

OSSA

Dear Members;

Today, on the recommendation of the Provincial Selection Committee, the athletes selected to our Association's 2008 - 2009 Provincial Training Team and Provincial Development Team were announced by the Ontario Speed Skating Association's Board of Directors. Our Board, along with the members of the two committees who helped rank the skaters, would like to congratulate the following athletes, as well as their clubs and their coaches for this accomplishment.

Ontario's athletes are ranked according to the criteria explained in Technical Bulletin # 22. Selecting the athletes for the PTT and PDT this fall exposed weaknesses in the ranking process. In September OSSA announced a ranking list of athletes that was incorrect because of errors that were made in the application of the criteria and today's announcement provides members with the correct list of athletes.

On behalf of those of us from the OSSA Board and the committees responsible for the ranking process I would like to apologize to the athletes, parents and coaches for the errors that were made in the original ranking process this year. Our Association is very fortunate that a number of members stepped forward to solve the original problems. VP Technical David Stewart and the members of the Technical Committee; Jacky Shoebridge, Laura Woodall, Rocky Lamontange and Tony Bean initiated a review of the ranking lists and spent a great deal of time and effort getting the numbers right. A couple of key members also stepped forward to help with the process. David Morrison and Gerry Harrington in particular provided a clearer understanding of the ranking criteria.

The Provincial Selection Committee provides the final oversight for the ranking list and it became evident this year that this group needed additional technical expertise to be effective. We are very pleased to have Patti Walsh and Gerry Harrington join Steve Beattie, Mike Murray and myself on the Provincial Selection Committee.

It is now the goal of this committee, working with the Technical Committee to edit the selection criteria so that the future ranking of Ontario's athletes is as fair and transparent as possible. We will be asking for input from our athletes, coaches and members. It is in the Association's best interest to have a fair, simple and transparent athlete ranking system that addresses Ontario's unique challenge of assessing athletes who train and race at one of the national training centres as well as the athletes who train and race at their clubs here in Ontario.



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It is the goal of the Selection Committee and the Technical Committee to have changes to the selection criteria ready for final approval by the OSSA Board before the end of this calendar year. Interested members, coaches or athletes are encouraged to outline changes they feel need to be made to the existing selection criteria outlined in Technical Bulletin # 22. Written submissions are to be sent to the OSSA Director of Administration, Jackie Deschenes, at the OSSA office. Members of the two committees will be meeting to review recommendations and prepare a list of possible changes to the existing criteria. The OSSA Board will then host an open discussion of the selection criteria on Saturday, Dec 13th at the Ontario Cup # 2 race in Belleville. Members who wish to participate in this forum are asked to contact Jackie at the OSSA office so that we can keep members informed of exact meeting details.

Again congratulation to our athletes and we look forward to hearing from members with an opinion on this issue over the next few weeks.

Thank you

Graham Wilkins
President
Ontario Speed Skating Association

<i>Short Track Provincial Teams</i>		<i>Long Track Provincial Teams</i>	
Women	Men	Women	Men
<i>Provincial Training Team</i>			
Elizabeth Dier Kristy Shoebridge Keri Morrison	Richard Shoebridge Dustin Miller Pascal Franche	Stacey Muise Erin Mitchell Madeline Mitchell	Patrick Marsh Andrew Godbout Adam McCabe
<i>Provincial Development Team</i>			
Taylor Schmidt Hayley Roberts Stephanie Bowskill Camille Bean Lauren McGuire Emma Hobson	Matthew Morrison Patrick Duffy Julien Collin-Demers Jacob McKenzie Robert Watson Henry Thriscutt Brian Pye Joel Collin-Demers Braeden Elliot	Kira Slivitsky Samantha Morrison Michelle Gauthier Gabrielle St. Germain	Myles Matheson Dan Growden Richard MacLennan Leo Landry