

Mass Start races

Essent ISU World Cup Speed Skating 2011-12

RACING RULES

Complementing ISU Technical Rule 253, paragraph 4 b

Issued by ISU Speed Skating Technical Committee

November 2011

Distances and Track

- Distance: 20 laps for Men, 15 laps for Ladies.
- Track: Inner lane demarcation defines the competition track (same track as for Team Pursuit). Cones may be used as additional demarcation.

Entries

- Entry quotas: Maximum 3 competitors per country. Competitors must have achieved the World Cup qualifying time for some distance.

Procedures

- Competitors must wear transponders for the timekeeping, and specifically coloured armbands on both arms for easy identification (will be provided). Rule 223 applies.
- The competitors report at a check-in point in the 500m start area, and will then be called to the start line by whistle of the Starter. Start in the middle of the finishing straight (1000m finishing line).
- Competitors line up at the start in rows of 6 skaters each, with a distance of 1 meter between each row.
- Competitors breaking the order at start will be DQ-ed.
- The first lap must be skated “in one group” without fast accelerations. Breach of this rule will lead to a DQ.
- Before the 500m finish line, after the first lap, a bell signal will be given. From this moment on it is allowed to accelerate to gain a better position in the pack. The first lap counts as part of the overall distance to be skated. “The clock” starts running from the gunshot, including the first lap.
- The Finish is at the end of the finishing straight (normal finishing line)
- During the race there will be three sprints: two intermediate sprints and the final sprint. For each sprint competitors will score points that count towards the final ranking.
- The intermediate sprints will be decided at the finishing line after 7 (6) laps and after 14 (11) laps. A bell signal will be given one lap before each sprint, that means when the lap counter shows 14 (9) laps / 7 (5) laps left.
- Competitors overtaken by the leader with one lap must abandon the race immediately. The overtaking skater must pass on the outside of the skater(s) that are to be overtaken. Lapped skaters must leave to the warm-up lane as soon as they have been overtaken.
- Photo finish equipment will be used to verify the position of the competitors at the finish.

Safety and actions during races

- For safety purposes, competitors must wear shin guards (will be provided) and cut resistant or leather gloves.
- The back part of the blades must be rounded off, with an indicative radius of 1 cm.
- Competitors may choose to wear additional safety gear – for example helmet (in accordance with Rule 223), knee protection and neck protection.
- Safety measures will be controlled at the “Check-in point” for the race. Skaters who do not meet the safety equipment requirements will not be allowed to start.
- “Fair play” – no obstruction of other competitors. Take care during racing.
- Serious obstruction that causes the fall of another competitor leads to a DQ.
- If a “crash” occurs during the first lap with 8 or more skaters involved, the race will be stopped by a signal (gun shot or whistle) from the Starter. A fresh start will then follow immediately.
- No coaching from the ice and no team officials in the infield.

Ranking rules and sprint points

- The ranking will be determined by the accumulated points gained at the two intermediate sprints and at the final sprint. The points awarded for the sprints are as follows:
- Intermediate sprints, at the finish of Lap X (Lap 7 for Men, Lap 6 for Ladies) and at the finish of Lap Y (Lap 14 for Men, Lap 11 for Ladies): the first four (4) skaters are awarded points: 5 – 3 – 2 – 1.
- Final sprint: The first six (6) skaters are awarded points: 25 – 15 – 10 – 5 – 3 – 1.
- The points system is such that the winner of the final sprint will be the winner of the race, but for other top ranks, the points from the intermediate sprints could be decisive.
- Competitors finishing the race will be ranked according to their accumulated points in the three sprints.
- For competitors with the same total of points, the points from the last sprint will be decisive.
- Competitors without sprint points will be ranked according to their position at the finish.
- Competitors that do not finish the race will lose any points gained in the intermediate sprints.
- Competitors being lapped (and therefore have not finished their race), will be ranked according to the order by which they have been lapped.

Awarding of World Cup points

- Competitors will be awarded World Cup points, based on their final ranking in the race, according to the same points table as used for other World Cup distances.

Liability

- Rule 119 applies.