

2020-2021 Relay Challenges Format



The relay challenges are 2-person “virtual” relay events. Due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, there will be two versions of the relay challenge this season:

1. Provincial Relay Challenge (PRC)
2. Modified Provincial Relay Challenge (mPRC).

Eligibility

The relay challenges can be skated by skaters who are registered with a BCSSA club abiding by the [BCSSA Return to Skating Guidelines \(Phase 3\)](#). The relay challenges may be skated at any practice or competition occurring on or before March 18, 2021, provided the requirements listed below are met. Practices do not have to carry a sanction to be eligible.

The PRC has nine categories:

- L2T all-female, L2T all-male, L2T mixed gender
- T2T all-female, T2T all-male, T2T mixed gender
- ISU Junior all-female, ISU Junior all-male, ISU Junior mixed gender

To encourage participation and competition in this unique season, the mPRC has additional categories to the regularly-run PRC, for a total of 11 mPRC categories:

- FUNd (any combination of age-eligible skaters)
- L2T all-female, L2T all-male, L2T mixed gender
- T2T all-female, T2T all-male, T2T mixed gender
- ISU Junior all-female, ISU Junior all-male, ISU Junior mixed gender
- Open 19+ (any combination of age-eligible skaters)

Skaters may skate with any teammate, from any club within their assigned regional cohort. Note that clubs who are following the BCSSA Return to Practice Guidelines (Phase 2) are not considered to be “active” in their cohort and those skaters are not eligible for the relay challenges. Skaters are encouraged to enter the relay challenges multiple times with the same, or a different, teammate. If circumstances require teams of mixed age categories, the team may be entered into the older age category (e.g. a L2T female and a T2T male skating together in a team would be eligible for the T2T mixed gender category).

Events Skated

The PRC consists of the 10-minute, 2-person relay (traditional push relay). Each skater on the team must have skated at least one complete lap to make the team eligible. The relay must be skated on the 100m track for the L2T and T2T categories. The relay must be skated on the 111.12m track for the Junior categories.

The mPRC is a 2-person relay. Each skater on the team must have skated at least one complete lap to make the team eligible. Teams will skate the 2-person relay as follows:

- FUND: 6 minute relay on the 100m track
- L2T and T2T: 10 minute relay on the 100m track
- ISU Junior and Open 19+: 10 minute relay on the 111.12m track.

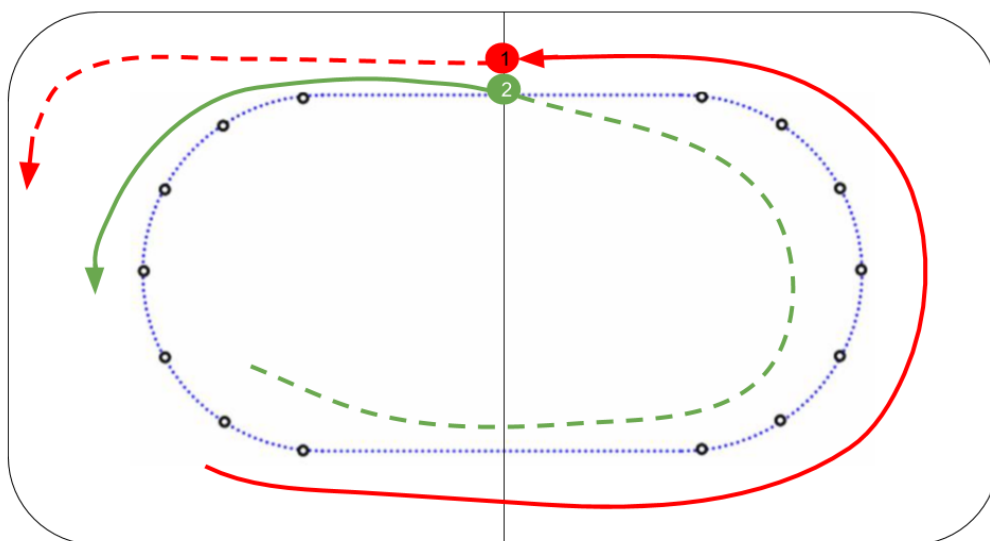
The mPRC is designed to adhere to more restrictive COVID-19 restrictions, therefore there will be no push relay exchanges allowed in the mPRC. Exchanges will be executed as follows:

- **Outgoing skater** will finish the lap they are skating by crossing the centre red line, standing up and gliding into the corner (using the same pattern as the outgoing skater would typically use after they execute a push).
- **Incoming skater** will follow the outgoing skater on the inside of the lap (as usual). Instead of

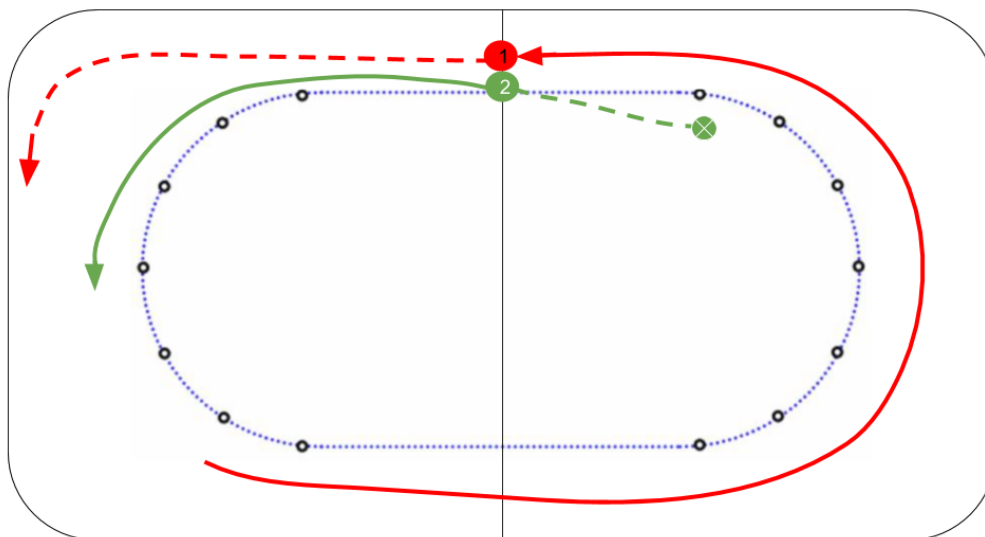
entering the track ahead of the outgoing skater (to receive a push), the incoming skater will merge onto the track behind the outgoing skater and cross the centre red line after the outgoing skater.

- Alternate trajectory for novice incoming skaters: the incoming skater will start from a standing position just inside the 7th block on the corner. A coach (physically-distanced from the skater) may assist the skater in determining when to leave the position.
- The “exchange” will be considered complete when the incoming skater’s first blade tip crosses the red line after the outgoing skater’s first blade tip. Exchanges that do not occur in this manner are considered an illegal relay exchange and would invalidate the result from that attempt of the event.
- If the skaters are exchanging on the start/finish line side of the rink, the Lap Counter for each team should record the lap as complete when the first of the two skaters (the outgoing skater) crosses the line.

Typical Trajectory



Alternate Trajectory



In-Competition Rules

- All submitted results must have been counted by a certified coach or official, dedicated to counting laps for that particular team.
- An “event timer” (separate from the lap counter(s)) shall be assigned the task of monitoring the time for the duration of the race. The person starting the event (certified starter or otherwise) is the recommended person to play the role of event timer.
- When the event time (6 or 10 minutes, depending on the category) has been completed, the event timer shall fire one (1) shot or blow one harsh/loud whistle, signalling the end of the event time. All skaters will then complete the lap which they are skating, which shall be counted as their final lap.

Awards

Official submissions for the relay challenges are accepted exclusively via the [PRC Online Submission Form](#) and the [mPRC Online Submission Form](#). Hardcopies of [PRC Recording Sheets](#) are available for tracking during the event. All eligible submitted entries will be ranked from highest number of laps skated to lowest level of laps skated. The team with the highest number of laps skated (in each category of each relay challenge) at the end of the season will be declared the provincial champion.

Should two teams (in a category of a relay challenge) have skated the same number of laps, a tie would be broken in the following manner: the number of entries into the relay challenges (during the current skating season) for each team member would be added together. The team (of those tied) with the higher "participation number" will be declared the winner. This is to promote season-long participation in the relay challenges.