



OSSA
ONTARIO SPEED SKATING
ASSOCIATION

Bye Request and Appeals Guidelines

ONTARIO SPEED SKATING ASSOCIATION BYE GUIDELINES

Purpose

To provide the Technical Committee with guidelines for the granting of byes to skaters into or from competitions or onto provincial teams where qualifying criteria are required to be met.

Philosophy of Team Selection

The philosophy for team or event selection is to select the skaters that will achieve the best possible result for Ontario at different competitions (Canadian Championships or Canada East) or develop towards the highest level of performance (Canada Winter Games, Ontario Winter Games, Junior Championships, and/or Senior Ranking Events onto a national team).

The Technical Committee is determined to make the selection to these teams or events as objective as possible. To ensure this occurs the Committee will use, whenever possible, objective criteria such as time, placing at a specific competition(s), and ranking etc. as the foremost criteria in selecting skaters.

These criteria will be used at a specified selection event(s) or a series of specified events.

In nominating the specific selection event(s), the Technical Committee will only nominate an event that occurs after the confirmation of the relevant selection policy. In all cases it is the intent of the Technical Committee that selection is earned through current performances in the specific selection events.

In exceptional circumstances a skater may not be able to compete in the relevant selection event(s). In this instance the skater is eligible to apply for selection under the Bye Conditions as detailed below.

Bye Clause Selection Philosophy

(The Bye Clause will only apply to selection for specific competitions/ events)

Due to exceptional circumstances (e.g. illness, injury, equipment break, etc.) and through no fault of his or her own, a skater sometimes does not have the opportunity to compete in the nominated selection events. In this situation the skater may be eligible to apply for a bye selection to the relevant team.

The basic philosophy for selecting a skater by granting a bye is that, all things being equal, the skater given the bye has clearly demonstrated superior performances in previous competition to other skaters being considered for selection or advancement in ranking.

A bye request is considered as the last means by which a skater can gain selection and is intended to provide for exceptional circumstances outside the normal selection criteria rather than being part of the normal means by which a skater can gain selection or advancement.

Rules for submitting a bye application:

- a Bye requests must be made in writing to the Technical Committee (see deadlines below).
- b Only the skater, their parent or guardian, and/or coach can submit the request.
- c In every case, the application **must enclose** supporting documentation. For example, if the bye request is made on the basis of an illness or injury, the skater must provide documentary evidence from a medical doctor. The Technical Committee has the right to request further independent medical review after the bye request has been submitted.

Conditions for applying for a Bye

I **Bye request for a short track Provincial Series competition in the current skating season, in order to preserve eligibility for Provincial A Championships:**

Bye requests will be considered in four (4) categories for all skaters qualified to race in the Provincial Series:

a *Pre-Competition illness or injury that prevents a skater from competing in an event.*

If a skater is ill or injured before the beginning of the event, a bye request must be made before the coaches' meeting of that event. The Technical Committee Representative must formally announce all bye requests at this meeting so that all other competitors are made aware of the possibility of a bye being granted.

A bye request will be ruled ineligible if the skater subsequently competes in the event.

In the case of selection being based upon participation at multiple events, a skater is eligible to apply for a bye request to a subsequent event if they are prevented from competing in one of the events due to a pre-existing illness or injury.

If the bye application is made because a skater has suffered a concussion, the skater must also follow the guidelines set out in the section entitled "Policy Regarding Byes for Concussions".

b *Pre-competition conflicting engagement that prevents a skater from competing in an event.*

If a skater knows in advance that he or she will be unable to attend an event because of a conflicting engagement (ie. a funeral or an exam occurring on the same day as a competition), a bye request must be made **before the registration deadline** of the event.

A bye request will be ruled ineligible if the skater subsequently competes in the event.

In the case of selection being based upon participation at multiple events, a skater is eligible to apply for a bye request to a subsequent event if they are prevented from competing in one of the events due to a conflicting engagement.

In all cases it is preferable that a skater attend an OSSA selection event over another event. Byes shall not be granted for skaters to attend competitions in other sports, or speed skating competitions in other provinces, subject to these guidelines. Byes shall not be granted for conflicting engagements that are purely optional. Skaters should use their Free Absence (provided it has not already been used) if they wish to attend such optional events.

Subject to the guidelines herein, byes will not be granted for engagements that are not actually in a direct conflict. For greater certainty, the conflicting engagement must be on the same day as the competition.

Byes will be granted, upon receipt of the skater's application and supporting documents, for attendance at the following competitions:

- any National level selection, ranking meet or championship (ie. National Selections, Fall World Cup Trials, Junior Trials/Championship, Canada Cups, Canada Winter Games, Age Class Championships etc.)

- any OSSA selection event or its substitute (Ontario Provincial Long Track Championships, Long Track Canada Winter Games Trials).

If a skater has qualified for any of the above meets **and** such meet is either 3 or 4 days long, the skater shall be eligible to receive a bye for a Provincial Series meet which is occurring on the weekend directly preceding one of the above-described competitions, notwithstanding that the two events do not directly conflict. In the case of a skater who has qualified to represent Ontario at the Canada Winter Games in the discipline of long track speed skating and as a condition of accepting a position on the team has entered into an agreement to only participate in long track speed skating for a specified time period, that skater may receive a bye for any Provincial Series meets that fall within that time frame.

c *Injury, illness or equipment breakage during an event*

A Bye request must be made **within 48 hours** following the end of the event.

If the bye request is made on the basis of equipment breakage, this must be reported to – and verified by – the chief referee or Technical Committee representative immediately following the race in which the equipment breakage occurred.

If the bye application is made because a skater has suffered a concussion, the skater must also follow the guidelines set out in the section entitled “Policy Regarding Byes for Concussions”, on page 28.

d *Conflicting engagement or travel difficulty immediately prior to an event*

If a skater has registered for an event and is then unable to attend due to an unforeseen conflicting engagement or travel difficulty, a Bye request must be **made within 48 hours following the end of the event**. (Please note that travel distance/ inconvenience is not an acceptable travel difficulty – cancelled flights, late arrivals, etc. are eligible for consideration).

II **Bye request to be named to Team Ontario:**

This process is for the selection to a specific team and is relevant to skaters who are unable to attend the Provincial A Championships, but who wish, nevertheless, to be considered for selection to Team Ontario for the Canada East Short Track Championships.

The process for selection to Team Ontario for the Canadian Age Class Long Track Championships is listed in the OSSA Long Track Technical Bulletin.

The Bye must be requested as per the above guidelines and deadlines, except that a bye must be requested **prior to the end of the Provincial A Championships** for any situations that arise at the Provincial A Championships. The Bye application must state clearly what the skater is requesting, and appropriate documentation (medical, etc.) **must be attached**.

If the Technical Committee receives a bye application requesting a position on Team Ontario for Canada East Short Track selection, as a result of not being able to compete at the Provincial A Championships, the following criteria will be applied:

- Submission of any required documentation to committee, as requested by assigned deadline, ie: Doctor's note
- Head-to-head competition results of the athletes being considered for selection.
- Past performances of the skater requesting the Bye

This will be validated using a points system, evaluating those athletes in consideration, against their peers, based on the current season's results in the Provincial Racing Series events.

Details will include placement points applied to those competitions.

If there is a tie on points, the secondary consideration will be best combined ranking times achieved up to the close of registration of the Provincial A Championship.

Performance points based on placements earned at Provincial Racing Series events

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th
10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3

Name	Rank 400 + 1500 (100m) seconds	PS1	PS2	PS3	Total
Tom	207.01	8	10	9	27
Harry	208.46	10	7	10	27
Sam	209.10	7	9	8	24
Mark	210.45	9	6	7	22
Jamie	211.42	6	8	4	18
Daniel	211.81	4	5	6	15
Scott	211.86	5	3	5	13
Jordan	212.04	5	4	3	12
Lukas	213.23	3	3		6
Caden	213.28				0
Marcus	215.08				0
Max	217.90				0
Donald	219.23				0
Peter	231.35				0

Process for reviewing a Bye application

The following steps are involved in the process of considering a request for a Bye.

- a Following the final selection event for the respective team/ event, the Technical Committee meets (in person or via conference call) to review the facts.
- b In cases where multiple Bye applications are lodged, they will be assessed individually and on their own merit.
- c All members of the Technical Committee (who are not in conflict of interest) will review the facts and make a recommendation (with supporting rationale). If there are fewer than three members of the Technical Committee that are not in a conflict of interest, then the OSSA Board of Directors will make the recommendation regarding the Bye application.
- d If the Bye(s) is/are granted, the Technical Committee will establish a revised ranking of skaters based upon the selection event(s) and an assessment of previous performances from those who have requested a Bye.
- e From this revised ranking, the final selections will be made.
- f These final selections will then be named as the “Team” or “eligible” and will be communicated to the skaters(s) requesting the Bye, skater(s) directly affected by the Bye request, the coaches, and the skaters’ representatives.

Conditions for granting a Bye

Applications for a Bye to be selected to Team Ontario despite non- or partial participation in the relevant Provincial Championship will be held to a much higher standard than regular Bye applications for Provincial Series competitions.

The basic question the Technical Committee must answer is whether the skater requesting the Bye had a recent history of performances or other factors as listed below that demonstrate clear superiority of the skater requesting a Bye to those of other skaters in consideration for selection. If a skater submits a Bye after partial performance in the relevant Provincial Championship (ie. if a skater is injured partway through the Championship), the Technical Committee shall take into consideration the skater’s performance up to the point of that skater’s withdrawal from the competition in assessing the application.

The Technical Committee must also be certain that the skater requesting the Bye would be able to compete at a similar level in the event or team for which they seek selection. The Technical Committee may award a “Conditional Bye” to skaters recovering from injury or illness. In this situation, the skater may have certain conditions imposed upon him or her. This could include, but is not limited to, such things as a certain time frame, performance requirement, medical clearance etc.

In order to make these decisions, the Technical Committee will evaluate a number of elements including, but not limited to, the following:

- a Head-to-head competition results of the skaters being considered for selection.
- b Past performances of the skater requesting the Bye.
- c Results of the selection competition (by skaters in contention for the team).
- d Recent training and testing performances.
- e Medical evidence of suitability to compete.
- f Coach/ Club Official evaluation and recommendations of suitability to compete.

In evaluating past performances, the Technical Committee will assign priority to those performances from the 12 month period prior to the final selection event. If this data does not exist, performances beyond this 12-month period may be considered but will assume a lower value in assessing the Bye request.

In Short Track, the general guideline is that the Technical Committee judges that the skater being granted a Bye would have clearly finished within the ranking of the skaters selected.

Policy Regarding Byes for Concussions

If a skater applies for and receives a bye due to having sustained a concussion, he or she will be considered to be placed in the Concussion Protocol and shall adhere to the following rules for the subsequent Provincial Series competition(s) (including, if necessary, the Provincial A Championships):

- 1) If the skater has recovered from the injury, he or she must submit to the Technical Committee, before the registration deadline of the next Provincial Series competition, written medical clearance from a medical doctor which clearance approves the skater to compete in such competition. The skater shall then be free to register for that and any further Provincial Series competitions and shall be considered to be out of the Concussion Protocol.
- 2) If the skater has not recovered from the injury, he or she must submit to the Technical Committee, before the registration deadline of the next Provincial Series competition, an updated written notice from a medical doctor which notice confirms that the skater has not been medically cleared to compete. The skater shall then receive a bye for that competition. The skater shall continue submitting medical notes confirming his or her medical status until he or she is able to satisfy the requirements of section (1) of this Protocol.
- 3) A skater in the Concussion Protocol shall not be allowed to register for any Provincial Series competitions so long as he or she has not satisfied the requirements of section (1) of this Protocol.
- 4) A skater in the Concussion Protocol who does not satisfy the requirements of either section (1) or (2) of this Protocol in respect of any competition shall forfeit his or her eligibility for the Provincial A Championships as he or she will not have attended 3 out of 4 meets and will not have received a bye for the extra absence.
- 5) For greater certainty, a skater is required to use his or her Free Absence for his or her first non-attendance. If a skater's first non-attendance is due to a concussion, he or she will still be considered to have used his or her Free Absence for the first competition, despite having applied for a bye. Such a skater will be placed in the Concussion Protocol.

Appeals

Following the announcement of the decision on the Bye application, the skater(s) affected by the decision has/have the opportunity to appeal the decision in accordance with the Ontario Speed Skating Association's Appeals Policy (see www.ontariospeedskating.ca/policies/).

The Bye Application Form is posted on the OSSA website: ontariospeedskating.ca/technical-bulletins/.