



— ONTARIO —
SPEED SKATING
— ASSOCIATION —

2012-2013
Provincial Training Team
Provincial Development Team
Quest for Gold
Selection and Funding Process

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SECTION 1 - PREAMBLE

1. The content herein defines the ranking approaches and the selection processes for OSSA's athlete development programs: the Provincial Training Team (PTT), the Provincial Development Team (PDT), the Quest for Gold Program and the OSSA funding model for its provincial teams. These will be applied to determine the provincial teams for the 2012-2013 speed skating season.
2. The purpose of OSSA's provincial programs is to identify its top Long Track and Short Track skaters for enhanced athlete development programs. The athlete selection process is predetermined to ensure application of an objective system.
3. The purpose of OSSA's enhanced athlete development programs is to provide its top Long Track and Short Track skaters with the necessary development and training resources to continue on a performance pathway towards attaining the highest level of performance (i.e. A progressive increase in the volume of training and competition supported by a training plan).
4. Long Term Athlete Development is the guiding model in developing criteria for the athlete selection process and will continue as such in supporting decisions related to future selection processes.
5. The Technical Committee is responsible for management of established athlete development programs and relevant athlete selection processes. The Technical Committee will also assume responsibility for revisions and/or exceptions, to these established programs and/or supporting programs. There shall be 5 Technical Committee members governing these programs who have no conflict of interest. If 5 committee members do not meet the criteria, then positions will be occupied by the Sport Manager and subsequently by members of the Board who have no conflict of interest.
6. Any change to process or applicable criteria supporting development programs will be announced in an OSSA Technical Bulletin or by the publication of a Technical Memorandum.
7. Ontario Speed Skating Association competitive racing members must be in good standing to be considered for ranking.

These general principles will apply in the administration of each program:

- Appeals with respect to any selection process will be submitted to the President of OSSA in writing.
- The Technical Committee, unless otherwise noted:
 - Will assess all appeals related to Technical portfolio and advise the OSSA Board accordingly
 - Will render decisions related to ties

SECTION 2 - PROVINCIAL RANKING SYSTEM

PROVINCIAL SHORT TRACK RANKING:

- Males and females will be ranked separately.
- Skaters will be ranked within a pool of competitors skating at identified competitions. Skaters in the first pool of competitors will be ranked ahead of skaters in the second pool, and the second ahead of the third, and so on until all pools of skaters are accounted for.
- A skater - once ranked in a pool - will not be considered for ranking in a lower pool as that skater has already achieved the highest possible rank. The principle of the best result at the highest level of competition is maintained.
- Wherever possible the process for the ranking of Ontario speed skaters will use the national ranking list established by Speed Skating Canada (SSC), under the direction of the High Performance Committees (HPC) of SSC. Freedom from bias, discrimination and/or conflict of interest is maintained by adhering to the results of the national ranking list produced and prepared by the national office of SSC.

Pool 1: Senior Trials

Athletes achieving a senior national ranking through the competition format for ranking established by the High Performance Committee of Speed Skating Canada shall be ranked first. This shall constitute the first pool of skaters.

Pool 2: National Qualifier

Athletes achieving a result at an identified National Qualifier competition that is used for selection to a Senior Trials shall be ranked second. This shall constitute the second pool of skaters. The final overall racing result from the qualifier shall establish rank within the second pool. In the event that the HPC of SSC determines that more than one qualifying event shall be used then a combined result of the two events will be used to establish rank.

Pool 3: Junior Nationals

Athletes achieving a result at a National Junior selection event shall be ranked third. This shall constitute the third pool of skaters. The final overall racing result shall establish rank within the third pool.

Pool 4: Canadian Short Track Championships

Athletes achieving a result at the Canadian Short Track Championships (Junior B, Junior A, and Neo-Senior) shall be ranked fourth. This shall constitute the fourth pool of skaters. The final overall placing in the respective age divisions shall determine rank. Ties will be broken by the best 500m time skated at this event.

Pool 5: Canada East Short Track Championships

Athletes achieving a result at the Canada East Short Track Championships shall be ranked fifth. This shall constitute the fifth pool of skaters. The final overall placing in the respective age division shall determine rank. Ties will be broken by the best 400m time skated at this event.

Pool 6: Ontario Provincial A Short Track Championships

Athletes achieving a result at the Ontario Provincial A Short Track Championships shall be ranked sixth. During the 2011-2012 season, this meet was known as the Ontario Short Track Provincial Championships (Kingston, February 2012). This shall constitute the sixth and final pool of skaters. The final overall placing in the respective age division shall determine rank. Within this pool of skaters, a separate ranking list will be maintained for skaters competing on the 100.0m track and skaters competing on a 111.12m track. Skaters racing on the 111.12m track at this meet will be ranked ahead of skaters racing on the 100.0m track. All

skaters within this pool are ranked below skaters in the fifth pool. Within this pool, skaters are ranked separately according to the track that is developmentally appropriate. Inclusions and/ or additions to Ontario programs will be considered from the ranking within this final pool when developmentally appropriate. Ties within this pool on the 111.12m track will be broken by the best 500m time skated during this event. Ties within this pool on the 100.0m track will be broken by the best 400m time skated during this event.

<i>Short Track Event</i>	<i>Pool ranking priority</i>
Senior National Trials	1
National Qualifier	2
Junior Nationals	3
Canadian Age Class Short Track Championships	4
Canada East Short Track Championships	5
Provincial A Short Track Championships	6

PROVINCIAL LONG TRACK RANKING:

- Males and females will be ranked separately. Team Pursuits are not eligible for ranking purposes.
- Skaters will be ranked within a pool of competitors skating at identified competitions. Skaters in the first pool of competitors will be ranked ahead of skaters in the second pool, and the second ahead of the third, and so on until all pools of skaters are accounted for.
- A skater - once ranked in a pool - will not be considered for ranking in a lower pool as that skater has already achieved the highest possible rank. The principle of the best result at the highest level of competition is maintained.
- Wherever possible the process for the ranking of Ontario speed skaters will use the national ranking list established by Speed Skating Canada (SSC), under the direction of the High Performance Committees (HPC) of SSC. Freedom from bias, discrimination and/or conflict of interest is maintained by adhering to the results of the national ranking list produced and prepared by the national office of SSC.

Pool 1: Canadian Long Track Ranking List – Single Distance

Athletes achieving a national ranking through the competition format for ranking established by the High Performance Committee of Speed Skating Canada shall be ranked first. This shall constitute the first pool of skaters.

Note: to achieve a national ranking result, a skater must place within the top 32 skaters in a distance at an identified competition. The national ranking list is a single distance ranking. A skater's best result in a distance established rank. Absolute rank in any distance will establish rank order on the Ontario ranking list. For example: a skater who is ranked 28th in the 500m will rank below a skater ranked 21st in the 1500m.

Ties will be broken by the best ranking in a second distance (or third or fourth as needed). If the skaters involved in the tie do not have a ranking in a second distance, the skater who has demonstrated a higher level of commitment to long track competition will be given the nod. The commitment to long track will be determined by the number of ranking events attended, the number of distances entered at each event, attendance at training camps, relocation to training centres, and performance from the previous season.

Note: Commencing in the 2013-2014 season, a skater must have raced in at least 3 qualifying meets to be considered for long track funding.

Pool 2: Canadian Age Class Long Track Championships

Skaters achieving a result at the Canadian Age Class Long Track Championships shall be ranked second. This shall constitute the second pool of skaters. The final overall placing in the respective age division shall determine rank. Ties shall be broken by the best 500m time skated in an Olympic-Style competition at this event.

Pool 3: Ontario Provincial Long Track Championships

Skaters achieving a result at the Ontario Provincial Long Track Championships shall be ranked third. This shall constitute the third and final pool of skaters. The final overall placing in the respective Junior All-Round Olympic Style shall determine rank. Ties shall be broken by the best 1500m time skated in the Junior All-Round Olympic Style competition at this event.

<i>Long Track Event</i>	<i>Pool ranking priority</i>
Canadian Long Track Ranking List (Single Distance)	1
Canadian Age Class Long Track Championships	2
Ontario Provincial Long Track Championships	3

Next Generation Criteria

Next Generation athletes (as defined by OSSA) are skating athletes who are 23 years old (based on June 30th date prior to the competition) or older who are identified as likely to achieve National Development Team status (minimum standard) within 3 years. Furthermore, athletes falling within this category shall be subject to an annual review.

Any Next Generation skater who believes they are eligible for funding must formally submit a request for consideration to the Selection Committee. Consideration of their request will be reviewed under strict conditions. Skaters are required to indicate their progress in actual racing times, progress in absolute rank on the national rank list for their identified discipline, and short term and long term competitive plans.

Due date is **Monday, October 29th, 2012.**

Send requests to executivedirector@ontariospeedskating.ca

Athletes falling within this category shall be subject to an annual review. That review shall include but not be limited to the following:

- Progress in actual racing times, an absolute measurement against the clock.
- Progress in absolute rank on the national ranking list for the identified discipline (Short Track or Long Track).
- Competitive plans for the future including short term and long term goals.
- Makes a significant contribution to a development program for Ontario speed skaters at an identified training facility ie: making a key contribution to the training group through leadership and / or effort (based on coaching reports)

In making the determination to identify an athlete as Next Generation, the Selection Committee shall examine their most recent and consistent performance results.

Injury and Illness

Skaters who were unable to compete during the season due to injury or illness will not be ranked on the short track or long track ranking lists and are therefore ineligible for funding.

SECTION 3 - PROVINCIAL TRAINING TEAM

PURPOSE:

To assist provincial and/or senior elite skaters on a performance pathway leading to a higher level of performance and showing promise towards achieving a position on the National Team, therefore acquiring a Sport Canada card.

SCOPE:

1. The Provincial Training Team (PTT) is established based on an OSSA program whereby selected skaters receive assistance, in return for a commitment to maintain a formal training program, ongoing development and competitive schedule. Athletes are expected to show continuous improvement. The specific program requirements are announced annually to the skaters selected at the time an offer to participate within the program is made.
2. A minimum of three (3) female and three (3) male Long Track, and three (3) female and three (3) male Short Track skaters will be named to the PTT.
3. The Technical Committee may, subject to budgetary conditions, and in its absolute discretion (expressed with reason), name additional or less skaters to the program.

SHORT TRACK SELECTION:

Ontario Short Track skaters will be ranked utilizing the Provincial Ranking system described herein.

All Sport Canada cardholders will be excluded from the Provincial Ranking lists.

The top three (3) female and the top three (3) male Ontario Short Track skaters may be invited to be members of the PTT.

LONG TRACK SELECTION:

Ontario Long Track skaters will be ranked utilizing the Provincial Ranking system described herein.

All Sport Canada cardholders will be excluded from the Provincial Ranking lists.

The top three (3) female and the top three (3) male Ontario Long Track skaters may be invited to be members of the PTT.

SKATER OBLIGATIONS:

1. Skaters are expected to maintain a performance pathway providing for the best opportunity for achieving the highest level of performance (i.e. a position on the National Team) and perform at the highest level where qualified in the discipline for which they were selected (i.e. Long Track / Short Track).
2. Skaters are expected to attend OSSA sponsored provincial events (i.e. Trials and Championships) for which they meet the applicable selection standards.
3. A skater who decides to resign, retire, does not complete the requirements of the program agreement, is not compliant with the requirement noted in Skater Obligations Item 1, or who is suspended from the PTT program will be ineligible for the both the PDT and PTT programs the next season. This will be determined based on a formal athlete assessment at year-end.
4. An athlete who is offered a Sport Canada card and/or National team position and who chooses to decline it, will consequently be ineligible for the program.
5. A skater who qualifies for both a Short Track and a Long Track PTT designation will be required to select one. The athlete will only be eligible to receive the benefits for one discipline.

6. A PTT member who is in the province during a provincial event is expected to participate in the event provided they meet the applicable selection standards. PTT members who are in the province during a provincial training event (such as an OSSA camp) are required to participate in the event.

SECTION 4 - PROVINCIAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM

PURPOSE:

To assist provincial and/or transitional skaters initiate or maintain a performance pathway, promoting development, increasing training, leading to a higher level of performance and providing opportunity to qualify for a future position on the Provincial Training Team.

SCOPE:

1. The Provincial Development Team (PDT) will be comprised of skaters who show potential towards achieving a PTT position by ranking just below PTT skaters.
2. The Program supporting the PDT will consist of the provision for training and competitive development opportunities as determined in the annual plan. Such opportunities may be delivered through arrangements that the Technical Committee sets forth. The Program also includes provisions for coaching and funding assistance for clinics, competitions, and training camps for designated skaters.
3. The content of the Program will be set annually by the Technical Committee and may vary subject to budgetary conditions and/or special requirements (i.e. preparation for the Canada Winter Games).
4. The PDT will normally consist of twenty (20) skaters, which must include four (4) female, and four (4) male Long Track skaters, and six (6) female and six (6) male Short Track skaters.
5. The Technical Committee, subject to budgetary condition may, in its absolute discretion (expressed with reason), name additional or less skaters to the Program (i.e. more skaters in the year preceding and the year of the Canada Winter Games).

SHORT TRACK SELECTION:

Ontario Short Track skaters will be ranked utilizing the Provincial Ranking system described herein.

All Sport Canada cardholders will be excluded from the Provincial Ranking lists.

The top three (3) female and the top three (3) male Ontario skaters already invited to be members of the Short Track PTT will be skipped on the Provincial Short Track Ranking list.

The next six (6) female and next six (6) male skaters on the Provincial Short Track Ranking list may be invited to be members of the PDT.

Two (2) years in advance of the Canada Winter Games, the Technical Committee may consider opening additional positions on the PDT in the event the ranking process does not provide the necessary number of athletes required to represent a Short Track team for Ontario at the Canada Winter Games (i.e. five (5) female and five (5) male skaters).

LONG TRACK SELECTION:

Ontario Long Track skaters will be ranked utilizing the Provincial Ranking system described herein.

All Sport Canada cardholders will be excluded from the Provincial Ranking lists.

The top three (3) female and the top three (3) male Ontario skaters already invited to be members of the Long Track PTT will be skipped on the Provincial Long Track Ranking list.

The next four (4) female and the next four (4) male Ontario skaters on the Provincial Long Track Ranking list may be invited to be members of the PDT.

Two (2) years in advance of the Canada Winter Games, the Technical Committee may consider opening additional positions on the PDT in the event the ranking process does not provide the necessary number of athletes required to represent a Long Track team for Ontario at the Canada Winter Games (i.e. four (4) female and four (4) male skaters).

SKATER OBLIGATIONS:

1. Skaters are expected to maintain a performance pathway with aim to qualify for a position on the PTT and to perform at a higher level in the discipline for which they were selected (i.e. Long Track or Short Track).
2. Skaters are expected to attend OSSA sponsored provincial events for which they meet the applicable selection standards.
3. A skater who decides to resign, retire, does not complete the requirements of the program agreement, is not compliant with the requirements noted in Skater Obligations Item 1, or who are suspended from the PDT program will be ineligible for both the PDT and PTT program the next season. This will be determined based on a formal athlete assessment at year-end.
4. An athlete who qualifies for both the Short Track and Long Track PDT will be required to select one. The athlete will not be eligible to receive the benefits of both programs.
5. A PTT member who is in the province during a provincial event, is expected to participate in the event provided they meet the applicable selection standards. PTT members who are in the province during a provincial training event (such as an OSSA camp) are required to participate in the event.

SECTION 5 – QUEST FOR GOLD

PURPOSE:

Quest for Gold - Ontario Athlete Assistance Program 2012-2013 (OAAP) is funded by the Provincial Government of Ontario, through the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport (MTCS). The program will provide direct financial assistance to Ontario athletes through an "Ontario Card" designation. The intent of the OAAP is to provide funding to individual athletes based on their demonstrated commitment to high performance sport, allowing them to pursue athletic excellence at the highest levels of national and international competition.

PROCESS:

In 2012-2013 OSSA has been allotted a total of 18 Ontario cards from the MTCS. OSSA has decided to exercise the option made available by MTCS to split up to 30% of its carding allotment (i.e. issue ½ cards in designated categories).

A minimum of 13 Quest for Gold awards must be allotted to junior aged skaters (11 to 22 years of age). Junior-age refers to chronological age, not a sport's specific age category.

A maximum of 5 Quest for Gold awards may be allotted to Next Generation skaters (23 years of age and older). Next Generation aged skaters must be a member of the PTT for Quest for Gold nomination.

In accordance with the OAAP guidelines, OSSA is responsible for forming a Selection Committee and sport specific selection criteria to nominate the athletes for Ontario carding status in 2012-2013. This selection criteria has been approved by OSSA's board of directors.

AVAILABLE FUNDING:

The exact level of funding for the 2012-2013 carding year will be determined by the Ministry after the total number of athletes nominated for Ontario Card status has been determined.

SHORT TRACK SELECTION:

Ontario skaters will be ranked utilizing the Provincial Short Track ranking system.

All Sport Canada cardholders will be removed from the Provincial Ranking lists leaving only skaters not carded by Sport Canada.

All skaters must meet the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport's minimum athlete eligibility criteria.

The three (3) female and three (3) male short track PTT members may be nominated for a full Ontario Card designation.

The top four (4) female and top four (4) male short track PDT members may be nominated for a split Ontario Card designation.

LONG TRACK SELECTION:

Ontario skaters will be ranked utilizing the Provincial Long Track ranking system.

All Sport Canada cardholders will be removed from the Provincial Ranking lists leaving only skaters not carded by Sport Canada.

All skaters must meet the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport's minimum athlete eligibility criteria.

The three (3) female and three (3) male long track PTT members may be nominated for a full Ontario Card designation.

The top two (2) female and top two (2) male long track PDT members may be nominated for a split Ontario Card designation.

SUBSTITUTIONS AND ALTERNATES:

OSSA may perform the following substitutions if a skater does not meet the MTCS's minimum athlete eligibility criteria for Quest for Gold nomination:

1. If a skater in a PTT position does not meet the minimum criteria then OSSA may promote the skater ranked directly behind a PTT position onto the PTT as a substitute nomination for full Ontario Card designation. The promoted skater will then have the expectations and receive the benefits of a PTT member.
2. If a skater in a PDT position does not meet the minimum criteria then OSSA may substitute the skater ranked directly behind those skaters nominated for split Ontario Card as a substitute nomination for split Ontario Card designation.

The MTCS permits OSSA the option of nominating alternates to those athletes nominated for Ontario card status.

1. Alternates must be those skaters who are ranked directly behind those skaters nominated for the allotment of Ontario Cards in a particular category.
2. The names of alternates must be published along with the names of nominated skaters.
3. OSSA will be permitted to substitute an alternate for an Ontario Carded athlete who drops out or is removed from the OAAP provided that:
 - a) Alternate is substituted within 2012-2013 fiscal year
 - b) Funding for athlete being substituted is still available within fiscal year (e.g. full funding for card has not already been paid out to athlete no longer in program)

SECTION 6 - LEVEL OF FUNDING FOR PTT & PDT MEMBERS

The level of funding available for the Provincial Training Team (PTT) and the Provincial Development Team (PDT) from the Ontario Speed Skating Association will be set from year to year by recommendation of the Technical Committee and at the discretion of the association's budget.

PTT FUNDING:

The PTT will receive sixty percent (60%) of the set budget amount for funding purposes. Each PTT member will be eligible for a maximum of five percent (5%) of the set budget amount for funding. Eligible expenses for PTT funding will include:

1. Reimbursement for coaching and/or program fees for post provincial training.
2. Reimbursement for travel to select events
A - Long Track events: Canada Cup, North American Championships, Canadian Single Distance Championships, and Canadian Age Class Championships.
B – Short Track events: Junior Nationals, Senior National Trials, National Qualifier, Canadian Age Class Championships, and Canada East Short Track Championships.
3. Reimbursement for registration fees for select events
A – Long Track events: Canada Cup, North American Championships, Canadian Single Distance Championships, and Canadian Age Class Championships.
B – Short Track events: Junior Nationals, Senior National Trials, National Qualifier, Canadian Age Class Championships, and Canada East Short Track Championships.
4. Reimbursement for registration for Provincial Training Camps

PDT FUNDING:

The PDT will receive forty percent (40%) of the set budget amount for funding purposes. Each PDT member will be eligible for a maximum of two percent (2%) of the set budget amount for funding. Eligible expenses for PDT funding include:

1. Reimbursement for coaching and program fees for post provincial training.
2. Reimbursement for travel to select events
A - Long Track events: Canada Cup, North American Championships, Canadian Single Distance Championships, and Canadian Age Class Championships.
B – Short Track events: Junior Nationals, Senior National Trials, National Qualifier, Canadian Age Class Championships, and Canada East Short Track Championships.
3. Reimbursement for registration fees for select events
A – Long Track events: Canada Cup, North American Championships, Canadian Single Distance Championships, and Canadian Age Class Championships.
B – Short Track events: Junior Nationals, Senior National Trials, National Qualifier, Canadian Age Class Championships, and Canada East Short Track Championships.
4. Reimbursement for registration for Provincial Training Camps.

SUBMITTING EXPENSES FOR REIMBURSEMENT:

- For audit purposes, a copy of an invoice or receipt must be forwarded to the OSSA office for expenses for which a reimbursement is sought.
- It is the responsibility of all PTT and PDT skaters to incur the initial expense for travel, camps, and programs. Athletes are responsible to collect the associated receipts and submit them to OSSA by the identified deadline.
- Taxes and airport fees associated with use of Air Travel Points will be reimbursed. There will be no additional reimbursement for the use of Air Travel Points, travel vouchers, coupons, etc.

- Additional fees related to late registration for events will be the responsibility of PTT and PDT members when they for their own part have missed the registration deadline.
- Expenses will only be reimbursed to PTT and PDT members who fulfill the obligations of the athlete agreement and maintain a good standing with the association for the duration of the season.
- In the event budget constraints are necessary, OSSA reserves the right to adjust and effect funding changes accordingly.