



Skate South Australia Inc. (Skate SA)
SPEEDSA SELECTION POLICY AND CRITERIA FOR STATE
REPRESENTATION

BYLAW 9C

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SPEED SA SELECTION POLICY & CRITERIA

PREAMBLE

1. SPEEDSA SELECTION POLICY & CRITERIA OBJECTIVES

The primary objective of the SPEEDSA Selection Policy and Criteria is to ensure that athletes chosen to represent South Australia at the National Championships are of the highest possible standard to enable South Australia to place well in all events.

A secondary objective is to underpin the future success of South Australia at National & International Speed competitions, by providing *elite athletes* with opportunities to compete at national competitions.

2. DEFINITIONS

2.1 “SA” means Skate Australia, the National Peak Body for all skating-based sports disciplines within Australia

2.2 “Skate SA” means the State Peak Body for Speed SA

2.3 “SpeedSA” means Speed Rollerskating State Branch.

2.4 “SpeedSA Chair of Coaches” is the person responsible for the technical direction of any coaching and the leadership of teams on tour and has input into the leadership and direction of the overall State Teams Program.

2.5 “SpeedSA Chair of Officials” is the person responsible for South Australia providing a pool of accredited Officials to Officiate at State & National Competitions.

2.6 “Results” means the placings in a competition.

2.7 “State Championships” means an inter club competition conducted by SpeedSA. State Championships must include all of the same events and age divisions as the Australian Championships. Variations, limited to event requirements, and to suit local conditions, may be approved by the National Branch Chairman provided they are set out in the sanction application.

2.8 “State Team” means the individuals selected by the SpeedSA Committee to represent South Australia at specified national competition/s.

PART A: STATE TEAM

1. RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SPEEDSA SELECTION POLICY AND CRITERIA

The implementation and administration of the SpeedSA Selection Policy and Criteria is the responsibility of the SpeedSA Branch Committee;

2. RESPONSIBILITY FOR SELECTION OF STATE TEAMS & REPRESENTATIVES

The SpeedSA is responsible for the selection of all SpeedSA State Teams. These teams & all State Coaches, Officials and any other appointed positions must be approved by the State Branch Committee & then ratified by Skate SA.

2.1 Team Selection Announcement Strategies

- a) All State Teams/Representatives will be announced by a date nominated by the State Branch Committee.

- b) After the completion of the State Championships all athletes will receive a letter either confirming their selection or non-selection.
- c) Selected athlete's letter of congratulations will outline any guidelines that the athlete must follow to remain a member of their State Team.

3. STATE TEAM SELECTION

3.1 Eligibility for selection for State Teams

Achieving the criteria does not necessarily qualify the athlete for final team selection. The selection of all State Teams/Representatives is at the discretion of the State Branch Committee. This discretion is absolute.

To be eligible for consideration for selection in the State Team, athletes must:

- (a) Have no restrictions imposed upon them outside of these selection rules.
- (b) Be registered as a competitive member of Skate SA;
- (c) Be a bona fide resident of Australia with a permanent home in Australia and he/she must have lived in Australia for at least six (6) months, unless nominated by an invited National Federation.
- (d) Comply with the following:
 - o Skate Championships:
 - i. Skated at the State Championships.
 - o Or an exemption letter must be submitted to the Speed SA State Branch before nominations close.

The SpeedSA State Branch will then consider the Exemption of the Skater. Past performances and training regimes will be a factor in consideration.

 - ii. In case of a medical issue at any time prior to the competition a doctor's certificate has to be sighted by the SpeedSA VP.

For an event with SA imposed number limitations, the athletes will be selected in their finishing order at State Championships.

Gold medal first selected, then silver medal as second selected, and so on.

3.2 Process for Selection to the State Team

- (a) To be considered for selection in the State Team, athletes must contest in the State Championships, and achieve the criteria as set out in Section 3.1, of the SpeedSA Selection Policy and Criteria.
- (b) Athletes may also be added to the State Team at the discretion of the SpeedSA Branch Committee. This discretion is absolute.

3.3 Obligations of Athletes Selected in the State Team

All athletes who have been selected in the State Team using the criteria in this policy must:

- (a) Continue to train in order to maintain their fitness both physically & mentally
- (b) Fulfil any requirements of the State Team training program
- (c) Sign the SpeedSA Athlete Agreement covering responsibilities & behaviour

(d) Be prepared to contribute 100% of the costs by the designated due dates, associated with attendance at the National Championships.

4. SPECIAL CONSIDERATION BY SPEEDSA

4.1 Extenuating Circumstances

- a) Special consideration may be given to an athlete who is unable to participate at the State Titles because of extenuating circumstances.

For the purposes of this **clause 4(b)** “extenuating circumstances” means an inability to compete and/or attend arising from:

- (i) Injury or illness;
- (ii) Bereavement, and/or
- (iii) Serving in the defence forces & unable to attend State Championships due to this service
- (iv) Any other factors reasonably considered by Speed SA Branch Committee to constitute extenuating circumstances.

In the case of illness or injury, athletes must present a doctor’s certificate

- b) A decision in each case of extenuating circumstances will be made by the SpeedSA Branch Committee on an individual basis.

4.3 Athlete did not skate State Championships

- a) The athlete or their representative must write to the SpeedSA VP within the nomination closing dates of the State Championships, requesting special selection consideration for that discipline.
- b) The SpeedSA VP is the primary adjudicator on whether or not the athlete’s request will be granted. When it is considered that the request is not appropriate, the SpeedSA VP will consult with the Chair of Coaching /Officiating before a final decision is made.
- c) All requests will be given due consideration.
- d) Being granted special consideration does not mean the athlete has been selected for that discipline in the South Australian State Team; merely that they are eligible for selection.
- e) An athlete who has not skated in the State Championships cannot be selected above an athlete who did skate, regardless of whether special consideration was granted by the SpeedSA VP.
- f) When there are multiple athletes who have been granted exceptional consideration for a discipline but not enough positions available for them all, the SpeedSA VP will be the solo adjudicator on which athletes will be granted the available positions. No discussion will be entered into once the decision is released.
- g) In the event of the athlete not nominating for the event but being called upon as a replacement, this athlete must pay the State Championships fees in order to be in the South Australian State Team.

5. REMOVAL OR WITHDRAWAL FROM STATE TEAM

5.1 Reasons for removal/withdrawal

SpeedSA may remove athletes from the State Team if they:

- (a) Breach or fail to fulfil the obligations of the State Team outlined in, **Clause 3.3**, or

(b) By reason of illness or injury are unable to perform to the required standard in the opinion of the SpeedSA (after sighting a medical certificate) or

(c) Breach or fail to fulfil the requirements of the Skate Australia Anti-Doping Policy; or

(d) Breach or fail to observe the SpeedSA Athlete Agreement

5.2 Sanctions for removal/withdrawal

Athletes removed from a State Team under **clause 5.1 [c](d)** within four weeks prior to departure for a National Competition or during the national competition will be subject to one or more of the following sanctions:

(a) a tribunal hearing & associated penalty

(b) Forfeit of all Nomination and Registration costs associated with the competition.

6. REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES REMOVED OR WITHDRAWN FROM STATE TEAM

If an athlete is removed from a State Team for a National Competition because of injury or non-adherence to the SpeedSA Selection Policy, Speed SA Committee may in its discretion select a further athlete to be included in the team from the reserve list only, in order of results.

7. QUERIES ON SELECTION OF STATE TEAM

7.1 Authorised Officer

The State Branch Committee, or nominated delegate acting on their behalf, is the only officer authorised by SpeedSA to respond to any questions concerning the athletes selected for the State Team, in accordance with this policy.

7.2 Process

All questions concerning any aspect of selection can be emailed to the SpeedSA VP skatesavpspeed@gmail.com for consideration.

8. TEAM SIZE AND FUNDING FOR NATIONAL COMPETITION

8.1 Team Size

The number of coaches, support staff and team management appointed and degree of financial support for State Teams will be determined by:

(a) Team size;

(b) Amount of funding available by SpeedSA;

(c) Advice from the SpeedSA VP, Chair of Coaches/Officials & Treasurer

8.2 Finance

The amount of financial support SpeedSA will provide to State Teams for national competition will be determined by the level of assistance provided by other sources:

(i) State Team athletes may be asked to contribute up to 100% of the costs associated with attending the competition.

9. CHANGES TO POLICY

Changes to the Selection Policy and Criteria may be implemented should the SpeedSA Branch Committee decide such changes are warranted to ensure that the athletes chosen to represent South Australia in national competitions are of the highest possible standard or where the literal application of this policy would not achieve the primary objective of the selection policy and criteria. Such changes must be ratified by both the SpeedSA Committee & Skate SA Executive, at least four (4) weeks prior to the commencement of the State Championship or departure for national competition.

PART B: COACHES, TEAM MANAGEMENT, OFFICIALS AND SUPPORT STAFF

1. SELECTION OF COACHES, TEAM MANAGEMENT, OFFICIALS & SUPPORT STAFF FOR THE STATE TEAM FOR NATIONAL COMPETITIONS

1.1 Selection of coaches

(a) The SpeedSA Chair of Coaching will attend all State Tournament/Selections & when possible the National Championships and National Coaches Annual meeting.

(b) The SpeedSA Chair of Coaching and SpeedSA State Branch Committee will ensure that all coaches of selected athletes fulfil the Skate SA Governance.

(c) All applicants nominating for a State Coach or Assistant Coach position must be Skate SA member & will require a minimum:

- (i) Current police clearance extending to beyond the finish date of the National Championships
- (ii) Current coaching accreditation extending to beyond the finish date of the Championships (elite/advanced artistic coaching accreditation or intermediate coaching accreditation with a nominated mentor coach in attendance in the marshalling area)
- (iii) Current "Play by the Rules" Certificate

(d) Appointments for all Coaches will firstly go to the State Branch Committee who will pass onto Skate SA Executive for ratification, prior to announcement.

1.2 Selection of team management

(a) The SpeedSA State Branch Committee will select/ appoint the team manager from those who nominated, based on previous experience, the structure and balance within the team, in conjunction with the SpeedSA job specifications.

(b) The State Team Manager must:

- (i) agree to sign the SpeedSA State team agreement covering responsibilities, behaviour and policy relating to sponsorship and drug use;
- (ii) return the above agreement to the State Branch Committee no later than the designated date.

All applicants nominating for any official State Team position must be a Skate SA member and are required to have:

- (i) Current police clearance extending to beyond the finish date of the Championships
- (ii) Current "Play by the Rules" Certificate
- (iii) Current Drivers licence if required to drive a team bus/car

(c) Appointments for any Official & Support (if required) personnel will firstly go to the State Branch Committee who will pass onto Skate SA Executive for ratification, prior to announcement.

1.3 Selection of Officials

(a) The Chair of Officials will attend all State Tournaments & when possible the National Championships and National Officials Annual meeting.

(b) The SpeedSA Chair of Officials will select the officials required to officiate at State Titles.

(c) All Officials from South Australia selected by the Australian Speed Committee to officiate at a National Tournament must be Skate SA members & will require a minimum:

- (i) Current police clearance extending to beyond the finish date of the tour
- (ii) Current "Play by the Rules" Certificate
- (iii) Current Officials accreditation extending to beyond the finish date of the Championships (at the required level by the National Body)

(d) The SpeedSA Chair of Officials must notify the State Branch Committee if any South Australian Officials, represent SpeedSA at a National Championship.

PART C: APPEAL PROCESS

1. The appeal process concerning non-selection or removal from the State Team will be referred to the SpeedSA Appeal Panel (see point 8)

2. The sole grounds for any appeal are that this selection policy was not properly followed and/or implemented. For the avoidance of doubt, grounds of appeal can only address procedural matters under this policy, not matters of merit.

3. Any appeal by an athlete, coach or official against non-selection or removal from the SpeedSA State Team will be heard by the SpeedSA Appeal Panel as follows:

(a) the appellant must give written notice of his or her appeal to the State Branch Committee within 48 hours of the announcement of the decision which is being appealed; and

(b) within 5 working days of submitting his or her written notice of appeal, the appellant must submit to the State Branch Committee the grounds of appeal; and

(c) the SpeedSA Appeal Panel will convene a hearing as soon as possible after the submission of the grounds of appeal. The hearing may occur in such manner as the SpeedSA Appeal Panel decides, including telephone or video conferencing. The SpeedSA Appeal Panel is not bound by the rules of evidence but must observe the principles of procedural fairness; and

(d) prior to the hearing, the SpeedSA Branch Committee will provide the SpeedSA Appeal Panel and the appellant with a written statement as to the reasons for the decision against which the appeal is made; and

(e) the SpeedSA Appeal Panel will give its decision as soon as practicable after the hearing and will provide the State Branch Committee and the appellant with a statement of the reasons for its decision; and

(f) the appellant is liable for all legal costs incurred by SpeedSA in preparing their written statement for the SpeedSA Appeal Panel, should the appellant's appeal be unsuccessful.

4. Any subsequent appeal from a decision of the SpeedSA Appeal Panel must be solely and exclusively resolved by the State Branch Committee. The decision of the State Branch Committee will be final and binding on the parties and it is agreed that neither party will institute or maintain proceedings in any court or tribunal other than the State Branch Committee.

5. Any appeal to the State Branch Committee must accord with the following procedure:

(a) any athlete, coach or official wishing to appeal to the State Branch Committee must give written notice of that fact to the SpeedSA within 48 hours of the announcement of the decision of the SpeedSA Appeal Tribunal and must then file his or her application and statement of appeal with the State Branch Committee within 5 working days.

6. Failure to observe the above time limits will render any appeal a nullity provided that the appellant may apply to the body to hear the appeal in question for an extension of time in which to commence an appeal. The body to hear the appeal in question may grant such an extension of time only in extenuating circumstances outside the control of the athlete, coach or official concerned.

7. Each party must bear their own costs in any appeal.

8. The SpeedSA Appeal Panel will comprise the following persons appointed by the SpeedSA Branch Committee:

(a) a person with a thorough knowledge of elite speed skating and who preferably has had recent state or national competition experience in speed skating; and

(b) A Skate SA Executive member or the SDO and

(c) one other person of experience and skills suitable to the function of the SpeedSA Appeal Panel.

No person is eligible to be appointed to the SpeedSA Appeal Panel if he or she is a member of the SpeedSA Branch Committee or by reason of his or her relationship with the appellant or any member of the SpeedSA Branch Committee would be reasonably considered to be other than impartial.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

All selection appeal applications must be done through the State Branch Committee.