

Speed Skating Policy

Policy Name: Three Year Rule	Effective Date: June 1, 2014
Policy Number: 2016-1	Revision Date: September 19, 2016
Applies to: All Northwest Region Invitationals	See Also:

I. Policy:

No skater shall compete for more than three years (consecutive or non-consecutive) in the Novice category of any age division in the Northwest Region. The three year timeframe shall be counted from the first competition season that the skater is carded by the National Office of USARS.

II. Coaches & skaters shall ensure this by:

1. It shall be the Coach's responsibility to ensure that all skaters competing under said Coach are following the three year rule.
2. Skaters shall be honest about the number of years that they have competed, when registering for a competition.
3. Skaters and Coaches that do not follow this rule may be subject to disqualification from the races in the division that they entered if it is discovered that they are ineligible to compete in the Novice category.
4. Even if a skater only competed in one competition in a season, or none at all, but was carded, that shall count towards a skaters year when factoring the number of years that a skater has been carded.

III. Examples:

1. Jane Doe is carded for Regionals 2014, and only skates Regionals during the 2013-14 season. That will count as her 1st year of competition even though she didn't skate the rest of the competitions.
2. John Doe is is carded in March of 2014, but then never competes that season. That shall count as his first year of competition even though he didn't skate the competitions as planned.
3. Jimmy Doe is carded in April of 2014 and skates the rest of that season. That counts that as his first year. He renews his card in September 2014, but doesn't compete in the 2014-15 season. That shall still count as his 2nd year, because he was carded.
4. Jill Doe is carded at the beginning of the 2014-15 season, and competes all year. In September 2015 she doesn't renew her card because she is taking a season off from skating. She renews in September 2016 for the 2016-17 season, and that shall be counted as her 2nd year in novice.

IV. Exceptions to the Three Year Rule:

1. The ONLY exception to the Three Year Rule shall be at NW Regionals, if a skater otherwise would qualify for Nationals under the Novice Category, they will be eligible to skate Novice at NW Regionals.
 - a. Example: Jack Doe is a Masters Man. Jack has 5 years of speed skating competition under his belt. Jack has never skated Nationals/Qualified at Nationals, and is therefore eligible to skate under Novice at Regionals, for qualifying for Novice Master Men's division. This only applies to divisions that have Novice at Nationals. i.e. not Novice Elementary. Jack would not be allowed to skate invitationals in Novice, only Regional Qualifiers.