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# Technical Manual for Short Track Speed Skating in EYOF 2021/2022



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## **Abstract**

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This bachelor's -thesis was conducted as a product development task. The purpose was to create a technical manual for short track speed skating competitions in the European Youth Olympic Festival (EYOF) 2021/2022 sports event in Vuokatti, Sotkamo. EYOF is the largest multisport event in Europe for young athletes; its purpose is linked with the Olympic principles, such as international friendship and fair play. The event brings together young elite athletes around Europe to promote the integration of Europe and celebrate sports. The event took place in March 2022. The athletes competed in nine different sports, the short track being one of them.

The thesis was commissioned by Kainuun Liikunta (Regional sports association of Kainuu), which also was the main organizer of the event. The purpose of the thesis became evident at first when representatives from the organizing committee of EYOF held a short recruitment event about the event at Kajaani University of Applied Sciences. The possibility for students to be part of the organizing team of short track speed skating at EYOF2021 was introduced at that event. This sport has been relatively unknown in Finland, but from the author's perspective, it might have potential for growth.

The authors as well as the commissioning party Kainuun Liikunta, had no prior experience in organizing short track events. There had not been any organized international-level short track events in Finland before EYOF2021/2022. This meant that the authors and the commission party had to initiate the sport from the beginning to the region of Kainuu, in Vuokatti, where the competitions were held. In the process of creating the manual, the commissioning party accompanied by the authors and took a field trip to the Netherlands to learn from professionals in this sport. After this, Covid-19 struck the world, meaning that there were restrictions set on events all over the world. These restrictions made the organizers of EYOF 2021 to postpone the event twice, first to December 2021 and further on to March 2022.

The technical manual (appendix 1) was created to gather and collect information about the sport-specific demands in the facilities, equipment and different personnel roles in the competition. The manual was eventually published in a pdf format and was distributed to the volunteers and the organizing party of the short track competitions of EYOF 2022. The technical manual became useful both in the planning process of the event and during the event.

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## 1 Introduction

Vuokatti organizes the European Youth Olympic Festival (EYOF) in 2021 (this event eventually was held in 2022). The main organizing partners of the event are Kainuun Liikunta (Regional sports association of Kainuu), the Municipality of Sotkamo, and the European Olympic Committee (EOC). EYOF is one of the major multisport events for the youth in Europe. It gathers young people aged between 14 and 18 from 50 different nations around Europe. (EYOF 2021, Tietoa, n.d.)

Vuokatti is organizing this event now for the second time, the first time this event was held in Vuokatti in 2001 under the name European Youth Olympic Days (EYOD). Since then, EYOF has expanded remarkably and now it is the largest event under the Olympic flag which can be organized in Finland. The event will gather around 1600 athletes and officials from Europe to the Kainuu region and there is high demand for volunteers to organize this event. (EYOF 2021, Tietoa, n.d.)

The event has participants in nine sports including, alpine skiing, snowboarding, biathlon, cross-country skiing, Nordic combined, ski jumping, ice hockey, figure skating, and short track speed skating (EYOF 2021, Tietoa, n.d.). The last-mentioned sport, short track speed skating does not have a rich history in Finland, but now there is a demand for people to organize the event including short track competitions. The main organizer Kainuun Liikunta had to take the main responsibility of organizing the competitions of this sport during the event, as the Finnish skating union was not able to take the responsibility. Kainuun Liikunta, therefore recruited students of Kajaani University of Applied Sciences (KAMK) to participate in the organizing of the competitions.

As the authors of this thesis volunteered and showed their interest in this specific sport, the discussions arose about how the students and the Kainuun Liikunta would benefit the most from the work completed for the EYOF 2021. As a resolution to this, the authors would create a technical manual for short track speed skating for EYOF 2021 Vuokatti. The development process of the technical manual needs thorough research on short track, including the rules, the demands of facilities, and the event organizing process. Creating and establishing the technical manual for the event, enables the organizers to succeed and ensure the fluency of the event during the competition week. As the authors are the main people in charge of the development, the process led to the decision of including the development of the technical manual in the bachelor's thesis. The technical manual will be the main output of the process, intrinsically the manual is not enough

for a bachelor's thesis; therefore, additional research is required. In addition to the technical manual, the thesis will include basic information about short track speed skating and the event organizing process.

## 2 Thesis process

### 2.1 The Aim of the Thesis

This thesis aims to enable organizing the short track speed skating in EYOF 2021 Vuokatti. There have not been any international short track speed skating events held in Finland before; therefore, the event planning process needs to be implemented in cooperation with the International Skating Union (ISU). To gain more information on how a short track speed skating competition is organized, the authors visited a competition in Ridderkerk, the Netherlands with the secretary general of EYOF 2021, Marita Kaipainen to obtain a better understanding of how the sport is performed and how the World Cup event in this specific sport is running. The field trip to the Netherlands took place in March 2020. During the few days in the Netherlands, the authors met the upcoming technical delegate of short track in EYOF 2021. He was able to give answers to the questions such as the roles of different referees, the roles of different people on the ice rink, and what the ISU brings to the event and what type of personnel is needed from the organizers of EYOF 2021.

The creation of a technical manual for short track speed skating in EYOF 2021 (2022) is based on actual demand. Since there have not been any international short track speed skating events in Finland before, there is a certain lack of demand for actual competitions. To gain knowledge of the demands and necessities of the sport and its competitions, a technical manual is delivered to Kainuun Liikunta. In the future, Kainuun Liikunta can utilize this manual for potential upcoming short track speed skating events, to be organized in Vuokatti.

### 2.2 The Purpose of the Thesis

The purpose of the thesis is heavily linked with the aim of the thesis. The purpose is to create a theoretical basis of short track speed skating and event organizing matters which will lead to creating a technical manual for the event, that enables the event to be organized properly in EYOF 2021 Vuokatti.

As the sport is obscure in Finland there is a demand for defining the sport also in the thesis. The definition of the sport, in general, could be large enough research to be considered as a thesis. Since there is a demand for the technical manual, and the event organizing process, the definition of the sport will be one of the sub-parts of this thesis. In addition, there will be an introduction to the sport in the technical manual as it is required there because of the obscurity of the sport in Finland. This introduction to the sport can be utilized by the volunteers, organizers, and potential future organizers of different short track speed skating events in Vuokatti. Separate research could be conducted on the reasons for the obscurity of the sport in Finland; however in this thesis, that research would take too many resources out of the main focus.

### 2.3 Research Questions

The key defining components in the thesis process are the aims and purpose of this thesis. In addition to these, there are four research questions that need to be answered to accomplish positive results in the creation process of the technical manual and further on in the thesis process in general. The three research questions are listed below.

#### 1. What is short track speed skating?

The first research problem is to define what short track speed skating is. This definition has high importance because of the obscurity of the sport in Finland. There has not been conducted much research about this sport in Finland, because of the lack of athletes in the sport. One of the key factors is to obtain theoretical knowledge and understanding of the sport and to be able to share this knowledge to others.

#### 2. What is required for organizing a short track speed skating event?

While answering this question, the authors are aiming to receive a clear view of the demand for this sport in general. What type of equipment is needed for the venue, what type of necessities there are for the short track athletes, and what factors need to be considered in the different sectors? In addition, it must be studied how many volunteers are needed for organizing the short track speed skating competitions and what roles do they have in the event as well as what does the International Skating Union (ISU) bring as gear and personnel to the event? The roles of the different sectors need to be defined in this stage, too.

### 3. How to organize an international sports event?

Concerning the previous questions, it is necessary to define the demands of an international competition. Athletes come from different nations around Europe; they might also have some different aspects which need to be considered. It must be decided how to give information to people with different languages and how to have clear communication between all the participants, organizers, volunteers, ISU, athletes, and their teams.

### 4. How to create a technical manual for a sports event?

To start with by defining the demands and format of the technical manual, the authors ensure that they follow the correct specifications and the technical manual will have all the necessary information.

## 2.4 Theoretical Background

The theoretical background concentrates on short track speed skating rules and regulations as well as event management. General information about the regulations of short track speed skating event is issued by the means of ISU Special Regulations & Technical Rules Short Track Speed Skating. These rules define all the necessities of the actual competition week. The technical manuals of the previous EYOF events are considered as guidelines for creating a successful technical manual. There are also specific demands from EOC which are required to be followed, and this information has to be evaluated by the authors as well as the commissioning party, Kainuun Liikunta. As the sport is obscure in Finland, and there is no previous academic research conducted on the subject, the authors rely on international sources in order to define the actual sport of short track speed skating with understandable methods.

The thesis process is covering the event management process, this includes the theoretical part of the event organizing, also the rules and regulations of the sport. For these purposes, a further literature review is needed. In the literature review, the authors go through various publications on event management as well as sport event organization.

An event or so-called special event is an occasion that has cultural, leisure, personal, or organizational objectives that separate it from everyday life. The purpose of the event is to entertain,



celebrate, enlighten, or challenge the experience of people participating in the event. (Shone, A. & Parry, B., 2016) The EYOF 2021 falls under the leisure occasion.

As this thesis focuses on the process of delivering a working technical manual for short track speed skating in EYOF 2021 (EYOF 2022), the literature review is not as demanding part of the thesis as in a thesis which is based on a literature review. In this case, the theoretical background is in most parts based on the demands of the actual event.

### 3 European Youth Olympic Festival

#### 3.1 EYOF in general

European Youth Olympic Festival (later EYOF and EYOF 2021) originally known as European Olympic Days (later EYOD), is a creation of the current President of International Olympic Committee (later IOC) Jacques Rogge. EYOF and its predecessor EYOD, was established to have the first major European multi-sport event aimed at young athletes aged 14 to 18 years old. EYOF has separate events for winter and summer games, and they are held biannually in odd-numbered years. (European Youth Olympic Festival, n.d.)

In the mission, vision, and values of the EYOF, there are a variety of aspects that must be considered. EYOF promotes sport and physical activity and, furthermore, inspires young people to a more physically active life. In accordance with the Olympic principles, they have a key role in promoting international friendship, fair play, and tolerance. The vision of the game is to gather young athletes from fifty nations around Europe to the same place and to promote better integration in Europe. These events also give an opportunity for young volunteers to gain experience of working in an international sport event and create international partnerships. (European Youth Olympic Festival, n.d.)

The aim of the EYOF is to create a platform where young athletes would be able to have their first steps taken on the international level. This could be for some the first step on a journey to one day reach the Olympic level and for some, it is for experience and friendship. The first EYOF Games were held in 1991 in Belgium, which is also the home country of Jacques Rogge. Currently, EYOF Summer Games have gathered around 3600 athletes and officials while the same number is around 1600 in winter games. (European Youth Olympic Festival, n.d.)

EYOF is under the Olympic flag, and it has certain procedures similar to the Olympic games, such as torch relay, burning flame, as well as an oath by the athletes and officials. To be able to participate in EYOF, one must be enrolled by the National Olympic Committee of the home country and meet the specific requirements of that current time concerning e.g., age. (European Youth Olympic Festival, n.d.)

### 3.2 EYOF 2021 organization

The EYOF 2021 organization consists of an executive committee and an organizing committee. The executive committee decides the objectives related to the time and costs of the event and approves the project plan of the event produced by the Secretary General Marita Kaipainen. The executive committee has eight members presenting different organizations and operators. From the municipality of Sotkamo, there are municipal manager, chairman, and deputy chairman of the municipal government of Sotkamo. From the Finnish Olympic Committee representatives are the CEO, secretary general, vice chief of the elite sports unit, and commercial director. The third operator in executive committee is Kainuun Liikunta, the Regional Sport Association of Kainuu; their representatives are the CEO and a member of the government of Kainuun Liikunta. (EYOF 2021, n.d.)

The organizing committee is responsible for the planning and implementation of the different components of the event to make it excellent and succeed. The organizing committee consists of fifty-two members in total all of which have their own areas of responsibility in the event. Different titles among different components include such as NOC (network operation center) services manager, sponsorships, volunteer manager, logistics manager, program and ceremonies manager, media and marketing manager, accreditation manager, attaché manager, transportation manager, security manager, accommodation, IT manager, sports manager. In addition, each represented sport has its own managers and chiefs of competition. The list of roles is long which gives perspective on the size of the event. (EYOF 2021, n.d.)

During the actual event week in December 2021, a multitude of volunteers are required in all different components to make the event run smooth. The different components that the volunteers can get involved in are attachés, guest services, NOC (Network Operation Center) services, media and marketing, and sports. Accreditation volunteers will be there to help with accreditation and welcome the teams at the accreditation office and give them a nice start for their week. Attachés volunteers are to help the teams with any questions or problems they may have starting from their arrival until their departure. Volunteers working in guest services will be working in different offices for example transportation, accommodation, and volunteer office serving and helping guests in various ways. NOC services volunteers work in the NOC office, where they are to assist the teams to get all the information in terms of the competitions and the program. Volunteers in the Media and Marketing can have tasks like taking photos, using social media, live

streaming, and working in the media center. In sport organizations, each sport needs volunteers to help with different tasks that consist for example of announcers, course setters, working in the start or finish area, and the result services. Each sport has different tasks depending on the nature of the sport. (EYOF 2021, n.d.)

### 3.3 EYOF 2021 Vuokatti

EYOF 2021 winter games are organized in Vuokatti, which is a part of the municipality of Sotkamo located in the Kainuu region of Finland. In the EYOF 2021 boys and girls are competing in nine different sports which are alpine skiing, ice hockey, figure skating, biathlon, snowboarding, short track speed skating, cross-country skiing, Nordic combined and ski jumping. The girls are competing in ice hockey and Nordic combined for the first time in the history of EYOF. Nearly all European countries can be expected to take part in the EYOF 2021. The final list of the countries and participants will be updated later during the year 2021. (EYOF 2021, n.d.)

The tentative timetable (Table 1) as shown below was made for organizing the event in February 2021. During the period of two postponements of the competitions, the timetable has varied, in addition, the sports included in the EYOF 2021 has been taken into consideration.

Sport	Sun 7.2.	Mon 8.2.	Tue 9.2.	Wed 10.2.	Thu 11.2.	Fri 12.2.
Alpine skiing	Official training	Slalom girls	Slalom boys	Team Event girls & boys	Parallel Slalom girls	Parallel Slalom boys
Biathlon	Unofficial training	Official training	Individual girls 10km Individual boys 12,5km	Official training	Sprint girls 10km Sprint boys 12,5km	Mixed Relay 2x6km + 2x7,5km
Cross country skiing	Official training	Girls 7,5km (F) Boys 10km (F)	Official training	Girls 5km (C) Boys 7,5km (C)	Sprint Girls (F) Sprint Boys (F)	Mixed Relay 4x5km (C+F)
Figure skating	Official training	Short program girls Short program boys	Official training	Free program boys	Free program girls	
Ice hockey	Official training	6 teams tournament girls 6 teams tournament boys	6 teams tournament girls 6 teams tournament boys	6 teams tournament girls 6 teams tournament boys	6 teams tournament girls 6 teams tournament boys	Finals Girls Finals Boys
Short track	Official training	Official training	Girls 1500m Boys 1500m	Girls 500m Boys 500m	Girls 1000m Boys 1000m	Mixed Relay 3000m
Snowboarding	Official training	Official training	Big Air qualification and finals girls Big Air qualification and finals boys	Official training	Slope Style Qualification girls Slope Style qualification boys	Slope Style Finals girls Slope Style Finals boys
Nordic Combined		Official training girls Official training boys	HS100 Boys Individual Gundersen Boys	HS100 Girls Individual Gundersen Girls		HS100 Mixed Team Cross Country mixed team
Ski Jumping			Official training girls Official training boys	HS100 Boys	HS100 Girls HS100 Team Boys	HS100 Mixed Team

Table 1. EYOF 2021 timetable (EYOF 2021, n.d.)

The first change in the date of the event was issued at the end of September 2020, when the event was rescheduled from February 2021 to December 2021. This decision was issued because of the restrictions caused by the COVID-19. Also, the organizing committee stated that they want to act responsibly and take all the safety cautions seriously and therefore rescheduling was necessary. (EYOF 2021, 2020)

This rescheduling of the date of the event caused the first visible changes in the competitions, taken into consideration of the time of the year that might affect snow conditions in Vuokatti. The uncertainty of snow conditions on the ski slopes, the organizing committee announced in its

meeting that Alpine Skiing in the EYOF 2021 has to be canceled and there is going to be a reconsideration of the potential sports in the event. On April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021, the organizing committee gave a statement of another rescheduling of the dates of the event. The event was partially rescheduled from December 2021 to March 2022. To ensure snow certainty in Vuokatti was the main reason for the second change of dates of the event. There would have been a need for double the amount of preserved snow in order to make alpine skiing and snowboarding possible in December 2021, stated the Secretary General Marita Kaipainen. (EYOF 2022, 2021)

From Table 2. additional changes have been made to the timetable of the event. As mentioned, the competition week has been rescheduled partially, for the fact that many of ice-hockey series in Europe have their play-off matches in March. To avoid the conflict with local series the boys' ice hockey tournament will be organized separately from the other sports in December 2021. (EYOF, 2021)

Event	Sun 20.3	Mon 21.3	Tue 22.3	Wed 23.3	Thu 24.3	Fri 25.3	Sat 26.3
Alpine Skiing	Official Training / Opening Ceremony	Slalom Girls	Slalom Boys	Parallel Slalom / Get Together Snowboarding Final	Team Event	Parallel Slalom Boys / Closing Ceremony	Departures
Snowboarding	Big Air & Slopestyle Training Boys & Girls / Opening Ceremony	Big Air & Slopestyle Training Boys & Girls	Big Air Qualification Boys & Girls	Slopestyle Qualification Girls / Big Air Final Girls & Boys	Slope Style Qualification Boys	Slope Style Finals Girls & Boys / Closing Ceremony	Departures
Cross-Country Skiing	Official Training / Opening Ceremony	Girls 7,5 km (F) Boys 10 km (F)	Official Training	Girls 5 km ( C ) / Boys 7,5 km ( C ) / Get Together Snowboarding Final	Sprint Girls (F) / Sprint Boys (F)	Mixed Relay 4 x 5 km ( C & F ) / Closing Ceremony	Departures
Biathlon	Training / Opening Ceremony	Official Training	Sprint Girls 6km / Boys 7,5 km	Official Training / Get Together Snowboarding Final	Individual Girls 10 km / Boys 12,5 km	Mixed Relay 2x6 km + 2x7,5 km / Closing Ceremony	Departures
Ice-Hockey	Official Training / Opening Ceremony	Girls Tournament	Girls Tournament	Girls Tournament / Get Together Snowboarding Final	Girls Tournament	Girls Medal Games / Closing Ceremony	Departures
Figure Skating	Official Training / Opening Ceremony	Girls / Boys Short Programme	Girls / Boys Free Programme	Get Together Snowboarding Final		Closing Ceremony	Departures
Short Track	Training / Opening Ceremony	Official Training	Official Training	Girls & Boys 1500 m / Mixed Relay 3000 m Heats / Get Together Snowboarding Final	Girls & Boys 500 m / Mixed Relay 3000 m Semi-Finals	Girls & Boys 1000m / Mixed Relay 3000 m Finals / Closing Ceremony	Departures
Ski Jumping	Opening Ceremony		Official Training HS 100 Girls & Boys / Social Get together	HS 100 m Boys	HS 100 m Girls / HS 100 m Boys Teams	HS 100 m Mixed Teams / Closing Ceremony	Departures
Nordic Combined	Opening Ceremony	Official Training Girls & Boys HS 100 m / Official Training CC	HS 100 Boys / Individual Gundersen Boys	HS 100 m Girls / Individual Gundersen Girls		HS 100 m Mixed Teams / Mixed Team CC / Closing Ceremony	Departures

Table 2. Rescheduled timetable of EYOF 2022 (EYOF 2022 organizing committee)

## 4 Short track

### 4.1 History of short track

Short track speed skating began to form as a separate sport from speed skating in North America in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Many North American speed skaters were led to practice on ice rinks due to the lack of 400-meter-long tracks in the area. The smaller tracks brought new challenges such as tighter turns and shorter straights. Due to altered circumstances, different techniques were developed in order to succeed on the shorter track. In 1905-1906 mass start competitions were held on an oval shaped track in the region. First international competitions on an annual basis began between the United States of America and Canada in the following years. New rules were agreed to be followed in the speed skating events with the consent of the International Skating Union (ISU) and the organizers of the Lake Placid Games 1932. These rules are thought to be the reason for the formation of pack-style racing in short track speed skating. (Olympic Games, n.d.)

ISU declared Short Track Speed Skating an official sport in 1967. However international worldwide competitions were not held until 1976. At the 1988 Winter Olympic Games in Calgary short track speed skating was a demonstration sport, later it became a part of the Olympic program in the 1992 Albertville Winter Olympic Games. (Olympic Games, n.d.)

### 4.2 Basics of Short Track

Short track speed skating track is 111,33 meters long track which has thick paddings on the outer sides of the oval shaped track. The track is commonly put up on modified ice hockey rinks, but it can also be practiced in any ice area where there is enough space for the track. This might be a bandy field or ice on a frozen lake. The length of the track, tight turns and so-called “pack” style of racing are the most relevant differences between short track and traditional speed skating. Because of this, there are also special requirements for skates. Short track skates are different from speed skates in the way that the blade is moved to the left at the bottom of the shoe to facilitate corner skating. (Suomen Luisteluliitto, n.d.)

The “pack” style racing brings its excitement to the racing, as it requires special tactical skills to win. Time is not the determinant in the competitions, it is the order in which the competitors cross the finish line. The competition is fast, intense, exciting, and often also dramatic, as on short track in tight turns the competitors are not always able to avoid contact. These elements make short track speed skating competitions spectator friendly. (Suomen Luisteluliitto, n.d.)

### 4.3 Short track in Finland

In Finland short track speed skating is still a relatively a new sport and is still taking its first steps. Due to the significant amount of ice rinks, the sport has potential to grow in the future. For people who share an interest in skating sports, short track speed skating offers a fast, fun, and action-packed hobby or recreation in addition to some competition opportunities. Long distance speed skaters have done some try outs in short track speed skating and there has been held altogether ten Finnish championships in short track speed skating between the years 2003 and 2018. (Suomen Luisteluliitto, n.d.)

Short track speed skating can be done in various iced locations from ice rinks to frozen lakes. On the most basic level, the basic demand is a relatively smooth ice area where the track can be marked by paintings or cones. To make the sport beginner-friendly the first timers might begin the hobby with ice hockey skates or normal speed skates before investing in short track speed skates. (Suomen Luisteluliitto, n.d.)

The Finnish Ice-Skating Association and the Olympic Committee have launched a short track-project for activating short track-skating in Finland. The project enables the Finnish Ice-Skating Association to offer instructed short track try outs with short track skates. The aim of the project is to make the sport better known in Finland and establish short track coaching groups in sports clubs. In addition to a long-term plan is to gain ground as part of the standard user groups of ice rinks in Finland. (Suomen Luisteluliitto, n.d.)

The problem in Finland with establishing the sport might be that ice hockey and figure skating are taking most of the ice time in ice rinks, and therefore it is hard to get ice time for a new sport. Without ice time there are no participants, and without participants, there is no ice time, this is the problem that still has not been resolved. (Salminen, 2018) Also, lack of certain facilities



needed in short track might be the reason for the sport not getting space in Finland. There is no lack of ice rinks, but there are no paddings that should cover the boards of the ice rink for safety reasons because of tight turns at high speed. The paddings are expensive and the municipalities managing the ice rinks might not be willing to invest in facilities that might not have demand.

#### 4.4 Short track in EYOF Vuokatti 2021

In EYOF Vuokatti 2021 the short track competitions will be held in Vuokatti Arena. The Vuokatti Arena is a brand-new arena, the building was completed in early January 2021. The arena consists of two different ice rinks, from which the other rink can be modified for different occasions such as figure skating or short track speed skating. The municipality of Sotkamo has ordered the short track paddings to cover the boards of the ice rink. The paddings are supposed to arrive in February 2021 at the latest. Modified ice rink and paddings are essential for organizing short track speed skating competitions and this new arena has placed a significant role when it comes to choosing process for EYOF 2021. This new arena facilitates short track speed skating as well as figure skating. (Lassila, 2020)

The disciplines in short track competitions that can be seen in the timetable (Table 3) below are 500 meters, 1000 meters, 1500 meters, and 3000 meters mixed-gender relay. In the mixed-gender relay, the teams are consisting of two girls and two boys from the same National Olympic Committee. There are also two training days, before the competitions. The timetable is tentative and therefore changes may occur.

Sport	Sun 7.2.	Mon 8.2.	Tue 9.2.	Wed 10.2.	Thu 11.2.	Fri 12.2.
Short track	Official training	Official Training	Girls 1500m Boys 1500m	Girls 500m Boys 500m	Girls 1000m Boys 1000m	Mixed Relay 3000m

Table 3. EYOF 2021/2022 Short track timetable (EYOF 2021, n.d.)

## 5 Product development of the technical manual

In the product development process of this thesis, there is going to be creation of a technical manual for short track speed skating in EYOF 2021. In the following chapters, the process will be described approximately, by the means of when, why, and how. In addition, there will be a description of the theoretical background needed for this manual and successful organizing of the games.

### 5.1 The technical manual

The product development task related to this thesis is to create and develop a technical manual for short track speed skating in EYOF 2021 Vuokatti. The main purpose of the manual is to create a framework for organizing this event and ensure the fluency and going through proceedings of the games. A technical manual is needed for all the parties involved, e.g., the organizing committee of EYOF 2021, organizers of the short track events as well as the volunteers in this specific sport. In addition to the use of the technical manual in the EYOF 2021, the commission party of Kainuun Liikunta has also stated its interest of using this manual in potential short track speed skating competitions held in Vuokatti in upcoming years.

In this thesis, the technical manual means a manual for short track speed skating competitions that are a sub-part in the EYOF 2021 Vuokatti sporting event and passes by the name technical manual of short track speed skating for 2021 EYOF. The manual works as a tool and a guide for the short track organization of EYOF 2021, as help for organizing the short track competitions as a part of EYOF 2021. The manual will be handed over to Kainuun Liikunta and it can be used later for organizing other short track competitions in the future. The official short track speed skating track padding and other facilities will be acquired and built in Vuokatti, therefore it is realistic that other short track competitions will be held there in the future.

## 5.2 Development of the manual

Product development is a process where a service or a product is being reviewed and analyzed and then refined. The product development process aims to either improve a service or a product or to create a new service or product. For the product development process, the authors plan to use the Service Design Toolkit (SDT) by JAMK University of Applied Sciences, which can also be applied to the product development process. The toolkit contains four steps, and each of them has objectives that can be followed in the process. The four steps are: define, learn, solve, and test. The first step, defining phase includes gathering knowledge about the target group and their needs. The second step, the learning phase is about identifying the problem and finding the most suitable development themes. In the third step, which is the solving phase the solutions are being described and reviewed. The last step is the testing phase, that usually means evaluating the product in practice with customers. (STD – Service Design Toolkit, JAMK University of Applied Sciences, 2020)

The technical manual is going to be processed in close cooperation with Marita Kaipainen the Secretary General and Hermann Filipic the Technical Director (TD) of Short Track competitions in EYOF 2021. The process will begin with defining and identifying the subjects that must be included in the manual. The authors must consider the subjects of the manual from a view of a person who does not have any previous knowledge of short track, what are the most necessary subjects to cover in the manual to help the reader get a comprehensible picture of the sport. After the subjects are identified the information will be collected from different sources and put together in the manual. In this case most of the information needed is found from the Special Regulations & Technical Rules Short Track Speed Skating by ISU. The manual will be sent for the Secretary General and the TD of short track to be checked and scanned to make sure that all necessary information will be included in it. After getting feedback from the stage of the manual any required changes or missing information will be added into it. This process might need to be repeated multiple times, until the manual seems complete. At the final stage of the thesis process the technical manual can be transferred into a graphical layout of EYOF 2021 by their graphical designer. The testing phase or evaluation of the manual can be done after the event.

### 5.3 Evaluation of the manual

The EYOF 2021 Vuokatti was originally supposed to take place from the 6<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> of February 2021 and then postponed for December 2021. As it seems in the thesis process that the authors would be graduating in the end of the autumn semester 2021 in December, it would not be possible to evaluate the technical manual after it has been used in organizing the event. In the beginning of the thesis process, certain steps were created by the authors. These steps would have been the following, in case of if the event would have held its original dates. The first step would have been gathering information about all the aspects of organizing the competitions of short track at EYOF 2021, after combining the information into the technical manual for short track speed skating in EYOF 2021. After the manual would have been produced it would be used by the organizers as well as the volunteer workers before and during the event. After creating the manual, the authors would have created a suitable form of evaluating the usability and usefulness of the manual and then collecting feedback with a questionnaire/survey from the users of the manual during and after the event. The information collected through the feedback questionnaire could have been used for upgrading and making some modifications to the technical manual after the first implementation in EYOF 2021.

When it became apparent that the event is going to be organized at a different time than it was originally planned, the authors were forced to re-evaluate the whole thesis process. When the organization first decided to move the event to December 2021, this made the authors to choose certain processes concerning their potential graduation right after the event. This meant that there would not be enough time after the event to collect and analyze received feedback to evaluate the manual in action. Therefore, the authors decided to evaluate mainly the process of making the manual and how sufficient it seems to be as a product hypothetically, and not evaluate how it has functioned in practice. In this case there was an additional method of evaluation taken into consideration. The authors and the commissioning party considered to organize some sort of a practice competition to test the manual and to make a stress-test for the organization. However, this was a good idea in practice, it did not go further than the idea.

## 6 Discussion

The aim of the thesis was to create a manual which would enable organizing short track speed skating competitions at European Youth Olympic Festival 2022 in Vuokatti. When considering the research questions, it can be observed that during the thesis process the authors did not manage to answer thoroughly all the research questions that were defined at the beginning of the process. The research questions were: What is short track speed skating? What is required for organizing a short track speed skating event? How to organize an international sports event? How to create a technical manual for a sports event? The first two questions what is short track speed skating? and what is required for organizing a short track speed skating event? were answered thoroughly during this thesis process in both the thesis report and the manual. The other two questions about how to organize an international sports event and how to create a technical manual for sports were not answered efficiently due to the unstable thesis process with the postponements of the event.

Even though short track is relatively an obscure sport in Finland and there have not been any international level competitions held in Finland prior to EYOF 2022, the manual was created in such a manner that a reader, an employee, and a volunteer would gain sufficient information about the sport from this manual. It should contain enough basic information about the sport and detailed information about the different types of work duties during the short track competitions. The focus in the manual was to enable well-organized competitions in short track speed skating in EYOF 2022. The additional aim of the manual was to create a sufficient manual which can be adapted to potential short track events held in Vuokatti in the future. In addition to the previously mentioned aspects, the manual contains information about the facilities and special demands of the facilities. Considering of the obscurity of the sport in Finland, certain roles in the short track organization cannot be fulfilled by locals. When recruiting people for certain roles, the organizers relied on the technical delegate Hermann Filipic from Austria. He was responsible for recruiting all the referees and giving contact details of photo finish personnel as well as the main ice stewards.

For the organizing party of the event, there was still need for some recruitments. Some specific roles required information from the technical delegate to be provided by the organizing party. These roles were such as DJ/commentator, streaming services, ice maintaining personnel as well as volunteers for different other duties. The manual was established especially concerning the

proper knowledge on the sport, working duties of the volunteers and others working with the sport who do not have sufficient information about the sport. There were certain challenges in the recruitment process caused by various effects of Covid-19. For example, most of the volunteers in this event were students from the Kajaani University of Applied Sciences and their studies were in different phases on the original event dates than on the final event dates. This caused some changes in the personnel working with the event. Moreover, some uncertainties about whether there is an event at all caused some difficulties in recruitment because people were not able or willing to commit to the event which had doubts of becoming true.

In addition to challenges in recruiting the volunteers and other workers for the event, the authors of this thesis had changes in their life situations during the process. During the process there were several long-term distant learning methods, as well as practical training. Both thesis authors moved away from Kajaani and were not anymore present close to Vuokatti. While not living in the Kainuu region anymore, there were communication difficulties in the distant planning process of the EYOF event. These difficulties and issues during the process of this thesis were among the authors and some between the authors and the commissioning party.

Other challenges faced during the thesis process and the creation of the manual was the lack of sources. There are not any documents or publications about organizing short track competitions, as the topic itself demands very sport specific information. About short track as a sport, there are more sources available, but not from the aspect of organizing short track competitions. The most relevant and important publication that the authors used specifically for creating the manual was the Special Regulations & Technical Rules Short Track Speed Skating by ISU.

Despite the difficulties, the technical manual for short track speed skating at EYOF 2022 (appendix 1), was ready to be published and shared with the volunteers as well as everyone else involved about a month before the actual event. During the competition week, there were additional info leaflets created by the authors of the thesis. The leaflets were distributed to the audience during the short track competitions and they were written in Finnish and English. (Appendix 2).

During the EYOF 2022 event, this manual became useful for volunteers, in case of any questions arose, the information could be found from the manual. The usefulness of the technical manual could be seen by the authors in various situations during the event; for example when the technical delegate gave an introduction about the volunteer duties, most of the information he gave in the introduction was already given to volunteers in the manual in a written form. The benefits

of the manual were expressed to the authors by the volunteers during the event. Especially the thorough description of the sport and the different roles of officials and volunteers required in the competitions were successfully explained in the manual.

The manual has now been tested for its potentiality, and it has survived and proven to be useful in organizing the event. There is sufficient information about the different demands of a short track competition, and the manual gives answers to many questions involved in the planning process. An issue in the current form of the manual is, that it is mainly intended to Finnish people, but it is written only in English. A translation of this manual might be required to make it feasible for more people.

Even though when considering the manual to be useful and helpful for organizing short track competitions, the main factor is that the knowledge of the sport in Finland is still tenuous, and there is still a need for professional knowledge on the sport. International short track events in Finland would still require help from the ISU to make officials to take care of sport specific demands, for example refereeing. Therefore, more knowledge is still needed, but the EYOF 2022 short track competitions offered a good start and a learning experience for those who were included in organizing them. The authors of the thesis are hoping that the Municipality of Sotkamo and Kainuun Liikunta will not let this good opportunity of developing and establishing short track as a sport in Finland fade away, as now there already is an established beginning network within the sport.

## 7 Conclusions

The creation process of the technical manual was a major part of the thesis and took a while to produce. As mentioned in the previous chapters, there were communication difficulties between all parties involved. These difficulties led to certain delays, and the process could have been more fluent with better communication, and with clearer guidelines as well as goals. It can be noted that all parties could develop their communication skills to make co-operation more effortless, more effective, and pleasant for everyone involved.

It has been previously mentioned on several occasions that the sport itself was obscure in Finland, which meant that the authors had to begin this process from researching the sport of short track speed skating themselves. Even after they went to see the world cup competitions in the Netherlands, there is nothing compared to obtaining first-hand experience of organizing the event. Short track being an obscure sport in Finland, the authors were dependent on receiving information from the technical delegate of the sport as well as information that can be found directly from the International Skating Union's rulebook. From reading the rulebook, it is possible to acquire some information, and that way to make some own assumptions on certain aspects of organizing the event, but after that additional information was still required from an expert of the sport, for example the TD (technical delegate). All stages in this process took more time than expected, which caused some issues in following the schedules and deadlines.

These mentioned issues could have been solved with better clarification of the roles already at the beginning of the process and if authors would have had better knowledge of what the competition organization is expecting from them. The author(s) have been a part of organizing other large sporting events, but never in so large a role as in EYOF. While having responsibility in several aspects of major sporting events, was something new for both authors, which might have not been taken into consideration. Most of the other sport directors of other sports had been responsible for organizing large events of their own sports prior to EYOF 2022, which meant they would not require as much support as the authors of this thesis would have needed.

In general, the authors were able to create the final product, the technical manual for short track speed skating in EYOF 2022. This manual was delivered to everyone involved in organizing and being part of the working team of short track speed skating. The people involved had an opportunity to read through the provided technical manual about one month prior to the actual event



week. When the competition week began, the authors as well as the volunteers who had thoroughly read and acquired the provided information in the manual had better understanding of their tasks during the week. There was an orientation session on the tasks given by the authors, in addition with an induction training held by the TD of short track, Hermann Filipic. The authors were able to analyze if they had provided sufficient information in the manual, while the TD gave his induction to short track. There were not any major gaps between the provided information in the manual and the concrete induction to the sport and tasks by the TD. During the event, the authors were able to answer and react rapidly to arising problems, because they had created the manual with sufficient information.

In addition to being part of organization committee of EYOF 2022, there were certain expert-like roles introduced to the authors. One part of showing their expertise in organizing short track at EYOF2022 was when the authors had the opportunity to give a presentation about different aspects of organizing the short track competitions (appendix 3) for the observer program participants. The participants of the observation program are organizers of the upcoming European Youth Olympic Festivals, potential EYOF hosts, hosts of upcoming other youth Olympics as well as others who are interested in organizing major youth EOC or IOC events (European Olympic Committees, 2016). During the presentation in the observer program seminar, the authors talked about their experiences and what they had learned during the process for the people interested in the subject and answered the questions asked by the participants.

Before the event, another so-called expert role was offered when the Finnish national broadcasting company, YLE, wanted to make a live interview on the radio and afterward on TV news and an article on the YLE website. The chosen expert of this sport in this occasion was one of the authors, which can be thought of as an achievement and indication of having a good knowledge in this specific sport at the Finnish national level.

While being part of the competition week, the authors were able to implement the manual to full use and see if it is functioning well enough. From the authors' viewpoint, the manual succeeded and can be easily adapted to future usage. The authors realized with close communication with ISU representatives that there could be potential for this sport in Finland and ISU could be willing to organize future competitions in Finland, Vuokatti. The authors are interested in continuing to work with this sport and are hoping that Vuokatti, Sotkamo, and other parties involved will commit to the opportunity in establishing this sport in Finland.

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## Technical Manual for Short Track Speed Skating

EYOF 2021/2022



**EYOF**  
**2022**  
**VUOKATTI**

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## 1 Organisation

### *Executive committee of EYOF 2022*

*Mika Kilpeläinen - Mayor, Municipality of Sotkamo*

*Teemu Takalo – CEO, Regional Sport Association of Kainuu*

*Mikko Salonen – Secretary General, Finnish Olympic Committee*

*Niina Torol – International Relations, Finnish Olympic Committee*

*Leena Paavolainen – Vice Chief of Elite Competition, Finnish Olympic Committee*

*Anne Lukkari – Deputy Chairman, Municipality Council of Sotkamo*

*Sakari Seppänen - Chairman, Municipality Government of Sotkamo*

*Kari Partanen – Member of the Government of Regional Sport Association of Kainuu*

### Organizing Committee:

Mika Kilpeläinen - Chief of Organizing Committee

Marita Kaipainen – Secretary General of EYOF 2022

Riikka Rajaniemi – NOC Services Manager

Emma Hyvönen – Vice NOC Services Manager

### Short Track Speed Skating

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Tea Tissari – Short Track Vice Manager (tel. +358 442311399)

Ossi Pulkkinen – Short Track Chief of Competition

Samuli Moisander – Short Track Vice Chief of Competition (tel. +358 407542027)

Hermann Filipic – Technical Delegate of Short Track Speed Skating

## 2 Short track speed skating

Short track speed skating is a variation of speed skating, as mentioned in the name, the biggest difference from the so-called normal speed skating is the length of the track. Short track speed skating track is 111,12 meters long, which can be set up for example on ice-hockey rinks. The biggest demand for setting up a track is to have suitable board paddings, which will protect skaters in case of falling.

Short track speed skating consists of races with mass starts, that can be an individual, relay, or team races. This also differs from speed skating, in the case of speed skating, only two athletes are competing simultaneously on the track, in short track speed skating there are commonly at least four athletes on the track. Athletes in the short track are competing in pack-style races, which means that they start from the start line at the same time and try to beat each other in each heat. This leads to the fact that getting through to the next phase is first considered by the placement at the finish line in the athlete's own heat and only after that time is taken into consideration.

Example: There are 36 athletes (1500 m) competing in the first round of the sport, they have been set up to 6 heats of 6 athletes. The first two of each heat are automatically through to the next round, in addition to these 18 athletes ( $6 \cdot 3 = 18$ ) additional 3 on 4th place athletes are chosen by their times. So the best four "lucky-losers" of all the heats are through to the next round. Now there is going to be 3 heats of 7 athletes in the second round.

In the EYOF 2022 Vuokatti, the number of rounds is going to be decided separately in each sport separately, by the number of entries set by each participating National Olympic Committee (NOC). A maximum number of participants of each nation in each distance is two (2).

### 2.1 Disciplines, distances, and series

Distances in EYOF 2022 are the following:

Boys and girls are competing in 500 m, 1000 m, and 1500 m single races.

In addition to single races there is a 3000m mixed relay.



Basic information about the races is following:

- The racetrack is 111,12 m long and this means that:
  - 500 m race consists of 4 ½ laps
  - 1000 m race consists of 9 laps
  - 1500 m race consists of 13 ½ laps

Each distance consists of variation of heats. There are preliminary heats from which the best competitors are going through to the next round. After heats, there is going to be quarter finals, semi-finals, and finals. This concerns all of the single distances, there might be variation for relay.

For example, if there are 36 male and 36 female competitors in the single races (500 m, 1000 m), this would mean that there are going to be 8 heats of 4/5 participants, from which the 2 best of each heat are going through to quarter finals, in addition with best 4 competitors by their time on 3rd position.

In the quarter final phase, there is 20 best athletes competing to qualify for the semi-finals. Quarterfinals would consist of 4 heats of 5 athletes, from which 2 best plus the fastest third of each heat will be eligible in the semi-final stage.

There will be two semi-final heats of 5 athletes each, from which the two best of each heat are going to the final (500 m). (Remaining two are going to compete in Final B)

Each participating National Olympic Committee can enter two participating athletes to each distance of single races in addition with one team for the mixed relay, that consist of two girls and two boys.

Each participant must fulfill the age requirement set by the International Skating Union (ISU). For EYOF 2022 possible participants must be born between the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2004 and the 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2006.

## Official Programme

Date	Time	Event
Sunday 20.3.	9.00-16.00	Official Training
Monday 21.3.	8.30-9.00	Warm-up
	9.35-14.00	1500 m Heats
		3000 m Mixed Relay
Tuesday 22.3.	8.30-9.00	Warm-up
	9.35-13.30	500 m
		3000 m Semis Mixed Relay
Wednesday 23.3.		
Thursday 24.3.		
Friday 25.3.	8.00-9.00	Free Skating
	10.00-10.50	Warm-up
	11.05-16.00	1000 m Finals
		3000 m Mixed Relay

The program of short track competitions.

## 2.2 Racing Rules

Individual racing rules – Rules according to ISU Regulations 2022 (Rule 297)

<https://isu.org/inside-isu/rules-regulations/isu-statutes-constitution-regulations-technical/special-regulations-and-technical-rules/26091-short-track-speed-skating-2021/file>

### Individual racing rules

- Races are always run counterclockwise.
- During the races overtaking is allowed at all times, but the responsibility of any collision or hindrance is on the skater/relay team overtaking before the skaters are side by side, requiring that the overtaken skater does not act inadequately.
- Any skater/relay team who is bound to be lapped, must move to the outside and may not be allowed to interfere with the skaters/relay team overtaking him/them. A Yellow or Red Card can be the result of an offence with interference.
- If a skater/relay team is lapped twice, the skater/relay team must leave the race, except when there are one or more other skaters/relay teams near to his present race position.

Based on this rule, the skaters/relay teams who have left the race are recorded as not finished. In case the referee thinks that the skater/relay team was interrupted from finishing because of reasons apart from the skaters/relay teams' control, thereafter the referee can declare the skater/relay team having reached the finish line, but no time will be recorded.

- When the skater has reached the finish line with the leading tip of the skate blade, the distance has been completed by the skater/relay team.

### **Infringements**

- In general, the skaters/relay teams are obligated to honest sporting and safe proceedings of the race in place to determine result in the race based on its merits.
- Infringements of the racing rules are considered along these lines:
  - OFF-TRACK: Skating either with both or one skate on the left side of the curve that is marked by track marking blocks.
  - IMPEDING: Interference by impeding, blocking, or pushing another skater with any parts of the body is not allowed. Interference, when another skater crosses the course of his/her course causing contact.
  - ASSISTANCE: Skaters compete individually. Assistance from another skater will cause sanctions for all skaters/relay teams involved. This does not apply to the push that is given to the skater from their team-mate in the team relay races.
  - KICKING OUT: Kicking out of any skate during the race causing danger or throwing the body across the finish line is not allowed.

### **Relay infringements**

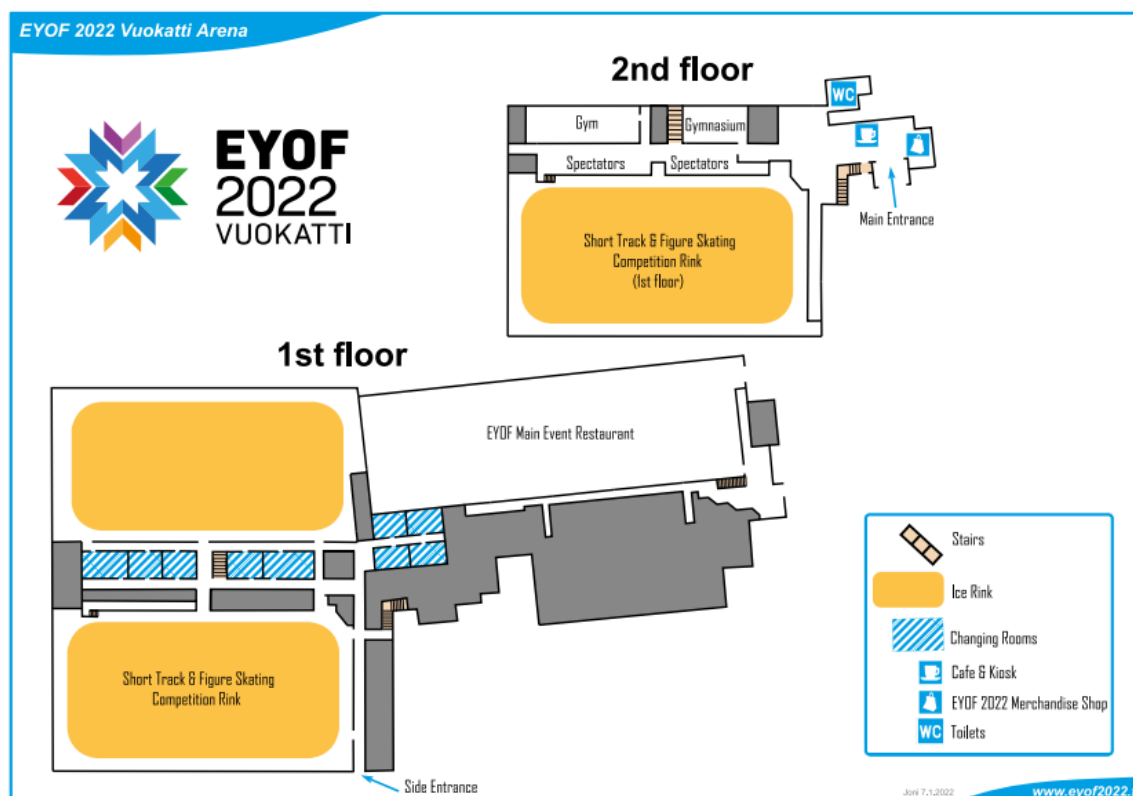
- The individual racing rules, paragraphs 1 and 2 apply to Relay races for all team members.
- Relay infringements of the relay races are considered along these lines:
  - RELAYING NON-TOUCH: The relay has taken place without touch, or the touch has not been apparent or clearly shown and this is seen by the Referee or the Assistant Referees.

- RELAYING DURING THE LAST TWO LAPS: The last relays has not clearly begun before the beginning of the final two laps.

### 3 Facilities and equipment

All the competitions in short track speed skating in EYOF 2022 are held in the newly built Vuokatti Arena. The arena has two ice-rinks, from which one is dedicated for EYOF 2022 throughout the whole competition week, and the other one is held open for local sport clubs to practice their own sports during the time. In the EYOF rink, there is going to be figure skating events held as well as short track speed skating events

Already for the figure skating, there are some modifications to the rink facilities to come. These modifications are such as removing the upper nettings and plexiglass from the rink. These changes will remain for the short track, in addition there will be setting up of the paddings for the whole length of the track. Paddings are going to be set up prior to the EYOF events and paddings will remain in place during the whole event of EYOF, including official trainings and competitions of figure skating.



Map of the Vuokatti Arena



Map of the Vuokatti area

### 3.1 Short track speed skating track

Short track speed skating track is going to be set up to Vuokatti Arena rink number 1. There is going to be paddings on the boards of the rink. Plexi-glass from the sides of the rink will be removed prior to the event and they will be out during the whole event. Hence the ice is used for both sports, figure skating and short track speed skating, there can't be strong paintings on ice to mark the track.

In case of marking the track there is going to be a need for painting of \*several\* start lines as well as corner markings on the ice. In addition, the finish line is going to be painted on the ice. Specific instructions for painting on the ice are declared in the ISU Short track speed skating rules & regulations.

“Corner Markings” AKA. Track markings are going to be painted on the ice with visible paint, these corner markings will give track personnel (Track Stewards) the visible information of where to place track markers during and between the race heats. There are going to be needed (5 to 7)

different start lines and track markings in order to guarantee safety and consistency during all the race heats. For the fact that there are multiple skaters on ice going around the track with close to same lines of skating, there is going to be worn out spots and damages to the ice during each race. To minimize the amount of usage of the Zamboni (several ice maintenance breaks). Different race markings are going to be painted with different colors so that track stewards can easily change the racetrack between heats. There might be as much as 5 to 7 lanes and their markings.

It is the responsibility of track stewards to keep control of the race lines, on top of the painted track markings there is going to be plastic track markers. These track markers are not heavy, and they will move from their position by even the smallest touch from the skaters. Therefore, track stewards need to be in close encounter with the track and be able to place markers back to their position during the races as quickly and safely as possible.

### 3.2 Paddings

Paddings are declared by the ISU rules and the thickness of the padding varies in different sectors of the track, being the thickest in outsider corners.

The material covering the paddings should be water-resistant and possibly cut-resistant as well, but not necessary. The paddings must be attached and stand on the ice with their weight. All padding systems used must adhere to the minimum specifications that are set by ISU Communication.

There are different types of paddings available, there are traditional rink board paddings, hybrid paddings and moveable padding systems. The competitor organizer can partly decide which system better suits their needs and demand of the paddings, alongside with the requirements that are set for different competition events. For example, for the Winter Olympic Games a Moveable Padding system is mandatory. Other things that can affect the decision and selection of the type of the padding are logistical change-over situations, where the short track is sharing the venue with figure skating.

The paddings ordered for these competitions are the Traditional rink board paddings from Sidijk. Padding has been set up and tested prior to the event and if they will fit well to the rink. Paddings

are stored next to the ice-hockey rink. Each part of the padding has a specified number to mark its situation when assembled to the rink.

### 3.2.1 Instructions for the use of short track padding

#### Building instructions:

- 2 to 3 people are needed for the placing.
- The padding mats are placed according to the drawings on the ice.
- Start with the first padding and place the ice tex (white side) on the front.
- The padding mats are attached to each other with Velcro flaps.
- There should not be any space left between the padding mats.
- The padding mats are connected and fixed to the secondary dasher board with rubber belts/rope and eyelets.
- When all the padding mats are in place on the ice, the banners can be attached.

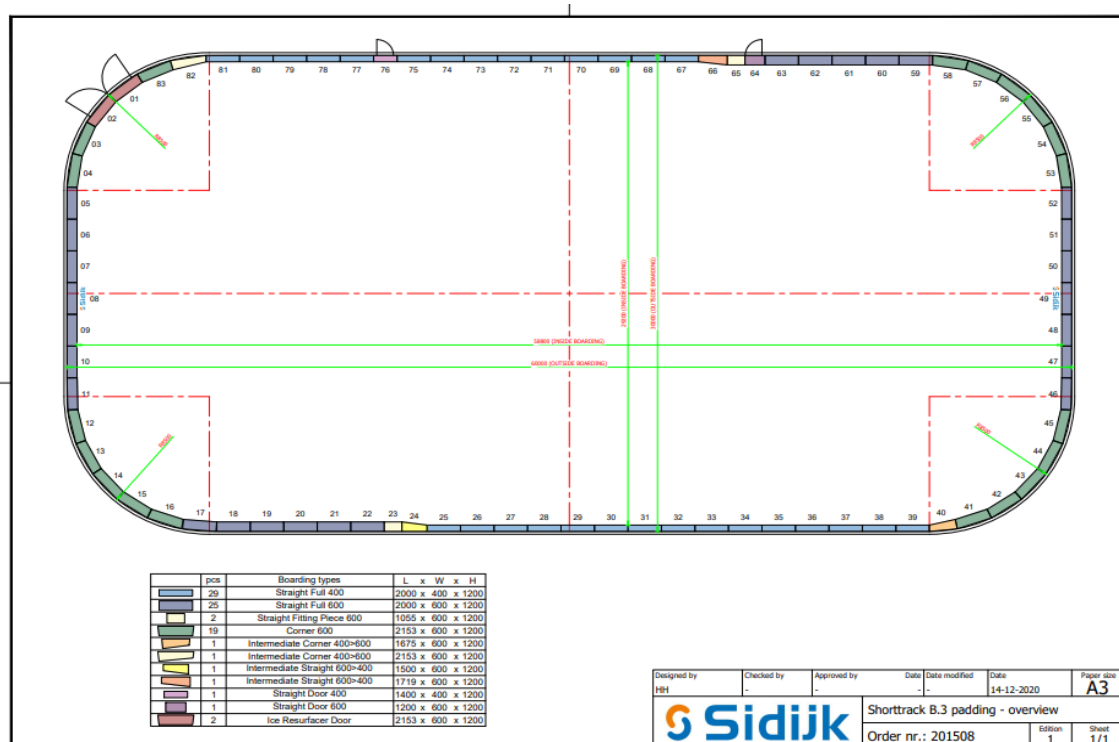
#### Disassemble instructions:

- Remove the banners and dry them.
- Check the padding mats for any damages.
- When storing the padding mats, make sure they are dry
- Start removing with the final number, left from no. 1.
- When paddings are stored in order, it will be easier to build them back next time.

#### Maintenance instructions for the paddings:

- Clean padding mats with a damp cloth with water and detergent occasionally.
- The paddings are stored clean and dry, to prevent mold.
- Observe the paddings for any damage or wear and tear.
- Small repairs can be done by hand.
- In case of larger repairs, these must be done by Sidijk.





Installation instruction of the paddings.

### 3.3 Track markers

The track is marked on ice by specifically placed track markers. Track markers are specified by ISU Short Track Speed Skating Technical Committee.

ISU Short Track Speed Skating Technical Committee approved track marking blocks must be used. There must be seven (7) track marks used in both curves. These markers are controlled and maintained during and between the races by the track stewards. There are specific places painted on the ice where track markers need to be placed, these places will vary between the race heats because of the constant worn out of ice.

### 3.4 Locker rooms

During the competition week there will be four locker rooms reserved for short track athletes. Locker rooms will be divided between the different national teams and not by gender.

Lockers are divided by participating nations as followed:

Locker room 1: Athletes from:

Locker room 2: Athletes from:

Locker room 3: Athletes from:

Locker room 4: Athletes from:

### 3.5 Warm up facilities

Pre-heated warming up facilities are set in the gym upstairs. There are spinning bikes available for the athletes as well as all the other normal gym equipment. In addition, if there is a need for transferring some of the spinning bikes downstairs close to the ice, so that competitors are also able to warm up while watching the competitions. In addition to gym and spinning bikes there might be demand for some longer flat areas where athletes can take some running spurts.

### 3.6 Athletes lounge

There is going to be an athletes lounge situated in Vuokatti Arena. In the lounge, there is a possibility to get some beverages as well as snacks during the training and race days.

## 4 For volunteers

Organizing Short Track Speed Skating official competitions requires a certain number of officials and other volunteers to fill different roles. Below there are the listed number of different officials' roles and other volunteers' roles needed to be recruited and descriptions of the roles.

### 4.1 Different roles and numbers of officials and other volunteers needed

#### **Officials necessary to be recruited:**

- Referee and 4 assistant referees (4-5)
- Starters (2)
- Competitor Stewards (1-2)
- Heat Box Steward (2)
- Photo Finish
- Lap Scorer (2)
- Lap Recorder (1-2)
- Announcer / DJ (1-2)
- Track Stewards (4-8)
- Doctors (2)
- First Aid (2-4)

#### **Following roles are not needed for EYOF but are needed in some short track competitions:**

- Chief Finish Line Judge (from ISU?) (1)
- Chief Timekeeper (1)
- Time Keepers (2)

#### **Other volunteers:**

- Water carriers (2-4)
- Security guards (OC decision)
- Competitor relations officer (1)
- Info desk (2)

## 4.2 Different roles and task descriptions of officials and other volunteers

### **Different roles and task descriptions of officials:**

#### **Referees**

According to ISU rules: "The Referee shall be the chief executive officer and shall decide all points of dispute and infringements of rules, which can result in sanctions". His decision shall be "Final". In addition, the referee is responsible of timetables and the qualification procedure in co-operation with competitors steward as well as the technical delegate person. Person is also responsible for making sure that rules and regulations are followed during the competitions. Person is responsible of following the following of the timetable with ISU and TD members, all the interruptions related to competitions are presented by that person, communicated with ISU member and TD. Track conditions etc. are followed and made sure that conditions are safe and good for the competitions. Person is also able to delegate certain tasks for the assistant referees as well as other officials. Additional information is provided in the ISU rules and regulations.

First assistant referee is taking responsibility of referee in case of illness or other reason why referee is unable to continue the persons' duty. All the assistant referees are taking care of all the duties which are assigned by the referee.

#### **Starters**

Starters are responsible of starting procedures. There can be up to two starters in place. Starters need to be positioned so that they have clear view to all the competitors. Starter announces starting commands in English and gives the mark to start the race. The starter can recall a start, and this can be done by either one of the starters. The starter can also ask another starter to call the athletes back in case of false start.

#### **Competitors' Stewards**

The competitors' stewards coordinate all the administrative matters. The competitors' steward checks the eligibility of skaters.

According to the official program and based on the results the competitors' steward determines the skaters taking part in the next qualifying round. The competitors' steward makes up the races for each round and draws the order of the races. The competitors' steward also informs the skaters of their qualification and in which race they shall be placed in.

### **Heat Box Steward**

Heat box stewards work in the heat boxes and take care of the heat box areas. At the heat box the steward lets the skaters competing in the next heat to the heat box to put on their skates, gloves, and helmets. In the heat box there are small boxes, one for each athlete. The heat box steward gives each athlete a box for skate covers and other equipment and clothing the athletes take off before competing. Before letting the skaters on the ice, the heat box steward is responsible for seeing that the skaters are wearing all required equipment, that includes a helmet, cut resistant gloves, a chin protection, long sleeved and legged clothing and knee pads. The heat box steward is responsible for checking that all athletes are on the ice before closing the entrance. If there is a skater missing, the heat box steward must notify the referees. When the heat is over the steward will let the athletes back in the heat box and hands the equipment boxes back for them.

In relays the heat box steward hands the helmet covers for the skaters. The helmet covers clearly mention the number of the skater.

In EYOF 2022 there is going to be one heat box which works as both sections: Heat box in and Heat box out. This will help to minimize necessities of number of volunteers and additional constructions.

### **Lap Scorer**

The lap scorer follows the competition closely and visibly shows the number of laps to be skated by the leading skater every round. The lap scorer will turn the lapboard each time the leading skater passes. For the last lap of race, the lap scorer will ring a bell to signify the last lap.

In relay races the lap scorer will advise the starter when the last three laps are coming up. In relay races there should be assigned a lap scorer to each team.

### **Lap Recorder**

The lap recorder will complete a lap-by-lap recording of the lap times of the leading skater. This happens in writing and with an accuracy of one second or less. The lap recorder shall always keep check in the lap scorer. The lap recorder must be positioned near the lap scorer off ice.

### **Announcer / DJ**

The announcers' job is to keep the spectators informed during the competition.

By public announcements the announcer will also ensure that all officials, coaches, skaters etc. are kept informed regarding to the competition details. The announcements are in English, but if applicable the same announcements can be made in a second language also.

### **Track Stewards**

There should be a minimum of two track stewards working at each end of the track. The track stewards should be positioned the way that they will not interfere the skaters and officials on ice but can easily replace missing track marks when needed.

The track stewards must have good skating skills, understanding the basic rules of the Short Track speed skating and knowledge of English language.

During the breaks between races the track stewards maintain the ice with some water which is basically poured from a watering can and is then spread with certain kind of drying spatula. To make filling up of watering cans, there is going to be big tubs of water needed just outside the boarding in both ends of the rink (probably inside corners).

### **Doctors**

There must be one doctor in each outside corner in case of severe accidents occurring. Which means that there is a need for two doctors during the whole event of ST.

### **First Aid**

There should be enough first aid personnel, they should be positioned off ice around the track, so they can be reached quickly in emergency situations. During the official trainings and competitions of ST, according to competition regulations set by ISU one ambulance needs to be outside the arena all the time. This means that in case of emergency call or leave of ambulance there can't be any sporting event held before a new ambulance has arrived on spot.

### **Different roles and task descriptions of other volunteers:**

#### **Water carriers**

The water carriers ensure that there will be enough water beside the track during competitions. They go fill the water containers when needed. When the ice stewards need water for maintaining the ice the water carriers will fill and hand a watering can to them.

#### **Security guards**

Security guards ensure that the event goes smoothly security wise.

### **Competitor relations officer (CRO)/Attaché**

In EYOF, there are not CRO's, which normally deal with communication between organization and teams (e.g., athletes and coaches). CRO is coping with all kinds of competition related issues which occur during the competition days, CRO's main task is to maintain fluent ongoing of events for the athletes.

In EYOF and other multi-sport events there might not be CRO's but instead there are attachés. Each participating has their own attaché set by the organizer, and that person is trying to solve occurring problems with the teams as well as between teams and organization.

### **Info desk Personnel**

Info Desk is usually common for all the sports. In the EYOF the ice arena there will be only an info board for Short Track Speed Skating.

Info desk persons should have all information that athletes, team leaders, coaches, officials, or spectators may need. Also, they should be able to tell where to find that information. This could include information like competition timetables, locker room information, maps, and location information etc.

### **Additional Information:**

Additional roles which fit to competitions that do not have a photo finish. In EYOF 2022 there is a photo finish used, so these personnel are not needed. Still, information is provided for future usage and common knowledge:

### **Chief Finish Line Judge**

A chief finish line judge is used mainly in competitions without a photo finish. These persons(s) will determine which athlete has gone through the finish line in which position. In addition, finish line judge and assistant referees may be responsible of lap counters especially on team relays.

### **Chief Timekeeper**

The Chief Timekeeper oversees the recording of the times. The chief makes sure that he and the timekeepers are positioned off the ice and next to the finish line to record the accurate times of the skaters.

### **Timekeepers**

The timekeepers are responsible for taking times. If time keeping is done with digital watches, the time will be recorded in hundredths of a second. The timekeepers are not allowed to clear their watches before they have been instructed to do so by the Chief Timekeeper. Timekeepers should not call out their times but show their watch when requested by the Chief of Timekeeper.



## Appendix 1 Short Track Info sheet

### Short Track

Short track speed skating is variation of speed skating. The biggest difference from so called normal speed skating is the length of the track. Short track can be set up for example on ice-hockey rinks. The biggest demand for setting up track is to have suitable boards with paddings, which will protect skaters in case of falling down.

Other difference to long track speed skating is the style of competition.

Short track speed skating consists of races with mass starts, that can be individual, or team relay races. Team relays are specialty of short track speed skating. Athletes start from start line at the same time and try to beat each other in races (heats).

Athletes promoted to next round are decided first by their position in single heat. Remaining spots will be filled by “lucky-losers” according to their times.

Distances in EYOF 2022 are the following:

Boys and girls are competing in 500 m, 1000 m, and 1500 m single races.

In addition to single races there is 3000m mixed relay, in which team consists of two girls and two boys of each participating nation.

Basic information about the races is following:

The race track is 111,12 m long and this means that:

- 500 m race consists of 4 ½ laps
- 1000 m race consists of 9 laps
- 1500 m race consists of 13 ½ laps

Each distance consists of variation of heats. There are preliminary heats from which the best competitors are going through to quarter finals, semi-finals and then to finals. In the small final athletes will place on 5-8 and medals are shared in the big final.

### Short Track eli Kaukalopikaluistelu

Kaukalopikaluistelu on pikaluistelun yksi kilpailumuodoista. Suurimpana erona ”normaaliin” pikaluisteluun on radan pituus. Kaukalopikaluistelurata voidaan nimensä mukaisesti tehdä esimerkiksi jääkiekkokaukalo. Tärkeimpänä ominaisuutena radalle on lajiin sopivat laidat siihen sopivine pehmusteineen. Pehmusteiden tarkoitus on suojata urheilijoita, mikäli he kaatuvat.

Toinen merkittävä ero on kilpailutapa.

Short track koostuu ryhmälähdöistä, jotka ovat joko yksilö- tai joukkueviestikilpailuita. Viestikilpailut ovat Short trackin erikoisuus pikaluistelun maailmassa. Kilpailijat lähtevät liikkeelle yhtä aikaa lähtölinjalta ja pyrkivät aina voittamaan oman eränsä päästäkseen jatkoon.

Jatkoon pääsevät urheilijat määritellään ensisijaisesti heidän sijoitustensa perusteella omista alkuerissään. Jäljelle jäävät paikat seuraavalla kierroksella täytetään ns. ”lucky-losereiden” kautta. Nämä määritellään kaikkien urheilijoiden aikojen perusteella.

EYOF 2022 Vuokatissa kilpailtavat matkat ovat:

Pojat ja tytöt kilpailevat 500 m, 1000 m ja 1500 m yksilökilpailuissa.

Yksilökilpailuiden lisäksi Vuokatissa kilpaillaan 3000 m sekaviesti, jossa joukkue koostuu kahdesta työstä ja kahdesta pojasta.

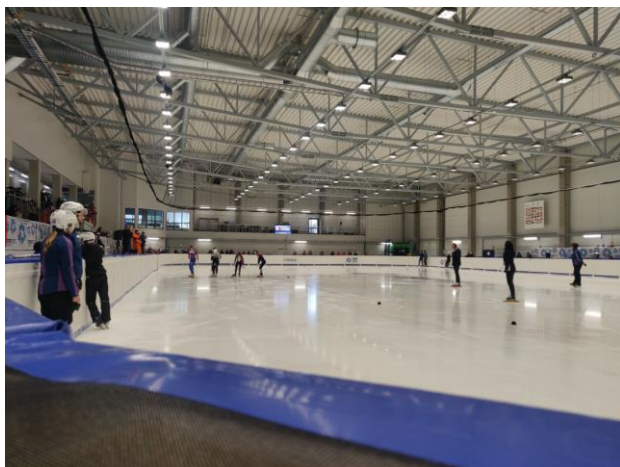
Perustietoa kilpailusta

Rata on 111,12 m pitkä, joten:

- 500 m kilpailussa on 4 ½ kierrosta
- 1000 m kilpailussa on 9 kierrosta
- 1500 m kilpailussa on 13 ½ kierrosta

Jokainen kilpailumatka koostuu eri erävaiheista. Alkuerät, puolivälierät, välierät ja finaalit. Short trackissa pikkufinaalissa ratkotaan sijat 5-8 ja isossa finaalissa ratkotaan mitalien kohtalo.

## Appendix 3 Observation program presentation



### Experiences

- Short track has specific demands in many aspects
- Collect the information about what you need well before the event
- Book and purchase the necessary items, equipment and services as well as personnel
- Make sure that everyone involved has clear idea about the sport
- Clarify the roles of the team
- Co-operation with Technical Director (commit to give detailed information)



## Challenges

- The sport does not really exist in Finland, no sport "know-how"
- Sport specific requirements have to be discovered well before the competition week
  - E.g. quality of ice, video replay
- Make sure to discuss and get the information of demands of all the areas involved in the competition – athletes, teams, TD, referees, starters, VAR, announcer, DJ etc.



## Other valuable info

- Make sure everyone involved in competition day know their roles and tasks and how the competition is going through the day
- Feedback sessions with the team after competition days to know if there are anything that could be improved for the next day



