



2026 AUSTRALIAN OPEN SHORT TRACK CHAMPIONSHIPS *ANNOUNCEMENT*



AUSTRALIAN ICE RACING



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our sponsors and partners for their support.**

Principal Sponsor



Australian Government
Australian Sports Commission

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Championships hosted by the O'Brien Icehouse



WELCOME

Australian Ice Racing Ltd and the Organising Committee have the honour and pleasure to invite you to the:

Australian Open Short Track Championships 2026

October 9 - 11, 2026

**to be held at the O'Brien Icehouse, 105 Pearl River Road, Docklands
Melbourne Australia**

PROGRAM

The below program is subject to change depending on the final entry of Skaters.

Thursday 8 October	Official Training	
	Junior C, D, E and F	5.30pm to 6.30pm
	Junior A and B, Senior and Master	6.45pm to 7.45pm
Friday 9th October	Competition	7.00am – 5.30pm
Saturday 10th October	Competition	7.00am – 5.30pm
Sunday 11th October	Competition	7.00am – 11.00am

Competition session times will be confirmed when the final program is available.

ENTRIES

Only electronic entries and payment via Visa or MasterCard will be accepted. Online entry for the competition is now available via the links below.

Closing date Friday, September 4th, 5:00pm AEST for all entries:

[Click here](#) for individual skater Championship entry

[Click here](#) for club relay entry (to be entered by the Club)

Entries without best time for 500m will be drawn at the Competitor Steward's discretion.

Late entries will be accepted from 5th September to 11th September 2026. A late fee of \$50 will be charged for late entries.

No entries will be accepted after 11th September 2026.

Note: Relay entries are made by the clubs, not by the individual skaters

FEES

TRAINING FEES

All divisions **\$25.00**

Payable on entry to the session

COMPETITION FEES

Junior C, D, E and F: **\$195.00**

All other divisions: **\$225.00**

Relay Teams: **\$85.00 per team entry**

GENERAL INFORMATION

TRACK CONDITIONS

The O'Brien Icehouse is an artificially refrigerated indoor ice surface of 60 x 30 meters. A "Traditional Rink Board Padding" system will be in use in accordance with [Rule 280](#), paragraph 5 and [ISU Communication No. 2626](#). The standard track will be laid out 111.12 meters to the lap.

COMPETITION REGULATIONS

The competition will be conducted under current [ISU Sports Rules – Short Track](#) and [Australian Ice Racing Limited \(AIR\) Short Track Rules](#), where applicable and where appropriate.

Racing age divisions and race distances are noted below in section "[Divisions & Distances](#)".

The Championships are run on an "all finals" format where skaters will progress through rounds to respective finals (A, B, C etc) within their respective divisions.

Final Points will be awarded in the Finals A and B only. The points 34, 21, 13, 8, 5, 3, 2 and 1 are awarded in descending order commencing with the first place in Final A and after all places in Final A have been awarded, the remaining points will be awarded to the Final B in descending order starting with the first place.

ELIGIBILITY AND REQUIREMENTS

Participation in the 2026 Australian Open Short Track Speed Skating Championship is open to all ISU members. Entries must be made only through the respective ISU Members.

In accordance with Section 8 of the [ISU Competition and Event Regulations](#) all skaters who do not have the nationality of the Member by which they have been entered or who, although having such nationality, have in the past represented another Member, must produce an ISU Clearance Certificate. Passports of all Skaters, as well as the ISU Clearance Certificate, if applicable, must be presented at the accreditation of the event for verification.

INSURANCE AND LIABILITY

AIR and the Organising Committee assume no responsibility for or liability with respect to bodily or personal injury or property damage incurred in connection with the competition. Each Member is solely responsible for providing insurance coverage thereto.

COMPETITOR REGISTRATION

Competitors must register at the competition desk before the first session; they may register at the training session or at a time or date as set by the Organising Committee. At registration, competitors will be supplied with transponders for use at the Championships and an identification card for entry to the rink. Entry cards for Coaches and Chaperones will be available at the registration desk.

IDENTIFICATION AND EQUIPMENT

- Competitor identification is required for access to O'Brien Icehouse at all competition sessions.
- For AIR members, helmet covers must be worn during races. Helmet covers will be issued by your State Association.
- All international skaters will be issued racing number helmet stickers when registering at the competition registration desk.
- All skaters will be issued with a set of transponders when registering at the competition registration desk. All transponders are to be returned at the completion of the competition. If any transponders are damaged, lost or not returned at the completion of the competition, **a penalty fee of \$50 (AUD) will be charged to the skater.**
- Australian Ice Racing Limited reserves the right to inspect competitor's equipment before and during the competition.
- Skaters must have, and use, all safety equipment: shin and knee pads, neck guards, ISU-compliant helmet and gloves, in training as well as in competition.
- Per ISU Rule 288 ([ISU Sports Rules Short Track](#)) and [ISU Communication 2721](#), blades used in the Short Track events must be Short Track blades conforming to ISU regulations with tubes closed, and compulsory rounding of the corners of the blades with the blade ends rounded off with a minimum radius of 10mm. Blades must be fixed to the boot at a minimum of two points with no moveable parts.
- [ISU Communication 2721](#) will apply for protection equipment. All skaters entering in Junior B, Junior A, Senior and Master categories must wear a cut Resistant Racing Suit as defined by ISU regulation to protect the body as stated in ISU Communication No. 2721 (section 2.1) and meet the mandatory minimum criteria of EN388 Cut resistant Level 2 or Cut Resistant under garment. AIR highly recommends that all other skaters to wear either a Cut Resistant Racing Suit or Cut Resistant under garments in all AIR sanctioned events.
- Eye protection is strongly recommended for Skaters in Junior A, B, Seniors and Masters divisions and advised for other divisions.

ANTI-DOPING

Australian Ice Racing Limited and its affiliates have adopted the [AIR Improper Use of Drugs and Medicine Policy](#) and adhere to the [Sport Integrity Australia Anti-Doping rules](#). Competitors at this competition may be subject to testing.

It is the responsibility of all skaters to be familiar with the policy and ensure they achieve compliance with the anti-doping policies.

The prohibited list can be found on the Sport Integrity Australia website, you can click [here](#) to check a specific substance online. All competitors must make themselves aware of the content of any ISU Communication on drug testing use in short track speed skating. Copies are available at AIR www.australianiceracing.org or ISU www.isu.org or Sport Integrity Australia [Anti-Doping | Sport Integrity Australia](#)

By entering the Australian Open Short Track Championships all competitors agree to abide by the Australian National Anti-Doping Policy (available on the Sport Integrity Australia website at <https://www.sportintegrity.gov.au/what-we-do/anti-doping/world-anti-doping-code/australian-national-anti-doping-policy>), effective from 1 January 2021, being the anti-doping policy adopted by Australian Ice Racing and applicable to all ice racing participants.

POLICIES AND CODE OF CONDUCT

CODE OF CONDUCT – The following AIR code of conduct will apply. Breach of such conduct may result in being removed from the event. <https://australianiceracing.org/plans-policies-programs-rules-records/>

- Athletes Code of Conduct
- Player/Participant Code of Conduct
- Coaches Code of Conduct
- Spectator's Code of Conduct
- Officials Code of Conduct
- Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct
- Volunteer Code of Conduct.

INTEGRITY POLICIES – AIR has adopted the Australian National Integrity Framework.

By entering the Australian Open Short Track Championships all competitors agree to abide by Australian Ice Racing's National Integrity Framework policies (available at <https://australianiceracing.org/integrity-policies/>), effective from 1 January 2024 and applicable to all participants in ice racing.

In addition to the Integrity policies, other AIR's policies can be found here. It is the competitors' responsibility to familiarise themselves with all AIR policies. <https://australianiceracing.org/plans-policies-programs-rules-records/>

PHOTOGRAPHY, VIDEOGRAPHY AND MEDIA CONSENT

All images, recordings and media captured or published by AIR will be managed in accordance with AIR's Social Media By-Law. AIR is committed to using images responsibly, respectfully and in a manner that promotes the sport and protects the welfare and dignity of participants.

By entering the Championships competitors:

- acknowledge that photographs, video recordings and other media may be captured during this event by Australian Ice Racing Inc. (AIR), authorised photographers, media representatives or event partners.
- understand that these images and recordings may include me (or the participant I am registering) and may be used by AIR for legitimate promotional, educational, reporting and archival purposes. This includes, but is not limited to, use on AIR's website, social media platforms, newsletters, publications, annual reports, presentations, live streaming and other digital or printed promotional material.
- acknowledge that attendance at this event constitutes consent to the capture and use of such images and recordings for these purposes, without compensation or further notice.

DIVISIONS & DISTANCES

The competitor's division is based on age as at 1st July 2026.

Age Divisions for Men and Women (ISU age groups):

- | | | |
|------------|---------|--|
| • Senior* | 19 – 29 | Must be 19 and under 30 by 1 July 2026 |
| • Junior A | 17 – 18 | Must be 18 and under 19 by 1 July 2026 |
| • Junior B | 15 – 16 | Must be 15 and under 17 by 1 July 2026 |
| • Junior C | 13 – 14 | Must be 13 and under 15 by 1 July 2026 |
| • Junior D | 11 – 12 | Must be 11 and under 13 by 1 July 2026 |

Age Divisions for Men and Women (None- ISU age groups):

- | | | |
|------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| • Junior E | 9 – 10 | Must be 9 and under 11 by 1 July 2026 |
| • Junior F | under 9 | Must be under 9 by 1 July 2026 |
| • Master*: | | |
| ○ | Age as at 1 July in the year of the competition: | |
| ○ | 30 to 34 years | |
| ○ | 35 to 39 years | |
| ○ | 40 to 44 years | |
| ○ | 45 to 49 years | |
| ○ | 50 to 54 years | |
| ○ | 55 to 59 years | |
| ○ | And each 5-year division after 60 years | |
| * | <i>Skaters aged 30 and over may enter the Senior Division</i> | |

Individual Distances for Men and Women (all age groups):

• Senior	19 – 29	500m, 1000m, 1500m, 3000m
• Junior A	17 – 18	500m, 1000m, 1500m, 3000m
• Junior B	15 – 16	500m, 777m, 1000m, 1500m
• Junior C	13 – 14	333m, 500m, 777m, 1000m
• Junior D	11 – 12	222m, 333m, 500m, 777m
• Junior E	9 – 10	222m, 333m, 500m, 777m
• Junior F	under 9	111m, 222m, 333m, 500m
• Master	30 and above	500m, 777m, 1000m, 1500m

Relay Divisions and Distances:

Senior Men	Senior Women	Senior Mixed*	Master Men	Master Women	Junior A, B, C and D	Junior E**
Heats 3000m Final 5000m	3000m	2000m	3000m	3000m	3000m	2000m

Note:

* Each mixed relay team will comprise of 2 male and 2 female skaters. Only 1 senior team can be entered by each club/country. Senior mixed relay will only be run at the total discretion of AIR based on the number of entries, race program timing and the recommendation from the referee after consideration of skaters' abilities and safety issues.

** Junior E division relay will only be run at the total discretion of AIR based on the number of entries, race program timing and the recommendation from the referee after consideration of skaters' abilities and safety issues. Clubs are encouraged to enter teams for Junior E relay, and the entry fee will be fully refunded if the relay is not run or certain team is not included in the relay.

INDIVIDUAL RACES

- a. A skater may enter only one division for the individual competition.
- b. A skater may race up only one age division from their natural age division, unless:
 - I. The skater wishes to skate in the senior division for their gender, **and**
 - II. The skater has reached 15-years of age before the 1st of July preceding the competition, **and**
 - III. The skater has achieved 2 of 3 distances in the current or previous season for the Senior division relevant to their gender as shown in the following table:

	500m	1000m	1500m
Senior Men	46.20	1:34.50	2:27.50
Senior Ladies	47.80	1:39.00	2:35.50

- IV. Achieved those times either at the previous and current season's International Competitions, National Championships, State Championships, events (including club racing) that are sanctioned by AIR and AIR's affiliated state members, testing conducted by coaches as per the AIR Sports Development Program, or sanctioned Time Trials as per the AIR National Selection Policy.

- V. The skater will be able to compete in a relay in their natural age group and/or in a senior/open relay team.
- c. A Master division skater may race in the senior division for the individual competition however will not be able to compete in both the Master and Senior division in the same competition. They may skate in both the Senior and Master relay events at the same competition.

All individual distances will be run for both men and women. If there are insufficient entries in the division for each gender, then both men and women for the same age division will be combined. If there are still insufficient entries with the combined gender, then age divisions may be combined. If there are insufficient entries in the Master Women division, then competitors will automatically be combined with the Master Men division.

The Organising Committee will advise entrants if any of the above alterations are required. The Competitor Steward has full discretion of actual divisions run for the competition depending on the entry numbers.

RELAYS

- a. A skater may race in any age divisions for a relay team in which they are age eligible but may not race in any more than two age divisions higher than their natural age division.
- b. The names of any skaters who are to be skated up for the Junior E relay from Junior F must be submitted at the same time as the entry form so that approval can be made before the event.
- c. Master skaters may only skate down into a senior division relay.

Multiple relay entries within a division will be accepted. Clubs must register skaters for relay teams via the online registration system and must confirm the entrants for each team at least 30 minutes prior to the commencement of relay racing for that division. No changes will be permitted beyond this point except where a team has nominated a reserve that is not a member of any other team.

Each mixed relay team will comprise of 2 men and 2 women skaters. Only 1 senior team can be entered by each club/country. Senior mixed relay will only be run at the total discretion of AIR based on the number of entries, race program timing and the recommendation from the referee after consideration of skaters' abilities and safety issues.

PRESENTATION LUNCH

Presentation lunch tickets **MUST** also be purchased in advance via the online registration system

The venue has a capped number of seats available, and tickets **will be sold on a first come, first serve basis**. Ticket purchases will close once the allocation is reached. As tickets will sell out and last-minute requests for tickets will not be possible, it is highly recommended that you purchase lunch ticket(s) at the same time as you register for the competition.

[Click here](#) for lunch tickets - closing date Friday, Sep 4th at 5:00pm (AEST)

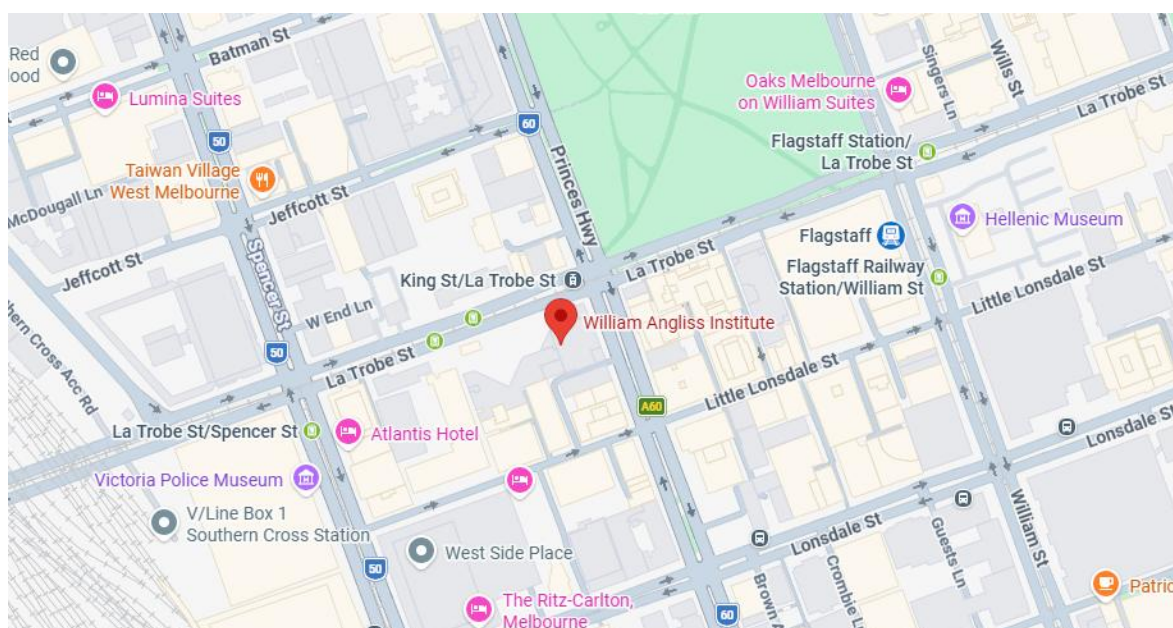
Details of the Presentation lunch are as follows:

Date: Sunday, 11th October 2026
Time: 1pm to 5pm
Venue: William Angliss Institute, 555 La Trobe St, Melbourne, Victoria, 3000

Cost: Adult - \$80 (buffet), Children (12 and under, 2 course meal) - \$40, cash bar

If you are not a competitor and are not registering for the competition, please use the same link as above to purchase your lunch tickets.

Please note that the William Angliss Institute has requested that all lunch ticket holders are to be assigned to pre-reserved tables to assist wait staff providing children's meals and for those with dietary requirements. Once the registration is closed, you will receive further communication regarding table assignment.



T-SHIRTS



Championship souvenir T-shirts are available for order and come in a range of sizes for adults and children.

The T-Shirt cost is \$35 each.

[Click here](#) to order your Championships T-shirt.

Orders will close Friday, 4th September at 5:00pm AEST.

CONTACTS

All queries regarding entries should be addressed to the AIR General Secretary

Ms Lanny Hur

Email: generalsecretary@australianiceracing.org

Other queries should be directed to the Chair of the Organising Committee:

Marie Oosthuizen

Email: president@vira.org.au

CHAMPIONSHIPS INFORMATION

AIR will publish championships information and relevant updates on the AIR Website.

[Australian Ice Racing](#)

ACCOMMODATION

The following special rates have been negotiated.

Nesuto Docklands

Address: 80 Waterfront Way, Docklands Melbourne

Nesuto Docklands is the preferred accommodation provider for the Australian Open Short Track Championships and Development Camp, offering convenient access to the venue, public transport, and local dining and shopping options.

Two rate options are available for competitors, officials, and attendees:

Option 1: Special Competitor and Staff Rates (Recommended)

These are fixed room-only rates available for National Open participants:

- Premium Apartment: \$185 per night (1 King or 2 Singles)
- Executive Premium Apartment: \$225 per night (1 King or 2 Singles)
- One Bedroom Apartment: \$245 per night (1 King or 2 Singles)
- Two-Bedroom Apartment: \$395 per night (2 King or 1 King + 2 Singles)

All rooms include complimentary unlimited Wi-Fi.

Additional costs:

- Parking: \$30 per car, per day
- Additional person: \$50 per night
- Breakfast: \$20 per person, per night (served at a nearby café)

Option 2: Preferred Corporate Rate

A corporate rate is also available, offering **20% off the hotel's best available rate** for:

- Premium Apartment
- One Bedroom Apartment
- Two-Bedroom Apartment

Please note: This rate is flexible and may vary depending on availability and booking dates.

Important Information:

- All rates are subject to availability
- Special event periods or high-demand dates may affect availability and pricing

Booking:

To access these rates, please book directly with Nesuto Docklands and mention your participation in the Australian Open Short Track Championships, or use the booking link below.

[Nesuto Docklands Booking Link](#)

Vibe Hotel Melbourne Docklands

Address: 443 Docklands Drive, Docklands VIC 3008

Vibe Hotel Melbourne Docklands is offering accommodation rates for Ice Sports Victoria members and guests during 2026.

Individual Bookings

Guests can book and pay for their accommodation individually through the TFE Hotels website.

Promo code: TH17271467

Valid until: 31 December 2026

Booking website: <https://www.tfehotels.com/en/>

When booking, please enter the promo code **TH17271467** to access the available Ice Sports Victoria rate.

October 2026 Rate

October falls within the hotel's high-season period.

Guest Room – single, twin or double occupancy: \$175 per room, per night, including GST

Baby cots are available free of charge.

Rollaway or foldout beds are available for an additional **\$50 per bed, per night**.

Please note that the hotel no longer offers Deluxe King Rooms. Other room types, including Premier View Rooms, may be available depending on the dates and room configuration required.

Availability and Pricing

Room availability is subject to demand at the time of booking.

Special-event surcharges may apply on selected dates. If the negotiated rate is unavailable during a high-demand period, guests may be offered **15% off the hotel's Fully Flexible Rate**, subject to availability.

Guests are encouraged to book as early as possible to secure their preferred room and bedding arrangement.

Breakfast may be added when completing an individual online booking.

Group Booking Information

A booking of **10 or more rooms per night** is considered a group booking.

Group rates are quoted separately based on:

- The dates of the stay
- Number of rooms required
- Room type
- Bedding configuration
- Whether breakfast is required

For group bookings:

- A 20% deposit is required to secure the rooms.
- Full payment is required 30 days before arrival.
- Final cancellations or room reductions must be submitted at least 31 days before arrival.
- If more than 25% of the rooms held are cancelled, the hotel may reassess the group rate.
- A final rooming list must be provided 30 days before arrival.
- The hotel will issue one invoice to the group organiser.
- Guests cannot book or pay individually within a group room block.
- Complimentary room upgrades or rooms may be considered depending on the booking dates and group size.

Hotel Reservations

Email: reservations@tfehotels.com **Telephone:** 13 86 42

When contacting the hotel, please quote the promo code **TH17271467** and advise that the booking relates to Ice Sports Victoria.

QUEST NEWQUAY

Address: 26 Caravel Lane Docklands – opposite the tram stop on Docklands Drive

Quest NewQuay offers a 20% discount:

Enter Promo Code ICE20 on questnewquay.com.au

Each Studio boasts a plush king-size bed, climate control via apartment-controlled air conditioning, a contemporary ensuite bathroom, and a kitchenette that's fully equipped. All apartments have work desks and high-speed internet access. When you book directly with Quest, the "Quest Best Rate" applies so booking fees do not apply. You have access to last room availability, with more choice and superior service.

Guests can enjoy use of the Quest business lounge, gym & alfresco BBQ area. Rooms available are a mix of Studio, One & Two Bedroom Apartments. Rooms are non-smoking. Wheelchair access and lift / elevator is available.

Quest NewQuay is 2 minutes by tram from Southern Cross Station and is walking distance to the O'Brien Icehouse (650m)

TRANSPORT

Participants will be responsible for their own transport arrangements. The rink and the recommended hotels are about 25 mins bus ride from the Melbourne airport.

[Click here](#) for more information for SkyBus transfers from Melbourne Airport to Melbourne CBD.