WINTER WORLD MASTERS GAMES • FINLAND 2028

Short Track Speed Skating · Winter World Masters Games 2028

INVITATION TO COMPETE AND SPORTS INFORMATION

Lahti, 19–23 January 2028 · Version 1, October 2026

1. Welcome to Lahti

The Winter World Masters Games 2028 bring 14 winter sports to Lahti, Heinola and Levi on 14–23 January 2028. The short track is raced at RTK Arena in Lahti on 19–23 January: open ice on Wednesday, official training on Thursday and three race days from Friday to Sunday.

The track is built for these Games. RTK Arena is a permanent indoor ice arena, built for ice hockey. For one week rink 2 becomes a short track venue, with protective padding and a track made for this competition and taken down after it.

Three individual distances, set by your age, and a mixed relay. Every skater races a final. Short track closes the Games on Sunday 23 January, the day of the Farewell Party. Nothing stops us.

2. Organisers

Role	Organisation
Event owner	World Masters Sports (WMS)
Organising committee	Salppuri Oy, Lahti
Competition organiser	Finnish Skating Association (Suomen Luisteluliitto)

Rules	ISU Constitution and General Regulations, ISU Special Regulations and Technical Rules Short Track, IMSSC Constitution and Regulations
Competition Manager and Referee	Appointed by the Finnish Skating Association
Contact	nothingstopsus@masters2028.com, subject "Short Track"

3. Venue and track

Venue: RTK Arena, Launeenkatu 7, 15100 Lahti

Rink: Rink 2, 26 × 58 m

RTK Arena is a permanent indoor ice hockey arena. For the Games, rink 2 gets a temporary short track set-up built to the ISU short track rules, with protective padding on the boards and a track marked with blocks.

It is installed only for this competition. Open ice, official training, the Athlete Information Meeting and all races are held on this rink.

- Changing rooms and warm-up spaces, including a running straight and gym rooms, are in the arena.
- RTK Arena is about 2–3 km from Lahti Sports Center and the Games Centre and Main Masters Hub
- Helsinki Airport to Lahti: about 100 km, one hour by train or car.

4. Who can enter

- Participants must be at least 30 years old before 1 July 2028 (born on or before 30 June 1998), in accordance with IMSSC rules
- A competitor must be a member of a skating club affiliated with a national skating federation that is a member of the International Skating Union (ISU).
- The Games are for masters. Current members of a national team in the 2027–28 season cannot take part.
- You race in the full protective kit listed in section 10.
- You have your own accident, health and liability insurance, including repatriation, valid in Finland for training and competition. The organiser takes out no insurance for participants.

- You compete at your own risk and you are responsible for your own fitness to compete. No medical certificate is needed; you confirm your health in the registration.
- Masters compete for themselves. There are no national delegations or quotas.
- Participants holding Russian or Belarusian citizenship may attend the Winter World Masters Games 2028 only if they also hold citizenship of another country or are permanent residents of a country other than Russia or Belarus, and they participate individually without using or displaying any Russian or Belarusian flags, symbols, names, abbreviations, colour combinations, anthems, or other national identifiers. This decision has been made by the Local Organising Committee and follows the policies of the Finnish Government and Finnish sports organisations. If the political situation changes, LOC is able to re-consider the decision any time.

5. The events

Age categories	Long	Sprint	Middle
30–34 · 35–39 · 40–44 · 45–49	1500 m	500 m	1000 m
50–54 · 55–59 · 60–64 · 65–69 · 70+	1000 m	500 m	777 m

Your age on 1 July 2028 determines your age category.

Women and men race in separate five-year classes, and your class sets your distances. The 777 m is a masters distance, seven laps of the short track oval. Classes with few entries may race together. Results and medals are always per class: gold, silver and bronze in every class, on every distance.

3000 m mixed relay. Four skaters: two women and two men. Relay classes 30–39 · 40–49 · 50–59 · 60+. Up to two skaters in a team may race in a younger relay class than their own, never an older one. Each skater races in one team only. Teams are named at the race office. Gold, silver and bronze in every relay class.

6. Competition format

All-final system. Every distance is its own competition. The first round is seeded on the personal best you give in the registration. The next rounds are built from the results of the round before. Four to six skaters race together. Every skater races a final: the A final for the medals, the B to F finals for the full ranking.

Your races. The three individual distances of your class and one relay.

Race programme. Heats and times are published on masters2028.com before the Games.

7. Programme

Day	Short track	Also on
Friday 14 January		Opening Ceremony, Lahti · accreditation open at the Games Centre
Wednesday 19 January	Athlete Information Meeting · official training	
Thursday 20 January	Long: 1500 m (30–49) · 1000 m (50+) · medals	
Friday 21 January	Sprint: 500 m, all classes · medals	
Saturday 22 January	Middle: 1000 m (30–49) · 777 m (50+) · 3000 m mixed relay · medals	
Sunday 23 January		Farewell Party, Lahti

Changes for organisational or safety reasons are announced at the Athlete Information Meeting and on masters2028.com.

Long track speed skating at Kisapuisto (Lahti) ends on Tuesday 18 January, the day before short track opens the ice, so you can skate both. Long track counts as a separate sport on your entry.

On Tuesday 18 January, the competition rink is open for skating before the official programme starts. Ice charges may apply, and details will be announced later.

8. Athlete Information Meeting

Wednesday 19 January. The meeting replaces the team leaders' meeting. The Competition Manager and the Referee present the programme, the heat structure, the equipment check and the relay entries. Further meetings are called when needed.

9. Rules and equipment

- The races follow the ISU Special Regulations and Technical Rules Short Track and the IMSSC Constitution and Regulations, current editions, unless amended in this invitation. The rules are applied with the masters character of the event in mind.
- Protective kit is compulsory in training and racing: helmet, cut-resistant suit, neck guard, shin and knee guards, and cut-resistant gloves, as the ISU rules require.
- Your kit is checked before the start. A skater without the full kit does not start.
- Helmet covers and timing transponders are provided by the organiser. There are no bibs. You collect them at the race office against a 50 € deposit, refunded when you return them after your last race.
- Decisions on the ice are made by the Referee, with video review. Protests follow the ISU rules.
- Anti-doping: the WMS anti-doping rules and the WADA Code apply.

10. Entry and fees

- Registration opens on 2 November 2026 at masters2028.com. The first week is reserved for pre-registered athletes. Each athlete registers and pays personally online.
- Short track: 225 € per athlete, VAT 13.5 % included. The game entry covers up to three sports; short track counts as one, all your races included. Long track speed skating is a separate sport.
- In the Short Track form you give your personal best for each of your distances, your club and your national federation. The personal best is needed for seeding.
- There is no limit on the number of skaters.
- Changes to your entry are free until 30 November 2027, then 25 €.
- Late fee +50 € from 1 October 2027. Last-minute fee +100 € from 1 January 2028. Entries close on 14 January 2028.

11. Cancellation

When you cancel	Refund
Until 30 June 2027	Full refund minus 50 € admin fee
1 July – 30 November 2027	50 %
From 1 December 2027	No refund
With a doctor's certificate, any time	50 %

Entries cannot be transferred to another person. If the organiser cancels all your sports, 50 % is refunded. The general terms and conditions and the privacy policy on masters2028.com are part of this invitation.

12. Results and medals

Heat lists and live results are on masters2028.com. The top three in every class and relay class receive medals the same evening at the Masters Hub, Lahti Sports & Exhibition Centre. No flags, no national anthems: masters compete for themselves.

13. Accommodation and travel

Hotels and transport in Lahti are booked through masters2028.com. Local transport runs at a special reduced rate with your accreditation. Details in 2027.

14. Coaches and companions

Access to the rink and the skaters' area requires accreditation. Coaches and companions register as accompanying persons on masters2028.com. Registration for accompanying persons opens in 2027. Follow for updates.

15. Contact

nothingstopsus@masters2028.com · subject "Short Track" · masters2028.com

Attachments: ISU Special Regulations and Technical Rules Short Track; IMSSC Constitution and Regulations. Changes for organisational or safety reasons are possible. The version date for this document is 15 October 2026.

NOTHING STOPS US.
WE ARE MASTERS.