

2026 USS CONGRESS PROPOSAL SUMMARY AND ACTION

REVIEW WORKGROUP:	PROPOSED BY:	PROPOSAL:	ACTION:	RATIONAL:
1	Long Track Leah Lambert and Lisa Dahlin	Would like to add an additional grouping at the final long track American cup each season where younger skaters at the JR D level and Junior C skaters that have not met the American cup time are may be given an opportunity to participate in this competition. Development A-C skaters (maybe new youth skaters who haven't had the opportunity to skate at an indoor rink to get the qualifying time: appropriate distances 500, 1500, 500, 1000 Development D skaters: age appropriate distances 500, 700, 500, 600	Denied	Will focus on working with local rinks to provide alternatives to novice/younger skaters.
2	Long Track Matt Vraa	Adoption of Category-Specific Performance Ratios for Cross-Disciplinary Time Conversions: Currently, US Speedskating lacks a standardized, data-driven methodology to convert Short Track (ST) performance times into Long Track (LT) equivalents (and vice versa) for competition qualification. This gap often forces athletes to choose a single discipline prematurely or miss qualification opportunities due to a lack of local facility access. This proposal seeks to adopt a "Category-Specific Factor" model. By utilizing specific multipliers for Seniors, Juniors, and Masters, US Speedskating can more accurately identify talent in "crossover" athletes and provide equitable qualification paths for skaters regardless of their primary training environment.	Tabled for further discussion with new HP Director.	Working on details between long and short track. Primary goal is to create a simple time chart.
3	Long Track Matt Vraa	Adoption of the American Cup All-Around Championship or American Cup Grand Prix Series Format (name to be determined by USS): This proposal outlines the implementation of the American Cup All-Around Championship or American Cup Grand Prix Series (name to be determined by USS), a unified, season-long points-based competition framework for U.S. Speedskating (USS). By integrating the American Cup Racing Series (ACRS/AmCup) and Age Group Nationals (AGN) into a single overarching standings title, USS can incentivize participation across both metric and pack-style formats. This strategic initiative aims to bridge the gap between indoor and outdoor racing, improve athlete development through multi-disciplinary exposure, and increase event registration and retention across all age divisions. All competition and scoring will be standardized by age-group divisions across both metric and pack-style formats.	Denied	Denying for now but task force wants to explore more options for making AGN more attractive.
4	Long Track Matt Vraa	Adoption of the "Model-Based" Age Group National Long Track 500m Time Standards: It is proposed that the following 500m time standards be adopted for qualification for Age Group Nationals and other long track events in the American Cup Series. These standards provide a bifurcated entry system: an Indoor Base for results recorded at high-performance indoor facilities (Salt Lake City and Milwaukee) and an Outdoor Standard that incorporates a 12% Environmental Tax to account for the physical resistance of outdoor venues as proposed in the Adoption of the "Model-Based" Environmental Tax on Time Standards proposal.	Tabled for further discussion with new HP Director.	Will explore an outdoor time standard.
5	Long Track Matt Vraa	Adoption of the "Model-Based" Environmental Tax on Time Standards: The current qualification criteria for Age Group Nationals (AGN) under the 2025-2026 Long Track Speedskating Rules and Regulation Age Group Nationals V1.1 (pages 4 and 5), do not sufficiently account for the "environmental tax" imposed on athletes competing at outdoor venues like Roseville, MN, or Lake Placid, NY. This proposal moves away from arbitrary standards toward a 12% Outdoor Tax model. This figure is supported by a comprehensive analysis of protocols from 2022-2025 (sourced from US Speedskating) and is validated by international normalization metrics used in the Netherlands and Canada. This adjustment ensures that skaters in regions without access to indoor "fast ice" have an equitable path to qualification. While this originally came out of a single cutoff time for the Age Group National, the math and modeling behind it could be use of any time standards that US Speedskating chooses to set.	Tabled for further discussion with new HP Director.	Creates simple time chart for all.
6	Long Track Daniel Greene and Mary Murphy	Transition Age Group Long Track Nationals to a metric racing format for Junior D and older. Proposed distances: 500, 1000,1500, 3000 mass start Junior E athletes may remain in the current pack style format.	Denied	Task force believes there is an abundance of time trials available but very limited pack style racing. We'd like to maintain the pack style for continued development for mass start races.
7	Long Track Daniel Greene and Mary Murphy	Remove Pack-Style Racing from Developmental Team Requirements	Denied	Currently under review for how the development team is made - but do not want to lose all elements of pack racing.
8	Long Track Brian Kretschmann	Require the wearing of 2 arm bands (one on each arm) by Long Track skaters in races 3000m and longer AND in any races run as a quartet.	Denied	Would like to test and talk to venues and referees before implementing.
9	Long Track Steve Fisher	Require clubs/teams/skaters to provide their own standard compliant race armbands for athletes at USS long track competitions, with host venues maintaining a limited backup supply for emergency use.	Denied	For weekend time trials it's a venue policy/rule not bound by USS rules.
10	Long Track Steve Fisher	For standard time trials only, allow flexibility in handling withdrawals after the official draw has been published by permitting pairs to remain unchanged when a skater withdraws, rather than requiring mandatory re-pairing in all cases. The remaining skater would skate alone, and the withdrawn skater would be recorded as WDR. Re-pairing may still occur at the discretion of the referee if time and operational capacity allow.	Denied	Ultimately, by the current rules, the skaters are responsible for their own armbands. Its not a rule for the organizers to provide them. USS can help communicate this shift if the venues want to defer responsibility to the athletes.
11	Long Track / Short Track Simon Cho	Ban use of smart glasses during competitions.	Approved	It's already prohibited. ISU rule: While competing, the Skater is not allowed to wear any technical communication equipment for the purpose of having contact with or receive information from other persons or sources. In case of violation the Skater shall receive a penalty.
12	Short Track Melissa Koenig	Skaters are required to go directly to the line upon entering the ice (not to the coaches box). Currently if a skater is late to the line the violation is charged to the skater, revise so the violation is charged to the coach	Denied	USS operates in accordance with current ISU rules.
13	Events Martin Lichtman	I propose that app or video based photofinishing timing (such as SprintTimerPro) be legal as the primary timing and judging device for sanctioned short track competitions. A backup secondary timing and judging source (which could be another independently operated photofinish app) is still necessary. The 0.2 second offset will still be added since this is not a calibrated 2000 fps system with a jitter-free operating system, but the resulting timing will be far, far more accurate than what human timers produce. Apps are now available that use an iPhone or iPad to record the finish with 0.01 second accuracy, and can be set up to trigger electronically from a starting device. Being able to scroll back through a photofinish picture allows scrutiny of the finish that cannot be accomplished with human timers and their fleeting memory.	Task Force generally agrees. Mary Lichtman to produce instructions on how to use it properly. 0.2 still needs to be added and a back up system needs to be in place.	
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14	Masters	Mary Brophy Magnus	<p style="text-align: center;">Age Group National Championships Age Division Classification / Qualification Time Standards</p> <p>Proposal to require Masters skaters to meet established time standards in order to qualify for competition at the National level, rather than time standards being recommended but not required. Time standards should be appropriate and attainable for each Masters age group so that Nationals remains meaningful while still encouraging participation.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">USS will continue to review and monitor this proposal.</p>	<p>Many factors go into setting time standards. Masters are unique since their time standards are recommended, as ST SGN participation increases, time standards may need to become required. There is a balance though were we want a 30-34 year old to win a Age Group National Championship, as well as an 80-84 year old.</p>
15	Masters	Mary Brophy Magnus	<p style="text-align: center;">Masters Classification System</p> <p>Proposal to remove Masters Category 3 (MST3) for Long Track and Short Track. Masters Category 3 currently recognizes all registered USS Masters members regardless of performance or qualification criteria. Recognition and classification categories should reflect performance, achievement, or qualification standards rather than automatic assignment based solely on USS membership.</p>	Denied	<p>USS Masters Committee wants to support all Masters as "One Team" The Category 3 designation is not published anywhere besides the Rules & Regulations. They receive no special support that is different than any of the other Masters Categories. All USS Masters should feel welcomed to purchase and wear USS Masters gear. USS Masters Committee is open to ideas on how to increase recognition for higher achieving categories.</p>
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16	Hall of Fame	Will Gebauer	Add the option to induct one classical era skater and one modern skater into the hall of fame each year.	Denied	Further discussion is needed to find a suitable solution for this issue.