



QUALIFICATION SYSTEM – XXV OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES – MILANO CORTINA 2026

INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION (ISU)

SHORT TRACK SPEED SKATING

A. EVENTS (9)

Men's events (4)	Women's events (4)	Mixed events (1)
Men's 500m Men's 1000m Men's 1500m Men's 5000m Relay	Women's 500m Women's 1000m Women's 1500m Women's 3000m Relay	Mixed Team Relay 2000m

B. QUOTA PLACES

1. Total quota places for discipline:

	Quota places	Host country quota places*	Total
Men	52	4	56
Women	52	4	56
Total	104	8	112

*For further details, see Section D on Host Country Places

2. Maximum number of athletes per National Olympic Committee (NOC) (per sport/discipline and/or per event):

	Quota places per NOC	Event Specific Quota
Men	5 (with Relay Team) 3 (without Relay Team)	3 in individual events 1 team in Relay event
Women	5 (with Relay Team) 3 (without Relay Team)	3 in individual events 1 team in Relay event
Team	1 team in Mixed Team Relay	
Total	10 (with Relay Teams) 6 (without Relay Team)	

3. Maximum number of athletes per event (where applicable)



	Maximum Quota		Maximum Quota
Men's 500m	32	Women's 500m	32
1000m	32	Women's 1000m	32
Men's 1500m	36	Women's 1500m	36
Men's 5000m Relay	8 teams	Women's 3000m Relay	8 teams
Mixed Team Relay 2000m 12 teams			

4. Type of allocation of quota places:

The quota place/s is/are allocated to the NOC.

Quota places per gender and for the Mixed Team Relay are obtained by the National Olympic Committees (NOCs) based on the results achieved by the athletes of the National ISU Members (NFs) from the four (4) Special Olympic Qualification Classifications (SOQC). Each SOQC is based on three (3) best results out of four (4) results over the respective distance achieved at the four (4) ISU Short Track World Tour competitions designated by the ISU that will be held between September and December 2025 (for more details please refer to the respective ISU Rules and ISU Communications that will be published on 10 December 2025 on the ISU website, www.isu.org).

The four (4) SOQC for men will be for the Men's 500m, Men's 1000m, Men's 1500m and Men's 5000m Relay.

The four (4) SOQC for women will be for Women's 500m, Women's 1000m Women's 1500m and Women's' 3000m Relay.

There will be one (1) SOQC for the Mixed Team Relay.

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



As per ISU Regulations ([Rule 108, paragraph 2.a](#)), to be eligible to participate in the Olympic Games Milano Cortina 2026, athletes must be born before *1 July 2008*.

Additional IF eligibility criteria

- As per ISU Regulations, only NFs (ISU Members) are allowed to enter ISU sanctioned competitions, which include ISU Short Track World Tour competitions.

D. QUALIFICATION PATHWAY

QUOTA PLACES

Men/Women/Mixed

Number of quota places	Qualification events
D.1	D.1. Quota places allocated to NOCs with qualified Relay teams The eight (8) highest ranked NOCs in the SOQC for Relays in the respective gender qualify a team to participate in the Relay event. If the host country is not ranked in the top eight (8) of the Relay SOQC per gender, the respective Relay Team of the host country will replace the NOC ranked 8th. NOCs qualified for the Relay events may enter four (4) quota places per gender.
D.2	D.2. Quota places allocated based on qualified starting places in Individual distances D.2.1 Starting places in individual distances: Starting places will be assigned for each of the individual distances to the NOCs in the order of the respective SOQC. NOCs having skaters ranked first over the distances of 500, 1000 and 1500 meters get one (1) starting place in the respective distance. Following that, the NOCs having skaters ranked 2nd get one (1) starting place, etc., respecting the following criteria: - The maximum number of starting places per NOC is three (3) skaters per distance; - The number of starting places in the respective distances stays within the event specific quota for that distance as per B.3 above; i.e. the maximum number of skaters over 500m and 1000m will be 32, and the maximum number of Skaters over 1500m will be 36.



	Starting places per individual distance will be assigned, one by one for each distance, in the following order: • Men's 500m • Women's 500m • Women's 1000m • Men's 1000m • Men's 1500m • Women's 1500m For each assignment of a starting place for an individual distance as described above, the NOC concerned will be allocated one (1) quota place according to the following procedure and criteria: D.2.2 A fifth (5th) quota place will be allocated to NOCs that are qualified for a Relay event as per D.1 as soon as the NOC have been assigned a total of eight (8) starting places for the individual distances for the same gender. D.2.3 NOCs not qualified for a Relay event will be allocated quota places for the respective gender according to their starting places assigned for the individual distances for that gender. The allocated number of quota places cannot exceed the highest number of starting places in any of the individual distances for the gender concerned. D.2.4 The total number of allocated quota places cannot exceed the IOC maximum quota as stated in B.1. above. If this maximum quota is reached, and further assignment of starting places would result in the allocation of an additional quota place, further assignment of starting places will be discontinued and only be considered in accordance with D.4. below. D.2.5 In the case that the IOC maximum quota of 112 athletes has not been reached after assignment of the maximum number of starting places for all individual distances, additional quota places may be allocated according to the procedure and criteria described in D.3. below. D.2.6 If the Host Country is not ranked to be allocated a starting place in the individual distances, it will be assigned the last starting place of the respective individual distances (Refer to the Host Country Places Section).
D.3	D.3. Quota places allocated based on qualified starting places in Mixed Team Relay D.3.1. Starting places for Mixed Team Relay A maximum of 12 Teams will participate in the Mixed Team Relay event. NOCs who have been allocated a minimum of two (2) quota places per gender will qualify for the Mixed Team Relay event in the order of the SOQC. The skaters competing in the Mixed Team Relay must be among the skaters entered for the OWG via the quotas from the individual distances or the Relays.



	D.3.2 In the case that less than twelve (12) NOCs have qualified a minimum of two (2) quota places per gender on the basis of the criteria in D.2, and if there are still quota places available after completing the quota allocation process, a maximum of one (1) additional quota place per NOC will be given to complete a mixed gender team for the highest ranked NOC (not yet qualified for the event) from the Mixed Team Relay SOQC to reach 12 teams for this event.
D.4	D.4 Allocation of remaining quota places D.4.1 In the case that the maximum quota for the sport (112 athletes) has not been reached after quota places have been allocated in accordance with D.2 and D.3.2, one (1) additional quota place will be allocated to NOCs qualified for a Relay event that have been assigned seven (7) starting places in the individual distances for the same gender, so that they may enter five (5) Skaters for that gender. If necessary, in order not to exceed the total maximum quota of 112 athletes, the quota place will be allocated to the NOC (s) with the higher ranked team(s) in the SOQC for the Relay event. In case of a tie in the SOQC Relay ranking between genders, the additional quota place would be allocated to the NOC of the Relay team with the highest number of points in the SOQC. If a tie persists, the preference will be for the NOC with the best ranking achieved in the Relay event at any of the ISU Short Track World Tour competitions counting for the SOQC. D.4.2 If there would still be quota places available after completing the procedure described in D.4.1 above, and if there are still NOCs qualified for a Relay event with only four (4) quota places allocated for the same gender, such NOCs will be allocated a fifth (5th) quota place, with preference for the NOCs with the highest total number of assigned starting places in the individual distances for the gender concerned. In case of a tie, the same order of preference will apply as described in D.4.1.
D.5	D.5 Further allocation of event starting places (within allocated quotas) D.5.1 If the entered athletes (by name) do not fill up the maximum number of starting places for the distance (32 for the 500 and the 1000 meters and 36 for the 1500 meters), then NOCs that have not already been assigned the maximum of three (3) starting places and who have available skaters within their allocated quota, will be allowed to enter such skater(s) in the respective distance(s), in accordance with the order of the respective SOQC. D.5.2 In the case that the number of starting places per distance cannot be filled (32 for 500 and 1000 meters and 36 for 1500 meters) after applying the procedure in D.5.1 (and having reached the end of the applicable SOQC), then NOCs which have qualified for a Relay will be allowed to enter additional skaters in the respective distance(s) up to the maximum of three (3) skaters per distance.



	In the case of a tie, preference will be given for the NOC with the highest SOQC Relay ranking for the respective gender. If there are starting places that are still unused they may be filled by skater(s) from NOCs qualified for the Mixed Gender Relay, in accordance with the SOQC Mixed Team Relay rankings.
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HOST COUNTRY PLACES

If the Host Country NOC (CONI) is not qualified through the qualifying procedure for individual events, then CONI will be entitled to enter:

- One (1) starting place in each individual event/distance for both Women and Men

If the Host Country CONI is not qualified through the qualifying procedure for relays, then CONI will be entitled to enter:

- a Mixed Team Relay team of two (2) women and two (2) men.
- a Relay Team of four (4) women
- a Relay Team of four (4) men.

All other criteria regarding quotas listed in **D.1 through D.4** also apply for the host country. The athlete(s) selected to fill the host country quota places must meet the athlete eligibility requirements as defined in **Section C**.

Even if the host country - CONI – rejects their allocated quota in the Relay event(s) and/or Mixed Team Relay, CONI may nevertheless enter one (1) skater in each of the individual distances.

E. CONFIRMATION PROCESS FOR QUOTA PLACES

Following the completion of the four (4) ISU designated ISU Short Track World Tour competitions and based on the respective SOQC the ISU will inform NOCs by 12 December 2025 of their allocated respective total number of quota places and the number of skaters each NOC can enter per individual distance. NOCs will be requested to confirm to the ISU the use of quota places by 16 January 2026.

F. REALLOCATION OF UNUSED QUOTA PLACES

Between 17 and 22 January 2026, the ISU will reallocate unused quota places to NOCs based on the applicable SOQCs. NOCs will be requested to confirm within 24 hours whether they accept the reallocation of quota places, but at the latest on 22 January 2026.

A reallocation of an unused quota place that results in an NOC receiving at least two (2) skaters per gender **will not** affect the already assigned Mixed Team Relay starting places as described in **D.3**.



Unused Relay quota places will be reallocated to the NOC with the next placed Team of the Relay SOQC. This reallocation **will not** result in the effected NOC being allocated a fifth (5th) quota place for that gender regardless of the number of assigned quota places in the individual events as described in **D.2.2** and **D.4**.

G. QUALIFICATION TIMELINE

Date	Milestone
Qualification	
1 August 2025	ISU announces qualifying competitions (ISU Short Track World Tour competitions) determining the Special Olympic Qualifying Classifications (SOQC).
15 September 2025 – 5 December 2025	ISU Short Track World Tour competitions determining the SOQCs. ISU Short Track World Tour #1, 9-12 October 2025, Montréal (CAN) ISU Short Track World Tour #2, 16-19 October 2025, Montréal (CAN) ISU Short Track World Tour #3, 20-23 November, Gdansk (POL) ISU Short Track World Tour #4, 27-30 November, Dordrecht (NED)
Inform and confirm quota allocation	
12 December	Publication of SOQC
12 December 2025	ISU to inform NOCs of their allocated quota places
16 January 2026	NOCs to inform ISU about confirmation and/or rejection of quota places, both for event/distance and in total.
Reallocation of quotas	
17-22 January 2026	ISU to inform NOCs regarding the 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 refusal rejection of the offered quota place.
23 January 2026	ISU to reallocate any unused quota places.
26 January 2026	Milano Cortina 2026 Sport Entries deadline
TBD*	Milano Cortina 2026 Delegation Registration Meetings
6 – 22 February 2026	Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026

*To Be Determined