



QUALIFICATION SYSTEM -XXV OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES- MILANO CORTINA 2026

INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION (ISU)

SPEED SKATING

A. EVENTS (14)

Men's events (7)	Women's events (7)
Men's 500m	Women's 500m
Men's 1000m	Women's 1000m
Men's 1500m	Women's 1500m
Men's 5000m	Women's 3000m
Men's 10000m	Women's 5000m
Men's Mass Start	Women's Mass Start
Men's Team Pursuit	Women's Team Pursuit

B. QUOTA PLACES

1. Total quota places for discipline:

	Quota places	Host country quota places	Total
Men	82	see D. "Host Country Places"	82
Women	82	see D. "Host Country Places"	82
Total	164	see D. "Host Country Places"	164

2. Maximum number of athletes per National Olympic Committee (NOC) (per event):

	Quota places per NOC		Quota places per NOC
Men's 500m	3	Women's 500m	3
Men's 1000m	3	Women's 1000m	3
Men's 1500m	3	Women's 1500m	3
Men's 5000m	3	Women's 3000m	3
Men's 10000m	2	Women's 5000m	2
Men's Mass Start	2	Women's Mass Start	2
Men's Team Pursuit	1 team	Women's Team Pursuit	1 team



For each gender, the overall quota per NOC will be restricted depending on the allocated NOC event quota places, as follows:

- a) Maximum 9 athletes for NOCs that have qualified for the Team Pursuit event and have also been allocated the maximum quota for all individual events for the respective gender, counting only athletes qualified by the SOQCP ranking as defined in D.1.1.
- b) Maximum 8 athletes for NOCs that have qualified for the Team Pursuit event and have also been allocated one (1) or more quota places for all individual events for the respective gender.
- c) Maximum 7 athletes for other NOCs for the respective gender. In this case the total number of entered athletes per gender cannot exceed the number of events for which the NOC has been allocated at least one (1) quota place, plus the highest number of any additional quota places (more than one quota place) allocated to the NOC for an event, counting only athletes qualified by the SOQCP ranking as defined in D.1.1.

3. Maximum number of athletes per event

	Maximum number of athletes per event		Maximum number of athletes per event
Men's 500m	28*	Women's 500m	28*
Men's 1000m	28*	Women's 1000m	28*
Men's 1500m	28*	Women's 1500m	28*
Men's 5000m	20	Women's 3000m	20
Men's 10000m	12	Women's 5000m	12
Men's Mass Start	24*	Women's Mass Start	24*
Men's Team Pursuit	8 teams	Women's Team Pursuit	8 teams

*Additional competitors, up to a maximum total number of 30 competitors may be added during Games time. Refer to D.2.2.

4. Type of allocation of quota places:

Allocation of NOC event quotas (qualification places for each event) according to Special Olympic Qualification Classifications (SOQCs) are based on results from designated ISU World Cup Competitions season 2025/2026 (for more details please refer to the respective ISU Rules and ISU Communications). There will be SOQCs for Men's and Women's Team Pursuit and for each of the individual events/distances (500m, 1000m, 1500m, 3000m, 5000m and Mass Start for the women's events; 500m, 1000m, 1500m, 5000m, 10000m and Mass Start for the men's events).

The total number of quota places for NOC will be determined based on the allocation of specific event quota places. The selection of athletes for its allocated quota places is at the discretion of the NOC, subject to the eligibility requirements.

C. ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY

Compliance with the Olympic Charter and other relevant rules



All athletes must respect and comply with the provisions of the Olympic Charter currently in force, including but not limited to Rule 41 (Nationality of Competitors) and Rule 43 (World Anti-Doping Code and the Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention of Manipulation of Competitions).

Only those athletes who respect and comply with the Olympic Charter, the World Anti-Doping Code and the Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions, including the conditions of participation established by the IOC, plus the rules of ISU, may participate in the Olympic Games Milano Cortina 2026.

Age requirements

To be eligible to participate in the Olympic Games Milano Cortina 2026, athletes must be born on or before *1 July 2008*.

Additional IF eligibility criteria

Athletes must also comply with the following criteria:

- athletes must have achieved ISU Qualifying Times. The applicable qualifying time standards and conditions for approval of achieved qualifying times will be announced in an ISU Communication by 1 July 2025, as per ISU Regulations and the Qualification timeline in paragraph G. below.
- only athletes from NFs (ISU Members) are allowed to enter ISU sanctioned competitions, which include ISU World Cup Speed Skating Competitions.

D. QUALIFICATION PATHWAY

QUOTA PLACES

Number of quota places	Qualification events
<p>D.1 & D.2: Men & Women: 164</p>	<p>D.1 Definition and purpose of Special Olympic Qualification Classification</p> <p>Quota places are obtained by the NOCs through their National ISU Members, based on the SOQC per event/distance resulting from the ISU World Cup Speed Skating Competitions designated by the ISU to be held during the season 2025/2026 prior to the Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026.</p> <p>D.1.1 SOQC for each event will be calculated according to criteria based on the ISU Rules for the ISU World Cup Speed Skating classification and ISU Rule 208 for qualification for the ISU World Speed Skating Championships, as published in the ISU Regulations and dedicated ISU Communications. Each SOQC will combine two (2) sets of rankings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SOQC Points ranking (SOQCP): A ranking according to the World Cup points achieved on the occasion of the designated ISU World Cup Competitions.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SOQC Times ranking (SOQCT): A ranking based on the best times per athlete achieved during the designated ISU World Cup Competitions. <p>D.1.2 For each gender and event/distance, the highest ranked SOQC positions will consist of a certain number of athletes/teams (counting only athletes inside the maximum NOC quota for the event/distance concerned) from the SOQCP and SOQCT as follows:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="592 622 1461 842"> <thead> <tr> <th>Event/Distance</th> <th>SOQCP</th> <th>SOQCT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>500m, 1000m and 1500m (men and women)</td> <td>21</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3000m (women), 5000m (men)</td> <td>15</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5000m (women) and 10000m (men)</td> <td>9</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mass Start (men and women)</td> <td>24</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Team Pursuit (men and women)</td> <td>6</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>D.1.3 In case of a tie in the SOQCP, the ISU World Cup ranking rules, as outlined in the ISU World Cup 2025/2026 Communication, will be used to determine the higher ranked athlete. If a tie still exists, the better-ranked athlete in the SOQCT will determine the higher ranked athlete. If a tie still exists, the procedure in D.2.1 will determine which athlete’s NOC is allocated the quota.</p> <p>D.1.4 In case of a tie in the SOQCT, the better-ranked athlete in the SOQCP will determine the higher ranked athlete. If a tie still exists, the procedure in D.2.1 will determine which athlete’s NOC is allocated the quota.</p> <p>D.1.5 For the long distances (3000m and 5000m for Women, 5000m and 10000m for Men) the SOQCP will be based on the total of World Cup points achieved for both of the two distances, in accordance with ISU World Cup ranking rules. The SOQCT will be based on times achieved during the ISU World Cup Competitions in the distance concerned only.</p>	Event/Distance	SOQCP	SOQCT	500m, 1000m and 1500m (men and women)	21	7	3000m (women), 5000m (men)	15	5	5000m (women) and 10000m (men)	9	3	Mass Start (men and women)	24	-	Team Pursuit (men and women)	6	2
Event/Distance	SOQCP	SOQCT																	
500m, 1000m and 1500m (men and women)	21	7																	
3000m (women), 5000m (men)	15	5																	
5000m (women) and 10000m (men)	9	3																	
Mass Start (men and women)	24	-																	
Team Pursuit (men and women)	6	2																	
	<p>D.2 Allocation of quota places to NOCs The NOC quota places for each event/distance will be provisionally allocated according to the SOQC for that event/distance, based on results from designated ISU World Cup Competitions season 2025/2026. For each event, quota places for each NOC will be allocated according to the position of athletes or team, up to the maximum NOC event quota as detailed in B.2, from the NOC concerned in the SOQC for the event.</p> <p>D.2.1 If there is a tie in the SOQC determining the last quota place for an event/distance, this position will be decided by a random draw, done by the ISU Director General in the ISU Secretariat in the presence of an independent auditor.</p> <p>D.2.2 Withdrawal of provisionally allocated event quota places</p>																		



	<p>If the provisionally allocated event quota places confirmed by NOCs indicate that the total maximum number of 164 quota places for Speed Skating will be exceeded, the maximum number of allocated quota places for individual events/distances will be reduced by deallocating the provisionally allocated quota from the NOC of the lowest ranked athlete. Provisionally allocated quotas will then be deallocated from each of the following events/distances according to the following order:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 500m - Women, then 500m – Men;• then 1000m – Men, then 1000m – Women;• then 1500m -- Women, then 1500m – Men;• then Mass Start Men, then Mass Start Women. <p>This process will be repeated until the total quota of 164 for the sport is met and may result in some NOCs losing provisionally allocated quota places for the event(s)/distance(s) concerned with possible effects on their overall quota. Once this process has been completed, the ISU will inform the NOCs affected by the deallocation procedure on their amended event and NOC quotas.</p> <p>D.2.3 Reserve List</p> <p>When the maximum total of quota places for an event/distance (as specified above) has been reached, the next SOQC positions (from the SOQCT ranking) per event/distance will constitute a reserve list of quota places.</p> <p>For each of the individual events/distances the reserve list consists of eight (8) reserve quota places. For each of the Team Pursuit events the reserve list consists of four (4) reserve quota places.</p> <p>D.2.4 Additional competitors for the 500 m, 1000m, 1500 m and Mass Start events: Up to a maximum of 30 competitors, may be entered during Games time. Additional starting positions will then be made available to athletes who have already been entered in at least one (1) other distance/event. The allocation of these additional starting positions will be done according to the Reserve list for the respective event (as per D.2.3), with priority to NOCs without an already entered athlete for the event.</p>
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HOST COUNTRY PLACES

The Host Country NOC (CONI) is subjected to the same qualification procedure for allocation of quota places as other NOCs, as described in Section D. However, if the host country has athlete(s), or a team for the Team Pursuit event, placed in the Reserve List (as per D.2.3) for an event, the host country will be allocated one (1) additional event quota place for the event concerned. Such a Host Country quota allocation will replace the otherwise last qualified quota place for the event concerned.

E. CONFIRMATION PROCESS FOR QUOTA PLACES



Following each qualification event, the ISU will publish the results, as well as the current qualification ranking lists (SOQC), on its website www.isu.org.

ISU will publish a list of provisionally allocated quota places and inform the respective NOCs. The NOCs will then have until 18 January 2026 to confirm if they wish to use these quota places, as detailed in paragraph G. Qualification Timeline.

F. REALLOCATION OF UNUSED QUOTA PLACES

If an allocated quota place is not confirmed by the NOC by the deadline for confirmation of quota places, or is declined by the NOC, the quota place will be reallocated on the condition that the total quota of 164 athletes is not exceeded. The reallocation of quota places will be done according to the ranking order in the respective SOQC Reserve List as per D.2.3. Priority shall be given to NOCs that have not already been allocated a quota place for the event/distance concerned.

If all declined event quota places cannot be reallocated without exceeding the total athlete quota, the reallocation of quota places shall aim at levelling out the number of non-allocated quota places among the events. If this balance has been achieved, the final stage of reallocation will be done in the following order:

- 500m - Women, then 1000m – Women, then 1500m – Women, then Mass Start Women
- then 500m – Men, then 1000m – Men, then 1500m – Men, then Mass Start Men.

G. QUALIFICATION TIMELINE

Date	Milestone
Qualification	
1 July 2025	ISU will announce qualifying times
1 July 2025 – 18 January 2026	Period to achieve qualifying times
1 August 2025	ISU announces qualifying competitions (ISU World Cup Speed Skating Competitions) to determine the Special Olympic Qualifying Classifications (SOQC) and subsequently NOC quota places
1 November – 14 December 2025	ISU World Cup Speed Skating Competitions determining the OQC World Cup 1 – TBD World Cup 2 – TBD World Cup 3 – TBD World Cup 4 – TBD
Inform and confirm quota allocation	
19 December 2025	Publication of SOQC
19 December 2025	ISU informs NOCs about provisionally allocated quota places based on the SOQC for the respective events/distances, and on the overall NOC quota (total number of athletes that may be entered for each NOC) based on the allocated quota places per event.
By 18 January 2026	NOCs to inform ISU about confirmation and/or rejection of provisionally allocated quota places, both for event/distance and in total.
Reallocation of quotas	
19-22 January 2026	ISU to inform NOCs with copy to NFs about any deallocation of quota places and related reduction of overall NOC quotas if the total Sport Quota of 164



	<p>athletes would be exceeded based on the provisional allocation of quota places.</p> <p>ISU to inform NOCs regarding any reallocation of quota places that will have to be confirmed by the NOC within 24 hours. Lack of a NOC response to the ISU within the deadline will be considered as a rejection of the offered quota place.</p>
23 January 2026	End of reallocation process.
26 January 2026	Milano Cortina 2026 Sport Entries deadline
To be Determined	Milano Cortina 2026 Delegation Registration Meetings
6 – 22 February 2026	Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026