



2017 Speed Committee Regional Representative Proposals Review & Recommendations

Enclosed you will find the Regional Reps Proposals package from the Speed Committee that was sent to the board.

All proposals from the regional representatives, as required by the general rules, were included in the board package regardless of committee recommendation.

ACTION ITEMS are the only items that needed approval from the board. Highlighted in **Green** are the proposals that were ratified/approved by the board and will be posted via the Board Minutes as such, all other **ACTION ITEMS** not highlighted at all were either not approved, were sent to other committees for review or sent back to the speed committee for further review and or clarification. These final steps will be shown in the Board Minutes when they are available.

ACTION ITEM

Proposal #1

Bring back Novice at Regionals:

Novice should be more restrictive, perhaps no more than 3 years and out hard line in addition to the current restrictions such as placement at Nationals. Restrict meet variability to 3 years also. We could also have a Novice invitational at Regionals as a variation to avoid any appearance of the phrase Regional Champion.

Committee Recommendation:

Proposal to be continued via email... But in a nutshell.

The general consensus of the committee was that there would be a push to notify regions that there is still "Novice" competition up to the regional level. The committee felt that there was nothing prohibiting the individual regions from holding "Novice" but there should be a general consensus on how regions hold their regional "Novice" championships.

MOVE TO FORWARD TO BOARD - YES::: Updated novice rules into the "Learn to Speed Skate" program.

ACTION ITEM**Proposal #2**

Add a 65 and older division:

The recommended division name would be called Premier. Distances recommended are 500m, 700m, and 1,000m.

Committee Recommendation:

The committee consensus was that this was a good idea and multiple regions would like to see the division created.

MOVE TO FORWARD TO BOARD - YES Added a 65 and older division.

Proposal #3

Open the 4 person relays to mixed teams:

Allow skaters from teams without a completed 4 person relay to enter as a mixed club team. There was debate about regulation and controls. The issue was tabled.

Committee Recommendation:

TABLED - Issue was tabled by regional reps. Why are we considering this?

Proposal #4

Outdoor Nationals Specialization – Sprinter versus distance specialists:

The current selection process tends to favor a jack of all trades skater instead of the best distance skaters and the best sprinters. The process is weighted toward sprinters to the detriment of distance skaters. There was discussion about whether Outdoor Nationals should also be World Team Trials. A separate WT Trial would allow specialists to compete for their specialty slot. It could result in a larger team but because the skater and their parents pay for it anyway, it should not increase the financial burden for USARS. After discussion it was decided that Kelly Springer would draft a written version for review.

Committee Recommendation:

TABLED - The committee is going to consolidate the world team selection proposals and have a more in depth conversation with other folks and forward a fully fleshed out selection process to the board for ratification at a later date.

Proposal #5

Open Nationals:

Eliminate the requirement to place at the Regional Championships as the sole criteria for competing at Nationals. The Regional Championships could continue, but not as a Nationals qualifier.

Committee Recommendation:

TABLED - Tabled for a later meeting.

ACTION ITEM

Proposal #6

Eight Speed Regions:

There is only 1 speed team in the Northeast Region and they would like to combine with the Eastern region, for speed only. They would like to combine Regions and have the tabulating revised to reflect the request the change from 9 Regions to 8. The Eastern Region representative agrees with this.

Without that official approval some Eastern coaches would rather not have them participate.

Voted with unanimous agreement.

Committee Recommendation:

Combine the Eastern and Northeastern regions into one. Or allow teams from the Northeast Region to compete at the Eastern Regional Championships to be reviewed each year due to unforeseen issues that may or may not warrant the existence of the Northeastern regions into USARS Speed Skating Structure.

MOVE TO FORWARD TO BOARD - YES:::Consolidated Eastern and Northeastern Speed Regions:

Proposal #7

They recommend bringing the Novice skaters back to Nationals with a hard 2 or 3 year limit. They would not use the Novice name and there would be no title or medals awarded. It would be an invitational within the same venue.

Committee Recommendation:

The committee declined to bring the issue up for discussion.

Proposal #8

Relay return beyond pylon 2:

The problems with the 15 foot line extension is eliminated by just requiring a return through the relay box. There were problems with adding a 15 foot pylon and just using box reentry should eliminate that. The extra cone was not in the original proposal and was added at the insistence of the referee.

Committee Recommendation:

More clarification needed.

ACTION ITEM

ALSO SENT TO FINANCE FOR APPROVAL

Proposal #9

Family cap on entry fees:

The proposal was to put a cap on entry fees at Nationals for any one family.

Committee Recommendation:

The speed committee would like to recommend that a "individual cap" be instituted. The committee welcomes working with the finance committee in working up a fee structure.

Existing Pricing is currently - \$75, \$70 then \$50 thereafter.

The Speed Committee Recommends a "National Entry Cap" of in the amount of \$225 which comes out to a little more than 3 events but under 4.

MOVE TO FORWARD TO BOARD - YES

Proposal #10

Wheel certification deadline:

It was proposed that a wheel certification deadline to ensure that the manufacturers have wheels readily available at some date to allow skaters to buy wheels before Regionals to prevent skaters buying a newly introduced wheel between Regionals and Nationals.

TABLED - Do you want a wheel certification deadline? What would that deadline be?

ACTION ITEM

Proposal #11

Shorten 3 Person Relays:

The 3 person relays are too long. The relay at Worlds is 3,000 meter and our indoor 3 person relays should be shortened.

Voted with unanimous agreement.

Committee Recommendation:

Shorten the three person relays... Proposed 3 Person Relay Rules are included in appendix.

MOVE TO FORWARD TO BOARD - YES:::Carried 3 Person Relays

Proposal #12

Inline wheel size restrictions:

Refer to their proposal for sizes. Set maximum wheel sizes based on ages/divisions. That is being done in other countries, just not the U.S. There was discussion about how the division age groups line up with

the relay age groups. There is an issue with what the manufacturers are currently producing and what they are able to produce.

The proposal was agreed to and would be passed to the speed committee to look at what wheel sizes are available and ask them to set the maximum sizes based on age.

Committee Recommendation:

Establish wheel size regulations. More research needed - Tabled.

Outdoor - Follow suit with the international rules.

Indoor - More research is needed to determine divisional splits for sizes.

Jay and Renee to Contact wheel manufacturers at Worlds.

Proposal #13

Open Nationals:

Previously discussed.

Committee Recommendation:

The committee is sending this back to the regional reps for more detail.

Proposal #14

Place more time between Regionals and Nationals:

Move the Regionals Championships and the National Championships to 30-45 days apart to allow families more time to budget. Indoor Nationals should move to earlier and put Outdoor Nationals in August.

Committee Recommendation:

The committee is sending this back to the regional reps for more detail.

Proposal #15

Get a long term deal to keep Nationals in Lincoln:

It is more cost effective when Nationals is in a central location.

Committee Recommendation:

The committee declined to bring the issue up for discussion. Not under the purview of speed committee.

Proposal #16

Add a 65 and older division:

Discussed and approved without debate above. See Southeast proposal.

Committee Recommendation:

Already proposed and moved by the committee.

ACTION ITEM

ALSO SENT TO FINANCE FOR APPROVAL

Proposal #17

Eliminate time restrictions from membership:

Set the following membership and fee levels;

Full Membership \$80 - Existing

Limited Membership \$45 - Existing

Officiating Membership \$25 - New

Committee Recommendation:

While already proposed in other regions. The officials cards was not mentioned in previous proposals. To get more volunteers into the pipeline for helping the sport, the committee proposes that an "officials card" be created for those parents and volunteers who do not skate be allowed to help the organization.

MOVE TO FORWARD TO BOARD - YES

Proposal #18

Add a 65 and older inline division:

Discussed and approved above. See Southeast proposal.

Committee Recommendation:

Previously proposed.

ACTION ITEM

Proposal #19

Add a 65 and older quad speed division:

The adult quad divisions currently break every 10 years. The oldest quad division is currently Esquire which is 55 years old and up. This proposal would almost mirror the proposed inline proposal.

Requested distances are 300m, 500m, and 700m which fit in the quad distances currently used. The

South Central proposal included standard rule book language a section number that would be the replacement for the current Section SR 131.1.

Voted with unanimous agreement.

Committee Recommendation:

The speed committee agrees with the proposal. Proposed rule submission in Appendix.

MOVE TO FORWARD TO BOARD - YES:::Added a 65 and older quad speed division:

Proposal #20

Return the four person relays to quad speed skating:

The quad community is aware of an estimated 2-300 quad speed skaters that practice and compete at local rinks and leagues outside of the USARS umbrella. They are mostly located in the Midwest, but here

are pockets in other areas. In researching the issue it was found that the parents and skaters have expressed that they are not interested in the expense of skating in USARS and Nationals for just a few races. The 4 person relays are the most popular so it is the firm belief of the quad community that this would entice them to join us at Nationals. This proposal is structured slightly differently than the current inline 4 person relays to keep the time required down and also add more excitement. Refer to the South Central proposal for details. It is written as SR 143.2 using language that mirrors the language used in the current Speed Book.

Voted with unanimous agreement.

Committee Recommendation:

The committee is sending this back to the regional reps for more detail.

The speed committee is looking for additional detail on the justification of skater numbers when inline 4 persons have troubles fielding teams. A committee suggestion would be a 3 person to see if there are numbers and move from there.

ACTION ITEM

Proposal #21

The top 3 placements in every division race at Quad Nationals receive a placement award for that race: This proposal is to recognize and award the division placements in quad speed skating the same way that division placements are recognized in inline races. This would also entice more skaters to compete on quads as well as treat the quad skaters equally.

Voted with unanimous agreement.

Committee Recommendation:

The speed committee agrees with the proposal and suggests ratification pending rules submission.

MOVE TO FORWARD TO BOARD - YES:::Quad races to receive awards for each distance.

ACTION ITEM

Proposal #22

Rolling Referee language repurposed:

The original intent of required at least 2 rolling referees was not sufficiently clear in the original proposal allowing flexibility that was not the intent of the committee. It was proposed that the language be revised to "2 or more",

Discussed and voted with unanimous agreement.

Committee Recommendation:

The speed committee agrees with the proposal and suggests ratification pending rules submission.
**MOVE TO FORWARD TO BOARD - YES:::Added 2 rolling referees at qualifying competitions
insertion of New wording added into SR720.1.**

New wording SR720.1 *At regional, national or other qualifying events, there will be 2 or more officials rolling (shadowing not standing on skates) to insure safety by disqualifying or moving distanced skaters over; and removing disqualified skaters before they interfere with the skaters competing for position.*

ACTION ITEM

Proposal #23

Replace pinned on hip numbers with numbered helmet covers:

Gypsy Lucas has volunteered to research the cost of number helmet covers to replace the hip numbers currently used at Nationals and some meets.

There was discussion about the numbering sequence preferred. Voted with unanimous agreement.

Committee Recommendation:

The speed committee agrees with the proposal and suggests ratification.
MOVE TO FORWARD TO BOARD - YES:::Replace pinned on hip numbers with numbered helmet covers pending finance approval of costs.

ACTION ITEM

Proposal #24

Addition of 3 Person Mixed Relays to the National Program:

Add 3 mixed relay (any combination of male and female, but no teams of the same gender) to the National program. Tag every lap.

Proposed in 2016. Re-proposed in 2017.

Committee Recommendation:

The speed committee agrees with the proposal and suggests ratification. Proposed Rule in Appendix
Addition of 3 Person Mixed Relays to the National Program:

Proposal #25

Re-establish the criteria for a National Team:

Select a team of coaches that can improve the techniques of international racing.

Proposed in 2016. Re-proposed in 2017.

Committee Recommendation:

The committee is going to consolidate the world team selection proposals and have a more in depth conversation with other folks and forward a fully fleshed out selection process to the board for ratification at a later date.

Proposal #26

Re-instate the outdoor 500 meter track and one lap road B final:

Use race points instead of time for qualification.

Proposed in 2016. Re-proposed in 2017.

Committee Recommendation:

The committee declined to take up the issue as this is being changed at the international level with the CIC now STC.

ACTION ITEM

Proposal #27

Establish a coaching and mentoring program:

Proposed in 2016. Re-proposed in 2017.

Committee Recommendation:

The committee will create a sub committee to begin talks about creating a mentoring program to include documentation, videos, webinars. Committee to include | Chris Payne, Joe Hanna, Kelly Springer, Joe Cotter, Joey Cheek, Mark Muse:::Establish a coaching and mentoring program.

ACTION ITEM

Proposal #28

Establish a Safe Sport program:

Revise membership application to require attestation that the applicant has never been convicted of a sexual crime as a child predator.

Proposed in 2016. Re-proposed in 2017.

Committee Recommendation:

Suggestion that a sentence be added to the membership form that attests they have not been convicted of a sexual crime as a child predator. The exact wording to be determined by the Exec Board.

Proposal #29

CIC Participation:

Start the process to try to get a USARS member to be a member of CIC.

Committee Recommendation:

Committee declined to discuss

Proposal #30

National entry fee maximum cap:

Previously discussed.

Committee Recommendation:

Duplicate

Proposal #31

Shorten 3 person relay:

Previously discussed.

Committee Recommendation:

Duplicate

Proposal #32

Maximum wheel size limits:

Previously discussed.

Committee Recommendation:

Duplicate

Open Discussion:

The following proposals came thru individual submission at the regional reps meeting and did not necessarily go thru the regional voting procedures but were discussed in the regional reps meeting held at IDN

ACTION ITEM

Proposal #33

Skating Hall of Fame Process:

Mary presented the example of John Drury not being in the Hall of Fame after his many accomplishments where others have received entry very early and in some cases before they end their skating career. It was agreed that that the process needs to be improved so that time allows more reflection on a person's accomplishments and qualifications. John Drury appeared to be well qualified.

Committee Recommendation:

Proposal #34

Selection process for World Team

Very detailed proposal. Refer to the handout for details.

Committee Recommendation:

ACTION ITEM

Proposal #35

Clarification wanted in the language of SR 404.1 that may allow a skater not qualifying for Nationals in Regionals competition to enter Nationals using a different division via the qualifier spot.

Committee Recommendation:

The committee recommends the following rule change be made:

SR404.1 Qualifications

In order to enter the qualifier the contestant must be a member in good standing of USARS and have entered their respective regional championship contest. The contestant must not have been the subject of a meet disqualification during their respective regional championship contest. The contestant will pay the standard entry fee for an individual event that they entered at the regional championships for the National Championships (The regional entry division and National entry division must be exactly the same). The interested skaters will be required to enter the qualifier on their team entry form and in accordance with the entry deadline.

Added language to SR404.1

Proposal #36

SR 832 – Need a tie breaking formula for 4th and 5th place points at Regionals because there are 5 qualifying spots for Nationals.

Committee Recommendation:

There are 5 qualifying spots for relays but not in the individual divisions. No action needed

APPENDIX

.....Proposed Divisional Additions for 65+ Ages

SR111.1 Individual Elite Indoor Inline Divisions There are separate events for boys and girls, men and women in Individual Divisions. At no time shall male and female compete against each other in an individual division race at a regional qualifying event or national championship.

Tiny Tot	5 & under	100m, 200m, 300m
Primary	6 & 7	200m, 300m, 400m
Juvenile	8 & 9	200m, 300m, 500m
Elementary	10 & 11	300m, 500m, 700m
Freshman	12 & 13	300m, 500m, 1000m
Sophomore	14 & 15	500m, 1000m, 1500m
Junior Women	16 & 17	500m, 1000m, 1500m
Junior Men	16 & 17	500m, 1000m, 2000m
Senior Women	18 & older	500m, 1000m, 2000m
Senior Men	18 & older	500m, 1500m, 3000m
Classic Women	25 & older	500m, 1000m, 1500m
Classic Men	25 & older	500m, 1000m, 2000m
Grand Classic Women	30 & older	500m, 1000m, 1500m
Grand Classic Men	30 & older	500m, 1000m, 2000m
Masters Women	35 & older	500m, 700m, 1000m
Masters Men	35 & older	500m, 1000m, 1500m
Grand Masters Women	40 & older	500m, 700m, 1000m
Grand Masters Men	40 & older	500m, 1000m, 1500m
Veterans	45 & older	500m, 700m, 1000m
Grand Veterans	50 & older	500m, 700m, 1000m
Esquire	55 & older	500m, 700m, 1000m
Grand Esquire	60 & older	500m, 700m, 1000m
Premier	65 & older	500m, 700m, 1000m

SR131.1 Quad Individual Divisions - Elite Program (No Novice Events) At no time shall male and female compete against each other in an individual division race at a regional qualifying event or national championship.

Primary	7 & under	200m, 300m, 400m
Elementary	8-10	300m, 500m, 700m
Freshman	11-13	300m, 500m, 1000m
Junior	14-16	500m, 1000m, 1500m
Senior Men	17 & older	1000m, 1500m, 3000m
Senior Women	17 & older	500m, 1000m, 2000m
Classic Men	25 & older	500m, 1000m, 2000m
Classic Women	25 & older	500m, 1000m, 2000m
Masters	35 & older	300m, 700m, 1000m
Veterans	45 & older	300m, 500m, 700m
Esquire	55 & older	300m, 500m, 700m
Premier	65 & older	300m, 500m, 700m

PROPOSED 3 PERSON RELAY RULE ADDITIONS

SR115 Elite Indoor Three Person Relay Speed Skating Competitive Divisions

SR115.1 3-Person Relays – Elite Program (No Novice Events)

Relays shall not permit split club affiliation. Elite relays must consist of skaters who are all from the same club of registration, or all who are in unattached status.

Juvenile 3 Person	9 & under	1200m
Freshman 3 Boy	10-13	3000m
Freshman 3 Girl	10-13	3000m
Freshman 3 Mix	10-13	3000m
Senior 3 Man	14 & older	6000m
Senior 3 Woman	14 & older	4500m
Senior 3 Mix	14 & older	4500m
Master 3 Man	35 & older	4500m
Master 3 Woman	35 & older	3000m
Master 3 Mix	35 & older	3000m

SR 144 - Inline Three Person Relays

There are only elite divisions established for Inline Three-Person Relays for inline skates. These are as follows:

A. Juvenile Relays

1. Three PERSON. 3 Girls or 3 Boys or any combination of either boy or girl. Both skating a total distance of 1500m. Each skater to skate a total of 100m before relaying with another.

All skaters shall relay every lap.

B. Freshman Relays

1. Three Man - (Elementary & Freshman) Three Men skating a total distance of 3000m. Each man skates a continuous 100m before relaying with another. All skaters shall relay every lap.

2. Three Lady - (Elementary & Freshman) Three Ladies skating a total distance of 3000m. Each lady skates a continuous 100m before relaying with another. All skaters shall relay every lap.

3. Three Mixed - (Elementary & Freshman) Any combination of male and female, but no teams of the same gender. Skating a total distance of 3000m. Each member skates a continuous 100m before relaying with another; ladies start. Ladies skate their 100m before the men skate their 100m. All skaters shall relay every lap.

C. Senior Relays

1. Three Man - (Soph, Jr, Sr, Classic) Three Men skating a total distance of 6000m. Each man skates a continuous 100m before relaying with another. All skaters shall relay every lap.

2. Three Lady - (Soph, Jr, Sr, Classic) Three Ladies skating a total distance of 4500m. Each lady skates a continuous 100m before relaying with another. All skaters shall relay every lap.

3. Three Mixed - (Soph, Jr, Sr, Classic) Any combination of male and female, but no teams of the same gender. Skating a total distance of 4500m. Each member skates a continuous 100m before relaying with another; ladies start. Ladies skate their 100m before the men skate their 100m. All skaters shall relay every lap.

D. Master Relays

1. Three Man - (Master & Above) Three Men skating a total distance of 4500m. Each man skates a continuous 100m before relaying with another. All skaters shall relay every lap.

2. Three Lady - (Master & Above) Three Ladies skating a total distance of 3000m. Each lady skates a continuous 100m before relaying with another. All skaters shall relay every lap.

3. Three Mixed - (Master & Above) Any combination of male and female, but no teams of the same gender. Skating a total distance of 3000m. Each member skates a continuous 100m before relaying with another; ladies start. Ladies skate their 100m before the men skate their 100m. All skaters shall relay every lap.

SR163.3 Once the initial heat race has been run, no substitutions will be allowed, except as follows: If an injury occurs to any team member after heats have started, and that skater or skaters cannot compete for the remainder of the competition, a substitution may be made from the original list of skaters. The injury must be verified by a medical officer appointed by USARS. No team member can be removed and substituted from another relay team once the heat races have started. The number of additional skaters allowed for substitutions is as follows:

A. Four Person Relays: No more than two additional team members may be substituted for injury.

B. Four Mixed Relays: No more than two additional team members, one man and/or one woman may be substituted for injury.

C. Two Person Relays: Only one team member may be substituted for injury.

D. Two Mixed Relays: One additional team members, one man or one woman may be substituted for Injury.

E. Three Person Relays: Only one team member may be substituted for injury.

F. Three Mixed Relays: One additional team members, one man or one woman may be substituted for Injury.

SR505.9

The 3 person relay will have a maximum of 2 rounds which are qualifiers to skate the 3 person final. An elimination heat and or semi final heat. Only the winners of each heat proceeds directly to the next round or the final. The other skaters are qualified by the times they received in each of those heats to proceed to the next round or the final.

3 person relays

6 into final unless to start there are 7 teams then 7 will skate the final

# of Teams	Heats				Semi Final			Final
	Heats	Place	Time	Teams to Qualify	Heats	Place	Time	# in final
7								7
8 - 14					2 * 6-7	1	4	6
15 - 21					3 * 6-7	1	3	6
22 - 28	4 * 6-7	1	8	12	2 * 6	1	4	6
29 - 35	5 * 6-7	1	7	12	2 * 6	1	4	6
36 - 40	6 * 6-7	1	6	12	2 * 6	1	4	6
41 - 45	7 * 6-7	1	5	12	2 * 6	1	4	6

SR570 Relay Procedures

Relay racing includes events for two, three and four person teams. One skater begins on the track while the remaining member or members of the team wait at the center of the track in the designated gate area. When a relay is to be made, the next skater leaves the gate area and skates the inside of the track slightly ahead of his/her teammate, rolling into position for a push or tag from the teammate finishing the relay lap

SR570.2

In four-person and three-person relays, the person about to receive a relay must leave the gate area from his or her team's lane and skate the inside of the track. Once a skater in either a four-person, three-person or two-person relay has left the gate area, he or she must enter the race immediately within the relay zone. In two-person and three-person relays, once the race has started, the skaters are not to be confined to a lane in the gate area, but are restricted to the boundary of the gate area until his/her partner begins the relay lap. A contestant must enter the gate area from the rear and leave from the front. The gate area must be clearly designated. It is each skater's responsibility to count his or her laps during relay race S.....