

Club Questions and Comments about the 2017-2018 Long Track Technical Bulletin
-A Question and Answer document from the Ontario Speed Skating Association-

The OSSA Long Track Technical Bulletin is established annually at the start of each racing season. Changes are made to best reflect the ever-evolving racing pathway needs of Ontario-based skaters from entry level through national competitor.

Disclaimer: If there are changes to the SSC Competitions Bulletin or the SSC High Performance Bulletins that warrant changes to OSSA's competitions, the Technical Committee will amend the Technical Bulletin accordingly.

Why doesn't OSSA identify a back-up event in Quebec to select Team Ontario or go to Quebec or Lake Placid for the Provincial Championships?

The Ontario Provincial Long Track Championships should be scheduled in Ontario for multiple reasons: facility usage demonstrates to OSSA funding partners and stakeholders the need for an Ontario-based oval, it provides development opportunity for coaches, athletes, and officials close to home, it provides visibility of the sport within Ontario, and it reduces the financial and logistical challenges for Ontario skaters.

In recent years, results from an out-of-province back-up meet were to be used in the event the Provincial Championships were not held. Feedback received from families and coaches confirmed that this was prohibitive (especially for skaters in Central and Western Ontario). Along with the ever-changing long track racing formats, this was no longer a fair option.

In the 2016-2017 Long Track bulletin, the 500m Olympic Style distance was identified as the selection distance because it was a distance skated by all skaters eligible for the Canadian Age Class Long Track Championships and it was a regular distance at events across the country and New York state. This allows families to secure back-up ranking times at a number of events and they have the flexibility of working around their family's schedule.

The Olympic Style races should be scheduled at the end of the day. The youngest skaters should race first.

The agenda listed in the bulleting is the Proposed Agenda. Attempts were made to offer an agenda that minimized wait time between events and minimize moving the track between mass and Olympic Style events. The host club has the flexibility to adjust the agenda if necessary. The final agenda should be communicated to competitors well in advance of the competition.

Clarify the medals when two finals are being held for age class.

Provincial medals are only distributed to the Top 3 Overall places at the end of competition.

If two finals are held for age class, then results from both finals will count towards the overall placement.

Continue to maintain the Long Track Results list.

The Long Track Results list was introduced during the 2014-2015 season primarily to assist the host club with verification of seed times. This task requires a substantial amount of time and OSSA has little to no need for such a list.

In the event the Provincial Championships do not occur and 500m Olympic Style times are needed for Team Ontario selection, the Technical Committee will review the best times from the age-eligible registered skaters using www.speedskatingresults.com.