



**SPEED
SKATING
ONTARIO**

Bye Request Guidelines

SPEED SKATING ONTARIO (SSO) BYE GUIDELINES

Purpose

To provide the Technical Committee with guidelines for the granting of byes to skaters into or from competitions or onto provincial teams where qualifying criteria are required to be met.

Philosophy of Team Selection

The philosophy for team or event selection is to select the skaters that will achieve the best possible result for Ontario at different competitions (Canadian Championships or Canadian Youth Championships (East)) or develop towards the highest level of performance (Canada Winter Games, Ontario Winter Games, Junior Championships, and/or Senior Ranking Events onto a national team).

The Technical Committee is determined to make the selection to these teams or events as objective as possible. To ensure this occurs, the Committee will use, whenever possible, objective criteria such as time, placing at a specific competition(s), and ranking etc. as the foremost criteria in selecting skaters.

In exceptional circumstances, a skater may not be able to compete in the relevant selection event(s). In this instance the skater is eligible to apply for selection under the Bye Conditions as detailed below.

Bye Clause Selection Philosophy

(The Bye Clause will only apply to selection for specific competitions/ events)

Due to exceptional circumstances (e.g. illness, injury, equipment break, etc.) and through no fault of their own, a skater sometimes does not have the opportunity to compete in the nominated selection events. In this situation, the skater may be eligible to apply for a bye selection to the relevant team.

The basic philosophy for selecting a skater by granting a bye is that, all things being equal, the skater given the bye has clearly demonstrated superior performances in previous competition to other skaters being considered for selection.

A bye request is considered as the last means by which a skater can gain selection and is intended to provide for exceptional circumstances outside the normal selection criteria rather than being part of the normal means by which a skater can gain selection or advancement.

Rules for submitting a Bye Application

- a) Bye requests must be made in writing to the Technical Committee (see deadlines below).
- b) Only the skater, their parent or guardian, and/or coach can submit the request.
- c) In every case, the application **must** enclose supporting documentation. For example, if the bye request is made on the basis of an illness or injury, the skater must provide documentary evidence from a medical doctor. The Technical Committee has the right to request further independent medical review after the bye request has been submitted.

Conditions for applying for a Bye

1. Bye requests will be considered in four (4) categories for all skaters:

a) *Pre-Competition illness or injury that prevents a skater from competing in an event.*

If a skater is ill or injured before the beginning of the event and their illness or injury renders them unable to compete, a bye request must be made before the coaches' meeting of that event. The Technical Committee Representative must formally announce all bye requests at this meeting so that all other competitors are made aware of the possibility of a bye being granted.

A bye request will be ruled ineligible if the skater subsequently competes in the event.

In the case of selection being based upon participation at multiple events, a skater is eligible to apply for a bye request to a subsequent event if they are prevented from competing in one of the events due to a pre-existing illness or injury.

If the bye application is made because a skater has suffered a concussion, the skater must also follow the guidelines set out in the section entitled "Policy Regarding Byes for Concussions".

b) *Pre-competition conflicting engagement that prevents a skater from competing in an event.*

If a skater knows in advance that they will be unable to attend an event because of a conflicting engagement (ie. a funeral or an exam occurring on the same day as a competition), a bye request must be made **before the registration deadline** of the event.

A bye request will be ruled ineligible if the skater subsequently competes in the event.

In the case of selection being based upon participation at multiple events, a skater is eligible to apply for a bye request to a subsequent event if they are prevented from competing in one of the events due to a conflicting engagement.

In all cases, it is preferable that a skater attend the SSO selection event over another event. Byes shall not be granted for skaters to attend competitions in other sports, or speed skating competitions in other provinces, subject to these guidelines. Byes shall not be granted for conflicting engagements that are purely optional.

Subject to the guidelines herein, byes will not be granted for engagements that are not actually in a direct conflict. For greater certainty, the conflicting engagement must be on the same day as the competition.

Byes will be granted, upon receipt of the skater's application and supporting documents, for attendance at the following competitions:

- Any National level selection competition, ranking competition or championships (ie. Canadian Championships, Junior or Youth Championships, Canada Cups, Canada Winter Games)
- Any conflicting SSO selection event or its substitute (ie. Ontario Provincial Long Track Championships).

If a skater has qualified for any of the above meets **and** such meet is either 3 or 4 days long, the skater shall be eligible to receive a bye for an Ontario meet which is occurring on the weekend directly preceding one of the above-described competitions, notwithstanding that the two events do not directly conflict. In the case of a skater who has qualified to represent Ontario at the Canada Winter Games in the discipline of long track speed skating and as a condition of accepting a

position on the team has entered into an agreement to only participate in long track speed skating for a specified time period, that skater may receive a bye for any Ontario short track meets that fall within that time frame.

c) *Injury, illness or equipment breakage during an event.*

A Bye request must be made **within 48 hours** following the end of the event.

If the bye request is made on the basis of equipment breakage, this must be reported to – and verified by – the chief referee or Technical Committee representative immediately following the race in which the equipment breakage occurred.

If the bye application is made because a skater has suffered a concussion, the skater must also follow the guidelines set out in the section entitled “Policy Regarding Byes for Concussions.”

d) *Conflicting engagement or travel difficulty immediately prior to an event*

If a skater has registered for an event and is then unable to attend due to an unforeseen conflicting engagement, travel difficulty, or scenario related to the COVID-19 pandemic a Bye Request must be **made within 48 hours following the end of the event**. (Please note that travel distance/ inconvenience is not an acceptable travel difficulty – cancelled flights, late arrivals, etc. are eligible for consideration).

2. **Bye request to be named to Team Ontario for a Canadian Championship or Canada Winter Games:**

This process is for the selection to a specific team and is relevant to skaters who are unable to attend the relevant selection event or Championship event, but who wish, nevertheless, to be considered for selection to Team Ontario for a National event or Championship.

The Bye must be requested as per the above guidelines and deadlines in Section 1, except that a bye must be requested **prior to the end of the relevant competition** for any situations that arise at the event. The Bye application must state clearly what the skater is requesting, and appropriate documentation (medical, etc.) **must be attached**.

If the Technical Committee receives a bye application requesting a position on Team Ontario for a National Event, Championship or Canada Winter Games as a result of the skater not being able to compete at the relevant event, the following criteria will be considered/applied:

- Submission of any required documentation to committee, as requested, by the assigned deadline, ie: Medical Doctor’s note.
- Head-to-head competition results of the athletes being considered for selection.
- Past performances of the skater requesting the Bye.

Where possible, the past performances of the skater requesting the Bye will be validated using the points system outlined below. This point system will evaluate the athlete(s) in consideration for a Bye against their peers, based on the current season’s results in relevant events.

Performance Points will be assigned based on the results of skaters in a given group at relevant events in the current season. The Performance Points will be totaled in order to establish a ranking. This ranking will be used to guide the Technical Committee’s decision when considering a Bye request.

If there is a tie for points, the secondary consideration will be a skater’s best (combined) ranking times achieved up to the close of registration of the relevant selection event or Championship.

Performance points based on placements earned at current season competitions:

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th
10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3

Example:

Name	Combined Ranking Time (sec)	Event 1	Event 2	Event 3	Event 4	Total
Tom	207.01	8	10	9	10	37
Harry	208.46	10	7	10	9	36
Sam	209.10	7	9	8	8	32
Mark	210.45	9	6	7	7	29
Jamie	211.42	6	8	4	7	25
Daniel	211.81	4	5	6	6	21
Scott	211.86	5	3	5	5	18
Jordan	212.04	5	4	3	--	12
Lukas	213.23	3	3	--	3	9
Caden	213.28					0
Marcus	215.08					0
Max	217.90					0
Donald	219.23					0
Peter	231.35					0

Process for reviewing a Bye application

The following steps are involved in the process of considering a request for a Bye.

- a) Following the final selection event for the respective team/ event, the Technical Committee meets (in person or via conference call) to review the facts.
- b) In cases where multiple Bye applications are lodged, they will be assessed individually and on their own merit.
- c) All members of the Technical Committee (who are not in conflict of interest) will review the facts and make a recommendation (with supporting rationale). If there are fewer than three members of the Technical Committee that are not in a conflict of interest, then the SSO Board of Directors will make the recommendation regarding the Bye application.
- d) If the Bye(s) is/are granted, the Technical Committee will establish a revised ranking of skaters based upon the selection event(s) and an assessment of previous performances from those who have requested a Bye.
- e) From this revised ranking, the final selections will be made.
- f) These final selections will then be named as the “Team” or “eligible” and will be communicated to the skaters(s) requesting the Bye, skater(s) directly affected by the Bye request, the coaches, and the skaters’ representatives.

Conditions for granting a Bye

Applications for a Bye to be selected to Team Ontario despite non- or partial participation in the relevant selection event or Championship will be held to a much higher standard than regular Bye applications to attend an in-province competition.

The basic question the Technical Committee must answer is whether the skater requesting the Bye had a recent history of performances or other factors as listed below that demonstrate clear superiority of the skater requesting a Bye to those of other skaters in consideration for selection. If a skater submits a Bye after partial performance in the relevant selection event or Championship (ie. if a skater is injured partway through the event), the Technical Committee shall take into consideration the skater’s performance up to the point of that skater’s withdrawal from the competition in assessing the application.

The Technical Committee must also be certain that the skater requesting the Bye would be able to compete at a similar level in the event or team for which they seek selection. The Technical Committee may award a “Conditional Bye” to skaters recovering from injury or illness. In this situation, the skater may have certain conditions imposed upon him or her. This could include, but is not limited to, such things as a certain time frame, performance requirement, medical clearance etc.

In order to make these decisions, the Technical Committee will evaluate a number of elements including, but not limited to, the following:

- a) Head-to-head competition results of the skaters being considered for selection.
- b) Past performances of the skater requesting the Bye.
- c) Results of the selection competition (by skaters in contention for the team).
- d) Recent training and testing performances.
- e) Medical evidence of suitability to compete.
- f) Coach/ Club Official evaluation and recommendations of suitability to compete.

In evaluating past performances, the Technical Committee will assign priority to those performances from the 12 month period prior to the final selection event. If this data does not exist, performances beyond this 12-month period may be considered but will assume a lower value in assessing the Bye request.

The general guideline is that the Technical Committee judges that the skater being granted a Bye would have clearly finished within the ranking of the skaters selected.

Policy Regarding Byes for Concussions

If a skater applies for and receives a bye due to having sustained a concussion, they will be considered to be placed in the Concussion Protocol and shall adhere to the following rules for the subsequent events:

- a) If the skater has recovered from the injury, they must submit to the Technical Committee, before the registration deadline of the next competition, written medical clearance from a Medical Doctor which approves the skater to compete in such competition. The skater shall then be free to register for that and any further competition and shall be considered to be out of the Concussion Protocol.
- b) If the skater has not recovered from the injury, they must submit to the Technical Committee, before the registration deadline of the next competition, an updated written notice from a Medical Doctor which confirms that the skater has not been medically cleared to compete. The skater shall then receive a bye for that competition. The skater shall continue submitting medical notes confirming their medical status until they are able to satisfy the requirements of Section 1 of this Bye Request Guidelines document.
- c) A skater in the Concussion Protocol shall not be allowed to register for any competitions so long as they have not satisfied the requirements of Section 1 of this Bye Request Guidelines document.
- d) A skater in the Concussion Protocol who does not satisfy the requirements of either Section 1 or 2 of this document in respect of any competition shall forfeit their eligibility for the relevant selection event or Championship, as they will not have received a bye for the absences.

Appeals

Following the announcement of the decision on the Bye application, the skater(s) affected by the decision has/have the opportunity to appeal the decision in accordance with the SSO Appeals Policy (see www.ontariospeedskating.ca/policies/).