



SPEED SKATING CANADA

Manual for Timers and Finish Line Judges

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Of course, this 4th edition of the SSC Timers & Finish Line Judges Manual will eventually be updated. It is hoped that future updates of the Manual will result from the contributions of the many quality speed skating timers and finish line judges across Canada which may benefit from the contents presented here.

***Revised November 2008 with additional recording forms designed by Tom Gallagher.**

1 INTRODUCTION

This manual has been designed specifically to provide advance technical training for Level 1 Timers and Finish Line Judges who wish to qualify in their disciplines at Level's II and III in SSC's Officials Certification Program.

Those completing this course, together with the appropriate practical and performance components of the Officials Program, will have the necessary knowledge and experience to successfully handle the manual timing and finish line judging functions at any level of competition from a local inter-club meet to a world championships.

The course will also give the participants an excellent foundation for advancement into electronic timing and photo finish judging procedures.

2 ROLES AND QUALITIES

2.1 Roles of Timing and Finish Line Judging Personnel

The role of the Timer is to time the skaters participating in the race. The role of the Finish Line Judge is to determine the order of finish of the participants in the race.

Simple task? Not really. Poor timing and finish line judging result in delays, confusion, disappointment and frustration in the skaters, coaches, other officials and spectators. Good timing and finish the judging are essential for a well-run meet.

2.2 Qualities of Timers and Finish Line Judges

The Chief Timer and Chief Finish Line Judge must be persons who have had a great deal of speed skating experience, particularly in the competitive area. These individuals will have the background to handle any situation which may develop during a race. For this reason, their personalities must be such that they can deal calmly with very stressful situations.

All Timers and Finish Line Judges must have the ability to concentrate for long periods of time in spite of all the discussion and confusion around them. They must be consistent and have good eyesight to be able to see skating blades and skating numbers, the latter which may often be very small.

Finish Line Judges should also have the ability to hold a mental picture of the moment the skater's skate crosses the finish line.

Timers and Finish Line Judges must learn to work quickly, in an organized manner, and as respective teams, with everyone's concerns expressed and taken into consideration. They should be pleasant, good natured and, above all, patient.

2.3 Relationships with other Officials

Meets will run more smoothly if all the chief officials have had a short meeting with introductions, explanation of the "paper trail" and how the organizers plan to run the meet, as each club has its own distinct style.

The Chief Timer and Chief Finish Line Judge must work together to notify the Starter that they are ready to begin the race. This may be done by waving a flag, flashing a light, or via a walkie-talkie. Both officials must also keep in contact with the Referee in case there are any problems with skater identification.

The Chief Timer and Chief Finish Line Judge must work closely with the Office Recorders and/or Competition Stewards or Meet Coordinators, particularly if there are any discrepancies between the race sheets. A track-side Recorder may be positioned with the Timers and Finish Line Judges to check that the race sheets are correct and consistent before forwarding them to the recording office.

In Olympic Style skating, there must be a direct and immediate consultation between the Chief Timer and Chief Finish Line Judge if the two skaters finish within five meters of each other.

3 EQUIPMENT

3.1 Manual Timing

The Chief Timer should have the following equipment and supplies available for the competition:

- Shoulder bag with multiple compartments
- Minimum of 12 watches (8 Timers + Chief Timer + 3 spare watches)*
- Calculator (for possible use by Time Recorder)
- Small writing pad and several pencils with erasers
- Red flag of walkie-talkie to signal Start
- Disposable ear plugs (for indoor meets)
- Chemical hand warmers (e.g. Hot Shots) (for outdoor timing)
- Program of events
- Forms for relay races (Appendix C)
- Timer Assignment Forms (Appendix C)
- Copy of SSC Information Manual (Red Book)
- Copy of SSC Manual for Timers and Finish Line Judges
- For Short Track Relay races, up to 14 watches may be required.

Time Recording supplies (used by either Time Recorder or Chief Timer)

- Clipboard
- Writing pad and several pencils with erasers
- Timer's Report Forms from recording office (Appendix C)
- Program of events
- Copy of current provincial and SSC Canadian records, plus other as required

3.2 Manual Finish Line Judging

The Chief Finish Line Judge should have the following supplies and equipment available for the competition:

- Clip board for each Judge
- Small writing pads for each Judge
- Pencil with eraser for each Judge
- Program of events for each Judge
- Several extra pencils with erasers
- Disposable ear plugs (for indoor meets)
- Judge Assignment Forms (Appendix D1)
- Judge's Report Forms (Appendix D)
- Forms for recording placings for each Judge (Appendix D5)
- Forms for relay races (Appendix C)
- Arrange for 4 sets of different colored bibs for relay races
- Copy of SSC Information Manual (Red Book)
- Copy of SSC Manual for Timers and Finish Line Judges

3.3 Automatic Timekeeping – An Overview

Electric or electronic timekeeping is referred to in the ISU Rules as automatic timekeeping. It "denotes a time-measuring system which is started automatically by the firing of a starting gun and records automatically the crossing of the finish line by each competitor". (Appendix B, ISU Rule 246.1). The use of automatic timekeeping is

compulsory for Canadian Olympic Style Championships, Canadian Short Track Team Trials, ISU World Championships, World Cups and Olympic Games. In certain instances, it is also required for ISU World Short Track Championships and Short Track events at Olympic Games.

Although necessary for higher level competitions, automatic timekeeping is only occasionally used in Canada for regional, provincial or local meets, mainly because of the cost and unfamiliarity with the equipment. A variety of automatic timekeeping equipment is commercially available ranging from simple finish time only systems to sophisticated TV, scoreboard and computer-compatible systems. This section describes in general terms, the principles of electronic timekeeping.

All electronic timekeeping systems require a trigger, a motion sensing device and a timing/switching box. In most cases, the starting gun is outfitted with a transducer (built-in or near the gun), which acts as a trigger to start the timer. The motion-sensing device consists of a light source (referred to as a “transmitter”) and a photocell (referred to as a “receiver”) placed at the edges of the skating track at the finish line. A continuous beam of light is maintained between them. Once the beam is broken, i.e. by a passing skater, an electric pulse is generated and recorded. The light beam is kept as close to the ice surface as possible, usually in the order of 2 to 2.5 cm above the surface, so that only the competitor’s skate cuts it.

In Olympic Style skating, the skaters change lanes every lap so the sensing devices have to be manually switched every lap so that the split and final times reflect only those of each skater. In the simplest systems, the lap times and final times for each skater are recorded on a print-out.

More sophisticated systems are tied into a number of peripherals, such as the scoreboard, TV and results processing. These types of systems are also capable of a wide selection of options such as partially or totally ranking all competitors’ split times and/or final times, comparing current skaters split times with the time to beat, etc. this instant feedback provides much useful information to coaches and skaters and heightens spectator interest and knowledge in speed skating.

3.4 Photo Finish Equipment – An Overview

Photo finish equipment denotes a system that records the order of the finish in such a way that it can be reproduced immediately after the race (Appendix B, ISU Rule 291.14b). The use of photo finish equipment is compulsory for ISU World Short Track Championships and Short Track events at Olympic Games.

Photo finish equipment is not currently required for Canadian Short Track Championships, although fully automatic and video-based systems are frequently used at the national level in both Olympic Style and Short Track disciplines. The principles of photo finish technology are described below.

Photo finish systems require a precise timing device (i.e. a quartz clock), an optical unit which guarantees static precision, an electronic servo-motor for continuous film drive which guarantees dynamic precision, and a dependable film/developing process which guarantees picture definition. In addition, good photo finish results depend upon the proper location and positioning of the camera.

In most racing sports, including speed skating, the photo finish camera is aligned along the vertical plane of the finish line and it continuously films the finish line by means of a permanently open, vertical-split aperture. Every vertical section of the film shows the

same finish line but at different instants. The footage of the film thus represents time, not space.

The resulting film clip typically shows the position of all the skaters at the precise instant they cross the finish line, along with a uniformly marked, graduated time scale along the base. Once the race is over, the exposed film is processed in an attached development tank and the film clips are inserted in an enlarged screen viewer for analysis. The placement and finishing time for each skater can then be determined to the nearest one hundredth of a second using a simple T-square. More sophisticated viewers can also generate a hard copy (i.e. printed picture) of the race finish.

Due to the number of very close finishes in Short Track racing, one camera is sometimes insufficient to clearly differentiate all skaters as they cross the finish line. Therefore, for the most important competitions, for example, the World Championships and Olympic Games, a second photo finish camera mounted across the ice surface is often used as a back-up.

In addition to the photo finish equipment, it is often useful to record all finishes on a common home-type color video recorder as a back-up to verify the order of finish. Such a camera is usually placed past the finish line and at an angle to record the oncoming skaters in their relative order of finish. This recorder is used for skater identification only, while the photo finish camera records the exact times of finishing.

4 MEET PLANNING

4.1 General

Proper meet planning will go a long way towards ensuring that things run smoothly during the competition. The timing and judging personnel, particularly the Chief Timer and Chief Finish Line Judge, should be well-informed, organized and prepared. The key aspects of meet planning, as they pertain to timing and finish line judging, are discussed below.

4.2 Selection of Personnel

The Chief Timer and Chief Finish Line Judge for a competition are usually selected by the Meet Coordinator or Organizing Committee, often in conjunction with the Branch VP – Officials. The timing for selection of officials is a function of the level of competition. For example, it is not uncommon to name the Chief Timer and Chief Finish Line Judge at least two to three months before a National or International competitions, whereas for local or inter-club meets, a two to three week period is normally sufficient.

Certain officials must be members of SSC in order to serve as SSC-sanctioned meets. This requirement is covered by SSC Rule N2-100 as follows:

“The following officials at a Canadian Championship event or a SSC-sanctioned meet must hold a current SSC membership Card: Announcer, Meet Coordinator, Referee, Assistant Referee, Clerk of the Course, Starter, Assistant Starter, Chief Timer, Chief Finish Line Judge, Track Stewards and Chief Recorder.”

General guidelines for the selection of timing and finish line judging personnel to various levels of competition are as follows:

Local of Inter-club Meets

Chief Timer and Chief Finish Line Judge should be Level 1

- Timers and Judges should preferably have attended a Level 1 Officials clinic

Provincial/Territorial and Regional Competitions

- Chief Timer and Chief Finish Line Judge should be level II. Up and coming Level I's may serve as chief under the supervision of a Level II Official
- Timer and Finish Line should preferably have attended a Level I

National and North American Competitions

- Chief Timer and Chief Finish Line Judge should be level III. Up and coming Level II's can work as chief under the direction of a Level III Official
- Timer and Finish Line should preferably be Level I as a minimum.

International and World Competitions

- Chief Timer and Chief Finish Line Judge should be level III.
- Timer and Finish Line should preferably have Level II.

The certification requirements for Level's I, II and III are presented in Section 7.0.

4.3 Pre-Meet Preparations

Once selected, the Chief Timer and Chief Finish Line Judge usually work with the Meet Coordinator or Organizing Committee to establish lists of timing and judging personnel and to make the necessary arrangements for equipment, supplies, etc.

The type of competition will govern the number of Timers and Finish Line Judges that are required, i.e. Olympic Style, Mass Start, Time Trials (Pursuit), Relay etc. the recommended complements or timing and finish line judging officials are as follows:

OLYMPIC STYLE		
Olympic Style	Olympic Style Quartet	
Chief Timer	Chief Timer	A/Chief Timer
Time Recorder	Time Recorder	A/Time Recorder
6 Timers	3 Timers*	3 Timers*
Judge	Judge	A/Judge

* 3 Timers taking double times.

MASS START, TIME TRIALS (PURSUIT) AND RELAY	
Long Track/Short Track Mass Start	Short Track Relay
Chief Timer	Chief Timer
Timer Recorder	12 Timers
8 Timers*	Chief Finish Line Judge
Chief Finish Line Judge	4 Finish Line Judges
4 Finish Line Judges (Short Track)	
5 Finish Line Judges (Long Track)	

* May be 6 Timers if all are taking double times.

See appendix F for samples of assigning timers to positions.

SHORT TRACK TIME TRIALS (PURSUIT)	
Chief Timer	A/Chief Timer
Time Recorder	A/Time Recorder
3 Timers	3 Timers
Chief Finish Line Judge	
2 Finish Line Judges	

The Chief Timer and Chief Finish Line Judge should begin to prepare two to three weeks in advance of the competition. The Chief Timer should begin preparations by the following:

- Obtain the list of Timers from the Meet Coordinator and make a preliminary assignment on the appropriate Timer Assignment Forms
- Obtain all required equipment and supplies available and pack into timer bag (See equipment list in Section 3.1)

- Obtain the required number of electronic watches and ensure that each functions properly

The ISU requires digital electronic watches to be used in most ISU-sanctioned competitions (Appendix B, ISU Rule 244.2). Similarly, SSC requires that only hand-held electronic watches be used (Appendix A, SSC Rule N12-101e). Electronic watches do not require certification because of a lack of detectable variation due to the use of precise quartz crystals.

The Chief Finish Line Judge should begin preparations by completing the following tasks:

- Obtain the list of Finish Line Judges from the Meet Coordinator and make a preliminary assignment on the appropriate Judges' Assignment Forms.
- Obtain all the required equipment and supplies available (See equipment list in Section 3.2)
- Check with equipment coordinator that relay bibs are available

The Meet Coordinator must draw up a complete list of officials, including all Timers, Finish Line Judges and substitutes, two to three weeks in advance of the meet and provide this list to the Chief Timer and Chief Finish Line Judge one week before the meet.

At least two days before the meet, the Chief Timer and Chief Finish Line Judge should phone all of the officials assigned to make personal contact and heighten interest. This will also serve as a timely reminder and minimize the possibility of any unexpected no-shows.

The Chief Timer and Chief Finish Line Judge can then finalize, in pencil, their appropriate Assignment Forms. You should also use this opportunity to arrange to meet your officials at a designated time and place at least one hour before the meet.

As a final note prior to the day of the meet, the Chief Timer and Chief Finish Line Judge should read this SSC Manual for Timers and Finish Line Judges and be completely familiar with the latest SSC and ISU Rules.

You do not have time to read the rules during a competition!

4.4 Day of the Meet

The Chief Timer and Chief Finish Line Judge should arrive at the competition site at least one hour before the start of the races. They should have all their equipment and supplies with them, checked and in good working order.

Both Chief Timer and Chief Finish Line Judge should attend the Coaches' meeting and be aware of the usual last minute changes, etc. Following the meeting, they should pick-up their day's race sheets from the recording office and check to see that the sheets are complete and properly ordered. The Chief Timer may delegate this task to the Time Recorder in order to free himself to look after a myriad of other details. It is also a good idea to check with the office to see whether or not there will be a track-side Recorder.

One hour before the races are scheduled to begin, the Chief Timer and Chief Finish Line Judge should each have a brief meeting with their officials, including spares. Introduce yourself, hand out the equipment and supplies, go over the rules and assign everybody a position. The Chief Timer and Chief Finish Line Judge should also designate 1 or 2 of

their officials who are capable and willing, to serve as back-up chiefs should they be called away.

The Chief Timer should ensure that all the Timers are completely familiar with the function of their watches. At the same time, the Chief Finish Line Judge should encourage the Judges to observe the competitors during the warm-up session. This is a good time to make a mental note of those things that will be a help during the meet, i.e. letters and numbers, uniform colors, helmet designs, etc.

The Timers and Finish Line Judges should take their places five to ten minutes before the races are to begin. Everyone should be organized and relaxed as the meet begins. This is a good time to remind all Timers and Finish Line Judges that the race starts with the smoke or flash of the gun, and that the finish of the race occurs when the leading edge of the skate blade touches the finish line.

At the end of each day, the Chief Timer and Chief Finish Line Judge should collect and safely store all their equipment and supplies, i.e. watches, clipboards, paper, pens, etc. They should also be prepared to sign any record applications at the conclusion of the day's events. The following officials must sign each record application: Chief Timer, 1st, 2nd and 3rd Timer on the record time, and Chief Finish Line Judge (See Appendix E). The Chief Timer should remind the appropriate Timers to check with the recording office to sign the forms before they leave each day.

5 MANUAL TIME PROCEDURES

5.1 General

Timers must be thoroughly familiar with their watch before the races start, since these officials must act on split-second timing and instructions. Hand-held electronic type watches with digital read-out are the only types of watches permitted (Appendix A, SSC Rule N12-101.e). To ensure familiarity with the watch, the Chief Timer should have all Timers report 1 hour before a meet commences to give instructions on the operation of the watch as required. With the advent of double watch timing (i.e., two times taken on a given watch, such as 1st and 3rd), it is imperative that each Timer is completely familiar with their watch. Upon receiving a watch, a Timer should note the following:

1. Wrap the cord of the watch around your neck to avoid losing, dropping or otherwise damaging the watch
2. familiarize yourself with the watch so that you can rapidly start, split, stop, record and clear your watch. Make sure you know how to read the first time, then the second time, then clear. Some electronic watches have a recall mode while others do not and thus if a split is not recorded before switching to the 2nd time, the original split may be lost. Remember, know how to **start, split, stop, record and clear**.
3. operate the start/stop buttons with the first joint (hard part) of your index finger, since your index finger has the fastest response time and is thus the most accurate. Never use gloves, mitts, or your thumb, when operating the buttons of your stopwatch! When timing outdoors, special care must be taken to ensure that fingers stay warm for comfort and to avoid errors due to reduced speed of response. Also make sure that you keep the stopwatch warm. Some stopwatches have a tendency to malfunction in very cold weather.
4. if you find a malfunction with your stopwatch or need further instruction, alert the Chief Timer immediately.

5.2 Timing a Race

Position of Timers – For manual timekeeping, Timers must have an unobstructed view of the Starter and the complete race track and must be in a position to see the finish line clearly. The best position is to be in line with, or just past the finish line. If the Timers must share the finish line with the Finish Line Judges, the Timers should occupy a position at and before the finish line, and the Finish Line Judges should be positioned at and just past the finish line, thus giving the Finish Line Judges the optimum position. The basis for this positioning is that the decision of the Finish Line Judges is final for the placing of the skater, and thus they must have the best view of the finish line.

Starting the Race - When the race is ready to commence, the Starter must receive a signal from the Chief Timer that the Timers **and** Finish Line Judges are ready. This signal is given by the waving of a red flag or a green light from the Timer's area or via a walkie-talkie. When the signal has been received by the Starter, the gun is raised, at which time the Chief Timer alerts the Timers to the Starter by calling out "gun is up!" At the exact moment the gun is fired (smoke or flash), the stopwatch is activated. It is particularly important to concentrate on the Starter and react as quickly as possible to the smoke or flash of the gun. Starting by sound is unacceptable since sound travels

slower than light and leads to erroneous times. In Short Track races, it is also recommended to start by the smoke or on the smoke flash from the Starter's gun, even though the delay by sound is negligible. By concentrating on the smoke or flash, there is less distraction by the Timers looking around at the spectators or skaters, i.e. it focuses the Timer's attention on the Starter and promotes greater accuracy of timing. In Short Track, the movement of the trigger or trigger finger prior to firing must not be used to start the watch.

As soon as the stopwatch has been started, the Timer should check to make sure that his watch is running. If the Timer was late in starting the watch, the watch did not start, or malfunctions in any way, the Timer should immediately inform the Chief Timer so an alternate watch can be used. After the race starts, all of the Timers should remain alert for the complete race, observing the Lap Recorder and mentally keeping track of the skater position (1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.), so that they can anticipate when their assigned placing(s) touch the finishing line.

This is especially important in Short Track where there are several skaters, several laps are skated, and where falls are commonplace. Timers are only concerned with timing **placings** of skaters (1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.) in Mass Start Long Track and Short Track races. However, **skaters**, are timed in the case of paired skating (i.e. Olympic, Quartet, Time Trials (Pursuit)) and in Mass Start relays. In each type of racing, the Chief Timer will instruct each Timer to time on *placings* or *skaters*.

Finishing – A skater has completed the race when either skate blade reaches the **leading edge** of the finish line (remember, skaters **start** on the leading edge and therefore **finish** on the leading edge). In case of a fall at the finish line, there is a strong tendency to press the stop button when the head or body touches the finish line; however, hold off till the skate blade touches the finish line. If a skater falls or swerves away from the finish line, one must take the time when the skate touches the projected line of finish (Appendix B, ISU Rules 255.1 and 255.2). Since the blade of the skate projects in front and back of the boot, it is recommended that the Timers and Finish Line Judges concentrate on the instant that the blade touches the finish line.

In the case of automatic timekeeping, a skater may fall and stop the electronic eye by any part of his body, or he may cross the line out of both tracks. The situations must be resolved by the use of manual timing as follows:

ISU Rule 255.3 “If automatic timekeeping is used and this is stopped at the finish by other means than the skate, the official time of the skater shall be recorded as the slower time of the manual time (with 0.20 seconds added, according to Rule 246) and the automatic time.”

ISU Rule 255.4 “In case the skater, after a fall, is out of both lanes, his time is recorded based on the manual timekeeping. If automatic timekeeping is used in the competition, 0.20 seconds shall be added to the manual time.”

Recording Times – The recording of manual times is explained very clearly and is carried out according to SSC Rule N12-101.b (Appendix A) as follows:

“At the conclusion of each race, the Chief Timer will call for the times in consistent order (i.e. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, watch for 1st place skater, then 2nd place skater, etc...) and observe these times being recorded by the Time Recorder. Under the supervision and direction of the Chief Timer, the Time Recorder will then determine and record the official time for each skater. The Chief Timer has the option of using a Time Recorder.”

By following the above procedure for each race, the Timers quickly learn the sequence of when to give their time and confusion is avoided. In addition, there is a record of Timers involved for each placing. This is necessary when Canadian or World records are established since the appropriate Time for such records must sign the record form in order to validate the record.

In case of ISU Short Track competitions, the Chief Timer must read each watch, record the results, and declare the official time (ISU Rule 291.16.d).

Official Times – The rules are very precise for the determination of the official time for hand-held electronic watches with digital read-out, the only type of stopwatch permitted for use as stated in SSC Rule N12-101.e (Appendix A). When three times have been taken and two are identical, the time of the identical watches is the official time. If all three watches are different, the **middle** time is the official time. If only two times are taken and they are different, the mean time calculated is the official time. If the mean time is not the multiple of one hundredth of a second, the lower hundredth of a second is taken. The Time Recorder must determine the official times for each skater immediately after the race according to SCC Rule N12-101.b (Appendix A).

In Mass Start competitions, when two or more skaters cross the finish line at approximately the same time, the lower placed skater may be timed faster than a higher placed skater (i.e. 2nd skater faster than 1st place skater). In this case the two skaters should be given the same time as the first place skater (albeit a slower time). Similarly, if a 4th place skater is timed as faster than a 3rd place skater, they should be given the same time as the (slower) 3rd place skater. The Time Recorder will draw such discrepancies to the attention of the Chief Timer who must validate the results and initial each adjustment.

Official Placings – It should be noted that **the Finish Line Judges’ assessment of placing is final** for all races timed by manual timing. **There is no appeal of the decision of the Chief Finish Line Judge.** The only exception to this is when automatic timekeeping is used. With automatic timekeeping, the time recorded in hundredths of a second shall decide which of the skaters is the winner, or if they are equal (Appendix B, ISU Rule 241.1).

In Olympic Style races, in the event that automatic timekeeping fails, the manual time plus 0.20 seconds shall be accepted (Appendix A, SSC Rule N12-101). Similarly, for Olympic Style races, if the two skaters cross the finish line within 5 meters of each other, SSC Rule N15-102 (Appendix A) applies as follows:

“If the second-place skater is within five (5) meters of the first-place skater at the finish and the official time of the second-place skater is faster than that of the first-place skater:

- a) The Chief Timekeeper and the Finish Line Judge are responsible for determining the correct time for the skaters according to ISU Rules 241.2 and 242.2.

- b) The time of the first-place skater is the official time for that skater.
- c) The official time of the second-place skater shall be determined by adding 0.10 second per meter to the official time for first place.

It should be noted that **the official timings are final and may not be questioned** (Appendix B, ISU Rule 242.3). This does not preclude, however, the Office Recorders returning a time form with an obvious error or discrepancy. In such cases, **only the Chief Timer has the authority to correct the error or discrepancy** and such changes must be initialed.

5.3 Long Track Olympic Style Procedures

The provision of six Timers for Olympic Style races permits the use of single watches and three Timers assigned to each skater. Each Timer should be assigned on the appropriate Timer Assignment Form (Appendix C) so that there are three Timers for the skater with the white armband, and three Timers for the skater with the red armband. In this type of race, the Chief Timer should time both skaters, thus serving as a back-up. Since splits are usually required (i.e., timing of each lap), the Chief Timer should also assign one of the time Timers to take white splits and one of the Timers to take red splits. Remember the “apple rule” for starting position of Olympic pairs of skaters – white on the inside, red on the outside.

Quartet: The quartet race is a combination of two Olympic Style races in tandem, separated by $\frac{1}{2}$ lap. It is recommended only for Olympic Style races 1500 meters and longer, and where there are a large number of skaters to be accommodated. Quartet rules are covered in ISU Rule 278. Assign timing officials on the appropriate Timer Assignment Form (Appendix C) and fill out two forms so that the 2nd set of Timers also have a copy.

Since the quartet involves two pairs of skaters, it is imperative to have two complete sets of timing officials in order to avoid errors (Section 3.4). Thus the 1st pair of skaters (red and white armbands) will have a timing complement of the Chief Timer, Time Recorder and 3 Timers taking double times. The 2nd pair of skaters (i.e. yellow and blue armbands) will have a timing complement of Assistant Chief Timer, Assistant Time Recorder and 3 Timers taking double times. Note that the starting position for the 2nd pair is similar to the apple rule, with the lighter colour on the inner lane, darker colour on the outer lane. In each case, the Chief Timer and Assistant Chief Timer take double times as a back-up, and the Timer Recorder and Assistant Time Recorder record the times for their respective pairs.

Timers should also be assigned to take splits since the quartet distances usually involve distances of 1500 meters and longer. It should be emphasized that it is necessary to have two separate complements of timing officials in quartet races in order to avoid errors and confusion in timing and recording. It should also be noted that World records will not be recognized in quartet races (Appendix B, ISU Rule 275.7).

In World Championships, National Championships and other high level meets where records may be broken, the highest ranked skaters do not compete in Quartet format since records are not recognized. Quartets are useful, however, to accommodate a large number of skaters and use meet time more efficiently for long races.

5.4 Long Track and Short Track Mass Start Procedures

Long Track and Short Track Mass Start competitions may include age class or ability formats. SSC rules require three (3) watches to establish a Canadian record (Appendix A, SSC Rule N12-101.ci). These rules state that 2 watches are required on 1st and 2nd places, and two (2) watches on 3rd place. However, it is important to **TIME ALL SKATERS** for the benefit of coaches, skaters and parents. Using the system of double watches (i.e., two times on a single watch), it is possible to time 6 or more skaters with relative ease. The use of double watches is covered in ISU Rule 245 (Appendix B). Each Timer may, however, use only one watch.

As a general rule, it is suggested that the three most experienced Timers be assigned 1st and 3rd place finishes, the next three Timers 2nd and 4th, and the last two taking one skater only for 5th and 6th place finishes respectively. The Chief Timer should always serve as a spare watch on the 1st place skater and other placings as required. The assignment of only single watches on 5th and 6th placings also provides flexibility to cover for emergencies (i.e., a watch failed to start, etc.).

It should be noted that the advantage of timing with this format of 8 timers assigned for three times on 1st to 4th and single times on 5th and 6th is that all skaters will be timed, and the Time Recorder generally does not have to calculate official times since each skater has three times or one time (Appendix A, SSC Rule N12-101c). Following this procedure minimizes errors from calculations, minimizes delays, and ensures that all skaters are timed. See Appendix F for an alternate format of assigning 8 timers.

5.5 Short Track Time Trial (Pursuit) Procedures

For the Short Track Time Trial (Pursuit) races, it is necessary to position the Timers on opposite sides of the ice so that there is a complete complement of three Timers, Time Recorder and Chief Timer for each skater. As in previous cases complete the appropriate Timer Assignment Form (Appendix C), except two forms should be filled out so that the Assistant Chief Timer also has a copy of the Timer assignments. Thus for the main starting line, the Chief Timer, Time Recorder and three Timers record the time for the white armband skater. On the opposite side of the rink the Assistant Chief Timer, Assistant Time Recorder and three Timers record the times for the red armband skater.

Since the two sets of timers are on opposite sides of the ice, it is possible in a close race that the second place skater will be given a faster time than the first place skater. As with Mass Start procedures, the second place skater should be given the same time (i.e., the slower time) as the first place skater. The Chief Timer will be notified of the crossed times by the office staff. It is the Chief Timer's responsibility to cross out the initial time, to replace it with the corrected time, and to initial the change.

5.6 Short Track Relay Procedures

In order to avoid confusion of times and places in relay races, it is necessary to assign a set of three Timers and a Finish Line Judge for each team. The Finish Line Judge can then act as Time Recorder. For each relay team, prior to the race, a Short Track Relay Team Form (Appendix C) must be filled out to record the names of the skaters on the team, and their assigned competition colour. The Relay Team Form includes individual lap numbers so that each lap can be stroked off as the race progresses so that you Finish Line Judge always knows the number of laps left and this can be conveyed (shouted!) to their relay team.

Note – For a 111.12m oval track used for ISU Short Track Relay races, the two distances skater are Men – 5000 meters, and Ladies – 3000 meters. Thus for the 5000m race (45 laps), stroke off lap 45 as soon as the Starter fires the gun to start the race. Similarly, for the 3000m race (27 laps), stroke off lap 27 as soon as the gun fires. Stroke off each lap as the race progresses and you will then always have an exact count on laps remaining (Appendix C6 – Short Track Relay, 111.12m Oval Track).

Prior to the start of the relay race, the Referee will give the rules of racing to the skaters. The main rule for each Timing/Finish Line Judge team to remember is that the Starter must fire his gun with 3 laps remaining. This is done for the 1st place relay team only. However, since you may not know which team is in 1st place, each Timing team must alert the Starter of the remaining 3 laps for their relay team. It is necessary to alert the Starter with 3 ½ laps to go in order for the Starter to fire the gun at the proper time. To properly identify the relay team to the Starter, with 3 ½ laps to go, one should signal to the Starter and call out “3 to go for red!” (or yellow, green, etc.).

Following the above procedure has proven to be virtually fool-proof and provides a record of the actual number of laps skated. More than for any other race, each Timer/Finish Line Judge team must concentrate on the race to ensure accuracy. Remember, just concentrate on your assigned colour and do not be distracted by the many inevitable falls and confusion with so many skaters on the ice. Above all, do not watch your own child. Good luck!

In the event of a close finish, the finish line judges should check with each other for crossed times. They should notify the Chief Timer of such an occurrence, so that the time can be corrected as for Mass Start races.

5.7 Records

In the event of a Canadian record, the Chief Timer must read each watch to verify the times. In the case of a World record, the Chief Timer and the Referee must both read the individual watches to verify the times. Because of the potential need to read the watches in the event of a record, Timers must not clear their watches before instructed to do so by the Chief Timer.

The Time Recorder should ensure that the event number announced corresponds to the event number on his Time Recording Form. This should be confirmed with the Chief Timer before the signal for “ready” is given to the Starter.

The Time Recorder is advised to have a copy of the Canadian and Provincial records for reference. However, the Timing forms used by the Time Recorder for each race should contain the Canadian and Provincial records for each race. For the first race for a given distance, the Time Recorder should call out the Canadian record so that the Timers will be able to anticipate when a record may be broken. Such information and attention to the records assists the Chief Timer in his task of ensuring proper times, and also heightens the interest of the Timers. The greater participation, concentration and feedback from the Timers helps break the routine of timing and promotes greater accuracy and interest in timing.

The application for Canadian records is regulated by SSC Rules N12-101 and U2-102 (Appendix A). The original time sheet for the event showing the readings of the three (3) watches plus the official time signed by the Chief Timer and Referee must accompany the application. In addition, the Chief Timer and the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Timers for that time must sign the Application for Record Form (Appendix E).

6 MANUAL FINISH LINE JUDGING PROCEDURES

6.1 General

A skater will be judged to have completed his distance when he has touched or reached the finishing line with his skate (remember, skaters *start* on the leading edge and therefore *finish* on the leading edge). If a skater falls before the finish, the time will be taken the moment his skate reaches the finishing line, even if the skater is out of his track and passes the projection of the finish line.

In Short Track, the Finish Line Judges will be positioned off the ice but adjacent to the finish line so that they have a clear view of the finish line. In Long Track, the Finish Line Judges are usually on the inside of the track, with a clear view of the finish line.

6.2 Long Track Olympic Style Procedures

Long Track Olympic Style racing in Canada is regulated by the rules of the International Skating Union. Only one Judge is needed (Appendix B, ISU Rule 231.d) although an assistant or back-up Judge is sometimes used.

The Finish Line Judge shall determine which of the skaters is the winner, or if they are equal. **There is no appeal from the Judges' decision** (Appendix B, ISU Rule 241.1). This does not preclude, however, the Office Recorders returning a Judge's Report Form with an obvious error or discrepancy. In such cases, only the Chief Place Judge has the authority to correct the error or discrepancy and such changes must be initialed.

It should be noted that if automatic timekeeping is being used as required for ISU Championships, World Cup Competitions and Olympic Winter Games, the time recorded in hundredths of a second shall decide which of the skaters is the winner, or if they are equal (Appendix B, ISU Rule 241.1).

The Judge will indicate on the recording sheet whether the skater with the red armband or the skater with the white armband was the winner. In Olympic Style, the 5 meters before the finish line must be marked by lines at each meter (ISU Rule 245.1). The Judge will estimate the distance between the two skaters when the winning skater crosses the finishing line. If the difference between the skaters is less than 5 meters, the Judge will report to the Chief Timekeeper, the exact distance between the two skaters of the pair at the moment the winner touches the finish line. This will also be recorded on the Judge's sheet.

If two competitors have skated in the same pair and have received the same time, the Judge will decide the winner. Even though the two skaters may have received the same time from the Timers, the Judge is almost always able to precisely determine the winner by concentrating on the first skate blade touching the finish line. However, the Judge must be absolutely sure of his decision because his judgment is final.

After completing the recording form (Appendix D2), the Judge will sign it and have the runner return it to the recording office. Where a track-side Recorder is used, both the Judge and Timer sheets will be checked and approved, prior to sending them to the office.

Olympic Style Quartet racing is when two pairs of skaters are started with a half lap interval. There must be two Judges, one for each pair of skaters. The same rules and

procedures apply except the second pair of skaters will have a yellow armband and a blue armband (Appendix D3) or some other contrasting color for the second pair.

6.3 Long Track Mass Start Procedures

Long Track Mass Start competitions include age class and ability formats. There are no ISU rules and regulations specifically for Long Track Mass Start speed skating since there is no Mass Start speed skating at ISU long track competitions. However, as of 2000, the ISU Rules for Short Track Speed Skating (Rules 280-295) are to be applied to Long Track Mass Start. In particular, Rule 291.13, 291.14, and 291.15 apply to the Chief Finish Line Judge and the Finish Line Judges (see Appendix B).

The Chief Finish Line Judge shall be assisted by 5 other Finish Line Judges, to observe the order in which the competitors finish. The Chief Finish Line Judge will pick first place and as many of the other placings as possible. The Chief will advise the other Judges which positions they will pick.

Judge No.1 will pick skaters 1st and 2nd
Judge No.2 will pick skaters 2nd and 3rd
Judge No.3 will pick skaters 3rd and 4th
Judge No.4 will pick skaters 4th and 5th
Judge No.5 will pick skaters 5th and 6th

If there are more than 6 skaters in the race, the Starter or the Assistant Starter may act as Judge No.6 and pick 7th place only.

Finish Line Judges will record their placings on a working sheet (Appendix D5). These sheets are not turned into the office until the end of the meet. They serve to help the Finish Line Judges remember the skater's numbers, but as well are very important as a reference if there is a question concerning the results of the race.

After the race, the Chief Finish Line Judge will call each Finish Line Judge for their placing and complete the officially required form (Appendix D4). After signing the form, a runner will return it to the recording office. Similar to Olympic Style procedures, if a track-side Recorder is used, they will check and approve both Timers and Finish Line Judges race sheets before they go to the office.

The skater shall be judged to have completed the distance when he has touched or reached the finish line with his skate. Since skaters start at the leading edge of the line when beginning the race, they have finished the race when their skate blade touches the leading edge of the finishing line. If a skater falls before the finish line, he is not finished until his skate blade reaches the finish line. If the skater is out of his track, he will have finished the race when his blade crosses the projection of the finish line.

At all Canadian Championships and Team Trials, the Chief Finish Line Judge shall determine if a photo finish on video film, operated by and under the control of the Organizing Committee, will be used to determine the ranking of the skaters at the finish line when in his opinion, the finish is in question (Appendix B, ISU Rule 291.14).

As noted in ISU Rule 241.1 (Appendix B), the Finishing Line Judges' decision as to the order of the finish shall be final and without appeal.

6.4 Short Track Mass Start Procedures

The Chief Finish Line Judge will be assisted by four (4) other Finish Line Judges. The Chief Finish Line Judge will pick first place only.

- Judge No.1 will pick skaters 1st and 2nd
- Judge No.2 will pick skaters 2nd and 3rd
- Judge No.3 will pick skaters 3rd and 4th
- Judge No.4 will pick skaters 4th and 5th

If there are 6 skaters in the race, the Starter or Assistant Starter will act as Judge No.5 and pick 6th place only.

For the 3000 meter race, the Finish Line Judges will be assigned to a skater to record the number of laps skated and the final finish.

Each Judge will have their own working sheets (Appendix D5) for their assigned placings and the Chief Finish Line Judge will have the office recording sheet for all the placings (Appendix D4). The Chief Finish Line Judge will ask for placings from each Judge and record them. If photo finish equipment is used, the Photo Finish Line Judge will report the order of finish to the Chief Finish Line Judge. If these do not agree, each will go back to their original source and check the placings. When agreement is reached, the form is signed and sent to the office.

6.5 Short Track Time Trial (Pursuit) Procedures

Time Trials are held at a meet so that the speed skaters can be seeded into a competition according to their ability. Two skaters compete, one on either side of the track, skating as fast as they can. In most competitions, the skaters wear armbands, similar to Olympic Style skating. The furthest away skater wears the red armband, while the nearest skater wears the white armband, with nearest being the position closest to where the timers normally are located.

There are only two Finish Line Judges required to assist the Chief Finish Line Judge. He will place the white or the red armband as first. This is a difficult job as the two skaters are finishing across the ice surface from each other. There is seldom a race, however, where the skaters are very close.

6.6 Short Track Relay Procedures

Relays are skated as an exciting part of a short track championship. The distance will vary from 1500 meters to 3000 meters. In International competition, men compete in a 5000 meter relay race. For these races each Judge will record the number of laps the team has skated as well as the place at the finish line. Since all members of a team will wear matching uniforms or be wearing matching bibs, each Finish Line Judge will have a special colour assigned for his team. This is a great help as four teams of four skaters can be very confusing. See Section 5.6 for a more detailed explanation of the organization of the timing/finish line judging teams used for relay races.

Again, each Finish Line Judge will record the placings on his form. At the completion of the relay, the Chief Finish Line Judge will complete the form from the recording office with the official finishes of all four teams.

6.7 Records

The application for records is governed by SSC Rule U2-102 (Appendix A).

The Chief Finish Line Judge must check with the Chief Recorder concerning records. SSC has approved "Application for Record" form which must be signed (Appendix E). Included with that application must be the original Judge's slip for the race in which the Canadian record was skated. The Chief Finish Line Judge must also sign this form.

Do not leave the meet without checking that all forms have been completed as it may mean a skater will not receive recognition for their record.

7 CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

7.1 SSC Officials Certification Program

The SSC Officials Certification Program was established in 1982, revised in 1989 and is updated annually. The program is based on a multi-level system, consisting of 5 levels for Referees and Starters, 4 levels for Meet Coordinators, and 3 levels for Recorders, Timers, Finish Line Judges, Announcers and all other officials. Certification requirements for officials are contained under Section O of the Procedures and Rules in the SSC Information Manual (Red Book). Responsibilities for certification are as follows:

- Level's I and II – Provincial/Territory
- Level's IIIA and IIIB – SSC
- Level's IV and V – ISU

The evaluation for Level's I and II is conducted by the Branch VP – Officials or Branch Officials Committee while the evaluation of Level III is carried out by the SSC VP – Officials through the SSC Officials Development Committee. For Level's IV and V, the evaluation is also carried out by SSC, however, the recommendations are submitted to the Technical Committee of the ISU for ratification.

7.2 Timing and Finish Line Judging Criteria

SSC has established technical, practical and performance criteria which should be met for certification of Timers and Finish Line Judges at Level's I, II and III. There are no Level's IV or V for Timers and Finish Line Judges. The criteria are presented below.

Level 1 represents the first or entry level for Timers and Finish Line Judges. A level I Timer/Finish Line Judge understands the timing/judging function is general and is capable of carrying out assigned tasks in a competent, efficient manner. Requirements for Level 1 are summarized below.

- Attend a Level 1 officials' clinic
- Assist at 1 or more non-sanctioned meets
- Assist at 1 or more SSC-sanctioned meets
- Satisfactory evaluation from Chief official
- Review and approval from Branch Officials' Committee

An official who meets all of the above requirements should be certified at Level 1. Officials who have achieved some of the criteria, but not all, may be referred to as "Timer-in-training" or "Finish Line Judges-in-training". Once a Timer or Finish Line Judge has achieved a Level 1 standing, they may begin training for Level II.

Level II represents the first level of overall responsibility (i.e. Chief) for Timers and Finish Line Judges. A Level II Timer/Finish Line Judge understands the timing/judging function in detail and is capable of being Chief Timer or Chief Finish Line Judge for provincial and regional competitions. Requirements for Level II are listed below.

- Attend a Level II clinic
- Chief at 1 or more non-sanctioned meets
- Chief at 1 or more SSC-sanctioned meets (provincial/regional level)
- Satisfactory evaluation from Referee, Recorder or senior Branch official
- Review and approval from Branch Officials' Committee

A Level 1 Timer or Finish Line Judge who satisfies all of the above requirements should receive certification at Level II. Since the provincial/territories are technically responsible for the certification of Level I and II officials, they may adopt their own criteria: however, most Branches follow the SSC requirements outlined above.

Level III represents the highest level a Timer or Finish Line Judge can achieve. A level III Timer/Finish Line Judge is a knowledgeable, technically competent, senior official who is capable of being Chief Timer or Chief Finish Line Judge for national and international competitions. Requirements for Level III are presented below.

- Assist at 1 or more SSC-sanctioned meets (national/international level)
- Chief at 1 or more SSC-sanctioned meets (national/international level)
- Documented recommendation from Branch
- Satisfactory evaluation from Referee, ODC Rep. or designated meet official
- Review and approval from SSC Officials Committee

Level II Timers or Finish Line Judges who satisfy all of the above requirements will receive certification at Level III. While the above requirements are intended for manual timing and finish line judging only, specialization in automatic timekeeping or photo finish is also possible, i.e. Level I Timer (electronic), Level II Finish Line Judge (photo finish), etc. In these cases, a specialty clinic and/on-the-job training is normally required.

7.3 Maintenance of Status

Once a Timer or Finish Line Judge has achieved a standing within the Officials Certification Program, he must continue to remain active or face the possibility of suspension or loss of standing. The SSC rules regarding maintenance of status are as follows:

- Officials who have not worked during the past season must be indicated with an asterisk.
- Officials remaining inactive for a second consecutive season shall be deleted from the officials list.
- Deleted officials may be reinstated once they become active again, although Level III and above officials must first serve in an assistant capacity.

Updated lists of accredited Canadian officials are contained in the SSC Information Manual.

8 APPENDIX A

SSC Rules and Regulations

Section N

The following rules shall apply to all SSC sanctioned meets, unless reference to a Canadian Championship is made, or other restrictions are specified. Short track and long track Olympic style competitions will follow ISU rules unless indicated otherwise in this section or, in cases involving the format of national-level competitions, in the appropriate High Performance Bulletin. The Memorandum of Agreement between SSC and United States Speedskating may also contain rules specific to N-Am Championships. Thus, Section N contains SSC-specific rules that differ from corresponding ISU rules. In each case, there is a documented need for a uniquely Canadian approach or to state a practice that considers simply convention. Officiating procedures are contained in officials manuals appropriate to the specialty concerned.

N1-102

Electronic time-keeping shall be used during all Canadian Junior and Senior Long Track Championships, at any other competitors that serve as a selection meet for the National Short and Long Track Teams, for the pursuit at Short Track Team trials, for the Canadian Age Class Short Track Championship, and Long and Short Track competitions at the Canada Winter Games.

N2-100

The following officials at the Canadian Championship event or a SSC sanctioned meet must hold a current SSC Membership Card: Announcer, Meet Coordinator, Referee, Assistant Referee, Clerk of the Course, Starter, Assistant Starter, Chief Finish-Line Judge, Chief Timer, Track Stewards and Chief Recorder.

Timers

N2-102

- a) Backup time keeping should be provided by manual timekeepers and in the event the electronic time keeping fails, the manual time plus 0.20 seconds shall be accepted.
- b) The reading on three (3) watches shall be the minimum requirements for establishing a record. There shall be three (3) watches for each of the first and second places, and two (2) watches for third place. In addition to the official watches, there should be one more specifically designated spare watches, to be read officially only if one or more of the official watches is mishandled. Each Timer should use only one watch.
- c) When two watches show the same time and the third a different one, the time of those in agreement shall be taken. When all watches show different times, the time of the intermediate watch is taken as the result. If for any reason only two Timers have taken the time, the mean time of their watches is to be taken as the result. If the mean time is not the multiple of one hundredth of a second, the lower hundredth of a second is taken.
- d) Hand held electronic type watches with digital read-out shall be used.

Special Rules for Olympic Style Competitions

N5-100

If the second-place skater is within five(5) meters of the first-place skater at the finish and the official time of the second-place skater is faster than that of the first-place skater.

- a) the Chief Timer and the Chief Finish Line Judge are responsible for determining the correct time for the skaters according to I.S.U Rules 220 and 247
- b) the time of the first-place skater is the official time for that skater
- c) the official time of the second-place skater shall be determined by adding .10 second per meters to the official time for first place.

Special regulations and technical rules Speed skating and short track speed skating

Section U

Records

SSC records will be recognized for men and women in the following categories and age classes:

- a) Canadian Long Track, Olympic style by a Canadian athlete (C.L.T.O.) Junior, Senior, and Masters age classes.
- b) Canadian Long Track, mass start, by a Canadian athlete skated on an outdoor oval (C.L.T.M.C.) SSC age groups.
- c) Canadian Long Track, mass start, by a Canadian athlete skated in a covered oval (C.L.T.M.C.) SSC age groups.
- d) North American Long Track, mass start, by an athlete in a North-American Championships on an outdoor oval (N-A.L.T.M.) North American age groups.
- e) North American Long Track, mass start, by an athlete in a North American Championships on covered oval (N-A.L.T.C.) North American age groups.
- f) Canadian Short Track on a 111.12 metres track by a Canadian athlete (C.S.T.111.12) SSC age groups (pee wee to intermediate) and open class.
- g) North American Short Track on 111.12 metres track by an athlete during a North American championships. (N.A.S.T.111.12) North American age groups.

U1-101

SSC records will be recognised in the following distances:

- a) Long Track - Olympic Style:

Senior

I.S.U. distances, plus the 10000m Women and for the total number of points over four (4) distances in one and the same competition.

Men	500+500+1000+1000m
	500+1500+3000+5000m
	500+1500 +5000 +10000m
Women	500+500+1000+1000m
	500+1000+1500+3000m
	500+1500+3000+5000m

Junior

Men	500+500+1000+1000m 500+1500+3000+5000m
Women	500+500+1000+1000m 500+1000+1500+3000m

- b) Long Track - Mass Start:
 - In accordance with distances listed in K22-100 A)
- c) Short Track - 111.12m Oval
 - Distances in accordance with Rule K22-100.
- d) North American
 - North American Championships distances:
 - Long Track rule K46-100, Short Track rule K47-100.
- e) Archived Records
 - Archive all records for those distances that are no longer skated.

Conditions for recognition of records skated in Canada

U2-100

The meet must be sanctioned by SSC and advertised a minimum of fourteen (14) days before the event.

U2-101

The meet must be conducted according to SSC Procedures and Regulations or in another format which conforms to U2-103.

U2-102

The record must be applied for on the approved SSC "Application for Record" form and substantiated by the following documents:

- The original time slip for the event showing the reading of three (3) watches plus the official time signed by the Chief Timer and Referee
- The original Judges slip for the event showing the order of placing and signed by the Chief Finish Line Judge.
- A certificate from a qualified engineer or surveyor that the measurements of the track used for the event comply with the standard track measurements approved by SSC plus a diagram of the track.
- The program of the meet plus a full set of results.
- Copy of SSC sanction.
- When a photo finish result is available, the manually recorded times will not be required.

U2-103

- SSC will recognize mass start records when all skaters in the event are the same age class and gender or in an open class of the same gender.

- The restriction noted in a) shall not apply for the purpose of recognizing masters records provided that masters skaters are skating in a grouping consisting solely of the other masters age groups of the same gender.
- Current national team members and former national team members who have been off the team less than two years are ineligible to hold a master record.

U2-104

If the existing record is broken by more than one skater in the same competition only the best time from the meet will be recognised.

U2-105

For new distances the best time over the first season will be recognised as the established record.

U2-106

Any competitor who equals an existing record shall receive recognition for that time through the award of a certificate.

U2-107

Only SSC Competitive 1 skaters may set a SSC record.

U2-108

Competitions held in Canada with an ISU sanction may submit the paperwork as outlined in ISU Rule 273.3.

Conditions for the recognition of records skated outside of Canada

U3-100

The competition must be sanctioned by the I.S.U. or by a recognised national organisation of an I.S.U. member country.

U3-101

The record can be applied for to SSC's appropriate Committee, by an official of an affiliated Branch or Club or by the skater.

U3-102

The application must be supported by the complete protocol of the competition including names of the Referee and Chief Timer.

Conditions for the recognition of North American records

U4-100

Records in this category may be obtained only in North American Long Track Championships or North American Short Track Championships which are sanctioned by SSC and United States Speedskating in compliance with the Articles of Alliance between the two Associations.

U4-101

The record must be applied for in accordance with the required procedures of the hosting Association for the recognition of records.

Recognition of records

U5-100

- An application for records will be for the current year only and shall be submitted to the Sport Program Assistant at SSC within thirty (30) days following the specified meet and in accordance with the required procedures as outlined in Rule U2-102.
- In the event that a record has been missed at an SSC sanctioned competition due to clerical error or omission, recognition shall be granted up to December 31st of the following year. A skater may make an application through their branch to the Sport Program Assistant. Records will be accepted provided all documentation outlined in U2-102 can be provided.

U5-101

Following receipt of record applications, the records shall be immediately up-dated and these shall be known as the official records of this Association.

U5-102

Recognition for Canadian Records will be in the form of a certificate suitably inscribed with the skater's name, club, class, distance, record category and record time. Such certification will be issued by the Sport Program Assistant and mailed to Branch Associations for distribution to the skaters concerned.

U5-103

Recognition for North American Records in the years following the establishment of metric records will be in the form of a certificate designed and approved by SSC and USS, suitable inscribed and signed by the President and Secretary of the Host country. Such certificates will be issued to the Records Committee of the appropriate country for distribution to the skaters concerned.

Officials and their duties

Rule 210 (previous Rule 231)

Officials necessary

The following Officials are at least necessary:

- One Referee;
- One Assistant Referee
- One Starter and his Assistant;
- One Finishing line judge;
- One Chief Timekeeper and (when manual as well as automatic timekeeping is used) two Assistant Chief Timekeepers, one for the automatic and one for the manual timekeeping, and a minimum of four Manual Timekeepers;

Lap Scorers;

Track Officials: one in each curve (for ISU Championships and Olympic Winter Games two in each curve) and a Crossing Controller;

Necessary substitutes for these Officials;

One Ice Technical Expert

Rule 220 (previous Rule 241)

Duties of Finishing line judge

1. The Finishing line judge shall determine which of Skaters is the winner, or if they are equal. There is no appeal from his decision. However, if automatic timekeeping is being used according to Rule 251, the time recorded in hundredths of a second shall decide which of the Skaters in a pair is the winner, or if they are equal. When the main purpose of a race is to determine the winner of a pair or a heat (e.g. elimination races in Team Pursuit or 100m), the Finishing line judge may declare a winner of the heat, even if the times of the Skaters or teams are the same in hundredths of a second, on the condition that there is sufficient evidence available (e.g. from photo finish timing equipment) to support such a conclusion.
2. When the difference between the Skaters is less than 5 meters the Finishing line judge shall report to the (Assistant) Chief Timekeeper the distance between the two Skaters in the pair at the moment the winner passes the line.
3. If two competitors, who have skated in the same pair, have the same time and the finishing line judge has decided one of the Skaters to be the winner, this Skater occupies in the ranking over this distance (see Rule 265, paragraph 1) one rank before the other Skater. If also other competitors, who have skated in other pairs, both have obtained the same time, winners will be ranked with winners and seconds will be ranked with seconds.

Timekeeping

Rule 247 (previous Rule 242)

Automatic and manual timekeeping

1. Two methods of timekeeping exist, automatic timekeeping (as specified in Rule 251) and manual timekeeping (as specified in Rules 248 and 250).
2. The use of an automatic timekeeping system is compulsory for ISU Championships, World Cup Competitors, regional qualifying events, other ISU Events and Olympic Winter Games.
3. In any competition a manual timekeeping procedure has to be put in place (see Rule 248). If the automatic timekeeping system partly fails, the missing times will be established based on the manual timekeeping procedure according to Rule 251, paragraph 6 and Rule 260, paragraph 4.

Official times

4. The times are considered official when the Referee has signed the timekeeping protocol. The official times may not be questioned.

Rule 248
(previous Rule 243)

Position of the timekeepers

1. Timekeepers are to stand at the finishing line and start their watches at the moment of the shot (smoke fire) fired by the Starter. Only in case of fog, snow, darkness, etc., the timekeepers shall take their stand at the starting line and start their watches at the moment of the shot.

Chief timekeeper

2. At the conclusion of each race, the (Assistant) Chief timekeeper will read the watches in consistent order (i.e. 1st, 2nd, 3rd watch for the 1st Skater, then for the 2nd placed Skater) and will observe that the times are being duly recorded. Under the supervision of the (Assistant) Chief Timekeeper the official time for each Skater, will then be determined and recorded in the timekeeping protocol. The (Assistant) Chief timekeeper has the option to be assisted by a Time recorder official.
3. The time of the skater finishing second in a pair is to be decided by the (Assistant) Chief Timekeeper in agreement with the Finishing line judge when the second Skater is less than 5 meters behind the first Skater.
4. The times are considered official when the Referee has signed the protocol. The official times may not be questioned.

Rules 249
(previous Rule 244)

Watches

1. For the automatic timing system a watchmaker in the country concerned or a qualified authority shall check the timing system prior to the event and issue a certificate stating that the system is in good function. Such a certificate shall be presented to the Referee before the competition and is valid for maximum of three months.
2. Digital electronic watches must be used for the manual timekeeping in any competition where an automatic timekeeping system is used. On the request of the Referee a certificate from a watchmaker shall be produced stating that these watches are in good working order.
3. For mechanical watches used for manual timekeeping at International Competitions, a certificate from a watchmaker must be produced confirming that the watches do not vary more than a second in the hour from standard time.

Rule 250
(previous Rule 245)

Manual timekeeping procedure

1. For every race in which digital electronic watches are used, three timekeepers and one substitute timekeeper must be appointed. Independently of one another they shall take the time of both Skaters (see also Rule 248, paragraph 3). Only if one or more timekeepers have not taken the time for any reason, the time taken by the substitute timekeeper shall be recorded.
2. Each times should use only one watch.

3. The times of each timekeeper shall be recorded, with accuracy of one hundredth of a second. If the watches used display the times in thousands of a second, any decimal digits giving precision beyond a hundredth of a second shall be ignored.
4.
 - a) When two watches show the same time and the third a different one, the time of those in agreement shall be taken as the result;
 - b) When all watches show different times, the time of the intermediate watch is to be taken as the result;
 - c) If two timekeepers have not taken the time for any reason, the mean time of the other two watches shall be taken as the result. If the mean time is not a multiple of one hundredth of a second, the lower hundredth of a second is taken.
5. If only manual timekeeping is used at the competition, the official times (see Rule 251, paragraph 7) shall be determined and announced in tenths of a second. In the result based on paragraph 4 above, any decimal digits giving precision beyond a tenth of a second shall therefore be ignored.

Rule 251
(previous Rule 246)

Automatic timekeeping procedure

1. The term automatic timekeeping denotes time-measuring system that is started automatically by the firing of a starting-gun and that records automatically the reaching of the finishing line by each competitor.
2. For the automatic timekeeping system two complete sets of photo cells may be installed between the lanes, as close as possible to the ice. Also photo finish equipment or a transponder system may be used to determine the time and the other of finish of Skaters or teams. If a transponder system is used, the definition (in Rule 260, paragraph 1) as to when a Skater is considered to have completed the race, may need to be adjusted in order to be compatible with the actual implementation of the transponder system.
3. Over all distances the time shall be measured and recorded in the protocol to the accuracy of one hundredth of a second, these decimals shall be ignored when deciding the official time.
4. The Chief Timekeeper shall after each race check the times recorded as well as the correct entries in the protocol. The Assistant Chief Timekeeper for the automatic timekeeping shall control the time tape immediately after each distance is finished.
5. If a duplicate automatic timing system has been installed, the results from this reserve system shall be used in the cases that the main system fails to operate properly.
6. In order to secure a safe timekeeping there must be three manual timekeepers and one substitute with double watches (see Rule 250). The manually taken times will not be taken into consideration unless the automatic timekeeping fails. If it fails, the official time will be based on the result from the manual timekeeping, recorded with accuracy of one hundredth of a second, with 20 hundredths of a second added. However, other readily available evidence, for example video or photo finish recordings, that would make it possible to check or improve the accuracy of the manually taken times, shall be taken into account when the official time is determined. In particular, this applies to situations covered by Rule 260, paragraphs 2 through 4.

Rule 252
(previous Rule 247)

Times for individual laps

In races over several laps, the time must be taken and recorded for each lap. Also the accumulated lap times shall be recorded in units of a hundredth of a second when automatic timekeeping is used and in units of a tenth of a second for the manual timekeeping.

Rule 260
(previous Rule 255)

Finishing line

1. A Skater has completed a distance when the tip of a skate has touched or reached the finishing line after the prescribed number of laps. However, adjusted definitions may be applied in accordance with Rule 251, paragraph 2.
2. If a Skater falls just short of the finish, the time will be taken at the moment the tip of the skate reaches the finishing line or its extension (if the Skater is out of his lane).
3. If automatic timekeeping is used and this is stopped at the finish by other means than the skate, the official time of the Skater shall be recorded as the slower time of the manual time (with 0.20 seconds added, according to (Rule 251, paragraph 6) and automatic time.
4. In case the Skater, after a fall, is out of both lanes, his official time is recorded based on the manual timekeeping. If automatic timekeeping is used in the competition, 0.20 seconds shall be added to the manual time.

Rule 261
(previous Rule 256)

Racing rules for team competitions

Team Pursuit races

1. Team competitions may be announced for pursuit races with either 3 or 4 Skaters in each team. In both cases the finishing time (see Rule 260) of the team will be determined as the finishing time of the third Skater in the team. If less than three Skaters of the team finish the race, the team is considered not to have completed the race and shall be disqualified.
2. In Team Pursuit races the two teams shall start simultaneously at each side of the track, at the middle of the straights. If the heats have been composed according to a ranking of the teams, the best ranked team shall start on the ordinary finishing straight. Otherwise the starting positions will be determined by a draw;
3. The track must be laid out with only one competition lane, e.g. by making use of the demarcation between the inner lane and warm-up lane on standard track;
4. If some Skater(s) of a team is overtaken by Skater from the other team, Rule 258, paragraph 2, applies;
5. If the competition format for the Team Pursuit competition is based on elimination races to promote teams to the next phase of races, a team overtaking the other team before the full distance has been skated in an elimination race, will already at that moment be declared the winner of the race (heat). The definition of

overtaking is in this case that the third positioned Skater of the team has overtaken the third positioned Skater of the other team.

Rule 265
(previous Rule 260)

Results of events over single distances

In competitions with award of prizes for single distances, the winner of the distance is the Skater with the best achieved time. If several Skaters obtain the same (best) time, each of them is to be considered a winner for this distance. The succeeding places will also be determined according to the times achieved only, but Rule 220, paragraph 3 must be observed. For competitions over 500 meters with two counting races, the total time in the two races determine the final classification, with tie-breaking rules according to paragraph 2 below.

Quartet Starts

Rule 278
(previous Rule 275)

Competition formats

1.

- a) Quartet starts denotes a competition format where (up to) four Skaters compete on the track at the same time in two pairs, with a difference of about half a lap between the pairs at the start.
- b) Quartet starts may be conducted by two alternative methods:
 - **Method A:** Both pairs in the quartet start in the same starting area, with half a lap staggered start. The starting area is located at the normal starting area for the distance concerned. The second pair of a quartet should preferably start at a moment that will result in half a lap interval between the pairs as soon as they have reached their normal speed. In case of a false start in the second pair of a quartet, the interval between the pairs after the start of the second pair should be one and a half lap;
 - **Method B:** Both pairs in the quartet start at the same time (on the same shot), in the middle of the ordinary finishing and crossing straight, respectively. (On a standard 400 m track in the ordinary start area and finish area of the 1000 meters distance). The Starter is positioned in the middle of the inner part of the oval track, and must be assisted by two recall Starters observing one pair each. In case of a false start, both pairs are recalled to a new start. Changing of lanes shall be done in the ordinary crossing area of the track. However, the Skaters in the pair finishing their distance at the ordinary crossing area, must stay within the same lane as in the last curve when they approach the finish. Method B is only applicable for distances where the Skaters can finish the distance in the middle of the straights.

2.

- a) Quartet starts may be used in International and World Cup Competitions and in ISU Championships. Recommended distances for quartet starts are 1500 meters and longer. In ISU Championships quartet starts may be used only for distances 3000 meters and longer (see Rule 201, paragraph 10);
- b) Information that quartet starts will be used shall be given at the latest at the drawing for the distance. In the official protocol, as well as in the list of results, it shall be clearly stated which times have been recorded under quartet start conditions. The protocol must contain all items mentioned in Rule 273;
- c) For ISU Championships quartet starts may be used only when it has been agreed between the Organizing Committee, the ISU Sports Directorate and the Speed Skating Technical Committee and it has been published in the announcement.

Starting procedures and composition of quartets

3. Starting positions within each quartet are determined as follows:

- 1st drawn Skater: Inner lane in first pair (white armband);
 - 2nd drawn Skater: Outer lane in first pair (red armband);
 - 3rd drawn Skater: Inner lane in second pair (yellow armband);
 - 4th drawn Skater: Outer lane in second pair (blue armband);
- a) If the pairs are arranged according to a ranking of the Skaters, each quartet shall have the two best ranked Skaters as the second pair in the quartet;
 - b) If quartet starts are conducted according to method B) in paragraph 1 b) above, the second pair is defined as the pair who will finish the race at the (ordinary) finishing straight of the track;
 - c) If the participating Skaters cannot form a set of full quartets (with 4 Skaters in all quartets), only the first quartet may be incomplete. (The first quartet may even consist of one single Skater);
 - d) In the case of withdrawals from the start after the draw, the Referee has the right to rearrange the pairs forming the quartets (see Rules 216 and 245). However, a Skater should not be moved to another quartet than the one originally designated, unless the number of quartets will then be reduced.

4. All Skaters in the same quartet must collectively prepare for the start. Armbands are to be worn according to paragraph 3 a).

5. Each pair in a quartet shall have its own lap scorer, and each pair shall be separately timed.

6. World records from quartet starts can only be recognized for times achieved in World Cup Competitions, ISU Championships or other ISU Events. See also Rule 221, paragraphs 1e), 1f) and 2).

Officials necessary

The following Officials for ISU Events, and the Olympic Winter Games must be appointed; Referee, 4 Assistant Referees and 2 Competitors Stewards; Assistant Competitors Steward; Starter, Assistant Starter; Chief Finish Line Judge, Photo Finish

Judge; Finish Line Judges; Chief Timekeeper; Timekeepers; Lap Scorers; Lap Recorder, Announcer and Track Stewards.

Photo Finish Judge

- a) The Photo Finish Judge shall read the photo finish. He shall report the order of finish and times of each competitor to the Competitors Steward or electronic equipment recording the results of each race. The results shall be considered official. This official may be the person operating the photo finish equipment described in Rule 280, paragraph 6;
- b) For International Competitions photo finish equipment may be used in determining the order of finish of all Skaters;
- c) The term photo finish equipment denotes a system that records the order of finish in such a way that it can be reproduced immediately after the race concerned. The equipment must be able to reproduce a clear and undistorted photo of the finish of each race;
- d) If the photo finish equipment is able to produce a time scale on the finish photo, the times read of this scale be taken as official times;
- e) If it is not possible to record times with the photo finish equipment then electronic time keeping equipment, according to Rule 251, may be used to record the times of all Skaters.

Rule 292
(previous Rule 296)

World Records

- a) World Records will be registered by the ISU: - For Ladies over distances of 500, 1000, 1500 and 3000 meters; - For Men over distances of 500, 1000, 1500 and 3000 meters; - For Junior Ladies over distances of 500, 1000 and 1500 meters; - For Junior Men over distances of 500, 1000 and 1500 meters; - For Ladies Teams over distances of 3000 meters relay; - For Men Teams over distances of 3000 meters relay and 5000 meters relay;
- b) World Records will be considered in thousands of seconds provided such times have been established:
 - on an official ISU track as listed in Rule 280, paragraph 1;
 - that photo finish and/or electronic timing has been used, proved by original outputs of the respective equipment;
 - an ISU Referee and Starter are officiating;
 - that lap record times were duly recorded for distance of 1500 meters or over;
 - for International Competitions open to all ISU Members: the announcement was published as laid down in Rule 110;
 - for National Championships and International Competitions restricted in any way: the detailed announcement was received by the ISU Director General at least four weeks before the event;
 - that the distances skated and the starting times were in accordance with the announcement;

- that the original official ISU Protocol of the event, together with certificates regarding the watches and track and a program of the event are available
- c) Junior World Records can only be accepted provided these times have been established in a competition open only to Juniors;
- d) Any competitor who achieves a World Record must have been tested negative for doping at the time of the race to have this record ratified;
- e) If the existing World Record is broken more than once on the same distance in a competition only the best time obtained shall be considered as a World Record;
- f) Any competitor who equals an existing World Record shall have his name entered in the list of records;
- g) For each record obtained, or the equaling of any record, the ISU shall issue a diploma to the Skater;
- h) All respective documents must be submitted by the organizing committee to the ISU Director General within 30 days following the competition.

Rule 293 is reserved for possible further Special Regulations Short Track Speed Skating.

Chief Finish Line Judge and Finish Line Judges

For International Competitions without photo finish equipment:

- a) The official order of finish is determined by the Chief Finish Line Judge;
- b) The order of all finishers shall be recorded;
- c) The Chief Line Judge shall assign finish positions to the Finish Line Judges. The Chief Finish Line Judge shall pick first place only;
- d) There shall be four Finish Line Judges: Judge No. 1 picks Skaters 1st and 2nd; Judge No. 2 picks Skaters 2nd and 3rd; Judge No. 3 picks Skaters 3rd and 4th; and Judge No. 4 picks Skaters 4th and 5th ;
- e) e) In case of six or more Skaters, the Starter or his Assistant shall act as Judge No. 5 and pick 6th place only;
- f) f) In the 3000 meters and relay races the Finish Line Judges will be assigned to a Skater or team and record the number of laps skated and the place on the finish.

Chief Timekeeper and Timekeepers

For International Competitions without photo-finish equipment;

- a) The chief timekeeper is responsible for the recording of times and shall comply with all sections of Rules 247 and 250 that apply to Short Track Speed Skating;
- b) The chief timekeeper will ensure that he and the timekeepers are positioned off the ice and adjacent to the finish line necessary to record the accurate time of the Skaters;
- c) When digital watches are used, the times will be recorded in hundredths of a second;

- d) The chief timekeeper must read each watch, record the results, and declare the official time. He will warn the timekeepers not to clear their watches until he has ordered them to do so;
- e) A minimum of 2 timekeepers plus one reserve on first and second place and one timekeeper on third position is required;
- f) They will also pretest their watches in accordance with standard procedures;
- g) The timekeepers must not clear their watches until such time as they have been instructed by the chief timekeeper;
- h) Timekeepers should not call out their times but if requested by the chief timekeeper show their watch.

Lap scorer

- a) The lap scorer shall visibly show the number of laps still to be skated by the leading Skater at all times and he will turn the lap-board each time the leading Skater passes;
- b) The lap scorer will ring the bell to signify the last lap of each race;
- c) In relay races the lap scorer will advise the Starter that the last three laps are coming up;
- d) In relay races a lap scorer shall be assigned to each team.

Lap recorder

- a) The lap recorder shall complete a lap by lap record in writing of the lap times of the leading Skater with an accuracy of one second or less and keep check on the lap scorer at all times;
- b) The lap recorder shall be positioned off the ice but near the lap scorer