.a. and 1.b. do not compete in the respective distance, their start position(s), and the remaining start positions for each distance will

be allocated in consultation with the Coaching staff, ST Program Director, and the Athlete Representative. The following criteria will be taken into consideration:

- i. 2024-2025 World Tour Individual Distance Classification
- ii. Current World Ranking per distance
- iii. Performance at the 2025 World Championships
- iv. Performance at the 2026 U.S. Championships
- v. Performance at the 2025 World Junior Championships
- vi. 2023-2024 World Cup Individual Distance Classification (if an athlete was injured in the 2024-2025 season)

For each distance, start positions will be allocated as follows for World Tour Competitions 3-4:

1. Combined Distance Classifications from US Championships, 2025-26 World Ranking, and 2025-2026 World Tour Classifications will be used to determine who will compete in each individual distance at the ISU SOQC events. The following will apply for individual distance selection:
 - a. The skater with the highest 2025-2026 World Tour Classification in each distance will have priority to compete in that distance if they meet the following performance criteria
 - i. Top 30 in the 2025-2026 World Tour Classification
 - b. The next skater with the highest 2025-2026 World Ranking in each distance will have the second start position if they meet the following performance criteria
 - i. Top 30 in the 2025-2026 World Tour Classification
 - c. In the event that skaters through point 1.a. and 1.b. do not compete in the respective distance, their start position(s), and the remaining start positions for each distance will be allocated in consultation with the Coaching staff, ST Program Director, and the Athlete Representative. The following criteria will be taken into consideration:
 - i. 2025-2026 World Tour Individual Distance Classification
 - ii. Current World Ranking per distance
 - iii. 2024-2025 World Tour Individual Distance Classification
 - iv. Performance at the 2025 World Championships
 - v. Performance at the 2026 U.S. Championships
 - vi. Performance at the 2025 World Junior Championships?
 - vii. 2023-2024 World Cup Individual Distance Classification (if an athlete was injured in the 2024-2025 season)

Replacement of skaters. Unless USS deems necessary (i.e. filling a relay or naming a relay specialist), USS will comply with its “NO MOVE UP” policy. In the event any qualifying skater(s) decline(s) their position(s) on the World Tour Team, USS may name replacement skater(s) from the same qualifying event used to select the original team members. Replacement skater(s) need to be ranked in the top 8 in the special overall classification. Funding of the replacement athletes is at the sole discretion of USS.

WORLD SHORT TRACK SPEEDSKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Eligibility.

1. ISU Rule on Eligibility determines the criteria for submitting USA entries for these competitions.
2. Minimum qualifying times are required for entry in this ISU Championship as stated in ISU Communication 2719.

Entry Quotas. The World Short Track Championships Team will be comprised of five (5) Women and five (5) Men if gender relay teams are qualified and three (3) Women and three (3) Men if a mixed team relay team is qualified. Based on the results of the 2025 ISU World Short Track Speed Skating Championships, for the 2026 ISU World Short Track Championships, USS has the following entry quotas. If no relay team is qualified, USS will only send the ISU entry quota of three (3) Women and two (2) Men. USS may elect to fund a substitute to travel with the team if deemed competitive for this event.

	500m	1000m	1500m
Women	2	2	2
Men	2	1	2

Participation & Funding. USS will provide travel support provided that:

1. Athlete has signed the USS Athlete Agreement for the current season.
2. Athlete has qualified as per the selection procedures.
3. For World Championships, USS may fund a team up to the abovementioned entry quotas. USS reserves the right to reduce the funded team size (by gender) based on predicted international competitiveness based on the following criteria:
 - a. For World Championships, qualified relay teams must be ranked in the top 8 in the World Tour Classification after World Tour 4 to receive funding.
 - b. For World Championships, skaters having met one of the following time standards at an ISU or USS sanctioned event between July 1, 2024 and the conclusion of the US Junior Championships
 - 500m (women): 43.25 500m (men): 41.00
 - 1000m (women): 1:29.50 1000m (men): 1:25.00

USS reserves the right to fund the next qualified skater(s) if needed for the relay. Skater(s) who do not meet the funding time standard may elect to self-fund as long as they are ranked in the top 5 according to the following selection procedures.

Pending the Team Selection below, in the event that a skater(s) declines their spot on the World Championships Team that was a member of a qualified gender relay team at the ISU 2025-2026 World Tours (top 8), USS reserves the right to enter and/or fund the next qualified skater(s).

Selection Procedures – Team Selection

Subject to US Speedskating's ISU entry quota, athletes will be selected to the World Championships team as follows:

1. Skaters on the Olympic Team in order of their nomination.
2. If a skater declines their spot on the World Championships Team, or if the Olympic team size does not fill our World Championships Team quota, remaining position(s) will be selected from the special overall classification at US Junior Championships. Ties will be broken as follows:
 - a. Skater(s) with the highest two (2) Combined Distance Classifications
 - b. Skater(s) with the highest overall classification
3. USS reserves the right to select a relay specialist to the World Championships team. The relay specialist would replace the last skater selected from points 1 and 2 above. A relay specialist skater may be named by either of the two options:
 - a. The Relay Specialist may be a skater who can meet two of the following criteria:
 - i. Ranked in the top 8 of the special overall classification from US Junior Championships
 - ii. Member of the 2024-2025 World Tour team and/or 2025 World Championships Team and achieved 3 top 4 finishes in the same relay event (gender or Mixed Team). A skater must earn the top 4 finish by competing in the semi-final or the final of the relay event that the result was achieved.
 - iii. Member of the 2025-2026 World Tour team and achieved 2 top 4 finishes in the same relay event (gender or Mixed Team). A skater must earn the top 4 finish by competing in the semi-final or the final of the relay event that the result was achieved.
 - b. Or, there is evidence from a USS approved medical doctor of inability to qualify for the team based on a medical reason. The skater still needs to meet point 3.a.ii. above.

Relay Specialists may be selected in consultation between the ST Program Director, USS Head Coach and Short Track Task Force Athlete Representative as per "Rules of Competition 1D".

Selection Procedures – Allocation of Start Positions

For each distance, start positions will be allocated as follows:

1. Up to 2 Individual skaters (per gender) at the 2026 Olympic Winter Games may earn individual start positions at the World Championships.
 - a. The two (2) skaters with the highest rank at the 2026 Olympic Winter Games will be allocated the two (2) individual start positions in that respective distance.
 - b. If there is only one start position in a distance, the skater with the highest rank at the 2026 Olympic Winter Games will be allocated that start position.
 - c. If an Olympic Team skater declines their spot at World Championships or their start position in that distance, the next highest ranked skater(s) at the 2026 Olympic Winter Games will be allocated the start position.
2. If necessary, the next start position in each distance will be allocated to the winner of the Combined Distance Classification at the US Junior Championships. There is no roll-down if the winner is ineligible by age.
3. Any remaining start positions will be allocated in consultation with the Coaching staff, ST Program Director, and the Athlete Representative. The relay specialist may also be considered

for an individual distance quota spot for each distance. The following criteria will be taken into consideration:

1. Performance at the 2026 Olympic Winter Games
2. Performance at World Tour Competitions 1-4
3. World Tour Distance Classification
4. Performance at US Junior Championships in the combined distance classification
5. Performance at Junior World Cups and World Junior Championships
6. Performance at 2024-2025 World Cups 1-6 and 2025 World Championships

WORLD SHORT TRACK JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

Eligibility.

1. ISU Rule on Eligibility determines the criteria for submitting USA entries for these competitions.
2. Minimum qualifying times are required for entry in this ISU Championship as stated in ISU Communication 2650.

Entry Quotas. The World Junior Championships Team may be comprised of up to four (4) Women and four (4) Men. Based on the results of the ISU World Junior Short Track Speed Skating Championships 2025, for the ISU World Junior Short Track Championships 2026, the USA has the following entry quotas.

	500m	1000m	1500m
Women	2	2	2
Men	3	3	2

Participation & Funding. USS will provide travel support and funding provided that:

1. Athlete has signed the USS Athlete Agreement for the current season.
2. Athlete has qualified as per the selection procedures.
3. Athlete has met one of the time standards for the 500m or 1000m which must have been skated at any ISU or USS sanctioned competition between July 1, 2025 and the conclusion of US Junior Championships. Time standards are:
 - 500m (women): 45.50 500m (men): 42.50
 - 1000m (women): 1:33.50 1000m (men): 1:27.00
4. Skaters that have qualified for World Junior Championships based on placement but have failed to meet the time standards above, may elect to self-fund. Self-funded skaters may be partially reimbursed based on performance at World Junior Championships with a top 16 individual distance placement or a medal in the relay event. In such case, the amount of reimbursement is at the sole discretion of USS.

5. USS may elect to fund additional skaters who may not have a time standard for the purpose of filling a relay team.

Point System for World Junior Championships Team Selection. Final Points will be awarded in each individual distance. There will be no redistribution of points with removing ineligible skaters.

Selection Procedures. The primary selection competition will be US Junior Championships with consideration from World Tour Competitions 1-4 or the Olympic Team.

1. Up to a maximum of two (2) skaters per gender may be pre-qualified directly to the Junior World Championships Team.
 - a. For this consideration skaters will have to meet the following performance criteria.
 - Member of the Olympic TeamOlympic Team members do not have to compete at US Junior Championships.
2. In the event skaters are prequalified from point 1:
 - a. Pending the number of skaters prequalified from point 1 the winner in each combined distance classification (500m, 1000m and 1500m) at US Junior Championships may be eligible to be qualified to the team. This accounts for a maximum of three additional skaters per gender named to the team. There is no roll down if skaters are the same winners of another combined distance classification.
 - i. In the event the maximum quota of four skaters is exceeded by points 1 and 2a, the Combined Distance Classification winners with the highest special overall classification at US Junior Championships will be named to the team bringing the team up to four.
 - ii. Remaining quota spots, bringing the team total up to 4 per gender, will be awarded to skater(s) with the next highest special overall classification at US Junior Championships.

Selection Procedures – Allocation of Start Positions

1. Allocation of starting position per individual distance.
 - a. Skaters that qualify through point 1 will have priority to race that distance at Junior Worlds.
 - b. Next, the winner of the combined distance classification at the US Junior Championships will have priority to race that distance.
 - c. Remaining starting position(s) for each distance will be allocated in consultation with the Junior World Coaching staff, ST Program Director, and the Athlete Representative. The following criteria will be taken into consideration:
 - i. Performance at US Junior Championships
 - ii. Performance at World Tour Competitions 1-4
 - iii. Performance at Junior World Cups
 - iv. Performance at the Canadian Invitational
 - v. Performance at US Championships
2. Replacement of skaters: If a skater declines their position on the World Junior Short Track Team:

- b. The Combined Distance Classification winners not yet named to the team from point 2.a.i with the next highest special overall classification at US Junior Championships may be named to team.
 - c. Then the skater with the next highest special overall classification at US Junior Championships may be selected as a replacement.
- Funding of replacement athlete(s) is at the sole discretion of USS.

ISU JUNIOR WORLD CUPS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

ISU FALL JUNIOR WORLD CUPS

Eligibility. The Junior World Cups are open to the Junior A & Junior B categories as per rule 108 para 2 of the ISU General Regulations.

Entry Quotas. USS will have a maximum quota of 5 spots per gender for the ISU Junior World Cups as per ISU Rules and Regulations and ISU Communication 2649. There is a maximum of three (3) competitors per distance.

Participation and Funding

1. The athlete has signed the USS Athlete Agreement for the current season.
2. The athlete has qualified as per the selection procedures.
3. USS will not be funding the Fall ISU Junior World Cups. Athletes may be required to offset the costs of having one (1) coach/team leader attend.
4. Athlete has met one of the time standards for the 500m or 1000m which must have been skated at any ISU or USS sanctioned competition between January 1, 2024 and the conclusion of US Championships. Time standards are:

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| ➤ 500m (women): 46.40 | 500m (men): 43.35 |
| ➤ 1000m (women): 1:35.40 | 1000m (men): 1:28.70 |

Selection Procedures (ISU Junior World Cups) – Team Selection

With the exceptional circumstance that we will have 2 groups (A and B) at US Championships, the Junior World Cup Team will be selected as follows:

1. The highest ranked junior skater in the special overall classification of Group A at US Championships will be named to the team.
2. The highest two (2) ranked junior skaters in the special overall classification of Group B at US Championships will be named to the team.
3. The fourth and fifth skater will be selected from the Samalog of their 2 fastest 500m and 1000m. (i.e.: 500m: 42.00 and 42.5 and 1000m: 1.26.00. Samalog = 42.00+42.5+86.00 = 170.50 seconds)

4. Replacement of skater:

- a. If a skater declines their position on the Junior World Cup Team,
 - i. A and B Groups respectively: the skater with the next highest special overall classification at US Championships will be selected as a replacement as long as they meet the following:
 1. Ranked in the top 10 junior athletes in the special overall classification at US Championships.
 2. Meet the abovementioned time standards.
 - ii. If the skater was selected by Samalog, the next skater with the highest Samalog will be selected as long as they meet the following:
 1. Ranked in the top 10 junior athletes in the special overall classification at US Championships.
 2. Meet the abovementioned time standards.

Selection Procedures – Allocation of Start Positions

1. Combined Distance Classifications from US Championships will be used to determine who will compete in each individual distance at the Fall Junior World Cups. The following will apply for individual distance selection:
 - a. The highest ranked junior skater in each Combined Distance Classification from US Championships will have priority to compete in that distance.
 - b. In the event that skaters through point “1a” do not compete in the respective distance, their quota spot, the 2nd and the 3rd remaining quota spot for each distance will be allocated in consultation with the Junior World Cups Coaching staff, ST Program Director, and the Athlete Representative.

ISU JUNIOR WORLD CUP FINAL

Eligibility. The Junior World Cup Competitions are open to the Junior A & Junior B categories as per rule 108 para 2 of the ISU General Regulations.

Entry Quotas. USS will have a maximum quota of 5 spots per gender for the ISU Junior World Cups as per ISU Rules and Regulations and ISU Communication 2649. There is a maximum of three (3) competitors per distance.

Participation and Funding

1. The athlete has signed the USS Athlete Agreement for the current season.
2. The athlete has qualified as per the selection procedures.
3. USS intends to fund the World Junior Championships Team to the ISU Junior World Cup Final pending the location. The fifth skater or replacement skater(s) will not be funded by USS.

4. Athlete has met one of the time standards for the 500m or 1000m which must have been skated at any ISU or USS sanctioned competition between July 1, 2024 and the conclusion of US Championships. Time standards are:

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| ➤ 500m (women): 46.40 | 500m (men): 43.35 |
| ➤ 1000m (women): 1:35.40 | 1000m (men): 1:28.70 |

Selection Procedures (ISU Junior World Cup Final) – Team Selection

1. The four (4) skaters that have qualified for the Junior World Championships Team.
2. Remaining quota spots, bringing the team total up to 5 per gender, will be awarded to skater(s) with the next highest special overall classification at US Junior Championships.

Replacement of skater: If a skater declines their position on the Junior World Cup Team, the skater with the next highest special overall classification at US Championships may be selected as a replacement as long as they meet the following:

- a. Ranked in the top 8 junior athletes in the special overall classification at US Championships.
- b. Meet the abovementioned time standards.

Selection Procedures – Allocation of Start Positions

1. Combined Distance Classifications from US Junior Championships will be used to determine who will compete in each individual distance at the Junior World Cup Final. The following will apply for individual distance selection:
 - a. The highest ranked junior skater in each Combined Distance Classification from US Junior Championships will have priority to compete in that distance.
 - b. In the event that skaters through point “1a” do not compete in the respective distance, their quota spot, and remaining quota spots for each distance will be allocated in consultation with the Junior World Cups Coaching staff, ST Program Director, and the Athlete Representative.

The following criteria will be taken into consideration:

- i. Performance at US Junior Championships
- ii. Performance at World Tour Competitions 1-6
- iii. Performance at Junior World Cups
- iv. Performance at the Canadian Invitational
- v. Performance at 4 Continents
- vi. Performance at US Championships
- vii. International racing experience objectives

CANADIAN INVITATIONAL

Entry Quotas. USS anticipates getting a quota of 10 spots per gender.

Participation and Funding

1. The athlete has signed the USS Athlete Agreement for the current season.
2. The athlete has qualified as per the selection procedures.
3. USS may partially fund athletes based on US Championships results, NTP, and Junior National Team or Development Team statuses.

Selection Procedures (Canadian Invitational) – Team Selection

1. The first ten (10) ranked American skaters in the special overall classification at US Championships not already named on the 2025-2026 World Tour Team will be named to the team.

SECTION 4

2024-2025 NATIONAL CLASSIFICATIONS/RANKINGS

2024-25 INDIVIDUAL DISTANCE CLASSIFICATIONS

Skaters will be ranked in the 500m, 1000m, and 1500m distances in the following order:

1. World Championships distance classification: Skaters who competed in individual distances at the 2025 World Championships will be ranked in order of placement.
2. Distance Classification from the 2024 US Championships and 2025 Winter World Tour Team Qualifier: For each distance, the points of each individual distance classification from the US Championships and Winter World Tour Team Qualifier will be added (up to 4 per distance) to rank the skaters. The point system used for the National Distance Ranking will be the same as the Final points (1st place – 10000pts, 2nd place – 8500pts, etc)

2024-25 OVERALL NATIONAL CLASSIFICATION

Skaters will be ranked in an Overall National Classification which consist of the total points accumulated over the season's individual distance classifications.

NATIONAL DISTANCE RANKINGS – SEEDING AT US SELECTION EVENTS

National Distance Rankings will be used for seeding purposes at USS Selection events. For the purpose of establishing the National Distance Rankings, only the best four (4) results from the last six (6) Distance Classifications over 500, 1000 and 1500 meters at USS Selection events will be considered. Skaters without a National Distance Ranking will be placed on the Seeding List after the Skater with a National Distance Ranking according to their best time from July 1, 2024 to the start of the event. These times must be submitted in their registration entry form.

Pre-qualified skaters who do not compete in the 2025 US Junior Championships will be assigned points as follows:

1. In distances where pre-qualified skaters are ranked in the top **10** of the ISU World Tour classification, pre-qualified skaters will be ranked ahead of skaters who compete in the US Junior Championships. Final points will be awarded in order according to the World Tour classification and final points earned by competing skaters will be adjusted downwards. *Note that this adjustment is for purposes of the National Distance Rankings only and not for the distance classification, combined distance classification, special overall classification, or overall classification from the US Junior Championships.*
2. In distances where pre-qualified skaters are not ranked in the top **10** of the ISU World Tour classification, pre-qualified skaters will receive points based on the individual distance classifications from the 2024 US Championships. Points earned at the US Championships will be averaged and awarded twice. There is no downward adjustment to final points earned by skaters competing at the US Junior Championships.

SECTION 5

2024-2025 TRAINING DESIGNATIONS

NATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM (NTP) COMPOSITION

1. The NTP target size will be 12 athletes and should not exceed 16 eligible American skaters at one time.
2. Top 3 skaters from the 2024-25 season Overall National Ranking for Women and Men and the next highest ranked skater in the level system will be automatic invites to the NTP. This accounts for 8 athletes. There is no roll down if one of the 8 skaters decline their invite.
3. USS may select additional skaters based on consideration of the 2022 US Olympic Team, Overall National Ranking, Overall National Distance Ranking, Short Track Level System Performance Markers, or other factors such as exceptional past international performance. These skaters will be considered discretionary invites to the NTP. Discretionary invitations to the NTP will be made by USS upon the recommendation of the USS Short Track Director, NTP coaches and USS HP staff.
4. To be considered a discretionary member, skaters must compete in the US Championships and US Junior Championships.
5. Skaters named to the NTP as discretionary members may be placed on “provisional” status. Their status will be reviewed periodically by the USS NTP coaches and staff and following the evaluation they may or may not be asked by USS to continue in the NTP.
6. At any time, USS may approve other skaters outside of the NTP to be invited to train with the program from time to time for a trial period or as a designated training partner. These skaters will receive no NTP benefits with the sole exception of ice time and coaching. These skaters are not considered members of the NTP and depending on the duration of this invitation may be required to pay specific team fees to USS partner programs. These situations are handled on a case-by-case basis with the Short Track Program Director.
7. NTP Invitations will be sent as soon as possible after the conclusion of the season when the national rankings are complete, there’s been a review of the seasons events and level system has been updated by USS.
8. Status may be restored/granted by the USS ST Program Director or his/her designee, for injury, illness or other extraordinary circumstances.

2026-2027 US SPEEDSKATING SHORT TRACK JUNIOR NATIONAL TEAM

The Junior National Team will be named by approximately April 15th each year, following the conclusion of the season.

Eligibility. All Junior National Team skaters must be eligible to represent USS at ISU events.

Qualification.

1. Must have been a member of the 2025-2026 World Junior Championship Team.
2. Meet one of the following:
 - a. USS World Junior Championships funding time standards. Time standards for the 500m or 1000m must have been skated at any ISU or USS sanctioned competition between July 1, 2024 and the conclusion of US Junior Championships. Time requirements are:
 - 500m (women): 45.50 500m (men): 42.50
 - 1000m (women): 1:33.50 1000m (men): 1:27.00
 - b. Top 25 finish in any individual distance at the World Junior Championships
 - c. Top 8 finish in the gender relay event

2026-2027 US SPEEDSKATING SHORT TRACK NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM

The National Development Team will be named by approximately April 15th each year, following the conclusion of the season.

Eligibility. All Development Team skaters must:

1. Be eligible and declared to represent the USA at ISU Junior events.
2. Not be older than Junior A for the upcoming season.

Qualification.

1. Must compete in two (2) of the following competitions:
 - a. US Championships
 - b. US Junior Championships
 - c. Age Group Nationals
2. Meet one of the following time standards:
 - 500m (women): 46.40 500m (men): 43.35
 - 1000m (women): 1:35.40 1000m (men): 1:28.70
 - *Times are approximately 2% of the USS World Junior Championships Funding Time
3. The top two (2) eligible skaters by gender from the season ST Level System not already named to the NTP or Junior National Team. (4 skaters total)

4. The next top two (2) eligible skaters by gender from the next highest combined sub-classifications of the 2025 US Junior Championships not already named to the NTP, Junior National Team or in point 1 (above). (max 4 skaters total)
5. Team Additions: Skaters may be named to the National Development Team based on the following:
 - a. Status may be restored/granted by the USS ST Program Director or his/her designee, for injury, illness or other extraordinary circumstances.

MASTERS CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

USS Masters Short Track Team (USMST)

1. To earn a USMST status an athlete must complete the following criteria:
 - a. Skate a qualification time in 2 distances in the MST 1 timetable
 - b. Complete one of the following two criteria:
 - i. First place finisher in age group at Short Track Age Group Nationals
 - ii. Top ranking American in age group at a IMSSC Short Track event, MIST Games, or WWMG Master ST Games

Masters Category 1 (MST 1):

1. To earn MST 1 status an athlete must complete one of the following two criteria:
 - a. Finish in top 20% of age group at Short Track Age Group Nationals, an IMSSC Short Track event, MIST Games, or WWMG Master ST Games (or 2nd place if 5 or fewer athletes compete in the qualifiers age group) **AND** skate a qualification time in 1 distance in the MST 1 timetable
 - b. Skate a qualification time in 2 distances in the MST 1 timetable

Masters Category 2 (MST 2):

1. To earn MST 2 status an athlete must complete one of the three following criteria:
 - a. Compete at Short Track Age Group Nationals, a IMSSC Short Track event, MIST Games, or WWMG Master ST Games **AND** skate a qualification time in 1 distance of the MST 2 timetable
 - b. Skate a qualification time in 2 distances in the MST 2 timetable

Masters Category 3 (MST 3):

1. All registered USS masters members will be considered MST 3

USS Masters Qualification Timetable

1. The Masters Qualification Timetable will be constructed using the following methodology:
 - a. The qualification distances will be the 500m, 777m, 1000m, and 1500m
 - b. Eligible times will be considered from all USS, IMSSC, MIST, or WWMG sanctioned events
 - c. The faster time of either the USS Age Group National Record or the IMSSC World Record will be considered the "Time of Record"
 - d. If the Time of Record exists for an age group that is OLDER than the qualifier's age group, the faster Time of Record will be used for the YOUNGER age group
 - e. The MST 1 qualification time will be 108% of the Time of Record for a qualifier's age group based upon the methodology above

- f. The MST 2 qualification time will be 115% of the Time of Record for a qualifier's age group based upon the methodology above

MEDAL CONTENDER CLAUSE CRITERIA & PROCESS

Medal Contender Illness or Injury Clause. Medal Contender status is used exclusively for an extreme circumstance including injury and/or illness that prevent a medal contending athlete from completing/competing in a qualifying competition.

The World Tour Team Medal Contender Clause is in place to ensure the most competitive World Tour Team and will be applied when a Medal Contender has a verifiable illness, injury or exceptional circumstance as stipulated below.

Criteria for 2026-2027 Fall World Tour Team.

To be considered as an athlete who has earned Medal Contender status for the 2026-2027 Fall World Tour Team, an athlete must have met one of the following criteria (a or b):

- a. 2026 World Championships.
 - 1. Individual Distance – 1 top 5 finish or
 - 2. Individual Distance – 2 top 10 finishes
- b. 2025-2026 results. An athlete must have met two of the following criteria (1,2,3):
 - 1. Be ranked in the top 8 in the ISU World Tour Classification in any individual distance within the 2025-2026 season.
 - 2. Be ranked in the top 8 in the overall World Tour Classification (Crystal Globe) within the 2025-2026 season.
 - 3. Finish in the top 10 in an individual distance (500m, 1000m, or 1500m) at the 2026 ISU World Short Track Championships.

Criteria for 2026 World Championships Team.

To be considered as an athlete who has earned Medal Contender status for the 2026 World Championships team, an athlete must have met one of the following criteria (1 or 2):

- 1. Be ranked in the top 8 in ISU World Tour Classification in any individual distance after World Tour Competition 4.
- 2. Be ranked in the top 8 in the overall World Tour classification (Crystal Globe) after World Tour Competition 4.
- 3. 2 top 3 in any individual distance at the 2025-2026 ISU World Tour Competitions 1-4

Medal Contender Process. When the Medal Contender Clause is invoked, the medal contender may be provisionally granted a spot on any team for a World Tour(s) and/or World Championship Event(s) and/or other international event(s). A Relay Specialist position will remain if there is an allowance.

In the event that a Medal Contender is unable to compete at or complete the USS-designated selection event due to a verifiable illness, injury, or exceptional circumstance, the Medal Contender must submit a Medal Contender Petition Form to USS no later than 2 hours following the conclusion of the USS-designated selection event with their specific request.

1. If the Medal Contender provision is in effect for illness or injury, the Medal Contender must complete and submit the Medal Contender Petition Form to USS. This form allows USS, including a qualified physician selected by USS, to review the medical records for purposes of verifying the illness or injury. The Medal Contender should also be prepared to submit written evidence and other records from a qualified physician, acceptable to USS, as evidence. The petition must be signed by the Medal Contender and his/her personal coach and if a minor, his/her parent or legal guardian.

USS reserves the right to request an independent medical examination of the Medal Contender by a qualified physician chosen by USS at the expense of USS. USS will review all submitted evidence that prevented the Medical Contender from competing or completing the USS-designated selection event(s) due to illness or injury, the prognosis for recovery.

If, based on its review, USS determines that special consideration is warranted, Before being named to the team the Medal Contender must:

- a. Be physically able to train and compete in a designated timeline. The Medal Contender will be given a return to training date deadline. This date will be agreed to by the Head Coach and Short Track Program Director with the athlete as a deadline date that the medal contender is expected to be considered back to training fully allowing what is seen as adequate time for quality training and preparation for the team being petitioned for. The medal contender must provide medical clearance to USS from qualified physician stating they are permitted to return to training at this agreed level by this date.
 - b. The medal contender will be given an agreed upon date that they must be cleared by a qualified physician and considered 100% ready for competition. The intent is that the medal contender must be physically cleared to race at a level of success that earned them their medal contender status prior to being named to the team.
 - c. If the medal contender is able to train and be prepared to compete by these agreed dates, then they may be named to the team(s) being petitioned for. In addition, the Medal Contender may also be awarded start positions in the distances they earned their medal contender status in.
2. If the Medal Contender provision is in effect for an exceptional circumstance, the Medal Contender should complete and submit the Medal Contender Petition Form to USS, but the medical release and authorization section of the petition is not required. The petition must be signed by the Medal Contender and his/her personal coach and if a minor, his/her parent or legal guardian.

SHORT TRACK LEVEL SYSTEM

SUMMARY LEVEL SYSTEM 1 THROUGH 5. The Level system is a tool that helps identify the process and standards needed for international success. By measuring performance markers at key events, skaters and coaches can work toward achieving benchmarks which are required by points. The points ranking may be used to stratify services, benefits and possible funding for camps including development opportunities.

Eligible competitions. Skaters can achieve points at the competitions throughout the seasons according to the points chart found in Appendix B. While this list is subject to change, the forecasted events will be:

1. Desert Classic
2. US Championships
3. Canadian Invitational
4. US Junior Championships
5. ISU World Tour Competitions 1-6
6. ISU Junior World Cups
7. ISU Championships – Senior, Junior and Four-Continents
8. Age Group National Championships (pending the availability of transponders)
9. Other international competitions may be considered (pending the availability of transponders and discretion from the ST Program Director)

Point Scale. Skaters with the required number of points will be awarded the achieved level for the season:

- Level 1: 50 - 40 points
- Level 2: 39.5 - 33 points
- Level 3: 32.5 - 26 points
- Level 4: 18 – 25.5 points
- Level 5: 10 – 17.5 points

USS will make its best effort to update the level system rankings and have it posted on its USS website shortly after each of the USS Selection events and the ISU Competitions.

SECTION 6

AGE GROUP NATIONAL SHORT TRACK CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Short Track Task Force is currently reviewing the AGN section and it will be published at a later date.

Appendix B – LEVEL SYSTEM POINT MARKER CHART

Short Track Level Performance Markers: Ladies											
Based on results skated at US Selection Events and ISU Events											
Acceleration: (500m, 1000m) (Electron, Javelin)	0.5 pts under 7.9	1 pts under 7.8	1.5 pts under 7.7	2 pts under 7.6	2.5 pts under 7.5	3 pts under 7.4	3.5 pts under 7.3	4 pts under 7.2	4.5 pts under 7.1	5 pts under 7.0	/3 pts
Top Speed: 111m (Short 100m Race)	0.5 pts under 9.40	1 pts under 9.30	1.5 pts under 9.20	2 pts under 9.10	2.5 pts under 9.00	3 pts under 8.90	3.5 pts under 8.80	4 pts under 8.70	4.5 pts under 8.60	5 pts under 8.50	/3 pts
Lactate Power: 500m Time (Short Track)	0.5 pts under 46.75	1 pts under 46.50	1.5 pts under 46.25	2 pts under 46.00	2.5 pts under 45.75	3 pts under 45.50	3.5 pts under 45.25	4 pts under 45.00	4.5 pts under 44.75	5 pts under 44.50	/3 pts
Lactate Capacity: 1500m Time (Short Track)	0.5 pts under 1:37.5	1 pts under 1:36.5	1.5 pts under 1:35.5	2 pts under 1:34.5	2.5 pts under 1:33.5	3 pts under 1:32.5	3.5 pts under 1:31.5	4 pts under 1:30.5	4.5 pts under 1:29.5	5 pts under 1:28.5	/3 pts
World Rank: Placement rank: (20th, 30th, 40th, 50th)	1 pt 66th-99th	2 pts 70th-89th	3 pts 66th-79th	4 pts 50th-69th	5 pts 40th-59th	6 pts 30th-49th	7 pts 20th-39th	8 pts 10th-29th	9 pts 7th-19th	10 pts 1st - 6th	/10 pts
National Rank: Overall rank:	1 pt 41st-50th	2 pts 30th-40th	3 pts 21st-30th	4 pts 20th-30th	5 pts 21th-25th	6 pts 16th-20th	7 pts 11th-15th	8 pts 7th - 10th	9 pts 4th - 6th	10 pts 1st - 3rd	/10 pts
Total:											/50 pts

Short Track Level Performance Markers: Men											
Based on results skated at American Cups, World Cups or Selection meets											
Acceleration: (500m, 1000m) (Electron, Javelin)	0.5 pts under 7.5	1 pts under 7.4	1.5 pts under 7.3	2 pts under 7.2	2.5 pts under 7.1	3 pts under 7.0	3.5 pts under 6.9	4 pts under 6.8	4.5 pts under 6.7	5 pts under 6.6	/3 pts
Top Speed: 111m (Short 100m Race)	0.5 pts under 8.80	1 pts under 8.70	1.5 pts under 8.60	2 pts under 8.50	2.5 pts under 8.40	3 pts under 8.30	3.5 pts under 8.20	4 pts under 8.15	4.5 pts under 8.10	5 pts under 8.05	/3 pts
Lactate Power: 500m Time (Short Track)	0.5 pts under 44.50	1 pts under 44.00	1.5 pts under 43.50	2 pts under 43.00	2.5 pts under 42.50	3 pts under 42.00	3.5 pts under 41.50	4 pts under 41.00	4.5 pts under 40.50	5 pts under 40.00	/3 pts
Lactate Capacity: 1500m Time (Short Track)	0.5 pts under 1:32.0	1 pts under 1:31.5	1.5 pts under 1:31.0	2 pts under 1:30.5	2.5 pts under 1:30.0	3 pts under 1:29.5	3.5 pts under 1:29.0	4 pts under 1:28.5	4.5 pts under 1:28.0	5 pts under 1:27.5	/3 pts
World Rank: Placement rank: (20th, 30th, 40th, 50th)	1 pt 66th-99th	2 pts 70th-89th	3 pts 66th-79th	4 pts 50th-69th	5 pts 40th-59th	6 pts 30th-49th	7 pts 20th-39th	8 pts 10th-29th	9 pts 7th-19th	10 pts 1st - 6th	/10 pts
National Rank: Overall rank:	1 pt 41st-50th	2 pts 30th-40th	3 pts 21st-30th	4 pts 20th-30th	5 pts 21th-25th	6 pts 16th-20th	7 pts 11th-15th	8 pts 7th - 10th	9 pts 4th - 6th	10 pts 1st - 3rd	/10 pts
Total:											/50 pts

Appendix C – Time Trials

The Time Trial should meet the following criteria:

1. The Time Trial is skated on a track meeting the requirements of ISU Rule 280. Ice surfaces less than 60 x 30 m may be used as long as the track measurements and markings meet rule 280.
2. A Level 3 or higher USS Official, USS Board member, USS staff member or a representative approved by USS is present and verifies visually the track, the distance skated and the official time.
3. Skaters may be paired on opposite sides of the rink with skaters of equal ability where possible, for the distance, but may skate individually. This may be needed in certain distances. If in pairs and being passed by the faster skate, the slower skater is to move out of the way.
4. If manual time keeping is used, then three timekeepers and one substitute timekeeper must be appointed. Independently of one another, they shall take the time of the skater. If one or more timekeepers have not taken the time for any reason, then the time taken by the substitute timekeeper shall be recorded.
5. The times of each timekeeper shall be recorded, with the accuracy of one hundredth of a second. If the watches used display times in the thousands of a second, any decimal digits giving precision beyond a hundredth of a second shall be ignored.
6. When two watches show the same time and the third a different one, the time of those in agreement shall be taken as the result. When all watches show different times, the time of the intermediate watch is to be taken as the result. If two timekeepers have not taken the time for any reason, the mean time of the other two watches shall be taken as the result. If the mean time is not a multiple of one hundredth of a second, the lower hundredth of a second is taken.
7. The official time of the Time Trial will be the manual time plus two tenths of a second (0.2).
8. A report of a qualifying time will be sent to US Speedskating. The report shall contain the name of the skater(s), date of the time trial, the name of the USS representative who oversaw the time trial, the names of the manual timekeepers, the time of each timekeeper's watch and the official time of the time trial.

The following Short Track Task Force members were responsible for reviewing and creating these Short Track Rules and Regulations.

- USS Member Chair– Michael Kooreman
- USS Short Track Program Director- Andréa Do-Duc
- USS Head Coach – Stephen Gough
- USS Member – Donna Fiorenza
- Athlete Representative – Keith Carroll Jr.
- Athlete Representative – Thomas Hong

ATHLETE OMBUDS OFFICE

The Athlete Ombuds Office provides cost-free, independent and confidential advice regarding athlete rights, grievance procedures and any other related guidance pertaining to selection procedures and can assist in mediating disputes between athletes and their NGB/PSO.

To contact the Athlete Ombuds Office:

- PHONE: (719) 866-5000
- EMAIL: ombudsman@usathlete.org
- WEBSITE: www.usathlete.org