



# **DUKE TROPHY**

## **Rules and Format**

### **VERSION 5**

# CONTENTS

History of Duke Trophy Competition	Page 3
Awards	Page 4
Duke Trophy review	Page 5
Hosting State and AIR Responsibilities	Page 6
Safety	Page 6
Uniform	Page 6
Rules	Page 7
Teams	Page 7
State of Origins	Page 7
Divisions and Teams	Page 8
Vacant Positions	Page 8
Race program	Page 9
Seeding	Page 9
Point Scoring System	Page 10
Form 1 – Preliminary Entry Form	Page 11
Form 2 – Final Entry Form	Page 12
Amendment certificate	Page 13

## History of Duke Trophy competition

The Duke Trophy competition was first run in 1952. The Trophy was donated to the then AAIRC (Australian Amateur Ice Racing Council) by Len Duke. Len was the first secretary/treasurer of the AAIRC. He began skating at St Moritz Ice Palais in St Kilda in June 1946 and eventually represented Victoria at interstate competitions.

There had been interstate racing between NSW and Victoria for many years, initially managed by the Ice Hockey Association as an additional attraction to the interstate hockey matches held at the time. There had been no record of the winning teams in these competitions. The inscription on the plate of the original part of the trophy reads "The Australian Amateur Ice Racing Council Trophy for Interstate Racing".

By 1951 the AAIRC had been formed and had separate associations for speed skating in Victoria and NSW and even for a short time in Tasmania. Len felt there should be a separate trophy for the interstate racing, especially after the Victorian team was very successful in Hobart in 1952. The idea of the skater on the top was born after he won three distances in the 1951 Australian Championships and brought back to Melbourne three beautiful trophies donated by Graeme Smith's father in the form of a globe of the world on which was mounted a speed skater. One of the original trophies was donated back to the VSSU (which later became VIRA) after Len's death and has since been made into the Best and Fairest Trophy for the Duke Trophy competition.

A bike accident in 1952 left Len with damaged discs in his spine and in a plaster cast for several months. Len could not skate and defend his titles that year. For various reason he dropped out of participation in speed skating. In 1956 it was suggested that the trophy become the Duke Trophy to keep his name in the sport. This was not widely accepted in Melbourne for a few years but by 1963 when the competition moved away from the Australian Championships to its own time slot of Queens Birthday weekend the name settled to the Duke Trophy. The Duke Trophy is now held on the last weekend in July.

The original format was a competition between 6 senior men and 2 junior men with races ranging from quarter through half mile to 1 mile. Two skaters per State competed in each race, except for the 1 mile in which there were three skaters per State. The Juniors skated quarter and half mile only, then there was also a 2 mile Relay for the seniors. By 1955 a 2 mile race for Seniors was included. The whole program was held over a half hour period on the last night of Australian Championships. The program is now held over three sessions on a Saturday and Sunday.

Ladies came later in the early 1960's initially there were only three with a special trophy for the ladies Relay donated by Teddi Jenkins of Victoria, a previous Victorian and National title holder David Morgan.

## **Awards**

All awards are voted on by the Officials at the competition. (Chief Referee, Referees and Starter). In consultation with Duke Family members present, Colin Coates if present and Denis Pennington if present.

### **Len Duke Best & Fairest Trophy**

This trophy is awarded to the skater voted to be the Best & Fairest for the competition  
The criteria includes:

- a) A skater who has broken a Record  
OR
- b) A skater who has won all their races
- c) In absence of a skater not meeting either of the above criteria or if more than one skater meets the criteria, the decision will be made at the discretion of the voting officials
- d) A skater with no PEN

### **Colin Coates Spirit of the Duke**

- a) The skater shall be judged on displaying team spirit and promotion of the sport of short track speed skating.
- b) The skater can be nominated by coaches and/or team leaders but will be voted on the Officials at the event.

### **Denis Pennington Most Improved**

- a) The male skater shall be judged the most improved - on overall performance and technique.
- b) The male skater can be nominated by coaches and/or team leaders but will be voted on the Officials at the event.

### **Teddi Jenkins Shield**

It was originally awarded to the winning Ladies Relay Team. Due to the decline in number of female competitors and lack of Ladies relay team, the award will be awarded to the most improved female skater:

- a) The female skater shall be judged the most improved - on overall performance and technique.
- b) The female skater can be nominated by coaches and/or team leaders but will be voted on the Officials at the event.

### **Duke Trophy**

To the State Team with highest point score at the end of the competition.

## **Duke Trophy Rules and Format review**

It was evident over the past years that the number of active skaters has been declining in some states and not all states can fill their teams in every division. Due to the location of the high performance program and skaters in the program joining their local club, the concentration of talent in one particular state has also made the competition less exciting since the leading skater often win by a large distance.

State members agreed at the 13<sup>th</sup> April 2013 General Meeting that a sub committee is to be formed to review the rules and format of the Duke Trophy. A delegate is nominated by each state to be its representative in the sub committee and the Director of Development will be chairperson of the sub committee.

A proposed new Duke Trophy rule and format was prepared by the Sub committee and reviewed by the AIR Board. The Board also sought feedback from AIR officials (referees and competitor steward) as well as State members.

In reviewing the Sub committee report and feedback from officials and state members, AIR Board takes the following into consideration:

- Respect the tradition set by the Duke family
- The “Duke Trophy” is a competition encouraging developing, experienced and elite skaters from across Australia to compete as a team to proudly represent their state in the sport of short track speed skating.
- It is a team event and let the state with the best skaters win.
- It is not an individual event although there are recognitions for individual skaters from other awards such as the Best and Fairest and also the most improved.
- The competition needs to be exciting and inspiring.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2014 at the mid year General Meeting, the 2014 new Duke Trophy Rules and Format was adopted and to be used for 2014. Further review of the format was performed at the AIR mid year meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2015 and the following Duke Trophy Rules and Format was adopted for 2015 Duke Trophy. It was also agreed that future dates of the Duke Trophy may change to late Mar/early Apr at the end of the international season.

The rules and format were again reviewed in May 2024 at the general meeting by state delegates.

## **Hosting State and AIR Responsibilities**

The organisational management of the event is the responsibility of the hosting state and the hosting state is required to follow the guidelines set out by AIR according to latest published "Sport Operational plan - A Guideline for Organising Competition". AIR will provide support via the General Secretary and the Director of Events and Marketing, where appropriate.

The hosting state will submit a budget of the event to AIR General Secretary at least 3 months before the event for Board approval. AIR will commit to cover the costs of hiring ice, travel and accommodation costs for interstate officials and paramedic services. The hosting state is responsible for managing the finance and the event. Wherever possible, officials should be sought within the state first before approaching interstate officials. The hosting state will also provide an actual compared to budget analysis to the AIR Board after the event.

An entry fee will be paid by each state to AIR for each skater. A quota of volunteers to be supplied by each state will be calculated based on the number of skaters entered by each state. State failing to meet the quota will be required to pay \$50 per vacant volunteer position.

AIR will provide pins and trophies for the competition which will be presented at the award ceremony at the conclusion of the event.

## **Safety**

1. Paramedics must be in attendance for the duration of the competition.
2. Rink must meet current standards and have safety mats on all barriers, with double mats for skate out corners.
3. Skaters to meet current safety standards: blades to be checked by the referee and safety equipment to be checked in heat box and on ice.
4. All skaters who have reached the age qualification of Junior A and above must wear a cut Resistant Racing Suit as defined by ISU regulation to protect the body as suggested in ISU Communication No. 1265 and meet the criteria EN388 Level 2 of the ISU regulations or Cut Resistant under garment. AIR Limited highly recommends that all other skaters to wear either a Cut Resistant Racing Suit or Cut Resistant under garments in all events.

## **Uniforms**

Each member of the state team will be required to wear the same team suits. All skaters who by Australian Ice Racing Limited rules are required to wear cut-resistant suits must wear a cut-resistant suit in this competition.

## **Rules**

1. All Australian Ice Racing rules will apply unless alternative rules are indicated within these rules.
2. To qualify for a Duke Trophy team, a skater must be a current financial member of a state association affiliated with AIR.
3. A skater may only enter one division.
4. It is the responsibility of the State Association to choose skaters for their team based on a fair selection process.
5. State members are to enter preliminary numbers for each division to the competitor steward 8 weeks before the competition, using the form provided in Form 1.
6. Final entries are to be sent to competitors steward no later than 4 weeks before the competition, using the form provided in Form 2.
7. Each state is to select a team Coach for the competition and their name is to be submitted with the final team entry.

## **Teams**

1. Each state will be responsible for selecting their team to contest the Duke Trophy. Teams will consist of a maximum 20 skaters (plus reserves) spread across the five divisions. States should endeavor to fill 4 skaters in each division. If less than 4 skaters are available in one division, they may enter another skater in other divisions to make up a team of 20.
2. State of Origin rules (see below) must be adhered to when selecting a team.
3. If a state cannot fill their quota of 20 skaters, then skaters from other states may enter the competition as “fill in” individuals, but will not receive any points for the team. States are to enter number of skaters available to race as “fill in” individuals in the preliminary entry.

## **State of Origin**

1. The state where an athlete first became a member of a state member will be considered that athlete’s ‘State of Origin’ for the purpose of this competition.
2. Any athlete who has represented Australia at a World Cup, World Championship, World Junior Championship or Olympic Winter Games, in the past 4 years, and intends to compete in the Duke Trophy, will be required to make themselves available to represent their state of origin.
3. Athletes may make application to their ‘State of Origin’ to release them to skate for their current registered state.
4. State members are required to advise other states the exemptions for any state of origins skaters by May 15 of each year.

## Divisions and Teams

DIVISION	AGE	INDIVIDUAL DISTANCES	RELAY DISTANCES
Masters	30 and over as of July 1	500m, 777m, 1000m, 1500m	1 x 3000m
Seniors*	19-29 as of July 1	500m, 1000m, 1500m, 3000m	1 x 3000mm 1 x 5000m
Junior A	15-18 as of July 1	500m, 777m, 1000m, 1500m	2 x 3000m
Junior B	12 - 14 as of July 1	333m, 500m, 777m, 1000m	2 x 3000m
Junior C	11 and under as of July 1	222m, 333m, 500m, 777m	1 x 2000m (3 or 4 skaters per team depending on numbers, to be decided after prelim team entries are received)

\* For relay, team can be comprised of skaters from the Masters, Seniors and Junior A divisions.

### Special rules for age divisions:

Skaters may compete up one division but each state, when nominating a skater to 'skate up' must consider any potential risk to the athlete relating to ability and size disparity. Skaters of Masters age group may skate down one division into the Seniors division. For a junior skater to contest the Senior Division, they must have attained the age of 16 years by 1 July preceding the competition and must wear a cut-resistant suit.

For relays, skaters can participate in their natural age division and is also eligible to skate up one division from their natural age division. E.g. if a skater (with Junior B natural age group) is entered into the competition as a Junior A skater, then that skater can skate in the Junior B and Junior A relays. However, he/she will not be able to skate in the Seniors/Open relay as it would then be more than one division above his/her natural age division. Masters skaters can skate down to Seniors/Open relay.

## Vacant Positions

Each state, when submitting their teams, can submit nominations for athletes to fill positions within races that have vacant seeded positions that particular states cannot fill. This will be for the duration of the whole competition and should only be done when the state has filled all their positions in that particular division. Vacant positions will be awarded to the hosting state first.

Fill in skaters will wear a pre-determined vest and/or helmet cover to distinguish the skater as non-point earning. The intention is to allow the best fill of skaters and create a competition whereby all divisions may be filled to capacity, regardless of whether points are earned.

Any skater who competes in a vacant race position may replace a member of the registered state as a reserve, however they may only score points for their team after officially replacing that skater. The skater will then adopt the replaced skater's races only.

This will increase the number of skaters competing, taking into account that some states have more skaters in particular divisions without adversely affecting the point scores of states. This also allows more skaters to experience and develop racing skills.

## **Race Program**

The competition will be run with an all-in finals format and 3 distances will have heats, semis and finals provided that there are sufficient competitors in the division. The longest distance in each division will be run as a Super Final with a maximum of 2 skaters of that division from each state. Skaters for the Super Final is to be selected by the State coach and must be advised to the competitor steward at least 30 mins before the race. If a state does not have 2 skaters in an age division, the next highest ranked skater in the individual overall rankings will be given a spot in the super final, until 8 skaters have been reached, but will receive no team points for this race.

The Competitors Steward will have full discretion regarding the race program, which will be devised based on the number of entries as well as ice time availability.

## **Seeding**

Best 500m time for skaters will be required to be entered in the final entry form and it must be able to be verified to previous competition protocols. The seeding for the first race will be based on the time submitted. The competitor steward will endeavor to place skaters from the same state in different heats. However, it will depend on the number of final entries in each division. Seeding for subsequent distances will be based on overall ranking.

## Point Scoring System

Individual races – for finals only

Position	Male	Female	Difference of points between positions (male)
1	232	290	21
2	211	263.75	20
3	191	238.75	19
4	172	215	18
5	154	192.5	17
6	137	171.25	16
7	121	151.25	15
8	106	132.5	14
9	92	115	13
10	79	98.75	12
11	67	83.75	11
12	56	70	10
13	46	57.5	9
14	37	46.25	8
15	29	36.25	7
16	22	27.5	6
17	16	20	5
18	11	13.75	4
19	7	8.75	3
20	4	5	2
21	2	2.5	1
22	1	1.25	

All skaters will be given a ranking for each individual distance and the above point scoring will be adjusted if there are more than 22 skaters in any one particular division.

*As there are no female divisions designated for this competition and to encourage female skaters to take part in the competition, 125% of normal points will be awarded to all female skaters earned in any race, excluding relays.*

Relays – for finals only

<i>Position</i>	<i>Points earned</i>
1 <sup>st</sup> place	464
2 <sup>nd</sup> place	422
3 <sup>rd</sup> place	382
4 <sup>th</sup> place	344

**FORM 1**  
**PRELIMINARY ENTRY FORM**  
(due 8 weeks before event date)

To be completed and sent to competitors steward 8 weeks before the start of the competition.

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL NUMBER OF SKATERS: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL NUMBER OF AVAILABLE FILL IN SKATERS: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE COACH: \_\_\_\_\_

Division (Age as of July 1st)	Number of team skaters (max of 20 across all divisions)	Available fill in skaters
Masters (30 years and over)		
Senior (19-29 years)		
Junior A (15-18 years)		
Junior B (12-14 years)		
Junior C (11 and under)		

**Note:** Skaters can only skate up 1 division (for both relay and individual races) from their natural age division. Masters can skate down to Senior division.

RELAY TEAMS (place a tick next to division if entering a relay)

Masters (3000m) \_\_\_\_\_

Open\* (3000m/5000m) \_\_\_\_\_

Junior A (3000m) \_\_\_\_\_

Junior B (3000m) \_\_\_\_\_

Junior C (2000m) \_\_\_\_\_

\* Team can be comprised of skates from the Masters, Seniors and Junior A divisions.

# **FORM 2** **FINAL ENTRY FORM** **(due 4 weeks before event date)**

To be completed and sent to competitors steward 4 weeks before the start of competition.

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL NUMBER OF SKATERS: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE COACH: \_\_\_\_\_

## **TEAM SKATERS ENTERED**

Name	Division	Helmet cover no	Best 500m time (including date and event)
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			
11.			
12.			
13.			
14.			
15.			
16.			
17.			
18.			
19.			
20.			

### Amendment Certificate

Version	Date Issued	Amendment Details	Amended By
1	22 <sup>nd</sup> Mar 2014	First Release	AIR Inc. Board
2	17 <sup>th</sup> May 2014	Added skate down division for masters	Margaret Blunden
3	19 <sup>th</sup> Apr 2015	Added a junior division and reduce number of skaters from 4 to 2 for Seniors and Junior C divisions – as agreed by State members in the April 2015 General Meeting	Margaret Blunden
4	20 <sup>th</sup> May 2017	Maximum of 20 skaters per state can be comprised of any combination of various divisions and point scoring system has also been updated	Margaret Blunden
5	4 <sup>th</sup> July 2024	Age limit updated for skating up to senior division to be aligned with ISU. Clarification of skaters of super final was added.	Margaret Blunden