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## TECHNICAL BULLETIN #6

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**CONTENTS:**                   **SANCTIONS AND PARTICIPATION AT COMPETITIONS**

**DATE:**                        **OCTOBER 5, 2002**

This bulletin is being issued as a reminder of the requirements for competing in OSSA sanctioned competitions. It is also being issued at this time to provide Clubs, athletes and coaches with clarification in regards to the use of the Special Events Membership category. The purpose is to ensure that all concerned are operating on the same level of understanding throughout the season.

In the first instance, it should be noted that section B4 of the OSSA 's Competition Regulations as contained in the Information Manual defines the requirements for participation in a sanctioned competition. The pertinent clause is noted below:

### **Article B4: Participants**

#### **Skaters**

**B4.01** No skater shall participate in a closed Provincial Championship or in a Time Trial unless he/she is an Ordinary Skating Member in good standing or an Independent Member in good standing.

**B4.02** Competitions other than closed Provincial Championships and Time Trials are open to skaters who:

- a.** are Ordinary members in good standing, Independent members in good standing, or Special Event members in good standing;

In this respect, it is fundamental that all Ontario resident participants at sanctioned competitions are registered members of the OSSA. Failure to ensure that all participants are members has the potential to compromise the Association's insurance coverage of the event, of the host Club, the participants, the officials involved, and the Association itself. This requirement applies also to participants of exhibition events that are being held under the auspices of an OSSA sanction. Skaters that are from out of province must have proof of membership from their governing body.

Furthermore, the involvement of participants in an OSSA sanctioned competition who are not members is a ground for the withdrawal of the sanction. The consequences for the other participants of the competition, the host club, meet organiser's and OSSA in this eventuality are significant. Consequently, it is incumbent on all concerned to ensure that the rules for participation are met in all cases.

With respect to the categories of membership noted in B4.02, it is also apparent that a clarification of the circumstances and conditions where a Special Event Membership may be used is necessary.

The Special Events Membership is not designed to permit participation in regular sanctioned competitions such as Age Class or Regional Ability competitions. It may be used to permit participation in winter triathlons, or marathon type events, or in an exhibition event which is being held as part of a regular competition,. However, with respect to exhibition events, this is not intended to apply on a continuing basis. Skaters who have been registered under the Special Event Membership for such an event must, in order to participate as part of any future OSSA sanctioned competition, be registered as an Ordinary or Independent member.

Events which may otherwise be considered as special and thus for which a participant may registered in the Special Events Membership category are the following:

- club tryouts;
- skatethons;
- winter bi and triathlons;
- marathons;
- promotional events;
- mini meets designed to attract new members.