



International Masters' Speed Skating Committee

Mailing Address: International Masters' Speed Skating Committee (IMSSC), Office
Paolo Gemme, Secretary, Via di Vittorio, 18 – 20010 Vittuone, ITALY
Phone +39-02-9031.9085, Mobile Phone +39-348-2212242
Email: info@imssc.org Internet: www.imssc.org

by e-mail

Vittuone, April 20th 2016

to: all IMSSC Members

Subject: proposals for 39th IMSSC Session in Amsterdam/NED on May 28th 2016 sorted according to agenda item

Please find in the following pages all the arrived proposals sorted according to their relation with the agenda item. The preliminary agenda is the following:

1. Approval of the Minutes 38th IMSSC Session in Amsterdam/NED 2015
2. Alterations of Members in the IMSSC
3. Approval of the IMSSC Records List 2016
4. Allround Games 2019 and Sprint Games 2019, Applications
5. Allround Games in Fort St.John/CAN 2017, Nations' Quota
6. Sprint Games in Inzell/GER 2017, Nations' Quota
7. Other International Masters' Competitions in 2016/2017
8. IMSTC: current and future status
9. Financial Report 2015, Financial Preview 2016
10. New Proposals for changing IMSSC Constitution and Regulations
11. Other Proposals
12. Miscellaneous

With best regards,

INTERNATIONAL MASTERS' SPEED SKATING COMMITTEE (IMSSC)

Paolo Gemme

Members of the IMSSC:

Frank Anderson (AUS), Hubert Kreutz (AUT), Willy Caboor (BEL), Konstantin Lukashevich (BLR), Brett Arnason (CAN), Petr Novák (CZE), Marcello Bresin (ESP), Pertti Kiiskinen (FIN), Reinhold Marsollek (GER), RossellaSardi (ITA), Kenji Takai (JAP), AzamatIsmailov (KAZ), Jae-Seok Choi (KOR), LasmaKauniste (LAT), Tjeerd Smies (NED), RagnvaldNæss (NOR), Boris Repnin (RUS), Hans-Peter Ambass (SUI), Jan Landelius (SWE), OleksandrSymonenko (UKR), Andrew Love (USA)

Honorary Members of the IMSSC:

Roland Hagemann (GER), Dominik Wehling (GER), Antonio Nitto (ITA), Drs. Harry G. Falke(NED), Bram de Vries (NED), Aris J. Dijkman (NED), Peter Reimann (SUI)

Honorary President of the IMSSC:

Dr. Volker Serini (GER)

AGENDA Item 10 – New proposals for changing IMSSC Constitution and Regulations

Proposal 3/ESP: Part II Regulations, modification of Introduction.

Existing text

A List of International Masters' Speed Skating Competitions, approved by the IMSSC, will be issued every year at the beginning October on the Official Website of the IMSSC www.imssc.org.

Proposed text

A List of International Masters' Speed Skating Competitions, approved by the IMSSC, will be issued every year after the Summer IMSSC Session on the Official Website of the IMSSC www.imssc.org. The registrations should be opened only at 00:00 (CET) on October 1st.

Reasons:

- it is really better to publish the announcements as much as possible in advance on the IMSSC website without waiting October 1st;
- the interested Masters should be promptly informed about available competitions in order to plan & decide their season;
- specification about starting time of the registrations is needed.

Proposal 1/USA: Part II Regulations, Rule 2 - Masters Definition.

Reason:

When IMSSC was established, there were some protective measures taken to help the newborn organization to get up on its feet. We have master groups as young as 30+. Skaters of this and even older age groups are highly competitive in the ISU races. IMSSC doesn't allow those skaters, who made their respective national teams into these competitions. Such restrictions, possibly discriminatory, are absolutely unnecessary these days, since the league is well established. Participation of the world class athletes in the master's races can only help in promoting the sport.

Proposed text:

To change the first sentence to read: Masters ~~are non-professional~~ speedskaters ~~(members of National teams and National selections excluded)~~ from 30 years, the...

Proposal 2/ITA – Part II Regulations, Rule 3.1.1 - Masters' International All-Round Games.

Italy proposes to equalize the distances specified for Ladies of age groups 65 and higherto those specified for Men of the same age groups, for the Master's International All-Round Games, as follows:

- **Ladies: 500m, 1500m, 1000m, 3000m (age groups 65 and higher)**
- instead of: 500m, 1000m, 1000m, 1500m.

Reason:

The distances currently provided for by the Regulations regarding AG65+ Ladies make the All-Round Games too similar to the Sprint Games for them (and they may decide to take part in one of these two important competitionsonly). Moreover, this distance pattern may result in a competition program that closes off thesecategories from the other Ladies categories – with an isolation which does not turn out to be productive.

Experienced women skaters feel they can affordthe same distances of men of their age with good results(even with better times, with respect to AG75/80 men skaters).It is notoriously known that aging improves endurance. Regarding the overall event timing, it must be considered that the number of women skaters of these categories is small.

Proposal 1/NOR - Part II Regulations, Rule 3.1.1 - Masters' International All-Round Games.

Existing text

3.1.1 Masters' International All-round Games

The Masters' International All-round Games shall be held every year with rotating country and location. They may be organized by a club, cooperating clubs or a National Speed Skating Association.

The distances for the Masters' International All-round Games are:

Ladies 500 m, 1500 m, 1000 m, 3000 m (age groups 30 – 60)

Ladies 500 m, 1000 m, 1000 m, 1500 m (age groups 65 and higher)

Men 500 m, 3000 m, 1500 m, 5000 m (age groups 30 – 60)

Men 500 m, 1500 m, 1000 m, 3000 m (age groups 65 and higher)

Proposed text

3.1.1 Masters' International All-round Games

The Masters' International All-round Games shall be held every year with rotating country and location. They may be organized by a club, cooperating clubs or a National Speed Skating Association.

The distances for the Masters' International All-round Games are:

Ladies 500 m, 1500 m, 1000 m, 3000 m (all age groups)

Men 500 m, 3000 m, 1500 m, 5000 m (age groups 30 – 70)

Men 500 m, 1500 m, 1000 m, 3000 m (age groups 75 and higher)

Reason

Since 2009 MASTER GAMES SPRINT are organized and skaters who do not feel for racing longer distances can participate there. This will probably also raise the attraction of the MG SPRINT

It seems unnecessary that women (age groups 65 and higher) shall race "almost" the same distances in two championships.

We also see that there are fewer and fewer ladies participating with higher age, and, maybe they lose a bit of the motivation if they have to race all distances alone. (See also next proposal Rule 3.5!)

Among the men many skaters in the age groups 65 and 70 are unsatisfied to have 3 K as their longest distance. I know that AG65 raced 5000 as the longest distance until 2007. Then the rule was changed and since 2008 AG65 has 3000 as the longest distance. However MG Sprint has been introduced after this change and sprinters have another championship they can concentrate on.

Proposal 1/JAP - Part II Regulations, Rule 3.1.1 - Masters' International All-Round Games related to 4.2 Single Distances and Allround Competitions.

Existing text:

Ladies 500m, 1500m, 1000m, 3000m (age groups 30-60)

Ladies 500m, 1000m, 1000m, 1500m (age groups 65+)

Proposed text:

Ladies 500m, 1500m, 1000m, 3000m (all ladies)

Reason:

There is not so many ladies over 65. I have seen only one or two from the age group. They are eager to skater longer distance. It is wise to keep all ladies together.

Proposal 4/JAP - Part II Regulations, Rule 3.1.6 Limit times...and records.

Existing text:

No statement

Proposed text:

All records (SB, PB) and limit times shall be based on 400m track, not 333 nor other venues.

Reason:

The time on 333m may be faster on 400m. Just to make it as general standard rule.

Proposal 1/NED - Part II Regulations, Rule 3.1.6 - Limit times for Masters' International Sprint Games and Masters' International Allround Games

Reason:

To the opinion of NED also the Organizing Committee must have the possibility to accept or decline a candidate speedskater that doesn't comply with the maximum time limits as defined in this rule.

Proposed text of last sentence of Rule 3.1.6:

“ . . . decides otherwise in a written consent which also has to be accepted by the Organization Committee of the Masters' International Sprint Games or Masters' International Allround Games.”

Proposal 2/NED - Part II Regulations, Rule 3.1.7 – Maximum time table.

Reason:

The way time limits under 60 seconds are written down in the table is not correct.

Proposed change:

Times must be written as “XX.YY” and not “XX.YY.ZZ”, for instance “50.00.00” must be written as “50.00”.

Proposal 1/ITA: Part II Regulations, Rule 3.2 (Entry) and Rule 3.4 (Confirmation of Participation).

In view of a more regular and transparent competition registration procedure, Italy proposes: (i) **to link entries** by participants **to their relevant payments**, in order to prevent irregularities when the athletes' final list has to be drawn up before competition; (ii) to create **compulsory fields** in the registration form window of IMSSC website, in order that if this payment condition is not fulfilled and the form is not thoroughly filled-in, registration confirmation is not sent to participants.

Accordingly:

- a) the registration form window should be restructured;
- b) the above-mentioned Rules should be amended, as hereunder mentioned.

Reasons:

- too many athletes forget to unregister if they cannot, or decide not to, participate in a competition, and/or if they forget to pay the fee, and/or if they want to pay cash on the spot although a different method of payment is prescribed in the announcement, and/or if they are registered by someone else, who, after registration, does not take care of the following steps of the procedure;
- moreover, often participants do not fill in the form thoroughly (in particular, they do not fill in their most recent times).

Amendment of the above mentioned Rules:

Existing text:

3.2 Entry

The official entry form of the competition is sent through the IMSSC registration system (available on the IMSSC website) or through a designated website to the Organizer or the National IMSSC Member (as specified in the announcement) by the competitor or through representation of the club/association to which the skater belongs. Every competing skater must be licensed in his/her own country.

Countries which enter to the Masters' All-round Games or Sprint Games on the national level have not to accept entries before the announcement of the Games has been issued in the IMSSC or IMSSG Webpage. If they accept entries electronically over their National Website they have to mark the electronic entry form that it is only valid for National participants.

Proposed text:

3.2 Competition Registrations

A skater must be licensed in his/her own country to take part in IMSSC competitions.

In order to take part in a competition, the skater must fill in the official entry form present in the IMSSC website or in another designated website. His/Her registration is sent to the Organizer or the National IMSSC Member (as specified in the announcement) by the website registration system. In order that the registration system accepts a registration, the entry form must be thoroughly filled in – i.e., all compulsory fields have to be completed – and the payment fee details must be indicated by the skater. After this procedure is successfully completed, a registration confirmation is sent to the registered skater.

Countries organizing the International Masters' All-round Games or Sprint Games shall not accept registrations before the official announcement is published in IMSSC website. If they accept registration over their national website, their entry form must highlight that registration is only valid for national participants.

3.2.1 Registration Payments - Reimbursements

In order to be able to register for a competition, the skater must have paid the fee indicated in the official announcement (which shall duly specify payment method, commission applied, payment details, as well as reimbursement conditions). In case he/she unregisters for that competition in IMSSC website, he/she will have the right to receive the reimbursement of the paid fee, if he/she unregisters within two weeks before the competition starting day (arrival of the unregistration at the Organizer).

Existing text:

3.4 Confirmation of Participation

A confirmation of participation may be organized as follows if written in the announcement of the competition: If an announced skater is not present at the drawing, he will be removed from the list of participants if he did not confirm participation to the organizer 36 hours to 12 hours before the drawing (arrival of the confirmation at the organizer) by written word (Telefax or Email or Telegram). The address for the confirmation is indicated in the official announcement.

Proposed text:

3.4 Confirmation of Participation before Drawing

If a registered skater is not present at the drawing, he/she shall be removed from the list of participants, unless he/she confirmed his/her participation to the Organizer within 36 to 12 hours before drawing (arrival of the confirmation at the Organizer) by e-mail or telefax. This procedure, as well as the Organizer's address and the other contact details for confirmation sending, must be indicated in the official announcement.

Proposal 3/NED - Part II Regulations, Rule 3.2 – Entry.

Reason:

The IMSSG-website is not longer in use

Proposed text:

Change text “. . . . has been issued in the IMSSC or IMSSG Webpage.” into “. . . . has been issued on the IMSSC Website.”

Proposal 2/ESP: Part II Regulations, Rule 3.2 – Entry.

Introduction: the experience with the IMSSC online registration system for the Master Games in the last 4 years suggests to clearly define some rules to be followed during the registration process.

Proposed text to be added at the end of Rules 3.2:

In particular for the Masters' Allround Games and Sprint Games the following rules apply:

- the registrations of skaters of Nations with or without selection process will have a common deadline;
- the registrations for Nations without selection process will go on also passing the relevant Nation quota; all the skaters outside the Nation quota will go in a waiting list; the registrations will go further till the deadline;
- at the registrations deadline two cases will be possible:
 - i. Nation quota not fulfilled: in this case the available places will be distributed among the other Nations that own a waiting list in relation to their percentage of the original quota;
 - ii. Nation quota fulfilled or passed (waiting list): In this case and according to IMSSC Rule 3.2.1 Substitutes, if a skater cancel her/his registration, she/he will be substituted by a skater available in the waiting list till the first team leader meeting.

Reasons:

- the current registration form on IMSSC website doesn't allow a different deadline for each Nation for the same competition;
- there is no definition in the IMSSC Rules (but only on the Requirements and Advices to the Organizers) about the quota that are not used.

Proposal 2/USA: Part II Regulations, Rule 3.1.2 – Masters' International Sprint Games.

Reason:

Unlike all-round competitions, where all skaters complete for three days, sprint competitions must be completed in two days. Last year in Baselga di Pine many skaters finished their races on Saturday and had to stay an extra day to attend banquet and award ceremony, some people left early. If we have too many participants, quartets in 1K race should be an option, rather than adding one more day to a competition.

Proposed text to add at the end:

“The Masters' International Sprint Games shall be organized in the same two days for all participants”.

Proposal 3/JAP: Part II Regulations, Rule 3.5 - Drawing and Ranking.

Existing text:

Generally the age groups are drawn separately. If the number of competitors is very small in one or several of the five year age groups, neighbored 5 year age groups **may** be joined for drawing and speedskating.

Proposal:

Need new statement to support the following reason.

Reason:

Only two ladies, one from age 60 and another one from age 65 lady, are left to their age category. They must be combined to other age group 30-60. All ladies should have been all together in SP Games.

Proposal 5/JAP: Part II Regulations, Rule 3.5 - Drawing and Ranking or new paragraph.

Proposal:

The first quartet (or pair) start must be confirmed with all skaters of quartet (pair) on ice if the quartet (pair) order has been changed. Make sure all are on ice before start, especially one the order was shifted up. Need some sort of prevention for international skaters.

Reason:

During AR games, one skater was not able to start his 1500m. He was preparing for his turn, 2nd pair out of 2nd quartet. There was one, only one skaters in 1st quartet prior to his turn. He was originally informed and kept

remembering as “2nd pair out of 2nd quartet“. Somehow the change, the skater in 1st quartet moved to 4th quartet due to one cancelation in 4th quartet, was announced to each coach around coaching zone and voice announcement. However, I missed having the announcement. The change was not published anywhere at all. As result, the skater missed the start. I checked later that each coach has own hand writing memo.

International skaters do not used to hearing the announcement mostly because of language issue. Even Tomoko put her pen to write the order # on her hand because she relies on the order from start-list. It still could have been missed if the change was done in last minutes.

Proposal 2/NOR - Part II Regulations, Rule 3.5 - Drawing and Ranking (block 4).

Existing text:

Generally the age groups are drawn separately. **If the number of competitors is very small in one or several of the five year age groups, neighboured 5 year age groups may be joined for drawing and speed skating.** But the allotting of track on the third distance is decided by the ranking after two distances for each 5 year age group, and not by the ranking in the joined, neighboured groups. The final distance drawing and classification must be done in her/his own age group independent of the number of participants in that age group.

Proposed text:

Generally the age groups are drawn separately. **If the number of competitors is very small in one or several of the five year age groups, two or more neighboured 5 year age groups should be joined for drawing and speed skating.** But the allotting of track on the third distance is decided by the ranking after two distances for each 5 year age group, and not by the ranking in the joined, neighboured groups. The final distance drawing and classification must be done in her/his own age group independent of the number of participants in that age group.

Reason:

In Baselga di Pine during the MG Sprint we had an awkward situation due to the fact that **two ladies** (one in AG 60 and one in AG65) had two skate their distances separately from the other women and always paired together, even if they (at least according to their season best times) were of quite different quality. It seems to me that it would have been better if they could be drawn and paired with the next neighbouring age groups, which could have been AG50 and AG55., such that the pairing could have been done for AG50-65 together in this case.

In my view the pairing on 500 m in MG AR in Leeuwarden was done in successfully in the proposed way. If all women skate the same program it would be easier to carry out pairing in more age groups together.

Proposal 4/NED - Part II Regulations, Rule 3.7 - Participants in the Last Distance (Mass Start).

Reason:

Organizing the mass start for all competitors who don't skate the fourth distance requires that all skaters comply with the rules and safety regulations by the ISU (see in particular chapter 4 of the attached document in annex).

The rules and safety regulations from the ISU are very strict and we think that it is nearly impossible that every skater is able to comply with the safety rules and in particular the required safety clothing.

Furthermore the differences in strength and speed of skaters (age group 30 to 60 and age group 65+) are so large that a mass start a not a fair competition for masters.

Our proposal is that every skater that has finalized three distances according IMSSC and ISU Rules may skate the fourth distance.

Proposed text:

Change the text in the subparagraph just before the final sentence in Rule 3.7. as follows:

“For the Masters Allround Games every skater that has finalized three distances according IMSSC and ISU rules, is allowed to skate the fourth distance”.

Proposal 2/JAP - Part II Regulations, Rule 4.2 - Single Distances and Allround Competitions.

Existing text:

Allround Mini 500m, 1000m, and 1500m (Ladies Only)

Proposal: removal of the text.

Reason:

All ladies seems to eager to skate longer distance (more normal all round distance, not categorized as ladies only (see Proposal 1/JAP).

Proposal 5/NED - Part II Regulations, Rule 4.3 – Applications (required documentation to get Masters records recognized).

Reason:

In Rule 4.3 the organizing committee of a masters competition must supply very much documentation of the electronic and manual timekeeping. All over the world the timekeeping in speed skating ovals gets more and more sophisticated and becomes more and more reliable. At MAG2016 in Leeuwarden even photo finish equipment was used.

NED thinks that simplification and reduction of the required documentation is possible.

Proposed text:

under “The official protocol must contain:”

- c) the times of automatic timekeeping, recorded in hundredth of a second, (ISU Rule 273 § 1 b) signed by one of the official Referees.
- d) the times of manual time keeping only if in the race where a possible new Masters Record is skated, no times of electronic time keeping are available.

Proposal 3/NOR - Part II Regulations, Rule 4.3 – Applications (block 4).

Existing text:

The official protocol must contain:

- a) the complete list of officials (observe ISU Rules 210 and 213);
- b) the starting list for each distance; (ISU Rule 273 § 1 a);
- c) the times of automatic timekeeping, recorded in hundredth of a second; (ISU Rule 273 § 1 b);
- d) the times of manual timekeeping:
 - accumulated lap times in hundredths of a second (see ISU Rule 252);
 - final times in hundredth of a second (see ISU Rule 250, § 5 and § 6).

The times of automatic timekeeping should show the rank of the skaters. If they additionally show the starting order in pairs and possible quartets, the starting lists may be omitted.

Proposed text:

The official protocol must contain:

- a) the complete list of officials (observe ISU Rules 210 and 213);
- b) the starting list for each distance; (ISU Rule 273 § 1 a)
- c) the times of automatic timekeeping, recorded in hundredth of a second; (ISU Rule 273 § 1 b)
- d) the times of manual timekeeping:
 - accumulated lap times in hundredths of a second (see ISU Rule 252);
 - final times in hundredth of a second (see ISU Rule 250, § 5 and § 6).

The times of automatic timekeeping should show the rank of the skaters. If they additionally show the starting order in pairs and possible quartets, the starting lists may be omitted.

If the times of automatic timekeeping are complete and uncorrupted, the times of manual timekeeping may be omitted. The IMSSC Statistician may still demand them.

Reason:

The manual timekeeping is by the ISU defined as a backup for the automatic timekeeping. If the times of the automatic timekeeping are complete and uncorrupted, it should not be necessary to have the manual times. The modified rule is in line with the IMSSC practice of the recent years.

AGENDA Item 11 – Other proposals

Proposal 1/ESP – Update of IMSSC website.

Rather than a proposal, this is simply a suggestion. After 4 years, the website is obsolete, especially regarding security issues. It is subject to multiple hacker/robot attacks (unfortunately, no website is immune to that these days); so far it was not hacked/destroyed because of periodic core safety implementations. However, it is an old version of a CMS system and as such, increasingly harder to protect. Moreover, the events booking system proved to be convenient and fairly operative to date, although a newer version would be easier and more effective for users and organizers alike (perhaps adding online/offline payment alternatives and the possibility to export directly registration lists).

Updating a complex system like this will not be an easy task: the risk of losing data is relatively high, and the booking system must be updated as well (which increases costs and risks). A preliminary rough budget would be around 400€ to 600€ (annual hosting/domain expenses will remain the same, unless the hosting provider applies slight increases). This would be the right time to advance suggestions related to the website in general, and the event registration in particular, in order to provide a precise budget. Please note that the registration system is a “module” that is standard and developed by a third party for a wide range of activities: modelling it to our needs is definitely possible, but that will require further resources (time & expense).

If IMSSC’s current financial status does not allow to do the update this year, it might well be done next year... but the older it gets, the more difficult it will be to fix (just like us!).

Proposal 3/USA – New incentives for skaters.

IMSSC, along with National Masters organizations should develop new incentives for skaters to participate in the sport. Not everyone can make a podium, or set a master’s record. It could be a good idea to recognize PB times, keep track of National records on the IMSSC site, have IMSSC masters forum on FB for open discussion about the league and sharing of pictures, articles, and skater achievements.

Proposal 4/USA – Competition planning.

Competitions planning. Currently IMSSC requires applications for Masters Games three (3) years prior to a competition. It is very hard to make a commitment for three years ahead of time in the rapidly changing world, especially in our small sport. Planning for not more than two (2) years ahead would be more reasonable for everyone involved.

AGENDA Item 12 – Miscellaneous

Items for possible discussion, if time permits, proposed by USA.

- 1) IMSSC and some national masters groups are currently experiencing a reduction in their memberships. Skaters are losing interest in joining clubs and taking part in competitions. It is apparent, that something has to be done sooner than later to reverse this trend. The IMSSC, like any business has to make some changes in their business model to create a more attractive environment not only for the skaters, but for the masters groups, clubs, national organizations and sponsors.
- 2) Organizing competitions. IMSSC is not part of the ISU, however it has adopted their high and costly standards for the officiating requirements. Unlike the ISU, IMSSC does not have a budget for it. This puts a big burden on potential hosts making it cost prohibitive. As a result, sometimes we have our competitions not in the best, most attractive and convenient places. IMSSC should consider reviewing all the references to the ISU regulations in the “Constitution and Regulations 2015/2016 of the International Masters' Speed Skating Committee“, and leave only the most important parts. It will open more opportunities for low cost competitions. And, in the end, it will allow us to create a well-coordinated season competition schedule.
- 3) IMSSC Records. This is an instance of obsolete “protective measures”, which only create artificial hurdles for race organizers, participants, and sometimes makes it impossible to have an IMSSC sanctioned competition, during which IMSSC Master World Record can be achieved. The records listed on the IMSSC site do not give a true picture of the fastest times achieved in different Masters age groups. They are referred to as Masters World Records, but sometimes they are not. Many skaters in various age groups have had better times in other (non-IMSSC) official competitions, than those listed on the IMSSC site. As a result, there are Masters record holders not recognised, while rewarded Masters record holders may experience ambivalent feelings regarding the situation. It may be time for the IMSSC to revise the age class records registration procedure and competition conduct requirements. It would be an improvement to remove all unnecessary restrictions, like masters participants only, IMSSC sanctioned races, number of countries, etc. The ISU Rules could still be applied but with certain defined exceptions. The real masters' records (or “International Masters Records” vice IMSSC Records) could be posted on the IMSSC site, setting true references for competing athletes. A sub-committee to review this notion is recommended if the members agree it deserves further consideration.
- 4) The legal verbiage (language and terminology) used in the “Constitution” should be revised in order to better clarify the requirements and sustain possible legal challenges