



U S SPEEDSKATING

**2026-2027
SHORT TRACK
SPEEDSKATING
RULES AND REGULATIONS**

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SECTION 1

GENERAL INFORMATION

Notwithstanding anything that may appear in any written materials before or during a competition, or any verbal statements made at any time by any individual, including but not limited to US Speedskating (USS) Employees, Board Members, or others, the USS 2026-2027 Short Track Speedskating Regulations will take precedence in all instances. Should any rules, regulations, or selection procedures be amended, such amendments will be communicated to all competitors at least ten (10) days prior to the start of the event. Any properly amended rules and regulations will supersede both the original and any prior amendments.

In the event that a USS or ISU competition is canceled, the USS Short Track Task Force reserves the right to review and amend any relevant portions of these Rules and Regulations as deemed necessary.

Should unforeseen circumstances arise that are not provided for by these Rules and Regulations, a reasonable and appropriate decision may be taken by the High Performance Director in consultation with the USS Chief Executive Officer and AAC representative. Any such decision may require a deviation from the Rules and Regulations set forth 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, the “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 High Performance Director, will 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 modify or waive certain rules, provided that any such modification or waiver is published prior to the start of competition and/or is included on the competition entry form.

Notwithstanding any ISU rule or regulation to the contrary, for competitions conducted on a rink with a five (5) track layout, the Referee will have the authority and sole discretion to determine which tracks may be used during the competition, including in Semis and Finals rounds of the 500m event.

B) ISU. All changes in regulations, racing rules, and/or communications issued by the ISU that are applicable to these USS Rules and Regulations will automatically be incorporated into and adopted by these Rules and Regulations, effective on the same date the applicable ISU regulations, racing rules, and/or communications take effect for competitions identified in Section 2. In instances of doubt or for clarity needed, the Referee in consultation with the USS Technical Representative or High Performance Director, will use their discretion to resolve the situation.

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

To represent the USA at ISU events, a skater must either: (i) be a citizen of the United States; or (ii) possess a valid temporary or permanent US resident card together with a valid ISU clearance certificate authorizing the skater 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 2026-2027 season, any skater holding an ISU clearance certificate authorizing to compete for another country will be ineligible to compete in the US Championships/Fall World Tour Team Qualifier and the US Junior Championships/Winter World Tour Team and World Championships Qualifier.

The Age Group National Championships event will be open to: (i) citizens of the United States; or (ii) individuals holding, at minimum, a valid temporary or permanent US resident card.

Eligibility Age Requirements. The US Championships and US Team Selection Competitions are open to skaters who meet ISU age eligibility, unless otherwise stated. Additionally, skaters who are within one year of reaching the minimum ISU age requirement for Junior ISU events may also register, provided they meet the qualifying time standards, unless otherwise stated. For example, 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, skaters must still meet the ISU age requirements outlined in ISU rule 108.

- To participate in Senior ISU events, skaters must be 17 years old by July 1st of 2026.
- To participate in Junior ISU events, skaters must be 15 years old by July 1st of 2026.

D) Relay Team Selection. At all international-level events (Olympic Games, World Tour Competitions, World Championships, and other international competitions), the USS coaching staff assigned to the event will determine which skaters compete in each round of the relay events.

E) Relay Specialist

A relay specialist is a skater who has demonstrated the ability to perform successfully in the gender and/or Mixed Team relay events. This ability will be evaluated based on international results from the current and previous seasons as well as performances demonstrated during specific relay training sessions. Additional performance indicators tracked by the Short Track Program may include:

- Times from electronic timing systems (Level System)
- Subjective performance factors, including:
 - Ability to perform 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 achieved between July 1 of the previous season and the entry deadline for the competition, unless otherwise stated or in case of limited entries. All submitted times must meet or exceed the qualifying standard established for the respective competition.

1. The US Championships, US Team Selection Competitions, qualifying times/seed times:
 - a. Qualifying times must have been achieved at any ISU, USS, or other national governing body sanctioned competition with a published protocol and accessible online. Skaters are responsible for providing the protocol upon request.
 - 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 competition using electronic timing/photo finish.
2. For Age Group National Championships, qualifying times/seed times must have been achieved at an ISU, USS or other national governing body sanctioned competition with a published protocol and accessible online.
3. All submitted times must be entered accurately to the thousandth of a second (m:ss.xxx). In the rare situation needed, the High Performance Director has discretion to approve unverifiable times.
4. Medical exceptions may be granted by the High Performance Director for entry into selection events with requests approved by the USS Medical Director. These exceptions may be considered for skaters who were unable to compete due to injury but had previously achieved the qualifying time prior to July 1 of the previous season. Skaters granted a medical exception must also demonstrate physical readiness by skating a 500m Time Trial and achieving the event entry time standard.

G) Uniform. At all USS events, American skaters may not wear a current USS issued team uniform or racing suit in a competition that he or she did not earn, and that was not personally issued to them by USS. All uniforms worn by American skaters at USS or ISU competitions must comply with the USS Athlete Agreement and the ISU rules on trademarks and sponsorship markings (ISU Communication 2508). No USS member may wear a uniform displaying the markings of a foreign country unless they are officially representing that country. The Referee or the Technical Representative may issue a warning for non-compliance. If corrective action is not 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, the official time will be determined using the manual timekeeping result plus 0.2 seconds for that race or time trial only.

I) Entry Deadline. Unless otherwise stated in the competition announcement, the entry deadline is generally ten (10) days prior to the first day of competition. If the entry deadline falls on a weekend or US legal holiday, the entry deadline will move to the next business day. Late entries if available will be accepted up to five (5) days prior to the first day of competition. This will be considered the late entry deadline. If the late entry deadline falls on a weekend or US legal holiday, the late entry deadline will move to the next business day. Late entries are subject to a \$100 late fee in addition to the event registration fee. Any entry request received less than five (5) days prior to the first day of competition

must be approved by the USS High Performance Director (or their designee) and will be subject to an additional \$200 fee.

J) Safety and Equipment of Skaters.

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). USS will follow the guidance established in ISU Communication 2810, including all levels of mandatory and recommended equipment for the 2026-2027 season.
 - a. USS Selection competitions
 - i. Mandatory minimum requirement: full-body Level 3 cut resistant suit and Level 3 cut resistant gloves.
 - b. Age Group Nationals
 - i. Mandatory minimum requirement: full-body Level 2 cut resistant suit.
 - ii. Highly recommended: full-body Level 3 cut resistant suit.
 - c. Regional/club competitions
 - i. Highly recommended minimum: full-body Level 2 cut resistant suit.
2. **Helmet.** All skaters must wear safety type headgear that complies with the current ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials) standard for Short Track Speedskating. Helmets must have a regular shape, may not have protrusions (per ISU Rule 288) and must be properly strapped. For information regarding personalized helmet designs, see ISU communication 2799.
3. **Gloves.** As per ISU rule 288 (ISU Comm 2810), all skaters are required to 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 protective eyewear. Acceptable eye protection includes shatter-resistant safety glasses or a complete visor (as per ISU Comm 2810). 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).
6. While competing, the Skater is not allowed to wear any technical communication equipment for the purpose of having contact with or receiving information from other people or sources. In case of violation, the Skater shall receive a penalty (ISU rule 288). This includes any recording devices such as smart glasses.

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 are expected to be prepared, prior to the commencement of any selection competition, to either accept or decline their position for which they have qualified.

Any skater qualifying for a USS team must provide written notification to the USS High Performance Director or HP Manager indicating whether they accept or decline participation in the applicable event(s) within two (2) hours following completion of the selection, unless otherwise stated. Such

notification will be completed by signing the Letter of Intent provided by and as written by USS. This requirement applies for both funded and self-funded skaters.

This commitment process is used, in part, for team management purposes, including travel planning and determining whether discretionary invitations may be extended to other skaters to potentially fill available quota positions.

All skaters must be prepared to travel with the team on the dates identified by US Speedskating and the High Performance Director. Skaters are responsible for having all required travel and identification documentation, including valid passports and related materials, available for team processing at the qualifying event.

Any additional expenses incurred by USS as a result of a skater changing their commitment will be at the cost of the skater. A skater's commitment to attend or decline participation in an event will be considered binding. By signing the Letter of Intent, skaters agree to compete in the events for which they have qualified, unless otherwise determined by the appointed coaching staff and team leaders in attendance.

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

N) Replacement Skaters. In the event that a qualified skater declines their positions on a team, the USS ST Director, Head Coach, and the ST Task Force Athlete Representative will 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 and support participation in additional international competitions considered beneficial for athlete development. For such events, USS may select and designate traveling teams. Funding for these events may be full, partial or not provided, and all funding and support decisions will remain within the sole discretion of USS. Examples of such international development opportunities may include, but are not limited to the ISU Junior World Cups, FISU Games, Canadian Invitational, Western Elite, Quebec Cups or other international competitions not listed.

To select a traveling team, results from 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", athlete eligibility may be restricted to 'Neo-senior' skaters, defined as athletes who are of ISU Junior age or within three (3) years following the conclusion of Junior eligibility. Any funding or support for senior athletes participating in Development events, if permitted, will be determined solely at the discretion of the USS High Performance Director.

USS further reserves the right to directly select athletes to a traveling team who were unable to compete at a prior selection event due to a verifiable illness, injury, or other exceptional circumstance.

P) Coaching Policy.

1. International Events.

- a. USS will designate the coaches who will represent USS and its teams at the international events identified herein. Unless otherwise determine by USS, these coaches will be the USS National Training Program (NTP) coaching staff. USS reserves the right to appoint additional non-NTP coaches as part of the official USS coaching delegation when deemed necessary to provide appropriate athlete and team support.
- b. Any non-NTP coaches selected as part of the official USS coaching delegation must hold a current USS Level 3 Coaching Certification or otherwise be approved by USS as actively working toward completion of the Level 3 certification requirements.
- c. The USS Short Track Coaching Policy will not apply to coaching appointments to the Winter Olympic Games.

- 2. US Domestic Events.** To receive coaching credentials for any USS Short Track event identified herein, coaches must hold a current USS Level 2 Coaching Certification or higher.

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 serve as the Starter, Referee or Assistant Referee for the same gender category in which the family member is competing.
 - 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.

QUALIFIED MEDAL CONTENDERS FOR 2026-2027 ISU WORLD TOUR COMPETITIONS

Corinne Stoddard – MC in the 500m, 1000m, and 1500m.

- 2025-2026 Results:
 - 3rd in the 1500m – 2026 Winter Olympic Games
 - 3rd in the 1500m – 2026 World Championships
 - 4th in the 500m – 2026 World Championships
 - 5th in the 1000m – 2026 World Championships
 - 3rd in the 2025-26 500m ISU World Tour Classification
 - 3rd in the 2025-26 1000m ISU World Tour Classification
 - 4th in the 2025-26 1500m ISU World Tour Classification
 - 2nd in the 2025-26 Overall World Tour Classification (Crystal Globe)

Kristen Santos-Griswold - MC in the 500m and 1500m.

- 2025-2026 Results:
 - 4th in the 2025-26 500m ISU World Tour Classification
 - 6th in the 2025-26 1500m ISU World Tour Classification
 - 7th in the 2025-26 Overall World Tour Classification (Crystal Globe)

Clayton DeClemente – MC in the 1000m.

- 2025-2026 Results:
 - 4th in the 1000m – 2026 World Championships

Andrew Heo – MC in the 500m.

- 2025-2026 Results:
 - 10th in the 500m – 2026 World Championships
 - 6th in the 2025-26 500m ISU World Tour Classification

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

2027 NUTRICOST US SHORT TRACK CHAMPIONSHIPS / FALL WORLD QUALIFIER & JUNIOR WORLD CUP QUALIFIER–

September 25-27, 2026, Salt Lake City, UT

The US Championships will serve as the qualifying competition for selection to the World Tour Team, Fall Junior World Cups Team, and FISU Team.

The US Championships will be conducted in accordance with ISU rules, except as otherwise provided herein.

- This competition is open to US citizens or to individuals holding, at minimum, a valid temporary or permanent U.S. resident card together with an ISU clearance certificate authorizing representation of the United States in international competition. Any skater holding an ISU clearance certificate authorizing representation of another country will be ineligible to compete in the US Championships.
- The maximum number of entries permitted will be sixty (60) skaters per gender.
- To be eligible to compete, skaters must have achieved the following qualifying time standards:
 - Women: 500m – 48.50
 - Men: 500m – 46.00
- The competition will be open to athletes who have reached fourteen (14) years of age prior to July 1 of the current season.
- Relay participation will be mandatory for all skaters entered in the US Championships. Depending on the total number of participants, certain athletes may not be assigned to skate the relay.

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

US SPEEDSKATING SHORT TRACK US JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS –

January 8-10, 2027, Salt Lake City, UT

The US Junior Championships will serve as the qualifying competition for selection to the World Junior Championships Team, Winter World Tour Team and the World Championships Team. The competition will be conducted in accordance with ISU rules, except as otherwise provided herein.

- This competition is open to US citizens or to individuals holding, at minimum, a valid temporary or permanent U.S. resident card together with an ISU clearance certificate authorizing representation of the United States in international competition. Any skater holding an ISU clearance certificate authorizing representation of another country will be ineligible to compete in the US Junior Championships.
- To be eligible to compete, skaters must have achieved the following qualifying time standards:
 - Women: 500m – 48.50
 - Men: 500m – 46.00
- The competition will be open to athletes who have reached fourteen (14) years of age prior to July 1 of the current season.

- Relay participation will be mandatory for all skaters entered in the US Junior Championships. Depending on the total number of participants, certain athletes may not be assigned to skate the relay.

See USS Rules of Competition, Section C for Eligibility and Section F 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 conducted in conjunction with the US Championships and/or US Junior Championships at the request of the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) and with the approval of US Speedskating.

COMPETITION FORMATS.

1. The US Championships and US Junior Championships will be conducted using an **All Finals – Elimination** progression format.
 - a. The scheduled number of skaters in each round and in the Final races will be determined in accordance with 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 coordinator, in consultation with the technical representative, may modify the qualification schedule.
 - c. Final races will be conducted in reverse alphabetical order. The order of Finals between genders may be adjusted as necessary 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 be eligible to compete in the US Championships or US Junior Championships, skaters must have achieved the following qualifying time standards:

- Women: 500m – 48.50
- Men: 500m – 46.00

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

COMPETITION SCHEDULES.

1. **Seeding:** 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. **Competition Schedule:** The official competition schedule will be finalized following the completion of skater check-in and will be available at the Team/Coaches meeting.

3. **Relay Events:** Gender-specific and/or Mixed Team relay events may be included in the competition program. Participation in relay events is mandatory for all registered skaters unless a skater has been declared medically unable to compete by a physician approved by USS. Relay team composition and the scheduling of relays will be discussed at the Team/Coaches meeting.
4. **Race Draws:** The composition of the races for the single distances will be posted before the start of races each racing day.
5. **Draft Competition Schedule:** The following represents the standard competition schedule for the US Championships and US Junior Championships. The schedule may be modified as necessary by the LOC, Competition Officials, and the USS Technical Representative.
 - Day 1: 500m (1) & 1500m (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. **Seeding:**
 - a. The first Qualifying Round of each distance (1500m (1)/500m (1)/1000m (1)) will be seeded according to the National Distance Ranking. Skaters without a National Distance Ranking will be placed on the Seeding List after all ranked skaters according to their best time achieved between July 1, 2025 to the start of the competition. These times must be submitted in their registration entry form. Ties on time will not be broken, the order for seeding purposes will be random.
 - b. The first Qualifying Round of the second races of each distance (1500m (2)/500m (2)/1000m (2)) will be seeded according to the updated National Distance Ranking which includes the results from the first distance (1500m (1)/500m (1)/1000m (1)).
 - c. See section 4 of Regulations – National Distance Rankings – Seeding at US Selection Events.
2. **Seeding procedure:** Seeding will be conducted using the standard clockwise serpentine method. Lane positions for the first qualifying round of each distance will be assigned according to the ranking list for that distance. The order of racing for each qualifying round will not be drawn but will be according to the ranking order.
3. **Subsequent Qualifying Rounds:** For seeding subsequent Qualifying Rounds, direct qualifiers, any additional (+) qualifiers and/or advancements will be ranked based first on finishing place and then on time achieved in the previous round. If two or more skaters have identical times over the distance, their ranking order will be determined by random draw. Lane position will be decided by the same ranking criteria; first by finish place, then by time in the previous round.
4. Any additional (+) qualifiers are considered conditional based on the number of advancements made by the Referee. In the case of a semi round with 3 races, advancements made to the B Final shall take the place of the lowest ranked skaters that would have qualified to the B Final.

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 using the following order:

1. By Final round beginning with group/block A, then B, then C, etc.
2. Within each Final group/block, skaters will be ranked in the following order:
 - a. Skaters who finished the race, in order of finish.
 - b. Skaters without a finish place, in the following order:
 - i. Did not Finish (DNF)
 - ii. Penalty (PEN)
 - iii. Did Not Start (DNS)

Results in previous qualifying rounds are disregarded; ties in final group/block will remain tied.

3. Skaters who did not qualify for a Final round will be ranked within the Qualifying round in which they were eliminated. Ties will be broken as follow:
 - a. Finish order in subsequent previous Qualifying round (s);
 - b. Then by best time skated in any race over the distance.

Further ties will not be broken.

4. A skater who qualifies for, or is advanced to, a subsequent round but is unable to start due to a verified medical reason will be recorded as Did Not Start (DNS) in that round to determine their rank in the distance classification.
5. Skaters who receive a Did Not Finish (DNF) in the first qualifying round will be ranked with the same ranking.
6. Skaters who receive a Penalty (PEN) in the first qualifying round will be ranked next with the same ranking.
7. Skaters who receive a Yellow Card (YC) in **any round** will be ranked next with the same ranking.
8. Skaters who receive a Red Card (RC) in **any round**, or who Do Not Start (DNS) in the first qualifying round will not receive a rank but will be listed at the bottom of the distance classification in the following order: RC, DNS.

COMBINED DISTANCE CLASSIFICATION (CDC)

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

1. Highest total number of Final Points.
2. Best combined distance ranking across the two distances.
3. Best ranking achieved in one of the two distances.
4. Fastest time achieved in any race over the two distances.

SPECIAL OVERALL CLASSIFICATION

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

Skaters will be ranked in the following order:

1. Highest total number of Final Points from the best four (4) of six (6) distances.
2. Best combined ranking across the best four (4) 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 is determined by combining the Combined Distance Classifications (CDCs).

Skaters will be ranked in the following order:

1. Highest total number of Final Points.
2. Best combined ranking across all Combined Distance Classifications.
3. Best rank achieved in one of the Combined Distance Classifications, followed by the next best ranking(s), if necessary to break the tie.
4. Fastest time achieved in the middle distance (1000m).

SANCTIONS AND CONSEQUENCES: SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

1. **Sanctions and consequences:** A table that describes sanctions and consequences can be found in the respective qualification tables published on the USS website.
2. **End of a Race:** In accordance with ISU rules, 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 will be assigned to such skater.

3. **Withdrawal:** A skater withdrawing from a distance or from the remainder of the competition must submit an official Withdrawal Form. 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. **Participation:** 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 relays are an important athlete development opportunity and may be considered by USS when evaluating relay performance and future team selections.
2. **Team Composition:** Seeding the teams for exhibition relay events (both gender specific and Mixed Team relay events) will be done by the Competition Coordinator using the 500m submitted seed times in consultation with the Tec Rep and/or USS Representative on site.
3. **Team Announcements:** The composition of teams will be discussed/announced at the coaches meeting and/or published through the official competition communication platform.

SECTION 3

USS INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS / EVENTS AND QUALIFYING

RESERVATION

USS reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to modify the funded international competition schedule at any time and is under no obligation to send staff or fund a team to any international events or any particular competition. Only athletes who qualify for international events or competitions, as outlined below, are eligible to be entered into that event and/or have travel costs covered for such events or competitions. If a qualified athlete declines participation, the USS High Performance Director or their designee, will determine whether to name a replacement athlete for that event/competition. Any replacement athlete may receive full, partial, or no funding at the sole discretion of USS. For an overview of athlete benefits and services associated with international competitions, refer to the current USS Athlete Services Grid.

For ISU events hosted by USS on home soil, USS may make reasonable efforts to fill all available quota positions to maximize U.S. representation. Note, however, that athletes selected to fill these positions who have not achieved the funding time standards are still considered self-funded athletes in regard to the USS Athlete Services Grid.

2027 NUTRICOST US SHORT TRACK US CHAMPIONSHIPS (ISU WORLD TOUR COMPETITIONS 1-5)

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

Entry Quotas. USS will have a maximum quota of six (6) athletes per gender for each ISU World Tour Competition, as per ISU Rules and Regulations and ISU Communication 2806.

Participation and Funding Requirements (World Tour Competitions 1 - 5).

To be eligible for participation and funding, athletes must satisfy the following requirements:

1. The athlete has signed the current season's USS Athlete Agreement.
2. The athlete has qualified as per the selection procedures.
3. Funding
 - a. For World Tour Competitions 1- 5, USS may fund a team of up to six (6) men and six (6) women. USS reserves the right to reduce the number of funded athletes, by gender and/or World Tour competition, based on projected international competitiveness.
 - b. For World Tour Competitions 1-5, skaters must have achieved one of the following funding time standards at an ISU or USS sanctioned event between January 1, 2025, 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. There is no roll down if athletes are ineligible to compete in the ISU World Tours.

4. Commitment to World Tour Competitions. Athletes may elect/declare to compete in World Tour Competitions 1 and 2 and/or 3-5; however, they must commit to the block of events (i.e. athletes may not elect to compete in World Tour Competition 1 but not World Tour Competition 2). The rationale for this is both financial and logistical. The Letter of Intent signed at the conclusion of the selection competition constitutes the athlete's commitment to travel with the team to World Tour Competitions 1-2 and/or 3-5, unless approved by the High Performance Director.

Selection Procedures (World Tour Competitions 1 - 5) – Team Selection

1. Athletes will be selected to the World Tour Team in the following order:
 - a. Medal Contenders. An athlete who has been approved as a medal contender may be named to the World Tour Team by invoking their Medal Contender status. A maximum of two (2) medal contenders may be selected per gender.
 - b. Distance Winners. The first ranked skater in each combined distance classification (CDC) (500m, 1000m and 1500m) at the US Championships will automatically be named to the World Tour team. If the same skater wins more than one CDC, there is no roll down.
 - i. If more than four (4) athletes per gender are identified through 1.a and 1.b, ties between the distance winners will be broken based on the following, in this order:
 1. Highest Special Overall Classification
 2. Second best CDC
 3. Third best CDC
 4. Highest World Ranking in any individual distance
 - c. Special Overall Classification. The remaining positions, bringing the team to four (4) athletes per gender, will be based on the highest ranked athletes in the Special Overall Classification from the US Championships. These four (4) athletes will be selected to compete in World Tour Competitions 1-5, subject to eligibility, funding requirements, and athlete availability.
2. Selection of Additional Team Members. The remaining positions, bringing the pool up to potentially 8 skaters per gender, will be based on the next highest ranked athletes in the Special Overall Classification from the US Championships.

This pool of athletes will be eligible for selection to World Tour Competitions 1-2 and/or 3-5 at the sole discretion of USS. When determining which athletes will compete in World Tour Competitions 1-2 and/or 3-5, USS may consider factors to maximize team performance including, but not limited to:

- Overall team composition
- Relay team performance
- Competition schedule

Replacement of skaters. Unless USS deems necessary, USS will comply with its “NO MOVE UP” policy. In the event a selected athlete declines participation in, or is unable to attend, a World Tour Competition, USS may designate a replacement athlete from the same qualifying event used to select the original team members. Replacement skater(s) need to be ranked in the top 10 in the special overall classification. Funding of the replacement athletes is at the sole discretion of USS.

Selection Procedures (World Tour Competitions 1 - 5) – Allocation of Start Positions

World Tour Competitions 1-2

For each individual distance, start positions will be allocated in the following order:

1. US Championships. The highest ranked skater in the applicable Combined Distance Classification (500m, 1000m, or 1500m) at the US Championships will receive the first priority to compete in that distance.
2. 2026-2027 World Ranking. The next available start position will be allocated to the athlete with the highest 2026-2027 ISU World Ranking in that distance, provided the athlete is ranked within the top twenty-four (24) in the World Ranking. If the skater in point 1 and 2 are the same, USS will roll down as long as the skater is ranked in the top 24 in a 2026-2027 World Ranking Distance Classification.
3. Remaining Start Positions. Any remaining start positions will be allocated in consultation with the Coaching staff, High Performance Director, and the Athlete Representative. The following criteria will be taken into consideration, in no particular order:
 - 2025-2026 World Tour Individual Distance Classification
 - Current World Ranking per distance
 - Performance at the 2026 World Championships and OWG
 - Performance at the 2027 US Championships
 - Performance at the 2026 World Junior Championships
 - 2024-2025 World Tour Individual Distance Classification (if an athlete did not compete in the 2025-2026 season)
 - Providing meaningful international racing opportunities for athlete development

World Tour Competitions 3-5

For each World Tour and each individual distance, start positions will be allocated in the following order:

1. 2026-2027 ISU World Tour Distance Classification. The first available start position will be allocated to the athlete with the highest ISU World Tour Distance Classification provided the athlete is ranked within the top twenty-four (24).
2. 2026-2027 ISU World Ranking. The highest ranked athlete in the current ISU World Ranking will receive priority to compete in that distance, provided the athlete is ranked within the top forty (40).
3. Remaining Start Positions. Any remaining start positions will be allocated in consultation with the Coaching staff, High Performance Director, and the Athlete Representative. The following criteria will be taken into consideration, in no particular order:
 - Current World Tour Classification and World Ranking per distance
 - 2025-2026 World Tour Individual Distance Classification
 - Performance at the 2026 World Championships and OWG
 - Performance at the 2027 US Championships
 - Performance at the 2026 World Junior Championships
 - 2024-2025 World Tour Individual Distance Classification (if an athlete did not compete in the 2025-2026 season)
 - Providing meaningful international racing opportunities for athlete development

WINTER WORLD TOUR QUALIFIER/2027 US JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS (ISU WORLD TOUR COMPETITIONS 6-7)

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

Entry Quotas. USS will have a maximum quota of six (6) athletes per gender for each ISU World Tour Competition, as per ISU Rules and Regulations and ISU Communication 2806.

Participation and Funding Requirements (World Tour Competitions 6-7).

To be eligible for participation and funding, athletes must satisfy the following requirements:

1. The athlete has signed the current season's USS Athlete Agreement.
2. The athlete has qualified as per the selection procedures.
3. Funding
 - a. For World Tour Competitions 6-7, USS may fund a team of up to six (6) men and six (6) women. USS reserves the right to reduce the number of funded athletes, by gender and/or World Tour competition, based on projected international competitiveness.
 - b. For World Tour Competitions 6-7, skaters must have achieved one of the following funding time standards at an ISU or USS sanctioned event between July 1, 2025, and the conclusion of US 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 6 according to the following selection procedures.

4. Commitment to World Tour Competitions: Athletes may elect/declare to compete in World Tour Competitions 6 & 7; however, they must commit to the block of events (i.e. athletes may not elect to compete in World Tour Competition 6 but not World Tour Competition 7). The rationale for this is both financial and logistical. The Letter of Intent signed at the conclusion of the selection competition constitutes the athlete's commitment to travel with the team to World Tour Competitions 6-7, unless otherwise approved by the High Performance Director.

Selection Procedures (World Tour Competitions 6-7) – Team Selection

Subject to the applicable ISU entry quotas, athletes will be selected to the World Tour Team as follows:

1. Prequalification. Athletes who are ranked in the top 10 of the ISU World Tour Individual Distance Classification or top 10 in the overall World Tour Classification (Crystal Globe) or who have achieved 2 top 3 finishes in any individual distance following World Tour 5 will be prequalified for World Tour Competitions 6 & 7.
 - a. Skaters selected based on individual distance World Tour Classification or overall World Tour Classification (Crystal Globe) do not have to compete in the Winter World Tour Team Qualifier.

- b. If more than four (4) skaters of the same gender are selected, ties will be broken based on the following, in this order:
 - i. Highest ranked skater in an individual distance World Tour Classification
 - ii. Highest ranked skater in the overall World Tour Classification (Crystal Globe)
 2. Remaining Team Positions. Remaining positions, bringing the team to five (5) athletes per gender, will be filled in the following order:
 - a. Medal Contenders. An athlete who has been approved as a medal contender may be named to the World Tour Team by invoking their Medal Contender status. A maximum of two (2) medal contenders may be selected per gender.
 - b. Distance Winners. The first ranked skater in each Combined Distance Classification (500m, 1000m and 1500m) at the Winter World Tour Qualifier may be selected for World Tour Competitions 6 & 7. In any distance (500m, 1000m, and/or 1500m) where there is a prequalified skater in point 1 above, the winner of the CDC will not automatically be selected to the World Tour Team. In the event the skater is the same as in point 1, there is no roll-down.
 - i. If more than five (5) skaters of the same gender are selected after point 2b, ties will be broken based on the following, in this order:
 1. Highest Special Overall Classification
 2. Best CDC
 - c. Special Overall Classification. Next highest ranked athletes in the Special Overall Classification from the Winter World Tour Qualifier.
 3. Selection of Additional Team Member. USS reserves the right to select a sixth athlete per gender and will be selected at the sole discretion of USS. To be eligible for consideration, an athlete must have been a member of the 2026-2027 Fall World Tour Team. This athlete will be selected in consultation between the High Performance Director, USS Head Coach and Short Track Task Force Athlete Representative. When determining the athlete selection for the World Tour Team, USS may consider factors to maximize team performance including, but not limited to:
 - Overall team composition
 - Relay team performance
 - Competition schedule

Replacement of skaters. Unless USS deems necessary, USS will comply with its “NO MOVE UP” policy. In the event a selected athlete declines participation in, or is unable to attend, a World Tour Competition, USS may designate a replacement athlete from the same qualifying event used to select the original team members. Replacement skater(s) need to be ranked in the top 10 in the special overall classification. Funding of the replacement athletes is at the sole discretion of USS.

Selection Procedures (World Tour Competitions 6 & 7) – Allocation of Start Positions

For each individual distance, start positions will be allocated in the following order:

1. 2026-2027 ISU World Tour Individual Distance Classification. The first two (2) available start positions will be allocated to the athletes with the two (2) highest ISU World Tour Individual Distance Classification.
2. Remaining Start Positions. Any remaining start positions will be allocated in consultation with the Coaching staff, High Performance Director, and the Athlete Representative. The following criteria will be taken into consideration, in no particular order:
 - Current World Tour Classification and World Ranking per distance
 - 2025-2026 World Tour Individual Distance Classification

- Performance at the 2026 World Championships and OWG
- Performance at the 2027 US Championships
- Performance at the 2026 World Junior Championships
- 2024-2025 World Cup Individual Distance Classification (if an athlete was injured in the 2025-2026 season)
- Providing meaningful international racing opportunities for athlete development

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 2805.

Entry Quotas.

The size of the US Team is determined by the ISU entry quotas earned through the results of the previous ISU World Short Track Speed Skating Championships and the applicable ISU Rules and Communications.

For the 2027 ISU World Short Track Speed Skating Championships, the US has earned the following maximum entry quotas based on the results of the 2026 ISU World Short Track Speed Skating Championships:

- Five (5) women and five (5) men if both gender relay teams qualify.
- Three (3) women and three (3) men if only the Mixed Team Relay qualifies.
- Two (2) women and three (3) men if no relay team qualifies.

Individual Distance Entry Quotas

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

USS may elect to fund a substitute to travel with the team if deemed competitive for this event.

Participation & Funding.

To be eligible for participation and funding, athletes must satisfy the following requirements:

1. Athlete has signed the USS Athlete Agreement for the current season.
2. Athlete has qualified as per the selection procedures.
3. Funding
 - a. For World Championships, USS may fund a team up to the abovementioned entry quotas. USS reserves the right to reduce the number of funded athletes, by gender, based on projected international competitiveness.

- b. Qualified relay teams must be ranked in the top 12 in the World Tour Classification after World Tour 7 to receive funding.
- c. For World Championships, skaters must have achieved one of the following funding time standards at an ISU or USS sanctioned event between July 1, 2025 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.

Replacement of skaters. Unless USS deems necessary, USS will comply with its “NO MOVE UP” policy. In the event a selected athlete declines participation in, or is unable to attend, the World Championships, USS may designate a replacement athlete from the same qualifying event used to select the original team members. Replacement skater(s) need to be ranked in the top 10 in the special overall classification. Funding of the replacement athletes is at the sole discretion of USS.

Selection Procedures – Team Selection

Subject to the applicable ISU entry quotas, athletes will be selected to the World Championships team as follows:

If neither the Mixed Team Relay nor the Gender Relay Team has qualified, two (2) individual athletes per gender will be selected according to the following criteria.

1. Prequalification. Athletes who are ranked in the top 10 of the ISU World Tour Individual Distance Classification or top 10 in the overall World Tour Classification (Crystal Globe) or who have achieved 2 top 3 finishes in any individual distance following World Tour 5 will be prequalified for the World Championships Team. If more than two (2) athletes are identified, ties will be broken as follows:
 - a. The athlete with the two (2) highest finishes in any distance from WT 6-7.
 - b. The athlete with the highest Individual Distance World Tour Classification after WT 7.
2. Remaining Team Positions. Remaining positions, up to two (2) per gender, will be filled in the following order:
 - a. World Tour Results. An athlete with the two (2) highest individual results at World Tours Competitions 1-7, who has not already been named to the team, may be selected provided both results are in the top ten (10). Results can be achieved in different individual distances. A maximum of two (2) athletes may be selected per gender subject to the number of remaining team positions.
 - i. If athletes are tied based on their two (2) highest results, the tie will be broken by comparing their third-highest result, then their fourth-highest result, and so on until the tie is broken.
 - b. Distance Winners. The winner in each Combined Distance Classification (500m, 1000m and 1500m) at the Winter World Tour Qualifier may be selected for the World Championships Team. In any distance (500m, 1000m, and/or 1500m) where there is a prequalified skater in point 1 above, the winner of the CDC will not automatically be selected to the World Championships Team. In the event the skater is the same as in point 1, there is no roll-down.

- i. If more than two (2) athletes per gender are identified from point 1.c, ties between the distance winners will be broken based on the following, in this order:
 1. Highest Special Overall Classification
 2. Second best CDC
 3. Third best CDC
 4. Highest World Ranking in any individual distance
 - c. Special Overall Classification. Remaining positions will be based on the next highest ranked athletes in the Special Overall Classification from the Winter World Tour Qualifier.
 3. Third men's position. The third men's position will be selected in consultation with the Coaching staff, High Performance Director, and the Athlete Representative. The following criteria will be taken into consideration, in no particular order:
 - 1500m performance at WT 6-7
 - 1500m World Tour Classification
 - 1500m World Ranking
 - 1500m performance at the 2027 US Championships and US Junior Championships
 - 1500m performance at the 2027 World Junior Championships

If the Mixed Team Relay has qualified, athletes will be selected to the World Championships team as follows:

1. The first two (2) athletes will be selected as above.
2. Selection of Additional Team Member. USS reserves the right to select a third athlete per gender and will be selected at the sole discretion of USS. To be eligible for consideration, an athlete must have been a member of the 2026-2027 World Tour Team. This athlete will be selected in consultation between the High Performance Director, USS Head Coach and Short Track Task Force Athlete Representative. Athletes eligible for selection to the World Championships Team at the sole discretion of USS. When determining the athlete selection for the World Championships Team, USS may consider factors to maximize team performance including, but not limited to:
 - Overall team composition
 - Relay team performance at 2026-27 World Tour events
 - Relay specialist criteria (1E)

If the Gender Relay Team has qualified, athletes will be selected to the World Championships team as follows:

1. Prequalification. Athletes who are ranked in the top 10 of the ISU World Tour Individual Distance Classification or top 10 in the overall World Tour Classification (Crystal Globe) or who have achieved 2 top 3 finishes in any individual distance following World Tour 5 will be prequalified for the World Championships Team. If more than four (4) athletes are identified, ties will be broken as follows:
 - a. The athlete with the two (2) highest finishes in any distance from WT 6-7.
 - b. The athlete with the highest Individual Distance World Tour Classification after WT 7.
2. Remaining Team Positions. Remaining positions, up to four (4) per gender, will be filled in the following order:
 - a. World Tour Results.

- i. One (1) athlete with the two (2) highest individual results at World Tours 6-7 that has not been named to the team, as long as both results are in the top sixteen (16). Results can be achieved in different individual distances.
 - ii. One (1) athlete with the two (2) highest individual results at World Tours 1-7 that has not been named to the team, as long as both results are in the top ten (10). Results can be achieved in different individual distances.
- b. Distance Winners. The first ranked skater in each Combined Distance Classification (500m, 1000m and 1500m) at the Winter World Tour Qualifier may be selected for the World Championships Team. In any distance (500m, 1000m, and/or 1500m) where there is a prequalified skater in point 1 above, the winner of the CDC will not automatically be selected to the World Championships Team. In the event the skater is the same as in point 1, there is no roll-down.
- c. Special Overall Classification. Remaining positions will be based on the next highest ranked athletes in the Special Overall Classification from the Winter World Tour Qualifier.
- d. If more than four (4) athletes are identified through points 2 a.-c., ties will be broken as follows:
 - i. The athlete with the two (2) highest finishes in any distance from WT 6-7.
 - ii. The athlete with the highest Individual Distance World Tour Classification after WT 7.
- 3. Selection of Additional Team Member. A fifth athlete per gender will be selected at the sole discretion of USS. To be eligible for consideration, an athlete must have been a member of the 2026-2027 World Tour Team. This athlete will be selected in consultation between the High Performance Director, USS Head Coach and Short Track Task Force Athlete Representative. Athletes eligible for selection to the World Championships Team at the sole discretion of USS. When determining the athlete selection for the World Championships Team, USS may consider factors to maximize team performance including, but not limited to:
 - Overall team composition
 - Relay team performance at 2026-27 World Tour events
 - Relay specialist criteria (1E)

Selection Procedures – Allocation of Start Positions

For each individual distance, start positions will be allocated in the following order:

1. World Tour Performance. The highest ranked athlete in the 2026-2027 ISU World Tour Distance Classification will receive priority to compete in that distance, provided the athlete is ranked within the top sixteen (16) after World Tour 7.
2. Remaining Start Positions. Any remaining start positions will be allocated in consultation with the Coaching staff, High Performance Director, and the Athlete Representative. The following criteria will be taken into consideration, in no particular order:
 - Current World Tour Classification per distance
 - Current World Ranking per distance
 - Performance at WT 6-7
 - Performance at the 2027 US Championships and US Junior Championships
 - Performance at the 2027 World Junior Championships
 - Performance at the 2026 World Championships and OWG

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 2805.

Entry Quotas.

The size of the US Team is determined by the ISU entry quotas earned through the results of the previous ISU World Junior Short Track Speed Skating Championships, the current season's Junior World Cups and the applicable ISU Rules and Communications.

For the 2027 ISU World Junior Short Track Speed Skating Championships, the US has earned the following maximum entry quotas based on the results of the 2026 ISU World Junior Short Track Speed Skating Championships and the 2026-2027 Junior World Cups:

- Up to Five (5) women and five (5) men if both gender relay teams qualify.
- Three (3) women and three (3) men if no gender relay qualified.

Individual Distance Entry Quotas

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

Participation & Funding.

To be eligible for participation and funding, athletes must satisfy the following requirements:

1. Athlete has signed the USS Athlete Agreement for the current season.
2. Athlete has qualified as per the selection procedures.
3. Funding. USS is committed to funding up to four (4) women and four (4) men. At its sole discretion, USS may fund a fifth skater in either gender for relay purposes and/or to compete in an individual distance event.
 - a. To be eligible for funding, an athlete must have achieved one of the following funding time standards at an ISU or USS sanctioned event between July 1, 2025, and the conclusion of US Junior Championships.
 - 500m (women): 45.50 500m (men): 42.50
 - 1000m (women): 1:33.50 1000m (men): 1:27.00
4. Self-Funded Athletes: Athletes who qualify for the World Junior Championships Team but do not meet the funding time standards may elect to participate as self-funded athletes.

- a. USS may, at its sole discretion, reimburse all or a portion of the athlete's expenses based on performance at the World Junior Championships. Reimbursement may be considered for athletes who:
 - i. Achieve a top 16 finish in an individual distance; or
 - ii. Win a medal in a relay event.

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 for the World Junior Championships Team will be the US Junior Championships.

Subject to the applicable ISU entry quotas, athletes will be selected in the following order:

1. Prequalification. Athletes who are ranked in the top 10 of the ISU World Tour Individual Distance Classification or top 10 in the overall World Tour Classification (Crystal Globe) following World Tour 5 will be prequalified for the World Junior Championships Team.
 - a. Skaters selected based on individual distance World Tour Classification or overall World Tour Classification (Crystal Globe) do not have to compete in the US Junior Championships/Winter World Tour Team Qualifier.
2. Distance Winners. The first-place junior skater in each Combined Distance Classification (500m, 1000m, and 1500m) at the US Junior Championships may be named to the World Junior Championships Team. If the same skater wins more than one CDC, there is no roll down.
3. Special Overall Classification. The remaining positions, bringing the team to the applicable ISU entry quota, will be filled based on the Special Overall Classification at the US Junior Championships.
4. Replacement of skaters. If a skater declines their position on the World Junior Championships Team, 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.

Selection Procedures – Allocation of Start Positions

For each individual distance, start positions will be allocated in the following order:

1. The winner of the Combined Distance Classification at the US Junior Championships will receive priority to compete in that distance.
2. Remaining start position(s). For each distance, remaining start positions will be allocated in consultation with the Junior World Coaching staff, High Performance 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 1-5
 - iii. Performance at Junior World Cups
 - iv. Performance at the Canadian Invitational
 - v. Performance at US Championships

ISU JUNIOR WORLD CUPS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

ISU FALL JUNIOR WORLD CUPS

Eligibility. The Junior World Cups are open to the U-19 (previously Junior A) & U-17 (previously 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 2807. There is a maximum of three (3) competitors per distance.

Participation and Funding

To be eligible for participation and funding, athletes must satisfy the following requirements:

1. Athlete has signed the USS Athlete Agreement for the current season.
2. Athlete has qualified as per the selection procedures.
3. Funding. USS is committed to provide a travel stipend. The amount of the stipend will be determined by USS and communicated to eligible athletes prior to the event.
 - a. To be eligible for funding, an athlete must have achieved one of the following funding time standards at an ISU or USS sanctioned event between January 1, 2025, and the conclusion of US Championships.
 - 500m (women): 46.40 500m (men): 43.35
 - 1000m (women): 1:35.40 1000m (men): 1:28.70

USS reserves the right to provide a travel stipend to 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 10 juniors according to the following selection procedures.

1. Commitment to Junior World Cups Competitions: Athletes are expected to commit to both ISU Junior World Cup events. If an athlete is unable to participate in both events, the travel stipend will be reviewed and may be reduced at the discretion of USS.

Selection Procedures (ISU Junior World Cups) – Team Selection

The primary selection competition for the Junior World Cup Team will be the US Championships.

Athletes will be selected in the following order:

1. Combined Distance Classification. The highest ranked junior skater in each Combined Distance Classification (500m, 1000m, and 1500m) at the US Championships will be named to the Junior World Cup Team. If the same skater is the highest ranked skater in more than one CDC, there is no roll down.
2. Special Overall Classification. The remaining positions will be filled based on the Special Overall Classification at the US Championships.
3. Replacement of skaters. If a skater declines their position on the Junior World Cup Team, the skater with the next highest Special Overall Classification at US Championships will be selected as a replacement.
Travel stipend for replacement athlete(s) is at the sole discretion of USS.

Selection Procedures – Allocation of Start Positions

For each individual distance, start positions will be allocated in the following order:

1. The highest ranked junior in each Combined Distance Classification at the US Championships will receive priority to compete in that distance.
2. Remaining start position(s): For each distance, remaining start positions will be allocated in consultation with the Junior World Cups Coaching staff, High Performance Director, and the Athlete Representative. The following criteria will be taken into consideration:
 - i. Performance at US Championships
 - ii. Performance at previous ISU Junior World Cups
 - iii. Performance at ISU World Tour competitions
 - iv. International racing experience objectives
 - v. Competition schedule and distances offered

ISU JUNIOR WORLD CUP FINAL

Eligibility. The Junior World Cup Competitions are open to the U-19 (previously Junior A) & U-17 (previously 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 2807. There is a maximum of three (3) competitors per distance.

Participation and Funding

To be eligible for participation and funding, athletes must satisfy the following requirements:

1. Athlete has signed the USS Athlete Agreement for the current season.
2. Athlete has qualified as per the selection procedures.
3. Funding. USS intends to fund the World Junior Championships Team to compete at the ISU Junior World Cup Final, subject to the event location and available funding. Any fifth skater or replacement athlete(s) selected to the team will not be funded by USS.
 - a. To be eligible for funding, an athlete must have achieved one of the following funding time standards at an ISU or USS sanctioned event between July 1, 2025, and the conclusion of US Junior Championships.

➤ 500m (women): 45.50	500m (men): 42.50
➤ 1000m (women): 1:33.50	1000m (men): 1:27.00

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

1. The five (5) skaters that have qualified for the Junior World Championships Team.
2. Replacement of Skaters: If a selected skater declines their position on the Junior World Cup Final Team, the next highest ranked junior in the Special Overall Classification at the US Junior Championships will be selected as a replacement, provided the athlete:
 - a. Is ranked among the top eight (8) junior athletes in the Special Overall Classification at the US Championships; and
 - b. Has achieved one of the qualifying time standards outlined above.

Selection Procedures – Allocation of Start Positions

For each individual distance, start positions will be allocated in the following order:

1. The highest ranked junior in each Combined Distance Classification at the US Junior Championships will receive priority to compete in that distance.
2. Remaining start position(s): For each distance, remaining start positions will be allocated in consultation with the Junior World Cups Coaching staff, High Performance Director, and the Athlete Representative. The following criteria will be taken into consideration:
 - i. Performance at US Junior Championships
 - ii. Performance at ISU World Tour competitions 1-5
 - iii. Performance at Junior World Cups
 - iv. Performance at the Canadian Invitational
 - v. Performance at US Championships
 - vi. 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. World Tour Team athletes.
2. Remaining athletes, bringing the team up to 10, in the Special Overall Classification at the US Championships.

SECTION 4

2026-2027 NATIONAL CLASSIFICATIONS/RANKINGS

NATIONAL INDIVIDUAL DISTANCE CLASSIFICATIONS

A National Individual Distance Classification will be established for the 500m, 1000m, and 1500m. Skaters will be ranked in the following order:

1. World Championships Distance Classification: Skaters who competed in an individual distance at the 2027 ISU World Short Track Speed Skating Championships will be ranked first in order of placement.
2. World Tour Distance Classification: Skaters who competed in an individual distance during the 2026-2027 ISU World Tour season will be ranked next in order of placement based on their final ISU World Tour Individual Distance Classification.
3. US Championships/Fall World Tour Team Qualifier and US Junior Championships/Winter World Tour Team Qualifier Distance Classification: For all remaining skaters, points earned from the individual distance classifications (up to 4 per distance) at the 2027 US Championships/Fall World Tour Team Qualifier and 2027 US Junior Championships/Winter World Tour Team Qualifier will be combined to establish the National Individual Distance Classification. The point system used for the National Individual Distance Classification will be the same as the Final points (1st place – 10000pts, 2nd place – 8500pts, etc)

2026-27 OVERALL NATIONAL CLASSIFICATION

An Overall National Classification will be established for the 2026-2027 season. Skaters will be ranked in the following order:

1. World Championships: Skaters who competed in individual distances at the 2027 ISU World Short Track Speed Skating Championships will be ranked first based on their highest individual distance finish. In the event of a tie, the next highest finish in any individual distance will break the tie. If a tie remains, the Special Overall Classification from 2027 US Championships will be used to break the tie.
2. Remaining skaters will be ranked based on the Overall National Classification, calculated using the total Final Points earned from their National Individual Distance Classifications (500m, 1000m, and 1500m) throughout the season.

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 an athlete's best four (4) results from the most recent six (6) Individual Distance Classifications (500m, 1000m and 1500m) at USS Selection events will be considered. The best four (4) results will establish a ranking per distance in the following order:

1. Highest total number of Final Points from the best four (4) of six (6) results.
2. Best combined ranking across the best four (4) results.

3. Best ranking in one (1) out of the best four (4) results.
4. Best time on the distance of the best four (4) results.

Skaters without a National Distance Ranking will be placed on the Seeding List after all ranked skaters according to their best time achieved between July 1, 2025 to the start of the competition. These times must be submitted in their registration entry form. Times on time will not be broken, the order for seeding purposes will be random.

World Championships Team skaters who did not compete in the 2027 US Junior Championships will be assigned points as follows:

1. In distances where World Championships Team members are ranked in the top **10** of the ISU World Tour classification, these 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 World Championships Team members are not ranked in the top **10** of the ISU World Tour classification, these skaters will receive points based on the individual distance classifications from the 2027 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

2027-2028 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 in the Special Overall Classification at the 2027 US Championships 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 2026 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 High Performance Director, NTP coaches and USS HP staff.
4. To be considered a discretionary member, skaters must compete in the US Championships, the US Junior Championships/Winter World Cup Qualifier, and at least one (1) other competition(s) designated by the USS High Performance Director, NTP coaches and USS HP staff unless approved by the USS High Performance Director.
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 High Performance 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 High Performance Director or his/her designee, for injury, illness or other extraordinary circumstances.

2027-2028 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 junior events.

Qualification.

1. Must have been a member of the 2026-2027 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, 2025, 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

2027-2028 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.

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. Time standards for the 500m or 1000m must have been skated at any ISU or USS sanctioned competition between July 1, 2025, and the conclusion of Age Group Nationals.
 - 500m (women): 46.90 500m (men): 43.80
 - 1000m (women): 1:36.30 1000m (men): 1:29.60
 - *Times are approximately 3% of the USS World Junior Championships Funding Time
3. The top three (3) eligible skaters by gender from the season ST Level System not already named to the NTP or Junior National Team. (6 skaters total) At least one (1) U-15 (previously Junior C and one (1) U-17 (previously Junior B) will be named through point 3.

4. The next top three (3) eligible skaters by gender from the next highest combined sub-classifications of the 2027 US Junior Championships not already named to the NTP, Junior National Team or in point 1 (above). (6 skaters total) At least one (1) U-15 (previously Junior C) and one (1) U-17 (previously Junior B) will be named through point 4.
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 High Performance Director or his/her designee, for injury, illness or other extraordinary circumstances.

2027-2028 US SPEEDSKATING SHORT TRACK NEO-SENIOR TEAM

The Neo-Senior Team will be named by approximately April 15th each year, following the conclusion of the season. Athletes named to this team have not been named to the NTP, Junior National Team, or National Development Team.

Eligibility. All Neo-Senior Team skaters must:

1. Be eligible and declared to represent the USA at ISU events.
2. Not be older than 22 years old by July 1 of the current season (4 years post-junior).

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:
 - a. First year neo-senior (same as USS World Junior Championships Funding Time)

➤ 500m (women): 45.50	500m (men): 42.50
➤ 1000m (women): 1:33.50	1000m (men): 1:27.00
 - b. Years 2-4 neo-senior (approximately 1% faster USS World Junior Championships Funding Time)

➤ 500m (women): 45.10	500m (men): 42.10
➤ 1000m (women): 1:32.60	1000m (men): 1:26.20
3. Must meet one of the following:
 - a. World Championships or World Tour Team members for the 2026-2027 season
 - b. Top 25 finish in any individual distance at the 2027 World Junior Championships
 - c. Top 8 finish in the gender relay event at the 2027 World Junior Championships
 - d. Top 16 in the Overall National Ranking of the 2026-2027 season

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 2027 World Championships Team.

To be considered as an athlete who has earned Medal Contender status for the 2027 World Championships team, an athlete must have met one of the following criteria (1 or 2 or 3):

1. Be ranked in the top 10 in ISU World Tour Classification in any individual distance after World Tour Competition 5.
2. Be ranked in the top 10 in the overall World Tour classification (Crystal Globe) after World Tour Competition 5.
3. 2 top 3 in any individual distance at the 2026-2027 ISU World Tour Competitions 1-5

Criteria for 2027-2028 World Tour Team.

To be considered as an athlete who has earned Medal Contender status for the 2027-2028 World Tour Team, an athlete must have met one of the following criteria (a or b):

- a. 2027 World Championships
 1. Individual Distance – 1 top 5 finish or
 2. Individual Distance – 2 top 10 finishes
- b. 2026-2027 results. An athlete must have met two of the following criteria (1,2,3):
 1. Be ranked in the top 10 in the ISU World Tour Classification in any individual distance within the 2026-2027 season.
 2. Be ranked in the top 10 in the overall World Tour Classification (Crystal Globe) within the 2026-2027 season.
 3. Finish in the top 10 in an individual distance (500m, 1000m, or 1500m) at the 2027 ISU World Short Track Championships.

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 High Performance 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 1-7
6. ISU Junior World Cups
7. ISU Championships – Senior and Junior
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 High Performance 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

COMPETITION FORMAT AND MANDATORY DISTANCES

1. The Short Track Age Group National Championships is a multiple age division competition. The competition format will be All Finals-Elimination and will run under USS Rules of Competition, except where noted herein.
2. 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.
3. The Short Track Age Group National Championships location is Monmouth Junction, New Jersey.

DIVISION AGE CLASSIFICATIONS / QUALIFICATION TIME STANDARDS – SEE APPENDIX A.

1. The age of the skater will be the age the competitor is before July 1 preceding the competition.
2. Time standards are based on the current 4-year rolling average of the season's best international 500m time per gender. Note that if the 4-year rolling average is slower, the time standards will remain the same as the previous season.
 - a. The following will apply:
 - i. U-11 (previously Junior E): 140% (Based off U-11 women for both genders)
 - ii. U-13 (previously Junior D): 135%. (U-13 men: 137.5%)
 - iii. U-15 (previously Junior C): 130%
 - iv. U-19 and U-17 (previously Junior A&B): 125%
3. Junior division skaters must meet the time standards listed in the table.
4. Time Standards are recommended for Master skaters but not required.
5. The 500m qualifying time will serve as the ranking and seeding for the first distance of the competition. Times must be entered to the thousandths of a second (m:ss.xxx).
6. See USS Rules of Competition, Section E for Seed times/Qualifying times and Section C for Citizenship/Eligibility.

VARIATIONS AND EXCEPTIONS TO THE AGE GROUP DIVISIONS.

1. A skater may compete in only one division at a Championships competition.
2. In the event that there are low participation numbers, skater(s) may be combined to provide meaningful racing opportunities. When combining traditional age divisions for racing, overall medals will be awarded to the skaters' traditional age division based on the ranking in the

overall classification. For example, U-17, U-19, and Senior skaters may be combined into an Open Combined division to provide meaningful racing opportunities. Overall medals will be awarded according to age division. In the event that there is a high participation number for the U-11 division, the Competition Coordinator, in consultation with the Technical Representative, may create two (2) separate racing groups to provide meaningful racing opportunities.

3. Master skaters will be combined by ability into appropriate racing divisions to provide meaningful racing opportunities. Overall medals will be awarded to the skaters' 5-year age division based on the ranking in the overall classification. Additionally, the racing divisions may be of mixed gender in which case, overall medals will be awarded by gender based on the ranking in the overall classification.

DIVISIONS AND DISTANCES.

Divisions	Distances/number in Finals		
U-11 (7-10)	7L**/5	500/5	333/5
U-13 (11-12)	1000/5	500/5	777/5
U-15 (13-14)	1500/7*	500/5	1000/5
U-17 (15-16)	1500/7*	500/5	1000/5
U-19 (17-18)	1500/7*	500/5	1000/5
Senior (19-29)	1500/7*	500/5	1000/5
Master Divisions	1500/5	500/5	1000/5
(*) 5-6 on the line progression may be used based on the number of skaters in the racing division. (**) On modified shortened track			
Junior Mixed Relays	Junior Mixed Team Relays- 2000M		
Master Mixed Relays	Master Mixed Team Relays- 2000M		

COMPETITION FORMAT.

1. The Short Track Age Group National Championships will be conducted as an **All Finals – Elimination progression.**
2. The scheduled number of skaters in each Group per round and in the Final races will be according to the qualification table published on the USS website. 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 Competition Coordinator in consultation with the technical representative, may alter the qualification schedule.
3. Groups in Qualifying rounds and Finals will be run in reverse alphabetical order. 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.

MAKE UP OF QUALIFYING ROUNDS, SEEDING AND PROGRESSIONS.

1. Ranking and seeding the first qualifying round of the first distance will be according to the submitted seed time. Skaters without verifiable times will be drawn and ranked last for

seeding. The current overall classification will be the ranking and seeding for the first round of subsequent distances. Ties for seeding will be broken by random draw. Seeding will be done in a clockwise serpentine manner. Lane position for the first qualifying round of each distance will be random draw. The order of racing for each qualifying round will not be drawn but will be according to the ranking order.

2. For seeding subsequent Qualifying Rounds, direct qualifiers, any additional (+) qualifiers and/or advancements will be ranked by place, then time in the previous round. In case of equal times over the distance, a draw will establish the order. Lane position will be decided by the same ranking criteria; first by finish place, then by time in the previous round.
3. Any additional (+) qualifiers are considered conditional based on the number of advancements made by the Referee. In the case of a semi round with 3 races, advancements made to the B Final shall take the place of the lowest ranked skater(s) that would otherwise qualify to the B Final.

COMPETITION POINT SYSTEM.

Final Points will be awarded in individual distances according to the following table. Please note this is the new ISU points scoring system.

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		

1. Final Points will be awarded in descending order following the ranking of the distance classification.
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. If multiple yellow cards occur on a distance, then ties will be broken based on the qualifying round.
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.

OVERALL CLASSIFICATION (Final and Current Overall Classification).

1. The Overall Classification combines the distance rankings in the following order:
 - a. Highest total number of Final Points
 - b. Combined distance rankings over all distances.
 - c. Best rank achieved in one of the distances and subsequent best rankings.
 - d. Best Time over the middle distance.

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 will 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.

RELAY EVENTS.

1. Participation in relay events will be mandatory for Junior divisions.
2. Junior 2000m relays will be grouped into teams of 4, with a goal of 2 per gender and a target of 4 teams to a race. Teams will be constructed from Junior divisions E, D, C, B & A and based upon ability.
3. Master 2000m relay will be grouped into teams of 4 and subject to a minimum of 2 teams in order to participate in a relay event.
4. The make-up of teams will be done by the Competition Coordinator using the 500m submitted seed times. Generally, a serpentine fashion will be used in consultation with the Tec Rep and/or USS Representative on site to seed the teams. The goal is to make competitive races that benefit relay development. Any remaining skaters that are unable to be seeded for a full team, will remain as substitutes to replace vacancies due to withdrawals.
5. Each relay will be run as a single (Final) round. Teams will be assigned to race in the appropriate level relay race event.

NATIONAL CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

The club that accumulates the highest number of points will be National Club Champion.

Eligibility. A skater must be a member of a currently registered USS club.

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS

Place	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Points	5	3	2	1

1. Club Points will be awarded 1st through 4th place in the final A of each race.
2. Club Points earned will accumulate for their respective club.
3. Club Points will not be awarded to skaters that receive a sanction in the final A.

US SPEEDSKATING GRAND CHAMPIONS

The individual Grand Champion(s) is an award presented to one person in each age group per gender achieving the highest combined point total from both Short and Long Track Age Group Nationals, provided that the athlete meets the following criteria.

1. Points will only be tallied from age divisions with a minimum of five (5) competitors in each of the two competitions.
2. Individuals must have competed in both Age Group National competitions to be eligible.
3. Performance criteria:
 - a. Finish top 5 in their age group

Appendix A - DIVISION AGE CLASSIFICATIONS / QUALIFICATION TIME STANDARDS

Division/Age (*minimum age)	500m
U-11 (Previously Junior E) Men and Women (7-10 yrs.)	59.990
U-13 (Previously Junior D) Men (11-12 yrs.)	54.861
U-13 (Previously Junior D) Women (11-12 yrs.)	56.998
U-15 (Previously Junior C) Men (13-14 yrs.)	51.868
U-15 (Previously Junior C) Women (13-14 yrs.)	54.887
U-17 (Previously Junior B) Men (15-16 yrs.), U-19 (Previously Junior A) (17-18) and Senior (19-29)	49.873
U-17 (Previously Junior B) Women (15-16 yrs.), U-19 (Previously Junior A) (17-18) and Senior (19-29)	52.776
Master 30+, 40+ Men	59.9
Master 30+, 40+ Women	1 :02.4
Master 50+, 60+ Men	1 :03.1
Master 50+, 60+ Women	1 :11.1
Master 70+ Men	1 :13.0
Master 70+ Women	1 :22.9

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 opener) (Electronic timing)	0.5 pt 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	/5 pts
Top Speed: 111m (from 500m laps)	0.5 pt 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	/5 pts
Lactate Power: 500m Time (best time)	0.5 pt Under 46,75	1 pts under 46,25	1.5 pts under 45,75	2 pts under 45,25	2.5 pts under 44,75	3 pts under 44,25	3.5 pts under 43,75	4 pts under 43,25	4.5 pts under 42,75	5 pts under 42,25	/5 pts
Lactate Capacity: 1000m Time (best time)	0.5 pt under 1:37,5	1 pt under 1:36,5	1.5 pt under 1:35,5	2 pts under 1:35,0	2.5 pts under 1:34,5	3 pts under 1:34,0	3.5 pts under 1:33,5	4 pts under 1:33,0	4.5 pts under 1:32,5	5 pts under 1:32,0	/15 pts
	6 pts under 1:31,5	7 pts under 1:31,0	8 pts under 1:30,5	9 pts under 1:30,0	10 pts under 1:29,5	11 pts under 1:29,0	12 pts under 1:28,5	13 pts under 1:28,0	14 pts under 1:27,5	15 pts under 1:27,0	
World Rank: Placement rank: 500m,1000m,1500m,Relay	1 pt 86st-99th	2 pt 76th-85th	3 pt 66st-75th	4 pts 56th-65th	5 pts 46th-55th	6 pts 36th-45th	7 pts 26st-35th	8 pts 16th-25th	9 pts 7th-15th	10 pts 1st - 6th	/10 pts
National Rank: Overall rank:	1 pt 41st-50th	2 pt 36th-40th	3 pt 31st-35th	4 pts 26th-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 opener) (Electronic timing)	0.5 pt 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	/5 pts
Top Speed: 111m (from 500m laps)	0.5 pt 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	/5 pts
Lactate Power: 500m Time (best time)	0.5 pt 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	/5 pts
Lactate Capacity: 1000m Time (best time)	0.5 pt under 1:32,0	1 pt under 1:31,5	1.5 pt 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	/15 pts
	6 pts under 1:27,0	7 pts under 1:26,5	8 pts under 1:26,0	9 pts under 1:25,5	10 pts under 1:25,0	11 pts under 1:24,5	12 pts under 1:24,0	13 pts under 1:23,5	14 pts under 1:23,0	15 pts under 1:22,5	
World Rank: Placement rank: 500m,1000m,1500m,Relay	1 pt 86st-99th	2 pt 76th-85th	3 pt 66st-75th	4 pts 56th-65th	5 pts 46th-55th	6 pts 36th-45th	7 pts 26st-35th	8 pts 16th-25th	9 pts 7th-15th	10 pts 1st - 6th	/10 pts
National Rank: Overall rank:	1 pt 41st-50th	2 pt 36th-40th	3 pt 31st-35th	4 pts 26th-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

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 High Performance Director- Andréa Do-Duc
- USS Head Coach – Stephen Gough
- USS Member – Donna Fiorenza
- Athlete Representative – Keith Carroll Jr.
- Athlete Representative – Julie Letai

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