



## ***SKATE AUSTRALIA VICTORIA SPEED***

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### **Assessment Policy**

#### **BRIEF OVERVIEW/REASONING**

The purpose of assessing a speed skater before they become a full racing member is to ensure that they have all the various skills, knowledge of the rules and track etiquette required to integrate into the racing and divisions offered by Skate Australia Victoria Speed (SAV Speed). Whilst SAV Speed acknowledge that the affiliated club coaches are often the best to judge an athlete's abilities, SAV Speed has a duty of care to provide a safe racing environment for all of its members.

This policy applies to skating members who have not competed as a Competitive member at a Skate Australia sanctioned event within the last 5 years. International skaters may be given an exemption from this policy at the time of nomination at the discretion of the SAVS Chair of Officials or, in his/her absence, the Chief Referee of the event nominated for.

#### **Policy**

- Athletes are to be recommended for competitive racing by their coach only when the coach believes they are ready to begin racing and have obtained an adequate amount of skills, knowledge of the rules, and track etiquette.
- A SAVS racing number will be assigned to a new skater when nominating. The race number will be available for purchase and collection on the day of racing.
- A skater undergoing assessment will be placed into a Division that is believed to be most suited to his/her skills and times, and will skate against other competitors in the 'normal' SAVS race program.
- If at any point the 'assessment panel' deems a skater to be an 'unacceptable safety risk', the skater will be asked to cease racing immediately to ensure the safety of other competitors.
- If the skater passes assessment, he/she may be regraded to a higher or lower Division as deemed necessary.
- Once a skater has passed assessment, the skater must upgrade his/her membership to "Competitive Level" within 7 days after assessment.
- Any 'points' earned during assessment will count for that skater in the SAVS race series if he/she passes assessment.
- Assessment will only occur on TRACK, not ROAD. Assessment can take place at any TRACK event in the normal SAVS race series.

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- An assessment panel of 3 people will be formed consisting of no less than 1 Skate Australia (minimum level 1) accredited coaches and 1 (minimum level 2 or higher) officials, the 3rd member will be either an accredited coach or official as per the previous requirements. A chairperson will be elected by the panel to liaise with coaches regarding either a successful or unsuccessful progression of an athlete.
    - The SAV Speed committee will construct a list of eligible volunteers who are willing to make themselves available to sit on the assessment panel if needed.
    - The panel will be selected by the SAV Speed committee prior to the scheduled event, and panel members will be rotated.
    - When acting as an assessor, the person should not also have a major officiating role on the day of assessment.
    - The panel applicants must have a sound knowledge of both rules in speed skating and an ability to adequately assess an athlete's abilities.
    - The panel will provide a verbal yes to the coach or a written response to the coach who will then advise the athlete.
    - The coach, based on the recommendations of the panel, will work with the skater to improve targeted areas.
  - Each skater will be visually assessed by the panel on the following criteria.
    - Knowledge of the rules
    - Skate skills
      - Ability to skate in an even line both in a straight and through a corner.
      - Ability to cross over.
      - Ability to safely negotiate potentially unforeseen circumstances in a racing environment.
      - Ability to pass safely within the rules.
      - Ability to skate safely in a group/pack.
      - Skate control/agility.
    - Speed
    - Track etiquette
  - SAV Speed does not recommend that an athlete's first competition after promotion should be a road or 2 day competition.
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Updated 27<sup>th</sup> May 2013.