



**SPEED
SKATING
ONTARIO**

**TECHNICAL BULLETIN
2026 ONTARIO WINTER GAMES**

REVISED DECEMBER 2025



Games Jeux de
Ontario l'Ontario

Introduction

The Ontario Games is a program provided by the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport (MTCS). The Ontario Games began in 1970 as a showcase for amateur sport. As the Province's largest multi-sport event, the Ontario Games provide athletes of the province with a developmental and competitive opportunity to prepare for national and international competition. The Games give the public a chance to see some of Ontario's best amateur athletes compete in the only multi-sport event of this caliber hosted in the province.

The Ontario Winter Games (OWG) involves up to 3,500 registered participants including athletes, sport assistants, coaches, managers, officials and Provincial Sport Organizations (PSO) representatives every two years.

The Government of Ontario recognizes the significant cost of amateur sport for Ontario families. The Government's investment in the Ontario Games aims to provide a high quality and unique multi-sport Games experience that is affordable for participants.

The OWG provides:

- A subsidized and affordable multi-sport experience and high level competition for athletes, coaches and officials.
- A unique athlete experience that aims to model the conditions of a major multi-sport Games including an athlete parade and Opening Ceremony, while also providing an opportunity to interact with and cheer on athletes in other sports.
- An opportunity to provide professional development for coaches and officials before, during and after the Games.
- An opportunity to showcase and grow the sport of speed skating.

Administrative Responsibilities

Speed Skating Ontario (SSO) is responsible for overseeing all administrative and competition requirements with respect to participation in the Games (ex- room assignments, sharing registration information, equipment needs and venue set up).

The Officials Development Committee will assist in managing all officials for the Games including identifying opportunities for officials to be trained and evaluated. Along with the designated Chief Officials, SSO will be relying on the parents of the athletes selected for the Games to volunteer for the speed skating event.

Coach and Manager Selection

SSO will select up to eight (8) – 4 male and 4 female – coaches for the Games. Coaches must be Introduction to Competition or Competition Development Certified (or within the 1-year grace period from completion of their NCCP course) in order to be eligible to coach skaters at the OWG. Eligible coaches should submit their interest to be an OWG coach to techdirector@ontariospeedskating.ca by **Friday December 5, 2025**.

Coaches will be selected by the Technical Director on the basis of their qualifications, availability and the logistical needs of the skaters participating in the Games. Successful applicants will be notified by **Wednesday December 17, 2025**.

Up to four (4) – 2 male and 2 female – managers will be chosen on the basis of the number, age and gender of the skaters selected to participate and will be expected to be qualified in accordance with SSO policy.

Event Dates

Athletes will be expected to arrive on **Thursday February 19, 2026** for Check-In and Opening Ceremonies.

The Speed Skating Competition will begin on **Friday February 20, 2026** and conclude on Saturday **February 21, 2026**. Athletes are expected to attend the full event.

Event Venue

The Speed Skating Competition will take place at the Allandale Recreation Centre in Barrie.

Accommodations

The Ontario Games Organizing Committee will direct accommodations arrangements for the participants of the OWG. Accommodation information will be relayed to the qualified skaters and participants by the SSO closer to the event.

Eligibility

Ontario-based SSO athletes who have **reached the age of 14 but not the age of 17 before July 1, 2025** are **the primary target athletes** eligible for this event. **If required due to vacancies, skaters aged 17 years old before July 1, 2025, followed by skaters aged 18 years old before July 1, 2025* will be invited after 14-16 year old skaters are exhausted.** Skaters must have a Competitive Skater or National Skater membership with SSO for the 2025-2026 season to be eligible for OWG 2026.

***Note: athletes must not have reached the age of 19 by February 21, 2026.**

Athlete Selection

Athletes are to be selected for the 2026 OWG on the basis of their ranking time, described below, when compared against other Ontario-based SSO skaters within a given age class.

Athletes will be selected for the Games based on:

- The Top 8 male athletes and the Top 8 female athletes aged 14 years old before July 1, 2025 ranked by their 500m+1500m/3 combined short track time skated **since August 1, 2025** on the 111m track as of December 15, 2025.
- The Top 8 male athletes and the Top 8 female athletes aged 15 years old before July 1, 2025 ranked by their 500m+1500m/3 combined short track time skated **since August 1, 2025** on the 111m track as of December 15, 2025.
- The Top 8 male athletes and the Top 8 female athletes aged 16 years old before July 1, 2025 ranked by their 500m+1500m/3 combined short track time skated **since August 1, 2025** on the 111m track as of December 15, 2025.
- The 8 next fastest 14-16 year old male athletes and 8 next fastest 14-16 year old female athletes regardless of age, ranked by their 500m+1500m/3 combined short track time skated **since August 1, 2025** on the 111m track as of December 15, 2025.

In the event that a skater declines their place at the OWG, the next fastest skater of the same gender, regardless of age **within the age eligibility criteria**, will be invited to fill the field of racers.

Format

Skaters will represent different areas of the Province but will skate as individual athletes.

Invitations

Eligible athletes will be invited to participate in the OWG via a List of Qualified Skaters posted on the SSO website on or before **December 17, 2025**.

Confirmation

Skaters are required to confirm their intent to participate in the Games via the SSO OWG Confirmation of Participation Form by **11:59pm (EST) December 29, 2025**.

Entries that are not confirmed by this time will be allocated to the next ranked eligible skater. Alternates will be notified by December 31, 2025.

Withdrawals

If a skater enters and is then forced to withdraw due to illness, injury etc, the skater's position will automatically be offered to the next eligible skater. If the withdrawal is made within seven (7) days of the event, only the next eligible athlete will be offered the vacant position. If this athlete declines, the position will not be offered any further and the position will be declared vacant.

Event Registration

Registration for the OWG will be directed by the Ontario Games Organizing Committee and relayed to the qualified skaters by the SSO Office closer to the event.

Track

All racing at the 2026 OWG will take place on the 111m track.

Competition Groups

There will be two racing groups per gender for this event. Groups will be determined by the 500m + 1500m/3 seed time as of February 9, 2026.

The top 16 Male athletes qualified for the event, regardless of age, will race in Men's group A.

The top 16 Female athletes qualified for the event, regardless of age, will race in Women's group A.

Men ranked 17-32 qualified for the event, regardless of age, will race in Men's group B.

Women ranked 17-32 qualified for the event, regardless of age, will race in Women's group B.

Schedule

Day 1 – Friday February 20th, 2026

1000m (Heat)
1500m (Semi, Final)
500m (Heat)
3000m Relay (Final)

Day 2 – Saturday February 21st, 2026

1000m (Semi, Final)
500m (Semi, Final)
3000m Relay (Final)

Race Seeding

- 500m (111m) shall be seeded based on 500m (111m) time from the SSO Ranking List as of February 9, 2026.
- 1000m (111m) shall be seeded based on 1000m (111m) time from SSO Ranking List as of February 9, 2026.
- 1500m (111m) shall be seeded based on 1500m (111m) time from SSO Ranking List as of February 9, 2026.

Race advancements for Individual Distances

The race advancement for 1500m, 1000m and 500m is based on placement first, then time. Advancement(s) due to infractions in the heats and semis will take the place of the next fastest time(s).

Awards – Individual Distances

Medals will be awarded to the first three finishers in the "A" Final of each individual distance in Mens and Womens Groups A and B.

In the event there is a tie for first place, both skaters shall receive first place medals and the next skater shall be ranked as third.

In the event there is a tie for second place, both skaters shall receive second place medals and the next skater shall be ranked as fourth.

In the event there is a tie for third place, both skaters shall receive third place medals and the next skater shall be ranked as fifth.

Composition of Relay Teams

- All skaters will be eligible to compete in the relay event.
- Skaters will race a 3000m Relay with 4 skaters on each team.
- There will be 2 relay groups.
- Each group will have combined gender teams, meaning that any number of male or female skaters could be on any relay team, depending on seed times.
- Races will be seeded based on the 500m (111m) ranking as of February 9, 2026.
- The top 1-32 skaters will be in group 1, and 33-60 will be group 2.
- Serpentine seeding onto relay teams will be used for each group.

Relay Format

- All teams will race a 3000m final on both Friday and Saturday.
- Positions on the line and in relay races will be random.
- Racing points will be awarded for finishes.
 - First place = 1000 points
 - Second place = 816 points
 - Third place = 666 points
 - Fourth place = 543 points
 - Penalties = 0 points

Awards – Relays

- Medals will be awarded to the first, second and third place relay teams in each group.
- First, second and third will be established by adding both Friday's and Saturday's points together.
- If there is a tie between teams, the team with the fastest relay time, skated on either day, will be ranked ahead of the opposing team(s) in the tie.