



SHORT TRACK SELECTION POLICY 2025/26

Introduction

This selection policy criteria applies to all athletes wishing to be considered for selection for international representation (For example, at the World Cup Events and World Championships and other events where skaters represent New Zealand) and for the New Zealand Development and Next Generation Teams.

Overriding Criteria

The objective of the ISSNZ Selection policy is twofold:

1. To develop skaters' talent, and in so doing to increase the range (e.g., level of skating performance and number of skaters) and the capability of an individual skater's talent.
2. To ensure that the best possible teams and competitors are selected to represent New Zealand.

With the intention of developing and growing the speed skating community in New Zealand, ISSNZ will provide three tiers for which members will be selected.

- New Zealand Development Team (NZDT)
- New Zealand Next Generation Team (NZNG)
- New Zealand Racing Pool (NZRP Senior & NZRP Junior).

Philosophy

To develop and encourage the growth of the skater pool within each category to:

- Develop skaters' talent, and in so doing to increase the range (level of skating performance and number of skaters) and the capability of an individual skater's talent.
- Increase the skater pool within each age group and category.
- Encourage skaters to remain in the sport.
- Ensure that the best possible teams and competitors are selected to represent New Zealand.

New Zealand Development Team

Skaters identified with potential based on times (see Appendix A) will be selected into the NZDT and are encouraged to participate in camps outside of their home region, including National Development Camps. The identified skaters are also expected to participate in the New Zealand Open Short Track Championship.

New Zealand Next Generation Team

NZNG skaters are skaters who have shown the potential to compete internationally based on times (see Appendix B). They are expected to train both on and off ice and are expected to attend training camps, including national training camps, even if outside of their home region. The NZNG skaters are expected to compete at the New Zealand Open Short Track Championship and are encouraged to gain racing experience competing at the Australian Open Championship and / or the SEA Open Short Track Trophy. These skaters are also encouraged to seek training opportunities outside of New Zealand.

New Zealand Racing Pool

NZRP are Junior and Senior skaters who are ready to compete at higher speed events at international competitions based on times (see Appendix 1).

NZRP skaters are required to sustain and further develop the fitness and performance levels that secured their selection through a structured training programme, with the explicit aim of competing at ISU international events. Being a member of the pool does not guarantee a racing slot; skaters need to meet specific time requirements to receive an ISU Senior or Junior event allocation. There is an expectation to train overseas during the ISU international competition season.

NZRP skaters are expected to compete at the NZ Open Championship. Skaters training outside of New Zealand during the dates of the NZ Open Championship are required to request dispensation from the Director of Selection at least one month prior to the registration cut-off date of the NZ Open registrations. Dispensation will be at the sole discretion of the Director of Selection.

Members of the Racing Pool will be referred to High Performance Sport NZ (HPSNZ) for consideration for inclusion in their High-Performance Program. HPSNZ has their own criteria for additional funding and support.

Selection Criteria

General Eligibility

General and specific criteria frame decision making. Broadly, to meet the criteria for consideration for selection the skater must:

- Be in good standing with ISSNZ - registration and fees paid.
- Be registered with a ISSNZ registered club.
- Be nominated by their club coach.
- Participate in races in the current season.
- Participate at the NZ Open Championship for the last two years. Exceptions are permitted for extenuating circumstances (see below).
- Participate in time trials, when arranged, for tie breaking purposes.
- Sign (including the return of signed documentation to ISSNZ) and abide by the terms and expectations of the Athletes Agreement and ISSNZ Code of Conduct.

New Zealand Development Team (NZDT)

Membership in this team is for 2 years. There is no limit to the number of skaters that can be nominated and accepted.

For selection to this team the following criteria must be met:

- Nomination by the skater's club coach.
- Times achieved based on age (Appendix A) with a focus on the 500m.
- Review and acceptance by selection committee.

New Zealand Next Generation Team (NZNG)

Membership in this team is for 2 years. There is no limit to the number of skaters that can be nominated and accepted.

For selection to this team the following criteria must be met:

- Nomination by the skater's club coach
- Times achieved based on age (Appendix B) with a focus on the 500m.
- Eligible to represent New Zealand according to ISU Regulations i.e., New Zealand Citizen or Permanent Resident.
- Review and acceptance by selection committee.

New Zealand Racing Pool (NZRP)

For selection to this team the following criteria must be met:

- Member of the NZRP the previous season if the skater has a World Ranking in the previous season.
- Currently identified as 'Active' by HPSNZ. HPSNZ will maintain a skater as active during injury recovery. Once HPSNZ deems the skater 'Inactive', the athlete will have to requalify via skated time standards.
- Times that meet ISU standards (Appendix C) for either Junior or Senior events, depending on age. Times have a duration of validity.
- Eligible to represent New Zealand according to ISU Regulations i.e., New Zealand

Citizen or Permanent Resident. For skaters needing ISU members' release, all transfers must be in before the ISU deadline (July 1 preceding the international racing season).

- In compliance with WADA and ISU regulations
- Review and acceptance by selection committee.

The Racing Pool Category is ranked. Ranking may affect international assignments. Ranking within the pool will be based on the following criteria:

1. World Championship Ranking
2. World Ranking Overall
3. HPSNZ Injured Reserve
4. Times at qualifying events (Appendix C) during the current season
 - a. 500m time (first)
 - b. 1500m time (second)
 - c. 1000m time (third).
5. Performance during the most recent ISU season and the current ISU season, and at the NZ Open Championship or an ISSNZ sanctioned event.

International Representation

Selection to compete at international events will be based on the ISU qualifying times as a minimum requirement. Selection to the Racing Pool does not guarantee a New Zealand International Team allotment.

Overriding Discretion

Selection for International events will consider:

- The skater's current level of fitness and skill
- Commitment to train at an overseas training facility
- Commitment for Senior skaters to participate in the 4 Short Track World Tour (STWT) events and the World Championships
- Commitment to Junior skaters to participate in both Junior World Cups and the World Junior Championship.
- Junior aged skaters will be allocated a racing spot based on performance.
- Commitment to skate in a New Zealand Relay Team if numbers allow, either single gender or mixed relay.
- Demonstrated attitude and commitment to work as a team member.
- Current injury or condition that will limit the skater's ability to perform at a consistent level.
- Commitment to abide by WADA rules. A skater will forfeit all funding in the event of a WADA doping violation.
- A skater who makes the ISU qualifying time for an international event after the 1 July may be selected to compete at the event. If selected, they will be responsible for all their own costs (i.e., no funding will be provided by ISSNZ).

Extenuating Circumstances

Requests for consideration of extenuating circumstances need to be made in writing and be timely. The selectors may consider extenuating circumstances in making their selection policy arising from:

- Injury or illness of the athlete
- Equipment failure
- Travel delays
- Bereavement
- Any other factor that the selectors consider relevant in the circumstances that can be presented by the athlete.

Athletes who are unable to compete in or attend events, time trials or other required attendances, must advise the ISSNZ Director of Selection and Director of High Performance in writing detailing the reasons before the commencement of the event. Documentary evidence must be provided. In the case of injury or illness, skaters must provide a medical certificate.

Right to Appeal

Appeals on selection may be made in writing to the Director of Selection. Appeals must be lodged within 7 days of the confirmed announcement of selections to the Racing Pool. Selections will be considered provisional and could change once all appeals have been heard and decided. Appeals will be heard within 14 days of the selection announcement.

Notification of Selection

- The ISSNZ Board will notify the athletes of the selection decisions in writing once recommendations of the selection committee are ratified by the ISSNZ Board. Nominations for the NZDT and NZNG must be received by 30 October of the preceding year.
- Selection decisions, including selection for New Zealand representation at international events are notified to individual skaters directly as well as their affiliated Clubs.
- Notifications for the senior members of the NZRP and placings for international representation for the 2025-26 season will be made by **July 1**.
- Notifications for the junior members of the NZRP and placings for international representation for the will be made by **July 1**.

Additional Racing Pool selection timeframes:

- Notification announcements for international racing slot allocations align with the specifics for those events.
- The Senior Racing Pool needs to be set before **July 1** preceding the international season. This is due to the responsibilities of the athletes on the senior team to train and compete overseas.
- Junior Racing Pools skaters may be selected to compete at ISU competitions, if they meet the ISU qualifying time after 1 July at their own cost.
- Allocation to an ISU event will be made no later than 30 days prior to the event and will only consider members of the current NZRP.

Olympic Qualifying

- Olympic qualification is through nomination to NZ Olympic Committee as published.

Removal From Team

Any skater who no longer qualifies for NZDT, NZNG or ISU time standards must requalify. Time standards are valid for 2 years before the current season.

APPENDIX A: NZ Development Team Qualifying Times

In addition to being within 7.5s of the age-class record, the placing in sanctioned events within the New Zealand domestic racing season will be used as part of the decision.

APPENDIX B: NZ Next Gen Team Qualifying Times

These times ensure that skaters are tracking well ahead of their age group domestically. As such skaters need to be within 10% of the 500m record, or within 5s of the 500m record whichever is larger. This does not merit endorsement or entry in the racing pool. Times may be achieved overseas; however, race protocol needs to be present, including conditions of timing, 0.2s may be added for non-digital timing.

Examples:

- Male Junior Next Gen qualifying time would be 49.055s, however a racing pool spot would be 46.670s
- Female Junior Next Gen qualifying time would be 54.422s, and a racing pool spot would be at 49.790s.

Current domestic records

LEVEL	AGE	MALE	FEMALE
Primary	<9	59.458	1.13.118
Juvenile	9-11	50.810	53.712
Sub junior	12-14	47.602	50.033
Junior	15-18	44.055	49.422
Senior	19+	43.832	49.915

Master document takes precedence in case of conflict times.

APPENDIX C: New Zealand Racing Pool Qualifying Times

Times for ISU qualifying must have been achieved in the previous season as per ISU dates. If there are more than two skaters that have made the minimum qualifying standard, the faster skater in the 500m will have priority for allocation of a racing slot, however both will be in the racing pool ranked in order of time.

ISU Definition of a Junior

The definitions adopted are those set by the ISU. A junior is a skater who has not reached the age of 19 before July 1 preceding the championships and who has reached the age of 14 before July 1st preceding the championships. Only Junior A and Junior B aged skaters are eligible to attend an ISU event.

ISU Definition of a Senior

For ISU Senior Championships, Olympic Winter Games and International Senior competitions only skaters may compete who have reached at least the age of 15 before July 1 preceding these events.

ISU Qualifying Time Standards

Times are presented here for reference only, refer to ISU rules for what are acceptable events to achieve qualification times.

For countries with one skater per category:

- **Men:** 45.04 seconds
- **Women:** 47.21 seconds

For countries with more than one skater per category:

- **Men:** 43.46 seconds
- **Women:** 45.56 seconds

Time Standards for Junior World Cups and Junior World Championships

- **Female:** 49.79s
- **Male:** 46.67s

APPENDIX D: Selectors

The Selectors in accordance with the policies and process approved by the Board will select skaters for international representation and for the NZDT, NZGT and the NZRP. The Selectors are:

- Brett McCormack (Director of Selections)
- Steven MacDonald (High Performance Manager)
- Ben Whiteside.

