

StarClassNewsletter



StarClass season 2013/2014 is ready for take-off! Now soaring into its 9th consecutive season, the series has grown from strength to strength and has seen over 300 skaters participating in the 6 qualifying events during the past season. Venues have been chosen during the European calendar meeting in Amsterdam, last April, where next season's international calendar was built around the season's highlight; the Olympic Winter Games in Sochi next February.

It's not without some pride that we can say that most of today's top level Western European skaters, now aiming for the highest positions in the world rankings, all 'graduated' from the 'Starclass Academy' where they have been forging their skills and gathering precious experiences year after year.



View of a canal in Dordrecht, the oldest City in Holland with a rich culture and history; well worth seeing! (Courtesy: qviaggi.it)

The Starclass 2013/2014 season will develop as follows:

- October 4th-6th – Bolzano (Italy) – Jun A/B and seniors

- October 11th – 13th – Dordrecht (Netherlands) – Jun C and Novices
- November 22nd-24th – Oberstdorf (Germany) – Jun C and Novices
- December 6th-8th – Hasselt (Belgium) – Jun A/B and Seniors



The Turning Torso Tower in Malmö

(Picture: Antony McAulay)

- January 10th-12th - Malmö (Sweden) – Jun A/B and seniors
- January 24th-26th – Bormio (Italy) – Jun C and Novices

There will be some new rules in place as from the coming season; these have been discussed in depth by the ISU Technical Committee and Council Members together with the Danubia and Starclass co-ordinators. These will be analyzed in greater detail and will be ratified by the Technical Committee who will be seeking to put into place common rules for both the Starclass and the Danubia series.



The Flags of Europe; find those where the Starclass events are located.

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Some of the most relevant new entries can be thus summarized:

- **Any member of the ISU can participate in the qualifying events** either StarClass (Western region) or Danubia Cup series (Eastern region).
- The **final ranking of each Region will only consist of the skaters from that region** (a list of the ISU members pertaining to each region will be issued). Skaters who do not belong to the listed members will not appear in the series ranking and will therefore not be able to participate in the Junior Europa Cup Final.
- Skaters will be allowed to compete **only in their correct age category** both in the qualifying events and in the Final
- To qualify for the Final, skaters will have to compete in at least 50% of the qualifying events for their categories in their series; this will be true for both the StarClass and the Danubia series. Although skaters can participate in both StarClass and Danubia events, they will qualify only in their region's series according to the list of Members pertaining to each.

To allow organizers of Starclass competitions to plan ahead and organize high quality events, the coordination group has already looked at season 2014/2015 setting out a proposal which should follow a scheme

which will guarantee an homogeneous territorial distribution throughout Europe. This can be summarized in a table as follows:

Competition	City	Country	Category	Location
1			CN	south
2			AB	north
3			CN	north
4			AB	south
5			CN	north
6			AB	south
F	Oberstdorf	GER	ABCN	



The Eissportzentrum in Oberstdorf will host the 2014-2015 Season's final.

Locations indicated as 'north' should be chosen from venues in NED, BEL, GER (north), SWE or DEN. The Coordination Group request for one Competition in NED, one Competition in BEL and one Competition in GER, SWE or DEN. Locations in the 'south' are considered as being FRA, ITA and GER (south). The Coordination Group requests for one Competition in ITA and two Competitions in FRA. The Junior Europa Cup Final will be held in Oberstdorf (GER) and will represent the 'grande finale' to the season. In all cases, only organizers with proven experience in the organization of high level international events and who can guarantee the highest safety conditions for skaters will be selected to host Starclass events.

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To favor all participating teams, especially those who have to travel farthest, it has been decided that organizers of events which are located in areas difficult to reach by public transport (air, train, motorways) should organize a suitable bus service at a very reasonable cost from a collection point conveniently located for all to reach (eg. nearest airport or train station). This service will be indicated in the announcement and it is essential that all who would like to take advantage of it register with the organizers within the time frame indicated.

All announcements will be following a standard format and will indicate the qualifying procedures as specified and as indicated in the Memorandum soon to be published.

The increased level of skaters participating in Starclass events and the very high numbers which have become hardly manageable, particularly in some categories, have led the co-ordination group to reconsider qualifying times which will guarantee ample participation with very high level racing for all as summarized in the following table

	Ladies 500	Ladies 777	Ladies 1000	Men 500	Men 777	Men 1000
Novice	00:57:00	1:29:00		00:56:00	01:26:00	
Junior C	00:54:00		01:51:00	00:51:00		01:46:00
Junior B	00:52:00		01:48:00	00:50:00		01:45:00
Junior A	00:51:00		01:47:00	00:49:00		01:43:00
Senior	00:51:00		01:47:00	00:49:00		01:43:00

ONLY for the first qualifying event for each category grouping, i.e. Bolzano for Jun A,B and Senior and Dordrecht for Jun

C and Novices, softer qualifying times will be applied to allow all skaters to have an extra opportunity at the beginning of the season to achieve their goals. These special one-time-only times are :

	Ladies 500	Ladies 777	Ladies 1000	Men 500	Men 777	Men 1000
Novice	00:58:35	1:30:00		00:56:25	01:27:00	
Junior C	00:55:25		01:52:45	00:52:25		01:48:35
Junior B	00:52:90		01:48:20	00:50:50		01:45:20
Junior A	00:52:40		01:47:70	00:50:00		01:44:20
Senior	00:51:00		01:47:00	00:49:00		01:43:00

Much is going on behind the scenes to make the 'Starclass Experience' one difficult to forget; year after year, it is leaving an indelible mark in skaters and coaches alike. Travelling across Europe it gives all participants a chance to socialize and exchange invaluable experiences generating a spontaneous growth in the short-track movement and cherishing lifelong friendship.



Sofia's skyline with Mount Vitoša in the background. The Capital of Bulgaria will be hosting the Junior Europa Cup Final from March 21st to March 23rd 2014. (Picture Courtesy wikipedia.org)