



## 2023 Ontario Winter Games (OWG) Replacement of Withdrawing Skaters

Age eligible skaters for the 2022 OWG were 12-15 years in the 2021-2022 season. The [preselected](#) skaters from the 2022 OWG selection process have been grandfathered into the 2023 OWG; therefore, skaters at the 2023 OWG will be 13-16 years in the 2022-2023 season.

Skaters who have been preselected for the 2023 OWG may choose to withdraw from the 2023 OWG, which have been rescheduled to February 3-4, 2023, due to a number of reasons, including but not limited to: retirement from speed skating, change in skater pathway (ie. the skater is focusing on the national racing pathway), or attendance at the conflicting 2023 Canadian Youth LT Championships.

Speed Skating Ontario (SSO) recognizes the need for a fair strategy to fill the vacancies created by skater withdrawals, while maintaining the quality of racing at the 2023 OWG.

### Confirmation of Intent to Participate

Prequalified skaters are required to confirm their intent to participate in the 2023 OWG to SSO by **Friday November 11, 2022 by filling out [THIS FORM](#)**. Skaters who do not confirm by this date will forfeit their spot in the 2023 OWG and a vacancy will become available.

### Announcement of Vacancies

OSSA will share the available vacancies for the 2023 OWG with members by **Friday November 18, 2022**.

### Replacement of Withdrawing Skaters

If a preselected skater withdraws from the 2023 OWG, they will be replaced by the next fastest Ontario skater of the same gender aged 13-15 years (before July 1, 2022), regardless of the age class of the withdrawing skater. The SSO Ranking List released during the week of December 12, 2022 will be used to determine the next fastest skater(s). SSO will contact the selected skaters to confirm participation.

16-year-old skaters will not be considered for entry into the 2023 OWG. 16-year-old skaters are not intended to participate in OWG and are only invited due to the grandfathering process following the postponement of the 2022 OWG. Available spots in the 2023 OWG will be reserved for developing skaters aged 13-15, aligning with the SSO and SSC skater pathways.

### Replacement of Injured or Ill Skaters

Injury withdrawals are unlikely to be decided as early as December 2022. The replacement process from the 2022 OWG Technical Package will be followed in the event of an athlete injury:

- If an athlete enters and is then forced to withdraw due to illness, injury etc., their position will be offered to the next eligible skater keeping quality and safety of racing top of mind.
- If the withdrawal is made within seven (7) days of the event only the next eligible athlete in the ranking list will be offered the vacant position.
- If this athlete declines, then the position will not be offered any further and the position will be declared vacant.

### Registration in the OWG Portal for Eligible Skaters

Final registrations in the Games online portal are due **Monday December 19**. SSO will contact eligible skaters who have completed the intention form with further registration information in December.

Note: to better align with the provincial and national skater pathway, and in consultation with the OWG, the age eligibility for the next OWG in winter 2024 is likely to change to 11-14 (as of July 1, 2023).