



ICE SKATING ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND

SECTION 600 SPEED SKATING RULES & REGULATIONS

600 INTERPRETATION

- 600.1 These rules and regulations are binding on all ISAI Members and ISAI Affiliated Clubs with respect to any minimum standards stipulated.
- 600.2 Unless otherwise stated, for reasons of providing developmentally appropriate programming for Irish skaters and a competition structure that recognises the ongoing development of the sport in Ireland, ISU Rules and Regulations shall apply. All changes made by the ISU that affect these ISAI rules and regulations shall be incorporated into these rules and regulations effective the same date that the ISU changes take effect.

601 DEFINITIONS

For purposes of reference and the interpretation of these rules and regulations, the following definitions will apply:

Speed Skating	includes the disciplines of long track speed skating and short track speed skating.
Long Track	refers to skating on an oval track 200m or greater, traditionally practiced on 400m ovals. Long track includes both Mass Start and Olympic style racing.
Short Track	refers to skating in an arena on a track of 111.12m or less in size and is raced Mass Start style. Several skaters will race together on a track where the first person across the line wins.
Ability Competition	is one in which the groupings of skaters are formed based on ability, with seed times prevailing over gender and age. In ability competitions, skaters of different age classes and/or gender can be grouped together into a number of appropriate categories.
Age Class Competition	is one in which groups are formed first by gender, then by age. In age class competitions, male skaters compete with males, and females compete with females, and skaters of the same age class are grouped together.
Irish Championships	(also referred to as Irish National Championships) are competitions where an Irish National Champion is named in one or more categories.
Mass Start	refers to both Short Track and Long Track racing, with racing in a pack in which two or more skaters start on the same line at a given time. Time is recorded, but it is head to head competition which determines the winner with the winner being the first skater to cross the finish line.



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Olympic Style	refers to long track racing, which is raced in pairs against the clock. Skaters compete in individual lanes, changing lanes each lap to even the distance. Olympic style is the long track discipline recognized by the ISU.
All-Points	is a mass start competition format in which all skaters advance to finals, and therefore accumulate points. All-points is sometimes also referred to as a participative format.
Elimination	is a mass start competition format in which skaters must qualify in order to advance to the next level. In such competitions, only the top qualifiers in heats advance to semi-finals or finals; others are eliminated
Skating Season	delineates the competition period for a given year. A skating season begins on July 1 st of any given year and runs through to June 30 th of the following year. For example, the season beginning on July 1 st 2016 would be defined as the 2016-2017 skating season.
Photo Finish Equipment	denotes a system that records the order of finish in such a way that it can be reproduced immediately after the race has been completed.
Seed Times	are individual skaters' fastest recorded times submitted to qualify for a particular competition, or to be seeded into heats for the first event of a competition, or to be grouped appropriately with skaters of similar ability in an ability competition. Accepted seed times are typically from the current or most recent skating season, as communicated by the ISAI Board.

602 COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS

This Section supplements Section 600 Competitions of the ISAI Regulations by detailing rules and regulations for Speed Skating competitions and events.

602.1 Age Categories

ISAI Age Categories provide a framework for creating developmentally appropriate groupings of skaters for participation in competitions and events. Age Categories are to be used in conjunction with developmentally appropriate activities and distances to provide structure to organized and sanctioned competition.

ISAI affiliated clubs are encouraged to use the following ISAI age categories as a guide for organizing their own racing categories, with the determination of age being the age of the individual participant prior to the beginning of the applicable skating season:

- Cradle (Age 5 and under)
- Bantam (Ages 6 through 8)
- Peewee (Age 9 and 10)



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- Midget (Age 11 and 12)
- Juvenile (Age 13 and 14)
- Junior B (Age 15 and 16)
- Junior A (Age 17 and 18)
- Senior (Age 19 through 29)
- Masters (Age 30+; Age 40+; etc. in 10 year increments)

Depending on numbers of entries, and the range of ability of skaters, certain age classes can either be combined or divided further for purposes of competition. For example, an “open” category is a common competitive category that combines the Junior B and older age groups for a particular gender. It is also common for the younger age categories to be split further within the above categories, for example into single year age groupings.

602.2 Gender Distinction

Male and female skaters are typically grouped together during the early stages of skating development for the younger age groups as there are not significant developmental or performance differences between males and females at this stage. Ability competitions that combine male and female skaters can take place across the entire spectrum of age groupings, including the masters age categories.

602.3 Skating in a Different Age Category

In any one competition, a skater is limited to the events of one age category. A skater may compete in a different category if it is deemed developmentally appropriate by the ISAI Board.

602.4

Competition programs should be developed based on skaters racing in events that correspond to their age category. The activities and distances that follow are considered developmentally appropriate for the corresponding age categories.

Skill Based Activities

Any activity or event in which a skating skill is evaluated by a skater crossing a finish line first or by executing a skill in relation to a predetermined outcome is recognised as a skill based event.

Distances

The following distances are officially recognised by the ISAI for the following age categories. Other distances may also be raced at the discretion of competition or event organisers.

Cradle (Age 5 and under)

Short track 55.5m, 111m

Long track 50m, 100m



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Pewee (Ages 6 through 8)

Short track 111m, 222m

Long track 100m, 200m

Bantam (Age 9 and 10)

Short track 111m, 222m, 333m, 500m

Long track 100m, 200m, 300m, 400m, 3000m

Midget (Age 11 and 12)

Short track 111m, 222m, 333m, 500m, 1500m

Long track 100m, 200m, 300m, 500m, 2400m, 3000m

Juvenile (Age 13 and 14)

Short track 222m, 333m, 500m, 1500m, 3000m

Long track 100m, 200m, 300m, 500m, 2400m, 3000m, 5000m

Junior B (Age 15 and 16)

Short track 500m, 1000m, 1500m, 3000m

Long track 100m, 500m, 1000m, 1500m, 3000m, 5000m

Junior A (Age 17 and 18)

Short track 500m, 1000m, 1500m, 3000m

Long track 100m, 500m, 1000m, 1500m, 3000m, 5000m

Senior (Age 19 through 29)

Short track 500m, 1000m, 1500m, 3000m

Long track 100m, 500m, 1000m, 1500m, 3000m, 5000m, 10000m

Masters (Age 30+; Age 40+; continued in 10 yr. increments)

Short track 500m, 1000m, 1500m

Long track 100m, 500m, 1000m, 1500m, 3000m, 5000m, 10000m

In respect of team competition events:

Short track relay events:

2000m for Juvenile or younger age groups

3000m for Junior B and older age groups

Long track relay events:

5 laps (2000m)

Long track team pursuits:

6 laps (2400m equivalent) or 8 laps (3200m equivalent).



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602.5 Reporting Procedures

Event Results

The Organising Committee for any sanctioned event is responsible for preparing a complete set of results (“protocol”) of the competition or event and should communicate these to the ISAI and participating clubs within seven (7) days following the conclusion of the competition or event. Posting to an official website with an email notification is considered an acceptable means of communication. The competition or event protocol should include the name of, and contact information for, the competition/event coordinator.

Reports

The competition or event coordinator is responsible for submitting any required reports to the ISAI outlined in the Sanction Agreement or otherwise communicated by the ISAI as a hosting requirement.

602.6 Irish Championships

Participation in Irish Championships

Irish Championships as set out in Rule 604 are open only to skaters who are eligible members of the ISAI, and are open only to skaters who hold current Irish Citizenship or have been an ordinarily resident in Ireland for 3 years prior to competition.

Designated Competitions & Eligible Age Categories

The following competitions shall be scheduled and designated as Irish Championships for eligible skaters:

Irish Junior Short Track Championships

Eligible Junior B and Junior A skaters

(Combined into one category for males and one for females)

Irish Senior Short Track Championships

Eligible Junior B, Junior A, Senior & Masters skaters (Combined into one category for males and one for females)

Irish Junior Long Track Championships

Eligible Junior B and Junior A skaters

(Combined into one Junior category)



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Irish Senior Long Track Championships

Eligible Junior B, Junior A, Senior & Masters skaters

(Combined into one Senior category)

Combination of Championships

Multiple Irish Championships may be combined into a single event at the discretion of the ISAI Board.

Selection of Locations and Hosts

The ISAI Board shall confirm the locations and hosts for each applicable Irish Championship competition to be held.

If necessary and/or deemed appropriate in order to ensure appropriate facilities, sufficient numbers and/or qualifications of officials, adequate numbers of participants, or sufficient quality of competition, particularly in the early years of ISAI's development of speed skating, the ISAI Board may arrange for one or more Irish Championship competitions to be held either within Ireland or outside of Ireland in conjunction with the any other ISU speed skating member's sanctioned event. Officials from any ISU speed skating member country are eligible to officiate at the applicable Irish Championships to supplement officials affiliated with the ISAI.

Championship Specific Regulations

The Speed Skating Technical and Officials Sub-Committee will produce, and submit to the ISAI Board of Directors for approval, one or more Technical Bulletins to address the current season's eligibility, entry requirements, racing formats, and other specific regulations for Irish Championships and other competitions that may be sanctioned by the ISAI. Entries may be subject to minimum time standards to be established by the ISAI Board as determined for the respective championships. All entrants in Irish Championships must provide a seed time that meets the minimum time standard, if applicable. The ISAI Board may incorporate additional entry criteria including, but not limited to, performance at previous competitions or events and/or previous or current Irish rankings. In order to ensure meaningful competition and a minimum number of racing opportunities for participants, a maximum number of entrants may be imposed on any age category.



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Awards

Medals for Irish Championships shall be provided by the ISAI. Gold, Silver and Bronze medals are to be awarded for the top three skaters in each event and designated age class.

The overall Champion at all ISAI championships will be decided on the basis of points accumulated in the individual events. The points system used shall be defined by the ISAI Board. In the event of a tie for the Championship, duplicate awards are to be made.

Program

The racing program for each Irish Championship will be comprised of distances considered to be appropriate for that stage of development. The official race program, including seeding criteria and order of races, will be stipulated by the ISAI Board.

Responsibilities of the Organising Committee

The Competition/Event organiser will be responsible for meeting all requirements set out in the Sanction Agreement and all other services required by the ISAI and typically expected of a competition/event host. Specifically, all organising committees shall ensure:

- that all arrangements for safety and emergency responses are addressed and respected;
- that a sufficient number of qualified officials are available to complete all duties;
- that officials are provided rest breaks and meals/snacks throughout the competition/event.

602.7 Ability Competitions

Ability competitions or events use time or other measures of performance to form the groups of skaters for competition.

Ability competitions are open to skaters who are eligible members of the ISAI or members of another ISU speed skating member. Skaters are responsible for maintaining their eligibility in order to compete. Skaters from any age category may participate in an ability competition or event.



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At the request of the ISAI, officials from any ISU speed skating member federation may officiate at any competition to supplement officials affiliated with the ISAI.

Groupings

Skaters are to be grouped based on performance in each activity or distance. At the organisers' discretion, multiple groupings within a single activity or distance can be made.

At the discretion of the competition/event organiser, a skater may be placed in a stronger or weaker grouping for one or more events if deemed appropriate.

Activities and Distances

Participants should compete in developmentally appropriate activities and distances. The balance of speed, stamina and skill events should be maintained when skaters are grouped.

Tracks

Should the facility being used for an ability competition not accommodate a standard sized track, a smaller track can be used. Final discretion for the track lies with the Chief Official following consultation with the Organising Committee.

Awards

At the discretion of the Organising Committee for the competition/event, awards for participation and/or for finishing position in skaters' respective ability groups may be provided.

Responsibilities of the Organising Committee

The responsibilities of the Competition/Event organiser are identical to those outlined in 602.6.

602.8 Age Class Competitions

Age Class competitions are competitions where skaters are grouped within their age category (or alternatively a sub-set or a combination of age categories) to participate in events deemed developmentally appropriate for their stage of development, including but not limited to the official distances recognised by the ISAI for the age categories in 602.4



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Age Class competitions are open to skaters who are eligible members of the ISAI or members of another ISU speed skating member. Skaters are responsible for maintaining their eligibility in order to compete. Skaters from any age category may participate in an age class competition or event.

At the request of the ISAI, officials from any ISU speed skating member federation may officiate at any age class competitions to supplement officials affiliated with the ISAI.

Groupings

Skaters are to be grouped based on their age class for participating in events. At the organiser's discretion, separate groupings of skaters within an age class may be created based upon skater performance.

At the discretion of the competition/event organiser, if deemed appropriate, a skater may be placed in a younger or older age category in the interest of meaningful competition as long as it can be demonstrated that the events remain developmentally appropriate for the individual.

Activities and Distances

The balance of speed, stamina and skill events should be maintained when skaters are grouped.

Tracks

Skaters should compete on tracks that are deemed as developmentally appropriate. Should the facility being used for the age class competition not accommodate the standard sized track, a smaller track can be used. Final discretion for the track lies with the Chief Official following consultation with the organizing committee.

Awards

At the discretion of the Organising Committee for the competition/event, awards for participation and/or for finishing position in skaters' respective age categories may be provided for individual events and/or overall finishing position.

Responsibilities of the Organising Committee

The responsibilities of the Competition/Event organiser are identical to those outlined in 602.6.



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603 RACING RULES

In the absence of a relevant ISAI rule covering a specific situation, the appropriate ISU Competition Regulation will be adopted.

Short Track and Olympic Style competitions will follow ISU rules unless indicated otherwise in this section. Specific guidelines pertaining to Irish Championships and other competitions will be published by the ISAI Board.

603.1 Tracks

Tracks for training and competition are to be laid out in accordance with official track diagrams provided by the Rules defined by the ISU.

Track Measurements, Ice Surfaces and Markings

Short Track:

- Unless otherwise stated, ISU Track marking regulations shall be the reference point with regards to the spacing of markings and track markers.
- The 111.12m track is to be laid out in accordance with ISU Rule 280 on an ice surface with minimum dimensions of 26m x 60m.
- Sanctioned competitions and events may take place on tracks smaller than 111.12m as long as they are in symmetrical proportions to the 111.12m track. Tracks may be laid out on any size ice surface in so long as they will accommodate the provisions of ISU Rule 280 Paragraphs 1b, c and d.
- Entry level (Learn to Speed Skate) short track programs can occur on any size ice surface.
- Events sanctioned as festivals, and the skills components of any sanctioned event, do not require an official track, as long as all competitors are provided with a safe environment providing meaningful competition.

Olympic Style

Track measurements for Olympic Style competitions will conform to ISU Rules 203-206. Track markings will conform to ISU Rule 226.



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Mass Start

- Track measurements for Mass Start competitions will conform to ISU Rule 203 with the provision that the track be arranged without separate competition lanes.
- Track markings will conform to ISU Rule 226.
- The racing area on all long track Mass Start tracks shall be no less than six (6) meters in width.

603.2 Timekeeping

Electronic Timekeeping

If available, electronic timekeeping shall be used for Irish Championships and competitions sanctioned as international competitions. A Photo Finish Equipment system is the applicable electronic method for Short Track. For Long Track, time transponders and photocells are also accepted as official means of timekeeping.

Manual Timekeeping

- If no electronic timing is available, manual timing may be used for official timekeeping.
- Backup time keeping should be provided by manual timekeepers. In the event the electronic time keeping fails, the manual time plus 0.20 seconds shall be accepted as an official time.
- When manual time keeping is used, the following procedures are to be followed:
- Times will be recorded in hundredths of a second. The chief time keeper shall be responsible for ensuring that all watches are in good working order.
- The reading on three watches shall be the minimum requirement for establishing a record. There shall be three watches for each of the first and second places, and two watches for third place. Each timer should use only one watch.
- When two (2) watches show the same time and the third a different one, the time of those in agreement shall be taken. When all watches show different times, the time of the intermediate watch is taken as the result. If for any reason only two (2) timers have taken the time, the average time of their watches is to be taken as the result. If the average time is not the multiple of one hundredth of a second, the lower hundredth of a second is taken.



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603.3 Special Rules for Short Track Competitions Identification of Skaters

Each competitor shall wear an assigned number on both sides of the helmet which shall be different from the number worn by any other competitor in a given race. The number must be clearly visible to the Referee at all times while a skater is on the ice, must be at least 6cm in height and each line must be a solid width of at least 1.5cm. The number shall be on a contrasting background so that it is clearly visible.

For Irish Championships and International Competitions, each skater may be assigned a unique number for the duration of the competition.

Starting Positions

Prior to the first round of each event, if no advanced seeding criterion has been specified, the starting position of the skaters shall be randomly assigned by the Competitors' Steward/Recorder, using computer software if available. Should the computer software be unavailable, or should an equipment problem make the computer software unusable, starting position shall be decided by lot. The skater with the lowest number takes the inner starting position and those with the higher numbers take progressively outer positions.

For ISAI Championships and International Events, ISU rules shall prevail following the qualifying round.

Number of Skaters on the Line

The maximum number of skaters on the line is established in order to ensure safe and fair competition. The following maximum number of skaters applies to all events which are directly seeded. These maximums will not apply when one or more skaters are advanced.

- Distance of 1000m or less (4 skaters)
- Distances of 1001m to 2999m (6 skaters)
- Distance of 3000m (8 skaters)

Yellow/Red Cards

Application of the yellow and red card rules will be as per the ISU Special Regulations and Technical Rules.



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603.4 Special Rules for Long Track Olympic Style Competitions

Automatic Timekeeping

When automatic timekeeping is being used in accordance with ISU Regulations, the time recorded shall decide which of the skaters in a pair is the winner, or if they are equal.

Manual Timekeeping

The finishing line judge shall determine which of the skaters is the winner, or if they are equal.

If two competitors, who have skated in the same pair, have the same time and the finishing line judge has decided one of the skaters to be the winner, this skater occupies one rank before the other skater in the ranking over this distance. If other competitors, who have skated in other pairs, both have obtained the same time, winners will be ranked with winners and seconds will be ranked with seconds.

603.5 Special Rules for Long Track Mass Start Competitions

Short track rules will apply in situations not covered in this Mass Start Competitions section.

Number of Skaters on the Line

In Mass Start Long Track Competitions, a maximum of six skaters will be allowed at the starting line. For tracks with a racing area wider than six meters, seven is allowable and a maximum of eight being permitted for the longest distance.

Recalling the Start

If a skater is interfered with and falls within ten meters of the start, the race may be called back at the discretion of the Starter.

Starting Position

Skaters may not employ a three-point or four-point start.

Identification of Skaters

Each competitor shall wear on their back at/or near the waist, their racing number at all times during a competition/event. The numbers on the back shall be at least 8cm high and should consist of lines at least 2cm wide and shall be of a colour which contrasts with its background.



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The numbers shall be firmly affixed to the uniform in such a way that they are clearly visible to the judges at the finish line.

The use of caps is required when Photo Finish timing equipment is being used. Regulations for Short Track Racing numbers shall apply when caps are used. When photo finish timing equipment is being used, helmet covers must be worn.

603.6 Records

Recognition of Records

ISAI records will be recognised for all official ISAI distances for males and females in the following categories:

Short Track (111.12m Track)

- Junior A & B
- Senior
- Masters 30+;40+ etc. in 10 year increments

Olympic Style (400m Track)

- Junior
- Senior
- Masters 30+; 40+ etc. in 10 year increments

Long Track Mass Start (400m Track)

- Junior
- Senior
- Masters 30+; 40+ etc. in 10 year increments

Updating of Records

Following receipt and review of record submissions, should all of the conditions outlined below be satisfied, the records shall be updated and these shall be recognised as the official records of the ISAI.



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Conditions for Recognition of Records Skated in Ireland Competition/Event Requirements

The competition/event must be sanctioned by the ISAI, with all ISAI reporting requirements having been completed. The record must be substantiated by one of the following documents:

Manual Timing Used

The original Time Slip for the event showing the reading of three watches plus the official time signed by the Chief Timer and Referee.

The original Judge's Slip for the event showing the order of placing and signed by the Chief Finish Line Judge.

Electronic Timing Used

The official Electronic Timing Slip signed by the Chief Electronic Timer and Chief Referee.

A copy of the Photo Finish image showing the placing and signed by the Chief Photo Finish Judge (Short Track only).

Mass Start Records

ISAI will only recognise Mass Start records when all skaters in the event are the same age category and gender or in an open class of the same gender. Combined Masters Age Categories, regardless of gender, shall be considered as open classes for the purpose of recognising records.

Multiple Records

If the existing record is broken by more than one skater in the same competition only the best time from the competition will be recognised.

New Distances

For new distances the best time over the first season will be recognised as the established record.