Alberta Competition Guide for T2T and Junior skaters

The T2T category covers the following ages:

Female: 11-14 (age on July 1, 2015)
Male: 12-15 (age on July 1, 2015)

Junior age categories:

- Junior C1 (T2T 13) a skater who has reached the age of 13 but not the age of 14 by July 1, 2015
- Junior C2 (T2T 14) a skater who has reached the age of 14 but not the age of 15 by July 1, 2015
- Junior B1 (T2T 15) a skater who has reached the age of 15 but not the age of 16 by July 1, 2015
- Junior B2 a skater who has reached the age of 16 but not the age of 17 by July 1, 2015
- Junior A1 a skater who has reached the age of 17 but not the age of 18 by July 1, 2015
- Junior A2 a skater who has reached the age of 18 but not the age of 19 by July 1, 2015

As you can see there are over-laps in the Junior and T2T age categories. The junior categories are international while the T2T categories are a Canadian only designation. We recommend that the 15 year old males seek out the competition that will provide the most competitive racing for their ability.

In Alberta and Canada, skaters who reach the age of 15 (all age references are based on age on July 1, 2015) are typically considered Junior and focus on the junior events that have them racing on the 111m track for short track and Olympic style for long track. T2T events utilize the 100m track for short track and have a combination of mass start and Olympic style for long track.

We encourage older T2T to start entering some of the junior events for several reasons;
1. To become familiar with the 111m track on short track
2. To acquire seed times on the 111m track that they may need for future junior events
3. To gain more race experience among skaters who are at their level or slightly higher
4. To gain experience on the Olympic style distances in long track

Many junior events are open to 13 or 14 year olds. Some will have time standards while some won’t. For those that do not, parents should consult with their child’s coach to determine if a junior competition is appropriate for their child’s competition development as they should have skaters at similar ability to race against.

Below is a list of competitions that are recommended and available for Alberta T2T and Junior athletes. More details for each event will be available through each competition announcement, on the Oval website or through SSC bulletins. AASSA’s new website will be on-line by early October and should have all individual competition information listed when it is made available to us.

**T2T Competitions – Short Track**

For aspiring Alberta T2T skaters these 4 short track events are recommended:

- **AB T2T Single Distance Championships**
  - Edmonton
  - Nov 27-29, 2015
- **Alberta Winter Games**
  - Medicine Hat
  - Feb 14-16, 2016
- **RUFast**
  - Calgary
  - Feb 27-28, 2016
- **Canada West T2T Championships**
  - Edmonton
  - Mar 19-20, 2016
The two italicized events are used to select those that will represent Alberta at the **Canada West T2T Championships** that are being held this season in **Edmonton on Mar 19-20, 2015**. These two events have no time standard for entry and skaters are seeded into race divisions based on their ability. The Alberta Winter Games have slightly adjusted age categories. Male and female categories are T2T 11-12 and T2T 13-14.

Canada West is the highest level of short track racing for T2T skaters and includes participants from Western Canada as far east as Manitoba. The categories are all single year divisions and go from T2T 11 up to T2T 14 for girls and T2T 12 up to T2T 15 for boys.

In addition to these larger events, it is recommended that T2T skaters compete in one or more local or club short track events. These are typically one day events while one is 2 days.

**T2T Competitions – Long Track**

For aspiring Alberta T2T skaters these long track events are recommended:

- **Alberta Open Long Track**
  - **Calgary**
  - **January 15-17, 2016**
- **Red Deer Long Track**
  - **Red Deer**
  - **January 23-24, 2016**
- **Canadian Age Class Long Track Championships**
  - **Quebec City**
  - **Feb 6-7, 2016**

The Alberta Open Long Track in Calgary is where AB T2T skaters will qualify for the Canadian Age Class Long Track Championships. The Red Deer Long Track event provides our T2T long track skaters an opportunity to get accustomed to skating outdoors in preparation for the Canadian Championships which is also held outdoors.

T2T 13 and 14 skaters are encouraged to try Olympic style racing at some of the Long Track events that are held at the Olympic Oval through the season. The events that are open to T2T 13 and 14 are the **Oval Invitational** and the **Olympic Oval Grand Prix**. There may be time standards in effect for the longer distances.

- **Oval Invitational**
  - **Calgary**
  - **Oct 22-25, 2015**
- **Olympic Oval Grand Prix**
  - **Calgary**
  - **Mar 11-12, 2016**

There are also three week-end time trials that are open to C skaters (those without B standards). They are:

Oct 10, Dec 12 and Feb 13

**Junior Competitions – Short Track**

These are the short track events that Alberta Junior skaters are encouraged to attend:

- **Western Elite Circuit #1 (Octoberfest)**
  - **Calgary**
  - **October 16-18, 2015**
- **Western Elite Circuit #2**
  - **Richmond**
  - **December 5-6, 2015**
- **Western Elite Circuit #3 (Winterfest)**
  - **Calgary**
  - **February 18-20, 2016**

These 3 events will be the highest level of racing for Juniors in Western Canada and are open to Jun C (T2T 13) up to senior skaters and are skated on the 111m track. There are no time standards for these events.
but there are a maximum of 60 male and 60 female positions which will be filled based on times from the 500 and 1500m combined. There will be a Western Ranking generated from the combined results of these 3 competitions. Please see the announcements for each competition for further information. The two Calgary based events can be found on the Olympic Oval website. The AASSA website will post the information for all events when we receive them from each organizer.

For those juniors who qualify, there are two National Level competitions in November and December:

National Qualifier Richmond Nov 19-22, 2015
Can Junior Championships Montreal Dec 15-17, 2015

Both of these competitions have qualification criteria to enter. The details can be found in SSC’s High Performance Bulletin #167. Note that in order to qualify for the Junior Championships a skater must skate in the National Qualifier.

The Other main short track Competition for Junior athletes:

Canadian Junior Open Selection # 2 Fredericton, NB March 17-20, 2016

This event takes is open to 60 male and 60 female juniors from across Canada and will earn junior skaters ranking points towards a National Junior Ranking. This ranking will help skaters gain entry into next year’s National Qualifier and Junior events.

**Junior Competitions – Short Track**

There are several national long track events open to juniors but all have time standards. Please see SSC Long Track bulletins for these standards:

Canada Cup #1 Quebec City Nov 27-29, 2015
Canada Cup #2 Calgary January 3-6, 2016
Can Junior Championships/ Canada Cup #3 Winnipeg February 5-7, 2016
Canada Cup #4/Finale Calgary Mar 17-20, 2016

There are other long track competition opportunities for Alberta Junior skaters that do not have time standards:

Oval Invitational Calgary Oct 22-25, 2015
Alberta Open Long Track Calgary January 15-17, 2016
Canadian Age Class Long Track Championships Quebec City Feb 6-7, 2016
Olympic Oval Grand Prix Calgary Mar 11-12, 2016

The Alberta Open Long Track in Calgary has an open Olympic style division. The Canadian Age Class Long Track event has an open Olympic style division targeting those skaters who do not compete at the Canada Cup level.

The Oval Invitational and the Olympic Oval Grand Prix may have time standards in effect for the longer distances.
There are also week-end long track time trials for those with B standards (see Olympic Oval website for standards and info) as well as 3 time trials that are open to C skaters (those without B standards). Those 3 are:
Oct 10, Dec 12 and Feb 13

For any questions regarding these competitions or which events would be appropriate for your child or athlete please contact:

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