

SHORT TRACK SPEED SKATING

Origin

Short track speed skating has been around for more than 100 years in Europe where in London the first club was formed 110 years ago in 1888 (The Aldwych Speed Skating club). There followed the spread of the sport in North America then in Europe particularly in Belgium and Netherlands. In the early history of the sport it was known as indoor speed skating and it different from speed skating by virtue of the fact that the racing was pack style as against the clock with speed skating. Since the early 70's the Sport has had recognition by the ISU, but international events started in earnest some 25 years before this. The first unofficial World Championships were staged in 1978 in England, and in 1981 the

first official World Short Track Speed Skating Championship was held in Paris (France). In 1990, at the ISU Congress, the World Team Championships were accepted, and later on the World Junior Championships and world ranking events.



At the Olympic Games

A demonstration event in Calgary in 1988, short track speed skating became an Olympic sport at the XVI Olympic Winter Games in Albertville in 1992 with two men events (1000 m and 5000 m relay) and two women events (500 m and 3000 m relay). In Lillehammer in 1994, the 500 m and the 1000 m events are introduced respectively for men and women. In Salt Lake City, a 1500 m event has been added for both men and women.

Salt Lake City Olympic venue

The eight short track speed skating events will be held at the 'Salt Lake Ice Center', in downtown Salt Lake, within the Olympic Square, with a capacity of 15,600 spectators.



The 'Salt Lake Ice Center'.