

StarClassNewsletter



StarClass series 2014/2015 is ready to celebrate its 10th birthday with many new highlights!

Our European tour will take us to three new towns and, for the first time ever, we will be crossing the Channel to the UK!

These are the dates of the 2014/2015 season which need to be memorized:

- October 24th/26th – Dresden (Germany) – Jun A/B + Ladies and Men
- November 28th/30th – Grenoble (France) – Jun C/D
- December 5th/7th – Hasselt (Belgium) - Jun A/B + Ladies and Men
- January 9th/11th – Nottingham (UK) - Jun A/B + Ladies and Men
- January 30th/February 1st – Heerenveen (Netherlands) - Jun C/D



The Thialf Arena in Heerenveen
(Courtesy www.netherlands-tourism.com)

- February 20th/22nd – Torino - Jun C/D

The three new destinations for this year are Nottingham, Heerenveen and Torino.

Nottingham is probably best known for its legendary hero Robin Hood and his hideouts in Sherwood's forest.



Statue of Robin Hood outside Nottingham Castle
(Courtesy ukholidayplaces.co.uk)

There are many attractions in Nottingham well worth visiting: the Castle, the Old Market Square along with Sherwood forest are a must. But Nottingham is also home of the National Ice Centre, UK's twin ice pad facility whose major arena has a seating capacity of 10000 spectators!

Heerenveen Thialf Arena is the second new entry to our Starclass venues; it was named after Thors' servant Thialfi who had to race against a giant in Norse mythology. Indeed many speed-skating 'giants' have raced in this arena since it was opened in 1986 setting many world records; let's see if some of our youngest giants can set their mark too!

The last new venue of the season is the Palatazzoli in Torino; also a twin ice pad facility renovated for the 2006 Olympics.

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TORINO2015 CAPITALE EUROPEA DELLO SPORT

Torino is European Capital Of Sports in 2015 and will be hosting many international events to celebrate this status. Among these, it has chosen the last qualifying event for the Junior C and D categories of the Starclass season.

The culmination of the season will be, like every year, the Europa Cup Final where the best skaters from the Starclass and the Danubia series will meet to crown the best; this year, this prestigious event will be held in Oberstdorf at the Eissportzentrum where



the organizing committee from the Oberstdorf Eissport Club is ready to welcome skaters from March 20th to 22nd 2015.

Following the European Calendar meeting and the new rules set out during the ISU Congress in June, there will be some new features to the Starclass series. Emphasis has once again been put on the harmonization of the Starclass and the Danubia rules and the main novelties can thus be summarized:

- The Novice category has been renominated JUNIOR D. It covers exactly the same age group as in the past.
- The categories 'Ladies' and 'Men' have been introduced and

defined as skaters who have reached the age of 19 before July 1ST 2014. Skaters from these categories will be able to qualify for the Europa Cup Final provided they have NOT participated in any World Cup or ISU event during the season.

- After the last of the three qualifying events for each group, awards will be given to the top ranked skaters of the Starclass Classification; this will include only competitors who have participated in all three qualifying events for their category.
- Probably the greatest change to the rules is in the consequences for skaters in case of a penalty. A skater who receives a penalty will have no result in the respective race and will *NOT* continue in the all final system in the distance. Also there will no longer be a 'promotion' for the best skater in the lower group. The skater who has received a penalty will be ranked last in his group.
- As established during the ISU congress in Dublin, final points will be awarded in both A and B finals.



Polesud Patinoire – the ice-rink in Grenoble
Photo courtesy Nicolas Bernard, Odoxo

Detailed explanations and examples of special circumstances can be found on the Starclass Memorandum available online on www.shorttrackonline.info where all entries, results and rankings will be available.