

Cup competitions (for details please refer to the respective ISU Rules and ISU Communications). In the case of a tie in the SOQC, the following tie breaking system will be used:

- i) Best place on the distance in one (1) of the designated World Cups;
- ii) Best time on the distance;
- iii) Second (or if needed third, fourth, etc) best times on the distance.

b) Host NOC/NF (Russia)

If not qualified through the qualifying procedure, the host NOC/NF will be entitled to enter ten (10) Skaters (5 Men and 5 Ladies) in all events together, as follows:

- Ladies' and Men's Relay
- One (1) Skater in each individual event/distance for both Ladies and Men

If the host NOC/NF forfeits its right to participate in the Relay event(s), the host NOC/NF may nevertheless enter one (1) Skater in each of the individual distances.

c) Relay

The NFs/NOCs with the top 8 placed Relay Teams in the SOQC for Relays qualify for participation in the Olympic Winter Games Relay events. If the host NOC/NF of the Olympic Winter Games is not amongst those qualified on the basis of the Relay SOQC, the respective Relay Team of the host NOC/NF will replace the NOC/NF ranked 8th in the SOQC for the Relay.

d) Individual distances

NOCs/NFs qualified for the Relay events may enter a maximum of five (5) Skaters in total. The Skaters competing in the individual events must be among the Skaters in the Relay Team.

For the individual distances, taking into account the above-mentioned ramification from the Relay qualification which for the IOC quota will have priority, the quota places are assigned to NOCs/NFs in the order of the respective SOQC. All NOCs/NFs having Skaters ranked first over the distances of 500, 1000 and 1500 meters get one starting place in the respective distance. Following that the NOCs/NFs having Skaters ranked 2nd get one starting place, etc, until the following criteria are met:

- i) The number of quota places per NOC/NF has reached the maximum of three (3) Skaters per distance;
- ii) The number of Skaters in the respective distances has reached the maximum number of Skaters for that distance; i.e. the maximum number of Skaters over 500 and 1000 meters will be 32. The maximum number of Skaters over 1500 meters will be 36.
- iii) The total number of Skaters per category (Ladies/Men) has reached the maximum number of Skaters (120 Skaters as per IOC quota stated above).
- iv) If the number of Skaters per distance has not reached the maximum number of Skaters (32 for 500 and 1000 meters and 36 for 1500 meters) on one or more distances, and the simultaneous process cannot be continued without exceeding the IOC quota, then Skaters will be added on a one-by-one basis until the IOC quota has been reached. The next available Skater(s) per distance with the highest rank will be added in the respective distance. In the case of a tie, the shortest distance will prevail.

- v) If according to sub-paragraphs i), ii), iii) and iv) above the number of actually entered Skaters by name has not reached the maximum per distance (32 for 500 and 1000 meters and 36 for 1500 meters), then the NOCs/NFs having Skaters entered as per sub-paragraphs i), ii), iii) and iv) above will be allowed to enter the same Skaters in the respective distance(s) in the order of the respective SOQC, up to the maximum of three (3) Skaters per distance. Consequently, this will not affect the total number of entered Skaters and the IOC quota remains respected.
- vi) In the exceptional case that the number of Skaters per distance cannot be filled (32 for 500 and 1000 meters and 36 for 1500 meters) after applying the procedures in the sub-paragraphs i) ii) iii) iv) and v) above, then the NOCs/NFs which have qualified for the Relay but who have no individual Skaters will be allowed to enter Skaters in the respective distance(s). In the case of a tie, the Relay Team with the highest rank will prevail. Consequently this will also not affect the total number of entered Skaters and the IOC quota remains respected.

PROCESS OF CONFIRMATION OF PLACES

After the ISU designated World Cup Competitions and based on the resulting SOQC, the ISU will inform NOCs/NFs, by 21 December 2013, of their respective total number of quota places and the number of Skaters each NOC/NF can enter per individual distance. NOCs will be requested to confirm to the ISU the use of quota places by 10 January 2014.

REALLOCATION OF UNUSED QUOTA POSITIONS

Between 11 and 19 January 2014, the ISU will redistribute unused quota places to NOCs/NFs based on the SOQC. NOCs will be requested to confirm within two (2) days whether they accept the offered reallocation of quota places, but at the latest on 20 January 2014.

Unused Relay quota places will be replaced with the next best placed Team, based on the results of the Relay SOQC.

QUALIFYING TIMELINE

7-10 November 2013	ISU Olympic Qualifying World Cup, EUROPE
14-17 November 2013	ISU Olympic Qualifying World Cup, EUROPE
21 December, 2013	ISU will confirm to NOCs and NFs the allocation of quota places
10 January 2014	NOC confirmation of participation to ISU
11 – 19 January 2014	ISU to inform relevant NOCs regarding reallocation of quota places
20 January 2014	Final allocation of quota places by ISU
24 January 2014	End of re-allocation process
27 January 2014	Deadline for Sochi 2014 Organising Committee to receive entry forms by name submitted by the NOCs