



**Provincial Program**

**2012 – 2013 Selection Criteria**

**May 10, 2011**

**Manitoba Speed Skating Association  
Provincial Program  
2012 – 2013 Selection Criteria**

<b>PROVINCIAL PROGRAMS</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>PROVINCIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<u><b>OBJECTIVES:</b></u> .....	<b>4</b>
<u><b>SELECTION CRITERIA:</b></u> .....	<b>4</b>
Composition: .....	4
Age Criteria: .....	4
Criteria: .....	4
Selection: .....	5
<b>PROVINCIAL TRAINING PROGRAM</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<u><b>OBJECTIVES:</b></u> .....	<b>6</b>
<u><b>SELECTION CRITERIA:</b></u> .....	<b>6</b>
Composition: .....	6
Age Criteria: .....	6
Criteria: .....	6
Selection: .....	6
<b>APPENDIX A – Minimum Time Standards for Junior B &amp; A and Neo Senior Skaters</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>APPENDIX B – Target Times for T2T Skaters</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>APPENDIX C – Skill Assessment for T2T Skaters</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>APPENDIX D – Speed Skating Canada’s Operational Guidelines For Age Category Reclassification</b> .....	<b>11</b>

## **PROVINCIAL PROGRAMS**

The Manitoba Speed Skating Association's Provincial Programs use Speed Skating Canada's Long-Term Participant and Athlete Development model (LTPAD) as the guiding model. MSSA's Provincial Programs recognize athletes based on their stage of development and their level of performance. This creates a multi-tiered approach that provides athletes with developmentally appropriate programming that will best support their development.

The Provincial Programs offer supplementary training to selected athletes who meet specific developmental criteria and are reaching specific levels of performance. The provincial program offers ice and dry-land training to supplement club programs to athletes in the Provincial Development Program (PDP), and further provides enhanced training opportunities to selected athletes in the Provincial Training Program (PTP). The goal of the Provincial Programs is to develop athletes for Canada Winter Games and national rankings by focusing on speed skating literacy, physical development, and competitive development.

This document outlines the objectives and criteria associated with the PDP and PTP that will be used as the basis for selecting athletes for the 2012-2013 Provincial Program. This document has attempted to set objective criteria for skaters at different stages of development to attain in order to gain access to the 2012-2013 Provincial Program. **However, at the completion of the 2011-2012 season, based on anomalies that may occur during the season, the High Performance Committee may at its discretion adapt the selection criteria in order to meet the objectives of the program.**

This document was prepared by:  
Todd Landon, Provincial Coach and Technical Consultant  
[mssa.coach@shaw.ca](mailto:mssa.coach@shaw.ca)  
204-414-1102

Approved by the Manitoba Speed Skating Association High Performance Committee on May 10, 2011.

## **PROVINCIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

### **OBJECTIVES:**

- To develop athletes by focusing on critical skill and speed skating literacy.
- To develop athletes by focusing on physical development.
- To develop athletes by focusing on competitive development.
- To develop athletes by introducing them to sport science concepts.

### **SELECTION CRITERIA:**

#### **Composition:**

- Sixteen to twenty-four (16 – 24) athletes will be selected for this program based on the following criteria.
  - The composition of the PDP is inclusive of the eight to twelve (8 – 12) PTP athletes.
  - Adjustments to the composition of the program may be made at the discretion of the High Performance Committee.

#### **Age Criteria:**

- An athlete will be within Training to Train (♂ 12 – 15 years, ♀ 11 – 14 years), or Learning to Compete (♂ 16 – 18 years, ♀ 15 – 17 years) stage of development.
- At a minimum the athlete will be 2015 Canada Winter Games Eligible (14 on June 30, 2014 but not 19 on June 30, 2014. Year of birth July 1, 1995 to June 30, 2000)

#### **Criteria:**

- Training to Train (T2T)
  - Participation – An athlete will have participated in the following during the 2011-2012 season:
    - Camps:
      - At least one (1) of the Fall Short Track Camp or the Winter Long Track Camp.
    - Competitions:
      - Three (3) MSSA development competitions, with at least one (1) in either short track or long track.
      - Manitoba Long Track and Short Track Championships.
      - The Canadian Age Class Long Track Championships when it is hosted in Manitoba or Saskatchewan.
      - The Canada West Short Track Championships when it is hosted in Manitoba or Saskatchewan.
  - Performance – An athlete will meet time standards in both Short and Long Track T2T distances as outlined in Appendix B:
    - Short Track: a target time will be achieved two (2) times in two (2) different distances, and
    - Long Track: a target time will be achieved two (2) times in two (2) different distances.
    - Athletes meeting the required number of time standards will be ranked based on the average percentage of their times below the standard.
  - Skills – An athlete will be able to execute skills as outlined in Appendix C, which are derived from Speed Skating Canada's Cutting Edge Pin Program levels 7 and 8.
    - Prospective athletes will be invited to a skill evaluation session at the end of the season. Athletes' scores will be ranked based on their percentage achieved.
- Learning to Compete (L2C) – includes athletes in the Junior B and Junior A age categories.
  - Participation – An athlete will have participated in the following during the 2011-2012 season:
    - Camps
      - At least two (2) of the Fall Short Track Camp, CanAm Camp, and/or the Winter Long Track Camp.
    - Competitions
      - Three (2) MSSA competitions, with at least one (1) in either short track or long track.
      - Manitoba Long Track and Short Track Championships.
      - One (1) of Canada Cup Long Track and/or Western Canada Cup Short Track.
      - One (1) of Canadian Junior Long Track Championships and/or Canadian Short Track Championships.
  - Performance – An athlete will meet time standards in Short and/or Long Track ISU distances as outlined in Appendix A:
    - Short Track: six (6) time standards will be achieved. A minimum of one (1) standard will be achieved in three (3) different distances, to a maximum of three (3) standards in any single distance, or
    - Long Track: six (6) time standards will be achieved. A minimum of one (1) standard will be achieved in three (3) different distances, to a maximum of three (3) standards in any single distance, or
    - Short Track and Long Track: six (6) time standards will be achieved. A minimum of two (2) standards will be achieved in two (2) different Short Track distances, and a minimum of two (2) standards will be achieved in two (2) different Long Track distances, to a maximum of 2 standards in any single distance.

- Athletes meeting the required number of time standards will be ranked based on the average percentage of their times below the standard.

**Selection:**

- The top sixteen to twenty-four (16 – 24) athletes with meeting the criteria will be invited to join the Development Program.
  - Eight to twelve (8 – 12) of the Development Program athletes, who meet the additional Training Program selection criteria, will be invited to join the PTP.

## **PROVINCIAL TRAINING PROGRAM**

### **OBJECTIVES:**

- To develop athletes by focusing on optimizing critical skill and speed skating literacy.
- To develop athletes by focusing on optimizing physical development.
- To develop athletes by focusing on optimizing competitive development.
- To develop athletes by optimizing their knowledge of sport science concepts.
- To develop athletes who are on a performance pathway to the National Ranking Events.
- To provide athletes and coaches with an educational environment that promotes and enhances knowledge of advanced training development and procedures.
- Long term mission it to produce internationally competitive skaters.

### **SELECTION CRITERIA:**

#### **Composition:**

- Eight to twelve (8 – 12) athletes will be selected for this program from the Development Program based on the following criteria.
  - Adjustments to the composition of the program may be made at the discretion of the High Performance Committee.

#### **Age Criteria:**

- An athlete will be within Learning to Compete (♂ 16–18 years, ♀ 15–17 years), or Training to Compete (♂ 18–21 years, ♀ 17–21 years) stages of development.
  - Athletes in the Training to Train (♂ 12–15 years, ♀ 11–14 years) stage of development will also be considered for the PTP as long as they are post PHV (Peak Height Velocity).<sup>+</sup>

#### **Criteria:**

- In addition to meeting the L2C Development Program criteria an athlete will also have achieved advanced time standards two (2) times, during the season, in three (3) distances. The six (6) standards must be met in a single discipline. See Appendix A for time standards.
  - The time standards are a product of the Junior Canadian and Senior Canadian Long Track and Short Track records.

#### **Selection:**

- An athlete's six (6) short track qualifying times will be factored against their applicable time standard to get a percentage, which will then be averaged.
- An athlete's six (6) long track (Olympic Style) qualifying times will be factored against the their applicable time standard to get a percentage, which will then be averaged.
- The short track list and the long track list will be merged and ranked based on the lowest average percentage.
- The top eight (8) to twelve (12) athletes in the ranking will be invited to join the Provincial Training Program.

---

<sup>+</sup> Speed Skating Canada's Operational Guidelines For Age Category Reclassification, in Appendix D, will be use as a basis for the determination of PHV.

**APPENDIX A – Minimum Time Standards for Junior B & A and Neo Senior Skaters**

Junior B Women (15-16)*	Short Track				Olympic Style			
	Distance	SSC Record	PDP (120%) Standard	PTP (115%) Standard	Distance	SSC Record	PDP (120%) Standard	PTP (115%) Standard
	500m	0:44.92	0:53.90	0:51.66	500m	0:38.53	0:46.23	0:44.30
	1000m	1:33.32	1:51.98	1:47.31	1000m	1:16.16	1:31.39	1:27.58
	1500m	2:26.94	2:56.32	2:48.98	1500m	1:58.16	2:21.79	2:15.88
					3000m	4:04.49	4:53.38	4:41.16

Junior A Women (17-18)	Short Track				Olympic Style			
	Distance	SSC Record	PDP (119%) Standard	PTP (114%) Standard	Distance	SSC Record	PDP (119%) Standard	PTP (114%) Standard
	500m	0:44.92	0:53.45	0:51.20	500m	0:38.53	0:45.85	0:43.92
	1000m	1:33.32	1:51.05	1:46.38	1000m	1:16.16	1:30.63	1:26.82
	1500m	2:26.94	2:54.85	2:47.51	1500m	1:58.16	2:20.61	2:14.70
					3000m	4:04.49	4:50.94	4:38.71

Neo Senior Women (19-23)	Short Track				Olympic Style			
	Distance	SSC Record		PTP (116%) Standard	Distance	SSC Record		PTP (116%) Standard
	500m	0:43.35		0:50.28	500m	0:37.22		0:43.17
	1000m	1:29.87		1:44.24	1000m	1:13.11		1:24.80
	1500m	2:17.19		2:39.14	1500m	1:51.79		2:09.67
					3000m	3:53.34		4:30.67

Junior B Men (15-16)*	Short Track				Olympic Style			
	Distance	SSC Record	PDP (120%) Standard	PTP (115%) Standard	Distance	SSC Record	PDP (120%) Standard	PTP (115%) Standard
	500m	0:41.94	0:50.32	0:48.24	500m	0:34.96	0:41.95	0:40.20
	1000m	1:25.59	1:42.70	1:38.43	1000m	1:08.56	1:22.27	1:18.84
	1500m	2:12.70	2:39.24	2:32.60	1500m	1:46.49	2:07.78	2:02.46
					3000m	3:45.98	4:31.17	4:19.87
					5000m	6:27.68	7:45.21	7:25.83

Junior A Men (17-18)	Short Track				Olympic Style			
	Distance	SSC Record	PDP (118%) Standard	PTP (112%) Standard	Distance	SSC Record	PDP (118%) Standard	PTP (112%) Standard
	500m	0:41.94	0:49.48	0:46.98	500m	0:34.96	0:41.25	0:39.15
	1000m	1:25.59	1:40.99	1:35.87	1000m	1:08.56	1:20.90	1:16.78
	1500m	2:12.70	2:36.58	2:28.62	1500m	1:46.49	2:05.65	1:59.26
					3000m	3:45.98	4:26.65	4:13.09
					5000m	6:27.68	7:37.46	7:14.20

Neo Senior Men (19-23)	Short Track				Olympic Style			
	Distance	SSC Record		PTP (115%) Standard	Distance	SSC Record		PTP (115%) Standard
	500m	0:40.43		0:46.50	500m	0:34.03		0:39.13
	1000m	1:23.45		1:35.97	1000m	1:07.03		1:17.08
	1500m	2:06.57		2:25.55	1500m	1:42.01		1:57.31
					3000m	3:41.96		4:15.25
					5000m	6:14.01		7:10.11

\* Junior C Women (13-14) who meet the PHV criteria would have to also meet the Junior B Women's PTP time standards for entry into the PTP program.

\* Junior C Men (13-14) who meet the PHV criteria would have to also meet the Junior B Men's PTP time standards for entry into the PTP program.

## APPENDIX B – Target Times\* for T2T Skaters

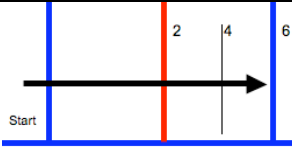
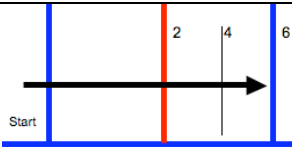
<b>T2T 11 Girls</b>	<b>Short Track</b>			<b>Long Track</b>		
	<b>Distance</b>	<b>Gauge</b>	<b>Target (115%)</b>	<b>Distance</b>	<b>Gauge</b>	<b>Target (115%)</b>
	100m	0:12.42	0:14.28	100m	0:12.76	0:14.67
	400m	0:44.12	0:50.73	300m	0:30.55	0:35.13
			500m	0:50.34	0:57.89	
			2400m	4:43.47	5:25.99	
<b>T2T 12 Girls</b>	<b>Short Track</b>			<b>Long Track</b>		
	<b>Distance</b>	<b>Gauge</b>	<b>Target (115%)</b>	<b>Distance</b>	<b>Gauge</b>	<b>Target (115%)</b>
	100m	0:12.36	0:14.21	100m	0:12.56	0:14.44
	400m	0:43.43	0:49.94	300m	0:29.85	0:34.32
			500m	0:51.58	0:59.31	
			2400m	4:52.01	5:35.81	
<b>T2T 13 Girls</b>	<b>Short Track</b>			<b>Long Track</b>		
	<b>Distance</b>	<b>Gauge</b>	<b>Target (115%)</b>	<b>Distance</b>	<b>Gauge</b>	<b>Target (115%)</b>
	100m	0:11.98	0:13.77	100m	0:11.68	0:13.43
	500m	0:51.59	0:59.32	300m	0:28.63	0:32.92
			500m	0:48.18	0:55.40	
			2400m	4:15.49	4:50.81	
<b>T2T 14 Girls</b>	<b>Short Track</b>			<b>Long Track</b>		
	<b>Distance</b>	<b>Gauge</b>	<b>Target (115%)</b>	<b>Distance</b>	<b>Gauge</b>	<b>Target (115%)</b>
	100m	0:11.97	0:13.76	100m	0:11.90	0:13.68
	500m	0:51.10	0:58.76	300m	0:29.08	0:33.44
			500m	0:47.05	0:54.10	
			2400m	4:18.34	4:57.09	
<b>T2T 12 Boys</b>	<b>Short Track</b>			<b>Long Track</b>		
	<b>Distance</b>	<b>Gauge</b>	<b>Target (115%)</b>	<b>Distance</b>	<b>Gauge</b>	<b>Target (115%)</b>
	100m	0:12.42	0:14.28	100m	0:12.38	0:14.23
	400m	0:44.12	0:50.73	300m	0:29.29	0:33.68
			500m	0:49.34	0:56.74	
			2400m	4:31.77	5:12.53	
<b>T2T 13 Boys</b>	<b>Short Track</b>			<b>Long Track</b>		
	<b>Distance</b>	<b>Gauge</b>	<b>Target (115%)</b>	<b>Distance</b>	<b>Gauge</b>	<b>Target (115%)</b>
	100m	0:11.64	0:13.38	100m	0:11.02	0:12.67
	400m	0:40.55	0:46.63	300m	0:28.49	0:32.76
			500m	0:44.17	0:50.79	
			2400m	4:01.31	4:37.50	
<b>T2T 14 Boys</b>	<b>Short Track</b>			<b>Long Track</b>		
	<b>Distance</b>	<b>Gauge</b>	<b>Target (115%)</b>	<b>Distance</b>	<b>Gauge</b>	<b>Target (115%)</b>
	100m	0:10.87	0:12.50	100m	0:10.80	0:12.42
	500m	0:47.88	0:55.06	300m	0:26.22	0:30.15
			500m	0:43.71	0:50.26	
			2400m	3:50.13	4:24.64	
<b>T2T 15 Boys</b>	<b>Short Track</b>			<b>Long Track</b>		
	<b>Distance</b>	<b>Gauge</b>	<b>Target (115%)</b>	<b>Distance</b>	<b>Gauge</b>	<b>Target (115%)</b>
	100m	0:11.22	0:12.90	100m	0:10.95	0:12.59
	500m	0:47.61	0:54.75	300m	0:26.54	0:30.52
			500m	0:43.29	0:49.79	
			2400m	3:49.21	4:23.59	

\* T2T Target Times are gauged off of the fastest time, per age group, achieved at the 2011 Canada West Short Track Championships or the 2011 Canadian Long Track Championships for Short Track and Long Track respectively.

## APPENDIX C – Skill Assessment for T2T Skaters

Skater Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Skill	Description	Diagram	Scoring
<b>1. Weight Transfer While Gliding</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Skater travels the length of the ice. <input type="checkbox"/> Skater demonstrates weight transfer by shifting body weight between right and left leg. When one leg is used for balance the opposite leg is extended to the side for a total of two (2) seconds. Skates to not contact the ice.		<input type="checkbox"/> Left leg #1 for 2sec = 2pts <input type="checkbox"/> Right leg #1 for 2sec = 2pts <input type="checkbox"/> Left leg #2 for 2sec = 2pts <input type="checkbox"/> Right leg #2 for 2sec = 2pts <input type="checkbox"/> Maintain Basic Position = 2pts  _____ Total out of 10pts
<b>2. Left Leg Glide Around Corner in Basic Position (Counter-Clockwise)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Skater approaches the corner at medium speed in basic position. At the blue line the right leg is lifted off the ice while weight is being supported on the left leg. <input type="checkbox"/> Skaters travels in gliding position until reaching the final corner block		<input type="checkbox"/> Maintained single leg glide to Block # _____ = _____pts <input type="checkbox"/> Stayed Close to Blocks = 2pts <input type="checkbox"/> Maintain Basic Position = 2pts  _____ Total out of 10pts
<b>3. Right Leg Glide Around Corner in Basic Position (Counter-Clockwise)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Skater approaches the corner at medium speed in basic position. At the blue line the left leg is lifted off the ice while weight is being supported on the right leg. <input type="checkbox"/> Skaters travels in gliding position until reaching the final corner block		<input type="checkbox"/> Maintained single leg glide to Block # _____ = _____pts <input type="checkbox"/> Stayed Close to Blocks = 2pts <input type="checkbox"/> Maintain Basic Position = 2pts  _____ Total out of 10pts
<b>4. Left Leg Glide Around Corner in Basic Position (Clockwise)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Skater approaches the corner at medium speed in basic position. At the blue line the right leg is lifted off the ice while weight is being supported on the left leg. <input type="checkbox"/> Skaters travels in gliding position until reaching the final corner block		<input type="checkbox"/> Maintained single leg glide to Block # _____ = _____pts <input type="checkbox"/> Stayed Close to Blocks = 2pts <input type="checkbox"/> Maintain Basic Position = 2pts  _____ Total out of 10pts
<b>5. Right Leg Glide Around Corner in Basic Position (Clockwise)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Skater approaches the corner at medium speed in basic position. At the blue line the left leg is lifted off the ice while weight is being supported on the right leg. <input type="checkbox"/> Skaters travels in gliding position until reaching the final corner block		<input type="checkbox"/> Maintained single leg glide to Block # _____ = _____pts <input type="checkbox"/> Stayed Close to Blocks = 2pts <input type="checkbox"/> Maintain Basic Position = 2pts  _____ Total out of 10pts

<b>6. Left Leg Backwards Glide on Straight</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Skater Builds Speed on Straight <input type="checkbox"/> Skater glides backwards in straight line between blue lines while weight supported on left leg.		<input type="checkbox"/> Blue to Red Line = 2pts <input type="checkbox"/> Halfway Red to Blue = 2pts <input type="checkbox"/> Completed to Blue Line = 2pts <input type="checkbox"/> Maintain Basic Position = 2pts <input type="checkbox"/> Steady Upper Body = 2pts  _____ Total out of 10pts
<b>7. Right Leg Backwards Glide on Straight</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Skater Builds Speed on Straight <input type="checkbox"/> Skater glides backwards in straight line between blue lines while weight supported on left leg.		<input type="checkbox"/> Blue to Red Line = 2pts <input type="checkbox"/> Halfway Red to Blue = 2pts <input type="checkbox"/> Completed to Blue Line = 2pts <input type="checkbox"/> Maintain Basic Position = 2pts <input type="checkbox"/> Steady Upper Body = 2pts  _____ Total out of 10pts
			_____ <b>Grand Total / 70pts x 100</b>  _____ %

## **APPENDIX D – Speed Skating Canada’s Operational Guidelines For Age Category Reclassification**

Speed Skating Canada (SSC) has established age categories as a means of creating developmentally appropriate competition groupings of athletes based on the stage of development of skaters. While age category groupings are developmentally appropriate for most participants, the scientific literature supporting SSC’s Long Term Participant and Athlete Development Model (LTPAD) recognizes that individuals have different rates of growth, development and maturation, developing physically, socially, intellectually and emotionally at different rates, therefore the predefined age categories may not be developmentally appropriate for some skaters.

The purpose of age categories is to help ensure that participation in SSC sanctioned events is developmentally appropriate for participating skaters. The intent behind the criterion is to avoid situations where athletes are encouraged to pursue developmentally inappropriate and potentially harmful training and competition experiences. The purpose of the reclassification process is to address the exceptional athlete whose growth, development and maturation is in advance of the majority of skaters. While these operational guidelines are designed specifically for SSC Championships and selection events, Branches are encouraged to use these operational guidelines as a reference when managing provincial/territorial events.

An exemption may be requested for any SSC Championship or selection event where age categories are used to group skaters or determine participation eligibility. Exemptions will only be considered for skaters seeking to skate in older age categories. Exemptions will not be considered when the purpose of an event is selection to International Competition for which a minimum age is in place.

### **Application Process**

Applications for age category reclassification must be submitted to the SSC office at least six (6) weeks prior to the start of the event using the appropriate application form available on SSC’s website and including all information described in the Assessment Criteria for Age Category Re-classification.

Applications will be reviewed by a designated review panel and a decision rendered within twenty-one (21) days of having received the application for an age category re-classification.

### **Assessment Criteria for SSC Age Category Reclassification**

Individuals seeking an age exemption should demonstrate in their request for exemption that an athlete’s skating ability, growth, development and maturation are at a level which corresponds to that of the majority of athletes who will be competing in the designated event or competition category. All skater development data submitted will be compared to normative data for the population at large, and the skating results of participants meeting the minimum age criteria in previous seasons.

Specifically, SSC will be seeking to confirm that the skater’s growth, development and maturation is consistent with other skaters within the age category for which they are seeking an exemption and the skater’s performance level corresponds to that of skaters in the top 2/3 of the field at previous events.

When an age category reclassification is granted, that skater will be considered in a Branch’s quota for the new age category and earn Branch positions based on their performance in the new category. No additional Branch positions will be granted when a skater earns reclassification.

As part of the submission, the following documentation should be provided:

### **Skater Development Information**

The following documentation with regards to the skater’s development should be submitted:

1. A list of the competitions and training attended by the athlete in the previous year that would prepare him/her for this event; and a summary of training history prior to the previous season, including number of years’ experience in speed skating and other sport programs.
2. All physiological testing results available from the past twelve (12) months including VO2 Max, Wingate, Vertical Jump, Leger-Boucher and other recognized testing protocols. Results submitted will be compared to normative data for athletes in the age category in which the athlete is seeking to be re-classified.
3. Records of the athlete’s height taken at three (3) month intervals, over the previous thirty-six (36) months period. Measurements should follow the protocol laid out in the document: “The Role of Monitoring Growth in Long-Term Athlete Development” (Istvan Balyi & Richard Way). If less than thirty-six (36) months data are available, current data should still be submitted. This data will be reviewed to assist in establishing the skater’s stage of development.
4. Examples of successful participation in other sporting competitions or other experiences that support this athlete’s readiness to compete in an older age category.

**Other Documentation**

1. A letter of support from the provincial/territorial coach named for the designated event stating that, in his/her opinion; the athlete has the social and emotional maturity to cope with the stress of participation in the designated event.
2. A letter of support from the skater's primary coach confirming the skater's readiness to participate in the designated event. As part of this letter the coach should include his or her level of certification and coach certification number.
3. A list of steps that the provincial/territorial sport organization will take to ensure the athlete is prepared for, and does have a positive experience at the designated event, including formal support from the Branch for the submission.