

YASSA/WRSSC: Policy on Travel to Competitions

Participation in competitions outside of the Yukon can be very valuable for athletes and assist in their athletic development as well as maintaining or growing their interest in the sport. However, the WRSSC and YASSA must balance the value offered by such travel against the limited resources available to support such travel and the need to maintain the home-based core of what it offers its athletes.

The core of what the WRSSC offers its athletes are the regular training sessions under the supervision of certified coaches through the speed skating season plus several competitions, including the end-of-season Yukon Championships, hosted by YASSA in Whitehorse.

Whitehorse Rapids is responsible for training athletes and identifying what level of competition is appropriate for them. YASSA is responsible for providing available funding to offset expenses in accordance with the following policy.

Note that the following policy does not cover either the Arctic Winter Games or the Canada Winter Games, both of which are governed by separate policies and requirements.

General

YASSA and WRSSC have agreed that the following considerations are generally applicable. The organizations:

- Wish to encourage skaters to participate in competitions appropriate to their skill level outside the Yukon subject to:
 - The athlete having developed appropriate technical skating skills that such competition will be of benefit; and,
 - The athlete has shown a level of commitment and maturity that such competition will be of benefit.
- Will make every effort to support the athletes and families in an equitable fashion;
- Will make every effort to balance the needs of its T2T or junior athletes identified as being on a performance track to further develop with the desire to encourage and develop athletes who are not yet at this level;
- Wish to decrease financial barriers to full participation in the sport;
- Will make every effort to manage known risks to the organizations and memberships; and,
- Are aware that no policy can anticipate every possible scenario and so will rely on the good faith efforts of the athletes, coaches, board members and parents to resolve any issues as they arise.

Selection of Competitions and Recommendation of Athletes

This is a WRSSC responsibility. The WRSSC board, on the advice of its head coach, will identify appropriate competitions. The coaching staff will recommend to athletes and their families which competitions, if any, are appropriate for each athlete.

Note that skaters can participate as individuals in other competitions if they choose. Those additional competitions may or may not have coaching or financial support provided by YASSA/WRSSC. However, the head coach should be consulted on the appropriateness of the competition.

Sources of Funding

There are three sources of funding that YASSA/WRSSC generally has available to financially support travel to outside competitions:

- YS4L is applied for annually prior to the season to assist with the travel costs of the designated coach and individual athletes;
- YRAC is applied for annually prior to the season to assist with both coach and individual athlete travel costs; and,
- Lotteries funding that is applied for by YASSA after each competition based on a pre-approved travel plan for the season:
 - Each athlete is eligible for Lotteries funding only once per season;
 - Some funding is available for a coach for each competition if and only if athletes eligible for funding are also part of that application;
 - Lotteries funding may also be available for an additional support person only if more than 10 athletes (all of whom are also eligible for funding) are travelling to one competition;
 - These applications will be managed by YASSA to maximize the overall amount of funding received; and,
 - The distribution of Lotteries funding is at the discretion of the YASSA board.

Financial Support for Athletes

The eligibility criteria and availability of all funding described here is subject to change.

For YASSA/WRSSC supported trips, each athlete may be eligible for:

- The lotteries funding (currently \$200) applied for in his or her name for one competition per season; and,
- Support from the YRAC/YS4L funds for a maximum of two competitions per season.
- Additional funding may be made available to support T2T or junior athletes identified as being on a performance track beyond the limits stated.

Documentation with receipts must be submitted to the YASSA treasurer for the following eligible expenses:

- Meet registration fees;
- Athlete airfare and baggage fees (actual out-of-pocket expenditures only);
- Athlete share of hotel room; and,
- Athlete share of a rental vehicle and gasoline or other ground transportation costs.

All travel funding will be distributed at or before the AGM following the season. The actual amount per athlete per competition from the YRAC/YS4L fund will be determined by the total amount available divided by the total number of eligible athlete trips up to a maximum of \$450 per athlete per trip from the YRAC/YS4L fund.

Financial Support for Designated Coach

The designated coach for each competition will be fully compensated for the following documented travel expenses:

- Airfare and baggage fees (actual out-of-pocket expenditures only);
- Coach share of hotel room (if sharing with another adult on the trip);
- Share of rental vehicle and gasoline or other ground transportation costs; and,
- Any other trip-related expenses as deemed eligible by the Board.

It is expected that the designated coach will make every effort to keep these expenses to a minimum, e.g., booking air travel early, sharing rental vehicle with others on the trip etc. Funds will be paid on submission of documentation and receipts to the YASSA treasurer after each competition.

Roles and Possible Financial Support for Designated Chaperone or Other Support Person

In travel to competitions, the roles of chaperone, technical support, assistant coach, general support and athlete wrangling, and parents wanting to watch their athlete compete often overlap and there is no easy way of defining which roles should be financially supported and to what extent.

YASSA and WRSSC are changing their approach to travel to reflect the move to safe sport initiatives by national sport bodies and by Sport Yukon. These changes are intended to both manage risks to athletes, coaches and to the general membership and at maintaining the sport in good standing with our funders.

The following will apply to all YASSA/WRSSC travel (note that AWG and CWG travel is governed by other policies not under the control of YASSA/WRSSC):

- The “Rule of Three” will be maintained. This means that the coach shall not travel with only minor (under the age of 18) athletes. A least one additional adult must accompany them.
- Any parent travelling with their minor child is responsible for their child for the entire trip.
- The coach or other adult travelling shall not share a room with any minor athlete who is not related to them regardless of gender.
- Minor athletes of the same gender may share a room but those of different genders may not unless they are siblings also sharing a room with a related adult.
- Any parent not travelling with their minor child is responsible for assigning their child to a chaperone from among the other adult(s) travelling.
 - Is required to complete, date and sign the form attached to this policy.
 - The coach shall not act as chaperone.
 - Because the chaperone shall not share a room with any minor athlete not related to them, the chaperone may be the same or different gender to the chaperoned athlete.

Some financial support may be offered to the second adult travelling and/or those acting as chaperone by the YASSA board on a case-by-case basis guided by:

- If funds are available following the end of the speed skating season YASSA may opt to reimburse a portion of incurred travel costs by an adult or adults that acted as chaperone during the season.
- The recognition that the need for at least one adult in addition to the coach to travel for the trip to occur at all along with the prohibition of room sharing between unrelated adults and minor athletes will increase travel costs overall for families.

Expectations of Athletes and Families

Athletes and families are reminded that the competition is the purpose of the trip and it, along with any related training or preparation, must take priority over any other plans. While focused on providing racing experience, team travel is also intended to be a team building event – both on and off the ice. Athletes travelling with families are expected to prioritize participation in all on and off-ice activities.

Athletes and families are expected to adhere to the principles agreed to in the code of conduct during the competition and related travel and off-ice activities. Unacceptable behavior may result in an athlete being suspended from participation in further trips.

Travel Consent Form

To whom it may concern,

I/we, the parent(s)/guardian(s) of _____ give my/our consent for my/our minor child to travel under the care of the following individual who is also affiliated with the Whitehorse Rapids Speed Skating Club/Yukon Amateur Speed Skating Association.

My/our child was born on _____ at the location of _____.
My/our child's health care card number is _____. Attached to this form is a list of any additional medical needs my/our child requires.
If required, my/our child's passport number is _____.

I/we understand that the event is a _____ located at _____.
Barring extenuating circumstances, the event should last for _____ day between the dates of _____ and _____.

If you require any further details on the consent provided, I/we can be reached at phone numbers _____ and at email addresses _____.

Signed, _____

Dated, _____