



Speed Skating Ontario Athlete Support Program

The Speed Skating Ontario (SSO) Athlete Support Program provides support through the Ontario Development Hubs Program to athletes who live and train in Ontario and direct financial support to athletes who are at National Training Centres and their affiliate programs outside of Ontario.

Purpose

The SSO Athlete Support Program supports athletes pursuing selection to Speed Skating Canada's National Teams and the NextGen Development Teams. Based on athlete's demonstrated potential and commitment to high performance sport, this support allows Ontario athletes to continue to pursue athletic excellence and represent Ontario at the highest levels of national and international competition.

Objectives

- Support athletes in their development as they progress towards the National Teams and NextGen Development Teams.
- Facilitate access to appropriate daily training environments and competitions to pursue high performance sport.
- Provide financial support to offset the cost of training and competition.

ONTARIO DEVELOPMENT HUB PROGRAM

The Ontario Development Hub Program supports athletes who live and train in Ontario. All Ontario based athletes training with an SSO Member Club who qualify for national competitions are provided with coaching at national competitions; the coaches associated costs to attend national competitions are covered by SSO.

Qualified athletes continuing to train at one of Ontario's member clubs are also invited to participate in the SSO Ontario Development Hubs Program. Program costs are supported by Speed Skating Ontario.

ATHLETE FUNDING

Period of Eligibility

The criteria set out in this document defines the eligibility and selection criteria the 2022-2023 season only. Program details for the 2023-2024 Athlete Funding Program will be released no later than September 30, 2023

Athlete Funding Eligibility

To be eligible for financial support from SSO athletes must meet all the following requirements:

- a. Be a member in good standing with Speed Skating Ontario and Speed Skating Canada for the current year and the full year prior to funding. Our membership year is September 1 to August 31.
- b. Be registered with an SSO member club;
- c. Be a permanent resident or citizen of Canada;
- d. Be a permanent resident of Ontario; athletes who have left the province temporarily to attend school or pursue training in another province/territory remain eligible for support;
- e. Sign the SSO Athlete Agreement;
- f. Compete, and continue to compete solely for Ontario;
- g. The athlete must not receive financial support from any other provincial/territorial athlete assistance program or other funding organizations such as RBC Athlete.
- h. An athlete that receives Sport Canada full funding is ineligible for the SSO Athlete Assistance Program.

Athletes Residing Outside of Ontario

Athletes who are temporarily living outside of the province of Ontario, but within Canada, to attend school or a regional training centre can remain eligible for athlete funding if they:

- Are registered with an SSO member club and Speed Skating Ontario;
- Continue to represent Ontario at national and international competitions;
- Do not receive any funding from another province or territory, the Government of Canada or another country or other funding organizations such as RBC Athlete.

Athletes funded through the Sport Canada Athlete Assistance Program (AAP):

Ontario athletes who have been nominated and accepted full funding through Sport Canada's AAP within the government of Ontario's fiscal year (April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023) are not eligible for SSO's Athlete Funding Program. Athletes receiving AAP funding or "carding" through Sport Canada will automatically be eligible for Ontario funding through the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport provided they continue to represent Ontario.

Funding

The amount of available funding is determined each year by the Speed Skating Ontario Board of Directors. The amount of funding provided to each athlete in a specific year is determined by the number of qualifying skaters and the budget available.

For the 2022-23 funding cycle, the Board of Directors has allocated \$32,000.00 in direct funding to athletes.

Short Track

An athlete's national ranking will be determined according to the National Ranking List as of January 30, 2023, established by Speed Skating Canada (SSC), under the direction of the High-Performance Committees (HPC) of SSC. Freedom from bias, discrimination and/or conflict of interest is maintained by adhering to the results of the national ranking list produced and prepared by SSC.

Skaters ranked in the top 24 of the Canadian Short Track Ranking List (January 30, 2023) will be awarded \$2,000.00.

Skaters ranked in positions 25-45 of the Canadian Short Track Ranking List (January 30, 2023) will be awarded \$1,500.00.

Long Track

Athletes eligible for long track funding will be selected using the January 9, 2023 Canadian Ranking List established by Speed Skating Canada (SSC), under the direction of the High-Performance Committees (HPC) of SSC. Freedom from bias, discrimination and/or conflict of interest is maintained by adhering to the results of the national ranking list produced and prepared by SSC.

Skaters that achieve two (2) top 24 rankings in an individual distance or in the Mass Start event will be awarded \$2,000.00.

Skaters that achieve two (2) top 45 rankings in a single distance or in the Mass Start event will be awarded \$1,500.00.

Athlete Funding Requirements

All skaters must sign an Athlete Agreement which outlines the expectations and requirements of athletes who receive funding from Speed Skating Ontario. See Appendix A - Athlete Agreement.

APPENDIX A Athlete Agreement

ATHLETE AGREEMENT

This agreement is between Speed Skating Ontario and _____ herein referred to as the athlete.

Name

All athletes accepting funding or support from Speed Skating Ontario must:

1. Demonstrate commitment and dedication to high performance training and competition in speed skating, as well as their intention to pursue training and competition throughout the funding period.
2. Compete, and continue to compete solely for Ontario for the period of the funding agreement.
3. Not be under a sanction that prohibits competition as per the Canadian Anti-Doping Policy or the policies of Speed Skating Canada and Speed Skating Ontario.
4. Follow a training program that is deemed appropriate for their age and development as determined by the athlete's coach.
5. Abide by SSO's Code of Conduct and Ethics.

A skater who decides to resign, retire, or does not complete the requirements of the Athlete Agreement, will be ineligible for funding the following year and may be asked to return the current year's funding.

Athlete Declaration

I hereby declare that in return for any financial assistance provided by Speed Skating Ontario's Athlete Support Program, I undertake to fulfil all commitments and responsibilities outlined in the Athlete Agreement.

Athlete signature

Date

Parent signature (if athlete is under 18)

Date

Speed Skating Ontario

Date