

Priority: Urgent

Date: Jan 31, 2019

To: Coaches and Athletes

From: BCSSA ODC

Re: Safety Equipment

In response to concerns raised about rounding requirements of skate blades used in Short Track, Mass Start (Long Track) and ISU Mass Start (long track) please be advised that the following rules apply:

**2018-19 SSC Red Book**

D3-100 (pages 109-111)

D3-200 (page 112)

D3-300 (page 112-114)

D3-301 (page 115)

***D3: Skater Equipment***

Short Track

Long Track Olympic Style Training and Competition

Long Track Mass Start Competition

Participants under 15 years of age

Source: [https://www.speedskating.ca/sites/speedskating.ca/files/ssc - red book 2018-2019.pdf](https://www.speedskating.ca/sites/speedskating.ca/files/ssc_-_red_book_2018-2019.pdf)

**ISU Communication No. 2195**

(dated August 29, 2019, replaces ISU Communication No. 2038) also applies to 2018-19 season:

**Mass Start and Team races at ISU Speed Skating Events – Safety measures, promotion initiatives and organization of races.**

*(Complementing ISU Special Regulations Rule 223, paragraph 1, and the following ISU Technical Rules: Rule 253, paragraph 4, Rule 261, paragraphs 1 and 3, and Rule 265 paragraphs 5, 6 and 7)*

It states that: *“Moreover, the front and back part of the blades must be rounded off, with a radius of 1 cm”*

**BC Speed Skating Association**

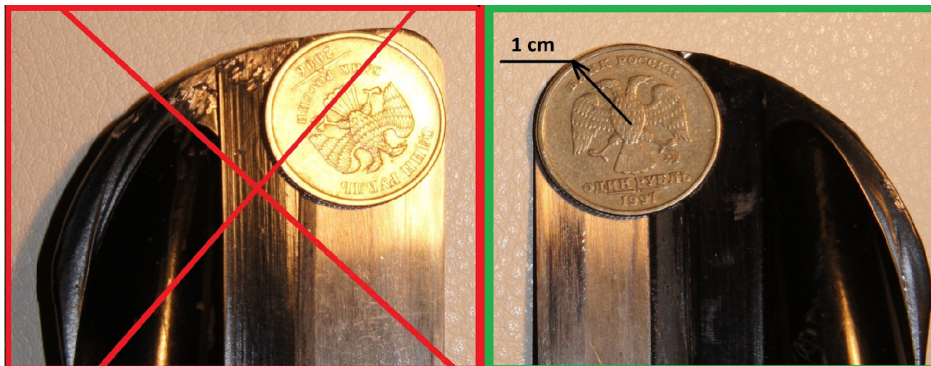
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Reference: <https://www.isu.org/speed-skating/rules/ssk-communications/17969-isu-communication-2195/file>

The following is an example of a blade end that does not comply with the ISU and SSC requirements:



Photo Credit: Mike Hall

It is important to remember that rounding the blade is mandatory to meet the ISU and SSC safety requirements. Overly aggressive rounding of the blade can cause the blade to become very pointed and appear as an arrow. Please ensure that **you do not** aggressively round the blade but follow the ISU and SSC guideline as indicated in ISU communication No. 2195.

Aggressively rounding the blade may cause an arrow configuration which is extremely dangerous and is not allowed (see images above).

To restate it is the skater/parent/coach responsibility to ensure that all equipment requirements are met.