

Team Sprint races – Ladies and Men (Demonstration Event)

on the occasion of the Essent ISU World Cup Final in Heerenveen, March 4-6, 2011

When

- After the conclusion of all the ordinary races on Saturday, March 5, 2011.

How

- Managed by the Organizing Committee Thialf in cooperation with the ISU Speed Skating Technical Committee.
- Appointed Officials will be in charge of the race.
- Entries: ISU Members may enter teams composed of *Skaters who have been entered for World Cup final races, according to the qualification criteria for the World Cup final (ISU Communication No. 1638, paragraph 5.1.5)*.
 - By invitation of the organizer, 8 region teams, both Men and Ladies, Juniors B, will compete in the Team Sprint demonstration event, at the request of the hosting ISU Member (KNSB).
 - Skaters belonging to national teams present at the World Cup final may form a national team of 3 Skaters. A team may also consist of Skaters from different ISU Members (mixed-country teams); the composition then has to be agreed upon/confirmed by the team leaders concerned.
 - Competitors in the World Cup final races to be entered by the team leader(s) concerned.
 - Entries after the draw meeting in Heerenveen on Friday night.
 - Entries may be changed after the conclusion of the World Cup races on Saturday.
 - Skaters participating in the demonstration event using their own racing suit must comply with ISU Rule 102, paragraph 6, regarding size and number of advertising markings.
 - Limitations may be imposed in case of a very high number of entries.
- Skaters compete at their own risks (ISU Regulations, Rule 119 on medical insurance, etc.), and competitors must be ready to sign a specific declaration to this effect.
- Timekeeping by transponders and photo-finish is used to determine the final ranking.

Racing Rules

- Inner lane demarcation defines the competition track (same track as for Team Pursuit).
- Distance: 3 laps.
- Start in the middle of each of the straights (same as for Team Pursuit).
- Finish at the middle of the same straight as the start (same as for Team Pursuit).
- Teams consist of 3 Skaters, each skater must be assigned a position No. 1, 2 or 3 in the entry form.
- Skater No. 3 must wear transponder for the timekeeping, and all Skaters (if so provided) numbers 1-2-3 for easy identification.
- The first lap is skated with the Skater assigned as No. 1 leading the team, with Skaters Nos. 2 and 3 following. After one full lap, Skater No. 1 has to leave the race track to the *outside part of the track* and wait in a designated area (for safety reasons). After Skater No. 1 has left the team, Skater N. 2 has to lead the team until the second full lap is completed. After this lap, No. 2 has to leave the race track and wait in the designated area. Skater No. 3 will skate the last lap for the team, alone, and finishes.
- **Take over from the next assigned skater has to take place on the straight where the team starts (and finishes), so that the next assigned Skater will be leading the team when entering into the curve.**
- **No coaching from the ice!**
- **Result/ranking rules:**
 - The team who completes the Team Sprint in the fastest time is the winner, and the other teams are ranked accordingly.
 - However, a decision can be made to have heats followed by a final. Time ranked teams Nos. 3 and 4 will then compete against each other for final rankings Nos. 3 and 4, and Nos. 1 and 2 will compete against each other to determine the winner of the Team Sprint event.