

Speed Skate Nova Scotia

**2011 Canada Winter Games
Team Selection Criteria**

Implementation: June 1, 2009

SSNS Canada Games Selection Criteria

2011 Canada Winter Games

Short and Long Track

Policy/Procedure Title:	Canada Winter Games	Policy No:	NS - 105
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Section 1: General

1.1 Objective

To establish criteria for the eligibility, selection and appeals process for Nova Scotia skaters to be members of the Nova Scotia Team to compete at the Canada Winter Games.

1.2 All rules and procedures as set out in Canada Games policies and the Canada Games Technical package for speed skating shall apply.

1.3 Field of application

This policy applies to all members associated with organizing, coaching and competing at the Canada Winter Games.

1.4 Team size and composition

The final Nova Scotia speed skating contingent shall consist of two teams – short track and long track. The short track team shall be made up of 10 skaters – 5 male and 5 female. The long track team will be made up of 8 skaters – 4 male and 4 female.

1.5 Age classification

The age classification for athletes in speed skating at the Canada Games shall consist of competitors who have reached the age of 14 on June 30th, 2010 but have not reached the age of 19 on June 30th, 2010 (Year of Birth: July 1, 1991 to June 30, 1996 inclusive). The age classification outlined above applies to both male and female athletes and to both short and long track events.

1.6 Eligibility for selection to the Nova Scotia Canada Games Team

In order to be selected to the Nova Scotia Canada Games Speed Skating team, athletes must:

- (A) Meet age classification criteria as set out above.
- (B) Meet additional criteria set out in Section 4.1 of the 2011 Canada Games Technical package.
- (C) Meet selection criteria developed by the SSNS CG Committee as outlined below:
 - 1) Performance and time-based criteria. (See Section 2 of this document.)
 - 2) Residency requirements, specifically:

All prospective team members must:

- (a) Be resident in Nova Scotia at least 90 days prior to the opening of the games.
- (b) Be duly registered members of SSNS.
- (b) From the date of their arrival in the Province of Nova Scotia, they must participate in all games-related preparation activities.
- 3) Sign the SSNS Canada Games Team Member agreement which also includes the Nova Scotia Canada Games Team Code of Conduct.

1.7 Notification of eligibility

All Nova Scotia clubs will be notified of the identity of their eligible athletes prior to the end of the 2009 skating season. Clubs will also be provided with copies of the 2011 CWG Team Selection Criteria. SSNS expects club coaches to notify athletes of their eligibility and provide those wishing to try out for the NSCG team with a copy of the CWG Team Selection Criteria.

Age eligible athletes must signify in writing by June 15, 2009, their intention to compete for a position on the Nova Scotia 2011 Canada Games speed skating team. Letters of intent should be addressed to the Chair of the SSNS CG Committee. Skaters who submit a letter of intent after June 15, 2009 will still be provided the opportunity to compete for a position on the team. However, a skater that has signed prior to June 15, 2009 and has met all of the eligibility and selection criteria, can not be displaced from the team by a skater who has signed after June 15, 2009.

1.8 Maintenance of Eligibility

Eligible athletes who wish to be considered for placement on the 2011 Canada Games Team are expected to attend at least 80% of their club practices, all Canada Games training camps and a minimum of FOUR meets during the 2009/2010 season, of which ONE must be in Nova Scotia. The number of meets required during the 2010/2011 season will be determined at the beginning of that season once meet dates are set. Athletes, who fail to meet these minimum requirements, will not be considered for selection except in the case of exceptional circumstances. Such athletes are required to provide written documentation explaining their failure to meet the participation requirement to the Canada Games Committee.

1.9 Final team selection

Final selection of the Nova Scotia Canada Games short track speed skating team will be made by December 6, 2010, while the final selection for the long track team will be made by January 16, 2011.

1.10 Injury and illness

Any athlete selected to the Nova Scotia Canada Winter Games speed skating team who suffers a serious injury or illness after their selection must be able to prove that their recovery is complete and that they are ready to compete no later than 21 days prior to the start of the 2011 Canada Winter Games. Proof of return to fitness shall consist of skating 500m, 1000m, and 1500m time trials against the first alternate skater. If the athlete wins 2 of the 3 distances, they shall retain their place on the team. Otherwise, the first alternate will replace them.

Team members who suffer any injury or illness less than 21 days prior to the Canada Games will have their cases evaluated by coaching staff with the aid of medical consultation, if appropriate. Such athletes will be replaced by alternates if, in the opinion of coaching staff, it is unlikely that they will be able to return to peak condition in time for the Canada Games.

* A serious injury or illness is defined here as one that prevents an athlete from full participation in practices for a period of at least three weeks. Athletes recovering from serious injury or illness must provide medical clearance to return to high-level training and competition

Section 2: Selection of the Nova Scotia Canada Games Team

2.1 Selection of athletes

Selection of short track athletes to the 2011 Nova Scotia Canada Games speed skating team is based on performance at regular meets and on time criteria. The time criteria are as follows:

Male Skaters must have a

- 500m Time of 50 seconds or faster
- 1000m Time of 1:46.00 (1 minute, 46 seconds) or faster

Female Skaters must have a

- 500m Time of 53 seconds or faster
- 1000m Time of 1:49.00 (1 minute, 49 seconds) or faster

Selection of long track athletes to the 2011 Nova Scotia Canada Games speed skating team will be based on time trials conducted on the Halifax Canada Games Long Track Oval as well as times skated in any long track competition. The time criteria are as follows:

Male Skaters must have a

- 500m Time of 51.5 seconds or faster
- 1500m Time of 2:47.00 (2 minutes, 47 seconds) or faster

Female Skaters must have a

- 500m Time of 54 seconds or faster
- 1500m Time of 2:57.00 (2 minute, 57 seconds) or faster

The top 9 athletes of each gender as determined from total points accumulated in the selection process will be named to the Nova Scotia Canada Games speed skating team. The top 5 of each gender will make up the Nova Scotia Short Track Team, while those ranked from 6 – 9 will comprise the Nova Scotia Long Track Team. Should athletes ranked in the top 5 express a desire to skate long track, they will be transferred to the long track team. Lower ranked skaters then will fill short track team vacancies. Athletes ranked from 9 to 16 will be designated as alternates and may be called upon to replace sick or injured team members.

Selection of the short track relay team will be made during the Canada Games by the coaching staff and manager. Selection will be based upon factors such as an athlete's performance during the earlier events of the Games, speed, endurance, sense of timing, team coverage, and strength of relay push.

2.2 The selection process

The average of the two lowest times established by skaters for the 500m, 1000m and 1500m distances between Sept. 1, 2009 and Dec. 21, 2010 in provincially (any province) or nationally sanctioned meets will be ranked and awarded points as outlined below. Skaters may compete in as many meets as they wish, but only their two best times for each Canada Games distance will be used to calculate points.

Example of Point System:

	Distance	Time 1	Time 2	Average	Points	Total
Skater 1	500	49.77	49.80	49.79	1	
	1000	1:41.92	1:45.00	1:43.46	1	
	1500	2:50.33	2:46.28	2:48.31	3	5
Skater 2	500	49.87	49.77	49.82	2	
	1000	1:47.16	1:47.38	1:47.27	3	
	1500	2:44.90	2:42.25	2:43.58	1	5
Skater 3	500	52.34	52.95	52.65	3	
	1000	1:50.02	1:48.27	1:49.15	3	
	1500	2:45.75	2:47.29	2:47.52	2	8

2.3 Ties

In the event that two or more athletes are tied in total points, the following procedures shall be used to resolve the situation:

- The athletes' 1000m average times will be compared.
- If still tied, their best 500m times shall be used.

2.4 Canada Games Committee Pick

The Speed Skate Nova Scotia Canada Games Committee reserves the right to arbitrarily appoint one skater to the Canada Games Team. The committee at its discretion under appropriate circumstances may invoke this right. The purpose of this option is to enable the committee to:

- Correct any injustices in team selection that may occur through unforeseen circumstances or misfortune, and
- Give an athlete with extraordinary potential the opportunity to compete at a high level.

The athlete selected to the team as the "Committee Pick" will be appointed to the last position on the Canada Games Team. If the Canada Games Committee chooses to exercise this option, it shall present a detailed written justification to the board of directors for approval. Only age eligible skaters can be considered to be appointed.

Section 3: Appeals

All appeals will be heard by an Appeals Committee to be named by May 1, 2010.

3.1 Selection Process Appeals

Appeals related to the selection process itself must be made in writing and received by the Chair of the Appeals Committee no later than May 1, 2010. The committee will consider appeals and decisions rendered no later than August 1, 2010. The decision of the Appeals Committee shall be final.

3.2 Eligibility Process Appeals

Eligibility process appeals must be made in writing to the Chair of the Appeals Committee not later than 10 days prior to the start of the team selection process. The appeal will be considered by the committee either in person or by conference call no later than 48 hours after receipt of the appeal.

The following procedure will be observed:

- (A) The appellant, the Athlete Representative on the SSNS Board of Directors and the Director of Athletic Development will appear before the Appeals Committee. Each will be allowed to present evidence.

- (B) The Appeals Committee will review all of the evidence and make one of the following decisions:
- (1) it may grant the appeal and name the athlete eligible for team selection, or declare ineligible an athlete who has been found not to have met the requirements for eligibility, or
 - (2) it may reject the appeal.
- (C) The Appeals Committee's decision will be rendered immediately in verbal form and followed by a written report.

Decisions of the Appeals Committee will be final. It is recognized that not all situations can be anticipated. All appeals will be dealt with in as fair and equitable a manner as possible.

3.3 Selection appeals

If within 48 hours of final team selection an athlete believes that there are grounds for appeal, they must submit to the Chair of the Appeals Committee, verbally their intention to appeal. The written appeal must clearly state the appellant's reason(s) for contesting the initial team selection.

There is only one ground for appeal of team selection; that being: selection was not made according to the rules.

The Appeals Committee will convene a meeting – in person or by conference call – within 48 hours of receipt of the written appeal.

The following procedure will be observed:

- (A) The appellant, the Athlete Representative on the SSNS Board of Directors and the Director of Athlete Development will appear before the Appeals Committee. Each will be allowed to present evidence.
- (B) The Appeals Committee will review all of the evidence and make one of the following decisions:
- (1) it may grant the appeal and name the athlete immediately to the Nova Scotia Canada Games Team replacing the last ranked skater on the team or a skater who has been found not to have met the selection cut or other requirements.
 - (2) it may reject the appeal.
- (C) The Appeals Committee's decision will be rendered immediately in verbal form and followed by a written report.

Decisions of the Appeals Committee will be final. It is recognized that not all situations can be anticipated. All appeals will be dealt with in as fair and equitable a manner as possible.

SECTION 4: REVIEW AND APPROVAL

- 4.1** The Board of Directors of SSNS shall review this policy on a cyclic basis.
- 4.2** This policy was approved May 24, 2009.
- 4.3** Original Policy lead: Bernie Crane