

## **C1-301 | National Training Center Funding**

- The purpose of this program is to assist athletes in their pursuit for qualifying for the Canadian National Team and National Development Teams. This program will support athletes over a period of time as they become elite athletes with the capacity to represent Saskatchewan and Canada both nationally and internationally.
- Financial assistance will be provided to eligible athletes training at National Training Centers (NTC) in approved NTC training groups. Athletes training outside of the NTC or out of Country must have their training group evaluated and approved by the SASSA High Performance Committee. The athlete is responsible for providing the SASSA High Performance Committee with all pertinent information for the HP Committee to properly evaluate the validity of their training arrangements.
- Skaters seeking support under the NTC funding program must:
  - 1) Be a SASSA member in good standing for at least one year before being considered for funding to a National Training Centre.
  - 2) Be at least 18 years of age or have completed grade 12. This is required to help ensure the individual is physically mature and able to benefit from the program, and to emphasize the importance of education.
  - 3) Meet the performance criteria outlined below.
- The SASSA Board of Directors will allow exceptional skaters to appeal the age restriction policy if they do not meet the minimum age requirement.

### **a) Qualifications for Funding**

Athletes are eligible for 5 years of Post-Secondary funding.

The skating season runs from September to April annually. Seed times skated between May and August will count if they occur at a Speed Skating Canada sanctioned competition.

Three levels of performance criteria are used to determine eligibility for the NTC. The criterion becomes more stringent as athletes will be expected to improve as they progress towards qualifying for National Team, National Development Team or Next Gen Team.

The following criteria apply for all Long Track athletes.

1. Prior to Year 1, athletes must be accepted by NTC into an approved training group and meet the High Performance time standards in at least two distances.
2. Prior to Year 2 and 3, athletes must be training at the NTC in an approved training group and meet the High Performance time standards in at least two distances.
3. Prior to Year 4 and 5, athletes must be training at the NTC in an approved training group and meet the High Performance time standards in at least two distances.

## High Performance Time Standards

<b>Men</b>					
	Age	500m	1000m	1500m	5000m
	Times achieved prior to Year 1. Skating at an approved Training Centre	39.0	1:17.0	2:00.0	7:26.88
	Times achieved prior to Year 2 and 3. Skating at an approved Training Centre	37.0	1:14.5	1:53.5	7:00.0
	Times achieved prior to Year 4 and 5. Skating at an approved Training Centre	36.5	1:12.0	1:49.9	6:45.0
<b>Women</b>					
	Age	500m	1000m	1500m	3000m
	Times achieved prior to Year 1. Skating at an approved Training Centre	43.9	1:26.9	2:15.9	4:49.34
	Times achieved prior to Year 2 and 3. Skating at an approved Training Centre	41.9	1:23.0	2:08.5	4:40.0
	Times achieved prior to Year 4 and 5. Skating at an approved Training Centre	39.9	1:20.0	2:03.0	4:21.0

The SASSA High Performance Committee will review the HP Time Standards annually.

The following criteria apply for all Short Track athletes.

1. Junior athletes must be accepted by NTC into an approved training group and qualify for Canadian Junior Short Track Championships.
2. Athletes entering first year of Neo-Senior eligibility must qualify for the National ST Qualifier.
3. Athletes entering their second year of Neo-Senior eligibility must improve their National Ranking
4. Athletes entering their third year of Neo-Senior eligibility must qualify for the Canadian Senior Short Track Championships.
5. Athletes entering their fourth year of Neo-Senior eligibility must qualify for the Canadian Senior Short Track Championships and improve their National Ranking.

## **b) Injuries**

- Athletes must meet the NTC funding criteria each season to qualify for funding. If an athlete becomes injured during the season, they will continue to receive funding during the current season, but in order to receive funding the following season they must still meet the qualifying criteria during that season as would any other athlete.
- If an athlete's injuries are such that they cannot compete or qualify, he or she must focus on recovery and healing.

## **c) Funding Breakdown**

- Skaters are ranked by the sum of their top two distances as ranked against Canadian records for their discipline and age category. Skaters transitioning from Junior to Senior will be ranked against Junior Canadian records as the skaters were in the Junior Age Class when the times were set. The top 6 skaters (as ranked by percentage from the previous year's performance) regardless of designation will receive a double share of the funding from SASSA. The remaining skaters will receive a single share of the available funding. Long track and short track will be combined for ranking purposes. Funding is set at \$12,000 dollars per skating season. The Oval Program athletes will receive half of their funding in mid-October (after completing the application form); the second half of their funding will be distributed in March after a successful follow-up is completed and sent to the SASSA Office.
- The minimum share will be \$1,500.00 dollars; the maximum share will be \$3,500.00 dollars.
- The National Training Centre funding will be given out to a maximum of 8 athletes.
- If there are more than 8 eligible athletes, funding may be provided subject to NTC funding availability.

## **d) Additional Requirements**

- Each skater must:
- Sign and adhere to the SASSA Skater's Code of Conduct. The SASSA funded skaters are representatives of SASSA and must maintain a lifestyle that will allow the best chance to successfully qualify for the National Team or Development Teams.
- Follow the training program as established by their NTC Coach. The primary purpose of the funding is to ensure SASSA skaters receive adequate coaching at these centers.
- Reimburse SASSA for any funding received should he or she voluntarily leave or be asked to leave the NTC program.

## C1-302 | Athlete Assistance

1) The purpose of this program is to provide financial assistance to high performance athletes. Eligible Saskatchewan athletes are those whose performance standards rank them at a national level and athletes with national level potential. To be eligible, an athlete must be not older than 24 as of June 30<sup>th</sup> in the year in which the grant is awarded. Athletes must document, with receipts, all travel and educational expenses.

### 2) Athlete Assistance Grants

a) Long Track & Short Track Grants (6 X \$834) - Average best 2 distances against the Canadian Records (Jr. or Sr.). Athletes must skate in a minimum of two distances to be considered for this grant.

### 3) Program Restrictions

- a) Athletes can only receive one grant per season.
- b) An athlete must train throughout the complete season to be eligible for the entire grant.
- c) Carded Athletes, who are funded by Sport Canada, are not eligible for SASSA Athlete Assistance. An athlete that receives funding at a reduced rate (compared to carded athletes) from Speed Skating Canada is eligible for SASSA Athlete Assistance. Athletes on the SASSA Provincial Team cannot receive both Provincial Team funding and SASSA Athlete Assistance.
- d) Grants will be paid in two equal installments of equal amounts.
- e) At the end of the Grant period the athlete must complete a follow-up report and return it, along with receipts for costs incurred, to the Saskatchewan Speed Skating office.

### 4) Eligible Expenses

- a) Training Costs - All training costs incurred, which directly relate to speed skating. This would include registration fees, cost of equipment, travel, accommodation, etc.
- b) Competition Costs - All costs incurred which directly relate to attending speed skating competitions. This would include travel costs, entry fees, meals, accommodation, etc.
- c) Other Costs - Other costs such as those outlined below will also qualify:
  - i. Tuition Fees - Athlete must provide a receipt, which verifies he/she is registered as a student in a post-secondary institution.
  - ii. Lost Wages - Only wages which are lost due to an athlete attending training sessions or competitions are eligible.

### 5) Funding Formula

SASSA Athlete Assistance					
	SASSA Funding	Athletes	Total Shares		
	5004	6	6	\$834	Per share amount

