

Happy Holidays 2017 eNews and Updates
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AB Speed Skating Happy Holidays eNews

Alberta Speed Skaters

Congratulations to all of our skaters who are making tremendous progress in their seasons. Remember that the ST PB list is on our web site and we post Alberta meet results in the Events section. Other Olympic-style LT results are available at speedskatingresults.com

Special congratulations to our Junior Short Track athletes who competed in Chicoutimi, Quebec last weekend and demonstrated the depth of talent in our province as these are only a few of our talented ST skaters and they had great results. Brendan Yamada was the top Alberta skater with an amazing 5th place finish overall. Brendan has 2 years of junior left while the other AB athletes competing at this competition all have 3 years left in ST Junior -- boding well for tremendous future results: Matej Pederson was 12th overall and the youngest skater to qualify in the top group; Mathias Bathe was 23rd, Caitlin Pelkey was 28th and Neithan Thomas was 29th. Well done!

We would also like to acknowledge the skilled ST coaching and support staff from the Olympic Oval, and thank them for guiding many of our skaters during the season and at the Championships. They are obviously doing something very well: 7 of the top 12 men's skaters who qualified to compete in the final top events (including Brendan and Matej) are in the Olympic Oval ST program; and the 3 of 4 men going to World Juniors train at the Oval. Full results on the SSC web site.



Marco Schumann (SK) and Brendan Yamada (AB) at Canadian Junior ST Championships. Photo Credit: CPV Les Comètes de Chicoutimi

Alberta and Arctic Winter Games

- The Alberta Winter Games speed skating event will be short track racing and will take place Feb. 15th-18th, 2018. The Skater Roster is zone-based and the initial skater list has been determined. Qualified Skaters have until January 1, 2018 (extended deadline) to confirm their participant registrations on the AWG site ([click here for the link](#)).
 - Skaters must also send the \$60 fee plus the AWG waiver form to Alberta Speed Skating, care of the Olympic Oval in Calgary. Contact your club or your club rep to AASSA's SDC if you have questions.
- The Arctic Winter Games will be held March 18th-24th, 2018 in Fort Smith / Hay River, Northwest Territories. Click here for the [Arctic Winter Games technical package](#). Eligible northern athletes should indicate interest to their home clubs (i.e. Grande Prairie's Peace Wapiti and Peace River's Northern Lites Clubs).

2019 Canada Winter Games Athlete Selection

The AASSA SDC is working on criteria for determining athlete selection of LT and ST participants representing Alberta at the February 2019 Canada Winter Games in Red Deer. It will be a highly competitive exercise as we have deep pools of junior speed skaters in AB, and athletes competing for LT spots may be one year older than usual for the 2019 CWG. Tentative plans include athlete selection at designated competitions (probably 2 for each discipline) between September and December 2018.

- [Click here for the CWG LT Technical Package](#)
- [Click here for the CWG ST Technical Package](#)
- Note: AASSA is planning a CWG-athlete-targetted training camp the same weekend as the AASSA AGM in Red Deer, May 26-27, 2018.
- We also plan to have tours of both of the CWG ST and the LT venues during the AGM weekend so plan to attend!

Good luck to all the skaters competing at the exciting LT events after New Year's - [Canada Cup #2 and the Olympic Trials!](#)

Volunteers, Officials, Clubs and Coaches

AASSA will offer 2 [Coaching clinics](#) in early 2017, one in Grande Prairie and one in either Edmonton or Calgary. If you are interested, contact info@aassa.ca and we will provide you with more information when it is available.

If you are interested in volunteering as a [Team Alberta Mission Staff Member](http://www.teamalberta.org) for the Canada Winter Games, review information at www.teamalberta.org. Application deadline is March 30, 2018.

Thank you to ESSA for hosting Mike Marshall and Mike Ireland at the Alberta Long Track Camp on Dec. 17th! Thank you also, ESSA, for arranging the super weather (that was just cold enough to keep the ice intact!).

We have had a very busy Autumn in Alberta and all the Clubs have been really active! We hope you feel satisfied with your efforts and realize what great and positive opportunities you are providing to our communities. THANK YOU ALL!



Wow! Between the perfect ice at Victoria Park Oval and the sunshine, the officials had a unique challenge doing their jobs at ESSA's Winter Classic on Dec. 16th!~ Photo credit: Stephen Maunder (see his Flickr account for more awesome Winter Classic images; please credit Stephen if using).

Membership Fees

Many Alberta Clubs have submitted their AASSA and SSC membership fees to AASSA. We appreciate the prompt remittance of any outstanding amounts as soon as possible.

Clarification on membership categories for CanWest and CACLT competitors: if club skaters qualify and register for the upcoming T2T-focussed national events - CanWest ST and CACLT competitions - the skaters need to be registered in the ELITE category of the SSC MMS registration database. Anyone competing at Junior or Senior national competitions must also have an Elite registration status.

If you have any questions, contact info@aassa.ca.

Upcoming Events Schedule

The [Jeremy Wotherspoon Open](#) will be the inaugural long track event at the new CWG oval at Great Chief Park in Red Deer -- on January 20th and 21st, 2018. Meet information and registration forms are on the AASSA web site. Grand Opening will be 12 noon on January 20th - please join us to celebrate if you can!

The [Canmore Summer Camp](#) will be: Sunday July 8th to Friday July 13th in the Canmore/Banff area.

December 2017

- LT Time Trials, Calgary Olympic Oval, Dec. 23 and Dec. 30

January 2018

- LT Canada Cup #2, the Canadian Single Distance Championships and Olympic Trials, Calgary Olympic Oval, Jan. 4-9
- ST Single Distance Series (SDS) #4, Calgary Olympic Oval, Jan. 7
- LT Alberta Long Track Meet, Calgary Olympic Oval, Jan. 13-14
 - NOTE: this is now a 2 day event, only Saturday and Sunday
- ST Canadian Senior Selections 1, Sherbrooke, Quebec, Jan. 19-21
- LT Jeremy Wotherspoon Open, at the NEW Red Deer Oval, Jan. 20-21; T2T, ISU Junior and CACLT Qualifier; this will be a CWG Test Event
- ST Peace River Northern Lites Ice Breaker Camp and Clinic, Jan. 27
- LT Time Trials, Calgary Olympic Oval, Jan. 27

February 2018

- LT Canada Cup #3 and the LT Junior Canadian Championships, Fort St. John, BC, Feb. 2-4
- ST WEC #3 / Winterfest, Calgary Olympic Oval, Feb. 2-4
- ST Lethbridge ST Meet, Feb. 3-4; all ages
 - NOTE: this is now a 2 day event (Saturday and Sunday)
- LT Meet in Red Deer, February 3rd (*new*) at the new CWG Oval, Great Chief Park
- Winter Olympics, Korea, February 9-25
- LT Canadian Age-Class LT Championships, Quebec City, Feb. 10-11
- ST - Alberta Winter Games, Wood Buffalo (Fort McKay, near Fort McMurray), Feb. 15-18
- LT Silver Skate Festival, Edmonton's Hawrelak Park, Feb. 17-18

March 2018

- ST RUfast, Calgary Olympic Oval, March 3-4
- LT Oval Grand Prix, Calgary Olympic Oval, March 10-11
- LT Canada Cup #4 and Oval Finale, Calgary Olympic Oval, March 15-18
- ST Canada West T2T Championships, Abbotsford, BC, March 17-18
- ST Arctic Winter Games, Northwest Territories, March 17-24
- ST Canadian Junior ST Selections #2, Calgary Olympic Oval, March 22-25
- ST Canadian Senior ST Selections #2, Calgary Olympic Oval, March 23-25
- ST West Edmonton Mall Fun Meet

** May 26-27, 2018: AASSA AGM and CWG Dryland Camp, Red Deer - including tours of the Canada Winter Games speed skating venues

Meet results:

Olympic Oval: <http://oval.ucalgary.ca/competitions>

National Events and Rankings / SSC: <http://www.speedskating.ca/>

Alberta Speed Skating Club meet results will be posted on the Alberta Speed Skating web site as soon as possible after the events.

Wishing you peace, love and joy at Winter Solstice, Merry Christmas and Happy Skating in 2018!!!

#FirstDayOfWinter



Photo Credit: Speed Skating Canada

Suggestions and Feedback?

We always appreciate feedback and suggestions on style, content, timing, etc., for the web site, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, eNews, etc. Contact Kristine via communication@aassa.ca

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