

INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION (ISU)
--

SPEED SKATING

EVENTS

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| ▪ MEN | 500 meters
1000 meters
1500 meters
5000 meters
10000 meters
Team pursuit (8 laps) |
|--------------|--|
- | | |
|----------------|--|
| ▪ WOMEN | 500 meters
1000 meters
1500 meters
3000 meter
5000 meters
Team pursuit (6 laps) |
|----------------|--|

The distances for the individual skaters listed above (from 500 meters to 10000 meters for Men, from 500 meters to 5000 meters for Women) will be referred to as event(s)/distance(s).

ATHLETE / NOC QUOTA

Maximum number of skaters to be entered into the 2010 Olympic Winter Games Speed Skating events (IOC Quota)

Overall Speed Skating IOC quota	180 skaters
• Men (target number)	100 Men
• Women (target number)	80 Women

If for either Women or Men the respective IOC Quota target number is not be reached according to the Qualifying System herewith described, the respective unused number of quota places will be credited and added to the quota of the other gender.

The basis for the unequal allocation between Men and Women is the actual entries in previous Olympic Winter Games and the basic understanding that, considering the depth of international Speed Skating in Men versus Women, the most competitive skaters should participate.

Total overall maximum number of entered Speed Skaters per National ISU Member (NF) respectively National Olympic Committee (NOC) (NF/NOC overall quota):

Maximum **20 skaters per NF/NOC**
 Maximum **10 Men** and **10 Women per NF/NOC**

The overall quota per NF/NOC will be further restricted, depending on the allocated NF/NOC event quota places, as follows:

- a) Maximum 10 for Women and 10 for Men for NFs/NOCs that have been allocated quota places for all events/distances, including the Team Pursuit events.
- b) Maximum 8 for Women and 8 for Men for other NFs/NOCs.
- c) The total number of entered skaters (for Women and Men, respectively) cannot exceed the total number of allocated quota places in the individual events/distances for the NF/NOC concerned.

Maximum number of participating skaters per NF/NOC per event/distance

The number of skaters entered per NF/NOC per event may not exceed:

- Four (4) in each of the individual events/distances 500, 1000 and 1500 meters.
- Three (3) in each of the individual events/distances 3000 (Women), 5000 (Women and Men) and 10000 meters (Men).
- Four (4) in each of the Team Pursuit events. The maximum of one team per NF/NOC may be entered in each event (Women and Men).

Maximum number of skaters per event/distance (event/distance quota)

- 500, 1000 and 1500 meters: 36 Women and 40 Men
- 3000 meters for Women and 5000 meters for Men: 28
- 5000 meters for Women and 10000 meters for Men: 16
- Team Pursuit events: 8 teams, each team consisting of a maximum of 4 skaters

QUALIFICATION SYSTEM

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Qualification is achieved by:

1) Allocation of NF/NOC event quotas (qualification places for each event) according to Special Olympic Qualification Classifications (SOQCs) based on results from designated ISU World Cup Competitions season 2009/10

Qualification places are earned by the National ISU Members (NFs), respectively National Olympic Committees (NOCs), based on the Special Olympic Qualification Classifications (SOQC) per event/distance resulting from the ISU World Cup Speed Skating competitions designated by the ISU to be held during the season 2009/10 prior to the 2010 Olympic Winter Games. As per ISU Regulations, only ISU Members are allowed to enter ISU sanctioned competitions, which include ISU World Cup competitions.

There will be SOQCs for Team Pursuit Women and Men and for each of the individual events/distances (500 meters, 1000 meters, 1500 meters, 3000 meters and 5000 meters for Women; 500 meters, 1000 meters, 1500 meters, 5000 meters and 10000 meters for Men).

2) Achievement of Qualifying Times

To be eligible to be entered for the 2010 Olympic Winter Games within the qualifying places earned by the respective NF/NOC, skaters must have achieved ISU Qualifying Times in the period between 1 July 2009 and 17 January 2010. The applicable qualifying time standards and conditions for approval of achieved qualifying times will be announced in an ISU Communication, no later than 1 July 2009.

3) Use of allocated quota places (entries by name for each event/distance)

Upon confirmation by the ISU of the quota places earned by the NFs/NOCs, the subsequent entries by name to the 2010 Olympic Winter Games (to be made within the applicable deadlines), are at the discretion of the respective NF/NOC. All entries are subject to the entered skaters being eligible according to ISU and IOC rules as well as having reached the Qualifying Times set by ISU for the respective events/distances.

SYSTEM IN DETAIL

1) Definition of Special Olympic Qualification Classification (SOQC)

- a) SOQCs will be calculated according to criteria based on the ISU rules for the ISU Speed Skating World Cup classification and the ISU rules for qualification for the ISU World Single Distances Championships, as published in the ISU Regulations and dedicated ISU Communications. Each SOQC will combine two sets of rankings:
- i) A ranking according to the World Cup points earned on the occasion of the designated World Cup competitions ("SOQC points ranking");
 - ii) A ranking based on the best times per skater achieved on the occasion of the designated World Cup competitions ("SOQC times ranking").
- b) In case of a tie in either of the two ranking lists, the skater with the better rank in the other list will get the higher rank in the SOQC. However, ties in the SOQC points ranking should first be resolved by the ISU World Cup ranking rules, if possible.
- c) For each event/distance the *highest ranked* SOQC positions will consist of a certain number of skaters/teams (for each NF/NOC, counting only skaters inside the maximum NF/NOC quota for the event/distance concerned) from the *SOQC points ranking* as follows for each event/distance:
- | | |
|---|------------|
| ○ 500, 1000 and 1500 meters (Women and Men) | 20 Skaters |
| ○ 3000 meters Women, 5000 meters Men | 16 Skaters |
| ○ 5000 meters Women and 10000 meters Men | 10 Skaters |
| ○ Team Pursuit Women and Men | 6 Teams |
- d) The remaining part of the SOQC will be based on the *SOQC times ranking*.
- e) For the long distances (3000 and 5000 meters for Women, 5000 and 10000 meters for Men) the *SOQC points ranking* will be based on the total of World Cup points achieved for both of the two distances, in accordance with ISU World Cup rules. The *SOQC times ranking* will be based on times achieved in the distance concerned only.

2) Allocation of quota places to NFs/NOCs

The NF/NOC quota places for each event/distance will be provisionally allocated by 23 December 2009 according to the Special Olympic Qualification Classification (SOQC) for the event/distance, based on results from designated ISU World Cup Competitions season 2009/2010.

The event/distance quotas are:

- For 500, 1000 and 1500 meters: 36 Women and 40 Men, out of which maximum 4 per event/distance per NF/NOC
- For 3000 meters Women and 5000 meters Men: 28 each, out of which maximum 3 per event/distance per NF/NOC
- For 5000 meters Women and 10000 meters Men: 16 Women and 16 Men, out of which maximum 3 per event/distance per NF/NOC
- For Team Pursuit: 8 Women's team and 8 Men's team, out of which maximum 1 Women's team and 1 Men's team per NF/NOC, with each team consisting of maximum 4 athletes

For each event, quota places for each NF/NOC will be allocated according to the position of skaters from the NF/NOC concerned in the SOQC for the event, respecting the following conditions and exceptions:

- a) When a NF/NOC has been allocated the maximum allowed NF/NOC event quota (four (4) for 500, 1000 and 1500 meters; three (3) for 3000 & 5000 meters Women and 5000 & 10000 meters Men), additional skaters from this NF/NOC will not be considered in the further allocation of quota places.

- b) A NF/NOC that has achieved *no quota place* for an event/distance according to the respective SOQC, will be allocated **one** quota place, to the disfavour of the last qualifying place based on the SOQC, in the following cases:

For 500, 1000, 1500 meters (Women & Men), 3000 meters Women, 5000 meters Men:

If a skater from the NF/NOC was placed among the top 16 in the final 2008/2009 World Cup ranking (for 3000m Women and 5000m Men, the World Cup Ranking for the long distances apply), or among the top 16 in the 2009 World Single Distances Championships for the distance concerned.

For 5000 meters Women, 10 000 meters Men (event/distance quotas of only 16):

If a skater from the NF/NOC was placed among the top 8 in the final 2008/2009 World Cup ranking (for the long distances) or among the top 8 in the 2009 World Single Distances Championships for the distance concerned.

- c) Team Pursuit (*Event quota of 8 teams, 1 team per NF/NOC*):
The Host NF/NOC has the right to enter a team for each of the Team Pursuit events.
- d) If there is a tie in the SOQC determining the last quota place for an event/distance, this position will be decided by a random draw, done by the ISU Director General in the ISU Secretariat by 23 December 2009 in the presence of an independent auditor.
- e) When the maximum total of quota places for an event/distance (as specified above) has been reached, the next SOQC positions per event/distance will constitute a reserve list of quota places. For the individual events/distances the reserve list consists of six (6) reserve quota places. For the Team Pursuit events the reserve list consists of three (3) reserve quota places.

3) Reallocation of unused quota places

When some NFs/NOCs will reject the use of allocated quota places, unused quota places will be reallocated by 25 January 2010, on the condition that the IOC quota for Speed Skating (180 skaters) will not be exceeded. The reallocation will be done according to the ranking order in the SOQC reserve list but with the exception that *priority shall be given to NFs/NOCs that have not already been allocated a quota place for the event/distance concerned*.

4) Use of allocated quota places (entries by name for each event/distance)

Upon confirmation by the ISU of the quota places earned by the NFs/NOCs per event and in total, the subsequent entries by name to the 2010 Olympic Winter Games, to be made within the applicable deadlines, are at the discretion of the respective NF/NOC. All entries are subject to the entered skaters being eligible according to ISU and IOC rules, as well as skaters having achieved the Qualifying Times set by ISU for the respective events/distances.

The "entries by name" to be submitted before the deadline for entries of athletes for the 2010 Olympic Winter Games must indicate in which event(s) each skater is considered for participation. For each event/distance, the number of skaters indicated can be a maximum of one more than the allocated NF/NOC quota for the event/distance. When on site of the Olympic Winter Games the final entries for each *individual event/distance* is made (deadline: 3 days prior to the event), the NF/NOC can only enter skaters according to these indications in the "entries by name". For the Team Pursuit events the NFs/NOCs may select their team (consisting of 3 or 4 skaters) at their discretion among skaters who have been entered for the 2010 Olympic Winter Games, but it is expected that all members of the team have been entered for the Olympic Winter Games with the intention to also fill an allocated quota place for at least one individual event/distance.

5) Host NF/NOC qualification

The host NF/NOC will be subject to the same qualification procedure and rules for allocation of quota places as other NFs/NOCs, except for the Team Pursuit events where the host NF/NOC will have the right to enter a team, only subject to the general conditions for entry of skaters and teams.

6) Qualifying Times

Only skaters having achieved the ISU Qualifying Times in accordance with the following procedure may be entered for the 2010 Olympic Winter Games (*the times will be announced by 1 July 2009, at the latest*):

Event/ Distance	Qualifying Times Women	Qualifying Times Men
500 m	t.b.a.	t.b.a.
1000 m	t.b.a.	t.b.a.
1500 m	t.b.a.	t.b.a.
3000 m	t.b.a.	(n.a.)
5000 m	t.b.a.	t.b.a.
10000 m	(n.a.)	t.b.a.

To be entered for an individual event/distance, a skater must have achieved the qualifying time for the event/distance concerned. To be entered for the Team Pursuit event, a skater must have reached the Qualifying Time for at least one of the individual events/distances.

Conditions for recognition of achieved Qualifying Times

Skaters need to achieve Qualifying Times during the period 1 July 2009 - 17 January 2010. Only the following competitions will be considered for achievement of Qualifying Times:

- ISU Championships and qualifying events for ISU Championships.
- ISU World Cup Speed Skating Competitions (to be announced in an ISU Communication no later than 1 August 2009).
- International Competitions open to all ISU Members (NFs), announced according to ISU Regulations; Rule 110, paragraph 2.
- Country matches announced according to ISU Regulations; Rule 110, paragraph 2.
- National Championships organized by the NFs, including competitions officially declared by the NF concerned as National Olympic Trials.

For Country matches and National Championships/National Olympic Trials to be considered for achievement of Qualifying Times, the organizing NF must announce to the ISU Secretariat by 1st October 2009 the programme as well as the planned date and place for such competitions. A copy of the announcement for the competition must be sent to the ISU Secretariat no later than two weeks before the first competition day.

Moreover, ISU Regulations must be respected and in particular, but not limited to, the following conditions must be met in order for competitions to be recognised for achievement of Qualifying Times:

- Automatic timekeeping equipment must have been used at the Competition.
- The Referees and Starters at the Competition must be included in the lists of ISU recognised Speed Skating Referees and Starters for the season 2009/2010, as published in the annual ISU Communication (*No. to be announced*), or any amendments to this Communication.
- Anti-Doping tests in accordance with the current ISU Anti-Doping Rules must be organised at the Competition.

Verification and approval of achieved Qualifying Times

The ISU Speed Skating Technical Committee is responsible for the approval of achieved Qualifying Times.

The NFs are responsible for submitting to the ISU verification of the *best achieved Qualifying Time* per event/distance for each skater intended for participation in the 2010 Olympic Winter Games. The verification shall include the date and venue where the time has been achieved. Unless the time has been achieved at an ISU Championship, an ISU World Cup Competition, a copy of the list of results must be enclosed. Furthermore, the verification must include a statement from the organizing NF that all conditions for recognition of achieved Qualifying Times (as stated above) have been fulfilled. The information must reach the ISU Secretariat (by fax no. +41 21 612 66 77, or by e-mail to info@isu.ch) *not later than January 18, 2010*.

CONFIRMATION/REJECTION/ADJUSTMENT OF QUOTAS TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE OVERALL IOC QUOTA FOR SPEED SKATING

After the conclusion of the qualification process for allocation of quota places for the respective events, the ISU will announce the provisionally allocated quota places. NOCs will have to confirm and/or reject their use of these quota places to the ISU Secretariat before 18 January 2010.

If these responses from the NOCs would indicate that the overall IOC Speed Skating quota of 180 Speed Skaters will be exceeded, the maximum number of skaters for individual events/distances will be adjusted, with the consequence that some NOCs will lose provisionally allocated quota places for the events concerned. In the first step, adjusted quota places will be based on a reduction in the maximum number of skaters in the events starting with 500m, then 1000m and then 1500m by one skater, i.e. to 35 Women and 39 Men for each event until the IOC quota is reached. The respective quota place having been earned last for the respective event/distance would be eliminated first. If necessary, the next step will be to adjust quota places in the same manner as described above based on a further reduction in the maximum number of skaters in the same events/distances, to a maximum 34 Women and 38 Men, etc.

NOCs will be informed about the adjustments in allocated quota places prior to the deadline for submission of final entries for the 2010 Olympic Winter Games.

REALLOCATION OF UNUSED QUOTA PLACES

Unused quota places will be reallocated on a continuous basis for each event/distance, based on the reserve lists and other criteria and conditions stated above.

ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS

The ISU Special Regulations and Technical Rules give details concerning the submission of final entries for each event/distance, for the seeding of skaters and the drawing of pairs/heats.

QUALIFICATION PROCESS TIMELINE

1 July 2009	ISU announces Qualifying Times
1 July 2009 – 17 Jan 2010	Period for achieving Qualifying Times
1 August 2009	ISU announces qualifying competitions (Speed Skating World Cup Competitions) to determine the Special Olympic Qualifying Classifications (SOQC) and subsequently NF/NOC quota places.
20 Oct – 20 Dec 2009	ISU World Cup Competitions counting towards the SOQC
23 December 2009	ISU informs NFs/NOCs about provisionally allocated quota places based on the SOQC for the respective events/distances, and on the provisional overall NF/NOC quota (total number of skaters that may be entered) based on the allocated quota places per event.
10 -17 January 2010	NOCs to inform ISU about confirmation and/or rejection of provisionally allocated quota places, both for each event/distance and in total.
11-19 January 2010	ISU to inform relevant NOCs regarding the reallocation of quota places that will have to be confirmed by the NOC within 24 hours. Lack of a NOC response to the ISU within this deadline will be considered as a refusal of the offered quota place.

QUALIFICATION SYSTEM FOR XXI WINTER OLYMPICS GAMES, VANCOUVER 2010

20-24 January 2010	ISU to inform NOCs with copy to NFs about adjustments (if necessary) in total event quota places (maximum number of participants per event/distance) and any reallocation or withdrawal of quota places.
28 January 2010	End of re-allocation process
1 February 2010	Deadline for Vancouver 2010 Organizing Committee to receive entry forms by name submitted by the NOCs.