

# INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION

## **Guidelines for the All Finals Race Progression System in Short Track Speed Skating Competitions**

### **General**

In Short Track Speed Skating the competitions are based on a progression system through which the Skaters qualify for a Final race that determines the winner. In general, this system is designed so that in every qualifying round approximately 50 percent of the participants are eliminated. This means that the majority of the Skaters will race only once or twice on a distance, with limited opportunities to gain experience in the race tactics that is so important for the development of a Short Track speed skater. In contrast, an All Finals system is a race progression principle in which basically all Skaters qualify to compete in some race for all rounds of the competition, based on their results in preceding races. All Skaters will then take part in the same number of races for each distance, instead of a situation with a decreasing number of competitors for each successive round (Rule 294, paragraph 3). All Finals systems may be used in International Competitions. This Communication gives some practical guidelines on how to run Competitions according to such a system. ISU Members organizing International Competitions may refer to these guidelines in the respective Competition announcement. The description below is based on principles applied in procedures that already exist and that are occasionally used by ISU Members. On request further details and advice will be provided by the ISU Short Track Speed Skating Technical Committee.

### **All Finals System – basic principles**

The ‘All Finals System’ is a race progression format through which all participants qualify from the first round of races to the next stage of races all the way up to a round of Finals.

The first Qualifying Round consist of one Group. For each Round after the first Qualifying Round, Skaters are placed in different Groups based on their Qualification ranking. The Group with the highest ranked Skaters is called Group A. All other Groups are subsequently called B, C, D, etc. The lower ranked Group shall always skate first. In the last Round, called “Finals”, each race is a group on its own.

After each Qualifying Round the participants are ranked based on their results so far in the Competition, and then placed in new Groups determining the progression to the next Qualifying round all the way to the round of Finals.

For the A and B Finals the number of Skaters per race shall be in accordance with Rule 295, paragraph 2.e).

For all other races in the Qualifying Rounds and all other Finals (Final C, Final D, etc.) the number of Skaters per race may be higher. The scheduled number of Skaters per race must be announced before the start of the first race of the competition.

The awarding of final points can be based on Rule 295, paragraph 5, or a different point system may be used. The point system should be published in the announcement of the competition concerned.

Following Rule 298, paragraph 14, when the Referee declares a race finished, also skaters who have not yet completed the distance will be considered as having finished the race. In competitions using the normal elimination System to qualify for the next round, the Referee can, however, not declare a Skater finished in a Final. In the All Finals System the Referee cannot declare a Skater finished in the Final A and the Final B, but in all other Finals a skater can be declared finished.

### **Seeding Procedure**

Unless stated otherwise in the announcement, in the first round of the first distance the participants will be seeded based on their personal best time over 500 meters as supplied with the final entries (time to be achieved in the current season or in the previous season). The make-up of the races in all

other Qualifying Rounds will be in accordance with the results achieved by the Skaters in the Competition.

### Classifications and Progression rules

After every Qualifying Round, an Intermediary Distance Classification based on Rule 295, paragraph 6, will be made within each Group to determine the progression to the next round. However, Skaters who are Advanced in the Qualifying rounds, are progressing in the same manner as in an elimination based system; therefore there may be some races with more Skaters than the initially proposed number. Skaters who receive a Penalty in a Qualifying Round will be placed one Group lower (if not already in the Group with the lowest ranked Skaters) in the next Qualifying Round. The vacant place in the Group caused by the Skater receiving a Penalty, will then be filled by the Skater with the highest rank in the Classification of the next lower Group. The same promotion rule applies if a Skater withdraws from the next Qualifying round. *For example* (see chart below): a Skater receiving a Penalty in Quarter Finals Group A (place 1 to 16 after the Heats), will be placed amongst the Skaters of Semi Final Group C (ranks 17 to 24 after the Quarter Finals). The Skater ranked first in the Classification of Group B after the Quarter Finals round, will then replace this Skater in Semi Final Group B.

Skaters who receive a second Penalty on the same distance will be excluded from further participation on the distance. This will be recorded as a Yellow Card.

After the Final Round of each distance has been completed, a Distance Classification will be made according to Rule 295, paragraph 6. The Groups in each Qualifying Round are considered as different blocks under this Rule.

The Final Classification of the Competition is made according to Rule 295, paragraph 9.

### Example (32 Skaters entered for the Competition)

#### Competition Schedule

8 Heats, composed according to initial seeding	4 Skaters per race	32 Skaters
8 Quarter finals in 2 Groups of 4 x 4=16 Skaters each		4 Skaters per race
32 Skaters		
8 Semi Finals in 4 Groups of 2 x 4 = 8 Skaters each	4 Skaters per race	32 Skaters
8 Finals in 8 Groups of 4 Skaters each	4 Skaters per race	32 Skaters

