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**SKATE CANADA INTERNAL NOMINATION PROCEDURE  
2026 OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES  
February 6 – 22, 2026  
Milano-Cortina, Italy**

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### **General**

This version of the Skate Canada Internal Nomination Procedure (INP) was approved on September 6, 2024, as it relates to the 2026 Olympic Winter Games in Milano–Cortina, Italy.

### **Introduction**

The purpose of this document is to set out the process and criteria that Skate Canada will undertake in the selection of athletes who will represent Canada at the 2026 Olympic Winter Games in Milano-Cortina, Italy. The objective of the selection policy and procedures is to select the maximum number of medal potential athletes for the Olympic Team in the individual disciplines and the Team event.

### **Decision Making Authority**

- The Skate Canada [High Performance Development Committee](#) (HPDC) is responsible for developing and approving the selection process and procedures for the team that will be nominated to the Canadian Olympic Committee (COC) for the 2026 Olympic Winter Games.
- The HPDC will nominate to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) the selection of athletes at the conclusion of the 2026 Canadian National Skating Championships in Ottawa, Ontario on January 11, 2026.
- The CEO will ratify the final selection of the team to ensure that the selection criteria was adhered to and that the decisions were made in an objective and impartial manner.
- No member of the HPDC shall participate in any discussions or decisions regarding the nomination of any athletes with whom they have a perceived or real conflict of interest. Any member of the HPDC who considers that they are in a position of a perceived or real conflict of interest must declare such a conflict before any discussions are held or decisions are made and must remove themselves from any meetings until the matter giving rise to the perceived or real conflict of interest has been resolved by the HPDC.
- Skate Canada nominations are subject to the approval of the COC.

### **On-site Decision-Making Authority**

- During the actual competition period onsite at the 2026 Olympic Winter Games, all final decision-making authority will reside with the Skate Canada High Performance Director (HPD).
- The composition of the team event participants shall be at the sole discretion of the HPD.

### **International Skating Union Criteria**

Pursuant to the International Skating Union (ISU) Qualification System for XXV Olympic Winter Games, Milano-Cortina 2026 ([Document](#)), ISU Rule 400 applies for Figure Skating Qualification. The qualification for the individual events (Women Single Skating, Men Single Skating, Pair Skating, Ice Dance) is based on an accumulation of points at the ISU World Figure Skating Championships 2025 or by placement at the ISU Figure Skating Qualifying Competition with the final date and location to be confirmed.



### **Athlete Eligibility**

To be eligible for nomination to the COC to be a member of the Skate Canada Team competing at the 2026 Olympic Winter Games, an athlete must meet all the following eligibility requirements:

1. Canadian Citizen (Rule 41 of the Olympic Charter)
2. Must be in compliance with Rule 43 of the Olympic Charter (World Anti-Doping Code and the Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention and Manipulation of Competitions)
3. Valid Canadian Passport on or before January 11, 2026, that does not expire for up to 6 months after the Games (August 22, 2026).
4. Sign and submit the COC athlete agreement and Organizing Committee (OCOG) Conditions of Participation form no later than January 15, 2026. Where the athlete is under the age of 18 years, the parent or guardian must also sign these agreements.
5. To participate at the Olympic Winter Games, a skater/couple must have reached on or before the final entry deadline of January 26, 2026, the ISU Minimum Technical Score. These scores will be published in an ISU Communication at the beginning of the Olympic Season 2025/2026
6. All athletes must be in compliance with Rule 400, Section A paragraph 5 of the ISU Special Regulations & Technical Rules (Singles, Pairs, and Ice Dance 2022) Entries to the Olympic Winter Games.
7. In compliance with Rule 108, paragraph 3(a) of the ISU Constitution and General Regulations 2022, with respect to Age Requirements, and all athletes must be born before July 1, 2008.
8. Member in good standing of Skate Canada and must have signed the 2025-2026 Skate Canada Athlete Agreement.

### **Support Team / Coach Selection**

1. All coaches must be 18 years of age or older as of January 11, 2026, a member in good standing of Skate Canada, or if a foreign coach with their country of affiliation, who has an athlete named to the Olympic Team.
2. All Coaches must be registered or chartered professional coach with the CAC by January 15, 2026
3. Have a valid Canadian passport, or if a foreign coach with their country of affiliation passport, that does not expire for up to 6 months after the Games (August 22, 2026).
4. Must be in compliance with all relevant COC, ISU, and IOC requirements for eligibility.
5. Sign, submit, and comply with the COC Support Staff Agreement and OCOG Conditions of Participation form, no later than January 15, 2026.
6. The HPD has the sole discretion in selecting the support staff, including team leader, for the 2026 Olympic Winter Games. The support staff will be selected based on the principle of sending a team of specialists that is best capable of assisting athletes in achieving podium performances at the Games.

### **Qualification Period**

The period of qualification for athletes to meet the requirements of the established criteria as set by this document will be from September 15, 2024, to January 11, 2026.

### **Selection Criteria for Individual Discipline Events**

In determining athletes for nomination, the HPDC will consult with the appropriate Skate Canada staff, which must include the High Performance Director. The athlete assessment procedure involves weighing the relative strengths and weaknesses of the athletes and their competitive results to select the best athletes possible for a top result at the 2026 Olympic Winter Games. The HPDC will exercise discretion with regard to the relative weight and priority of the Selection Criteria as well as other relevant factors deemed appropriate in their decision-making process and will take into account, **in no specific order**, the following criteria:



- Medalists at the 2024 and /or 2025 ISU World Figure Skating Championships.
- Placement and scores from the 2025 ISU World Figure Skating Championships.
- Placements and scores from the 2025 ISU Four Continents Figure Skating Championships.
- Placement and scores from the 2026 Canadian National Figure Skating Championships.
- Qualification to the 2025-2026 ISU Grand Prix Final.
- Season best international scores from the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 ISU Grand Prix Series, ISU Grand Prix Final and/or ISU Senior International events.
- Demonstration of short and free skate international scores from the current season (2025-2026) for a potential placement in the top two flights at the 2026 Olympic Winter Games.
- Any other relevant criteria deemed appropriate for selection.

### **Selection for the Team Event**

Skate Canada must be in compliance with Rule 400 Section B of the ISU Special Regulations & Technical Rules (Singles, Pairs, and Ice Dance 2022) with respect to Entries Team event at the 2026 Olympic Winter Games. The athletes selected to compete in the Team event will be determined by the Skate Canada High Performance Director. The decision will take into account those athletes in a position for an individual medal and what is best for their preparation and performance and will be made prior to the deadlines set onsite at the 2026 Olympic Winter Games by the ISU, as prescribed in the ISU Qualification System for the XXV Olympic Winter Games Milano-Cortina 2026 document.

### **ISU Olympic Selection Criteria Paramount**

In the event of changes by the ISU to any of its selection and eligibility criteria, Skate Canada will post such changes on its website as soon as possible, and such changes shall automatically and regardless of notice modify this selection procedure accordingly.

### **Announcements**

- The 2026 Olympic Winter Games Selection Criteria will be posted on the Skate Canada website on September 15, 2024.
- The final selection of the Olympic Team will be made following the completion of the Canadian National Skating Championships in Ottawa, Ontario on January 11, 2026.

### **Alternates and Late Athlete Replacement Policy**

- Up to two (2) alternates per discipline can be named by the HPDC, and these alternates will be nominated at the same time as the team selection on January 11, 2026.
- These will be non-travelling alternates unless required to be onsite for the Team Event.
- Substitutions after January 26, 2026, are subject to any and all applicable policies on late athlete replacement imposed by the International Olympic Committee, COC and the Milano-Cortina 2026 Late Athlete Replacement Policy.

### **Performance Readiness**

- Selected athletes to the Olympic Team must show competitive readiness 7 days prior to their departure for the 2026 Olympic Winter Games. This readiness is through an on-ice monitoring session by Skate Canada.
- Athletes who are injured must receive medical clearance to compete from Skate Canada's Chief Medical Advisor 14 days prior to their first event at the 2026 Olympic Winter Games.



### **Removal from the 2026 Olympic Team**

Athletes can be removed from the Olympic Team if they are in breach of the Skate Canada and/or the Canadian Olympic Committee Athlete agreement and Code of Conduct, or if they are not deemed by the HPDC to be performance ready.

### **Appeals**

Skate Canada nominations to the COC for the Olympic Team may be appealed ([Appeal Procedures](#)) in accordance with the procedures set out in the Skate Canada Athlete Agreement or may be brought directly to the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada (SDRCC) on the consent of all parties and at the sole discretion of the SRDCC pursuant to the rules of the SRDCC. This must be resolved by January 15, 2026, which is the deadline to submit the COC athlete agreement and Milano-Cortina 2026 Conditions of Participation Forms.

### **Cancelled or Postponed Events**

- Should any event specified in this INP be canceled, postponed, rescheduled, or replaced, Skate Canada shall update the nomination procedures indicated in this INP, as applicable, as soon as reasonably possible and shall communicate any modifications to all impacted individuals, as well as publish the modified INP on its website, prior to the postponed, rescheduled or replacement event.
- Decisions made pursuant to this clause shall not be subject to appeal and do not apply to the cancellation of events that are conducted under the authority of organizations other than Skate Canada.

### **Changes to this Document**

Skate Canada reserves the right to make changes to this document, which in its discretion are necessary to ensure selection of the best athletes possible for the Olympic Team. Any changes to this document shall be promptly posted on the Skate Canada website. This clause shall not be used to justify changes after a competition or trials, which formed part of the internal nomination procedure unless it is related to an unforeseen circumstance. The purpose of this section is to allow for changes to this document that may become necessary due to a typographical error or a lack of clarity in a definition or wording before it has an impact on athletes. The purpose of such changes must be in order to avoid disputes over the meaning of the provisions of this document rather than to allow changes to be made to justify selection of different athletes than would have otherwise been selected. Such changes must be reasonably justifiable in accordance with fundamental principles of natural justice and procedural fairness. In the event of a change to this document Skate Canada shall inform the COC of the changes and the reasons for those changes as soon as possible.