

## The development and prospect of short track speed skating in the future from the Perspective of 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics

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**Abstract:** The Beijing Winter Olympics, which were successfully held in a closed-loop, has officially ended with a spectacular closing ceremony. From the "Ice Ribbon" to the Shougang Ski jump, each venue is eye-opening and has unique lighting. At the closing ceremony, the Olympic torch was extinguished, and people's attention turned to the next Games, the 2024 Summer Games in Paris and the 2026 Winter Games in Milan and Cortina 'Ampezzo. The 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics came to a close on February 20, bringing an unprecedented Olympic event in Asia. One of the high-profile events in this Winter Olympics is short-track speed skating. In recent years, China and South Korea have been the biggest rivals in short-track speed skating, which is also reflected in this Winter Olympics. The history, current situation, and development of short-track speed skating have become standard for winter ice sports fans.

### 1. Introduction

The Speed skating is a racing sport on ice. It takes the ice knife as the speed racing tool; the player needs to reach the finish line with the fastest speed. In the international sports taxonomy, speed skating belongs to the skating sport. Speed skating is an official sport at the Winter Olympics. Short track speed skating, short track speed skating. Originally from Canada, it is an ice racing sport played on relatively short tracks. At the beginning of the 20th century, short-track speed skating was gradually developed in western countries. Short track speed skating was officially introduced as an Olympic sport at the 1992 Albertville Winter Games. The highest level of speed skating organization, the International Skating Union, was founded in the Netherlands in 1892. The Chinese Skating Association, founded in Beijing in 1980, is the country's top skating organization [1-3].

The short track speed skating competition ended at the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics on February 16, as China finished the event with two gold, one silver, and one bronze, second only to South Korea. Throughout the short track speed skating competition results of this Winter Olympic Games, the Results of The Chinese men's team has undeniable progress, and the replacement of the women's team members has become a hot topic. China and South Korea do not wholly dominate Short-track speed skating in the Winter Olympics. Through this Winter Olympic Games, it is not difficult to see that many western countries such as Canada are also a traditional power of short track speed skating, Italy, the Netherlands, Hungary, and other teams also have the strength to attack gold MEDALS in some short track speed skating events. In the past two Winter Olympics, with South Korea and China as hosts successively, short track speed skating, which has high popularity in these two countries, has been the focus of both inside and outside the venue. At the same time, the world pattern of short track speed skating also gradually changed, the confrontation between China and South Korea was further weakened, and the European and American teams represented by Holland, Hungary, Italy, Canada, and other teams rose rapidly. Therefore, it is imperative to rapidly develop the overall strength of short-track speed skating [4-7].

Speed skating is a sport with a long history of skating speed on the ice. In the 10th century, the prototype of the ice blade appeared, and there were similar ice sports in ancient China. In the late 19th century, international speed skating began. This skating speed of ice sports is divided into

standard speed skating and sprint speed skating two. It was in 1892 that the International Skating Union was formally formed. In 1893, the first world men's speed skating championship was successfully held in the world, and in 1936, the first women's speed skating championship was successfully held. In 1924, the first Winter Olympics were held, and a men's speed skating event was introduced, while women's events were added in 1960. A skating competition was held in Peiping in 1935. In 1943, the ice Games held in Yan 'an included men's and women's 100 meters speed skating and various performances. At the 1963 World Championships, Chinese athletes Wang Jinyu and Luo Zhihuan broke the world men's overall record in Nagano, Japan. Luo Zhihuan won the gold medal in the 1,500 meters, China's first gold medal in a winter event. In 1975, Zhao Weichang won second place in the 500-meter race at the World Championships held in Norway [8-10].

## **2. Data and Method**

This paper uses SWOT analysis to study the current development advantages and disadvantages of China's short-track speed skating. Based on the internal and external competitive environment and competition conditions, through the study of domestic short-track projects of various advantages and disadvantages and opportunities and threats, listed through investigation and analysis, and in a particular arrangement, systematic analysis, and the conclusion. Through this analysis method, we cannot only systematically and comprehensively analyze the situation of the research object, but also formulate the corresponding strategic development mode, countermeasures, and plans according to the conclusion. 'S' is a strength, 'W' is a weakness, 'O' is an opportunity and 'T' is a threat.

## **3. Results and Discussion**

### **3.1 Strength**

For China, enormous geographical resources and excellent human resources are essential advantages to attract excellent talents. There are many Korean nationals or People of Korean descent in the coaching team of The Chinese short track team. For example, the head coach Jin Shantai is the coach of the Korean short track team at the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympics. Technical coach Ahn Hyun-soo was a famous South Korean short-track athlete who later moved to Russia. Thanks to Ahn, at the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics, Russia won its first Olympic gold medal in a short-track event. China's short-track sparring partner Lin Xiaojun, also from South Korea, won one gold and one bronze medal at the 2018 PyeongChang Winter Olympics. These South Korean short-track talents have made essential contributions to the improvement of the Chinese short-track team. China's short track is absorbing excellent foreign talents and playing an active role in helping foreign short track teams improve their capabilities. The Hungarian short track team leaders, brothers Liu Shaolin and Liu Shaoang received their short track training in China when they were young. The head coach of the Hungarian short track team, Zhang Jing, is also from China.

### **3.2 Weakness**

It is still unclear who will be the future leader of China's short-track speed skating team. Ren Ziwei is the most promising candidate in terms of overall results, and his two gold MEDALS (men's 1,000m, mixed relay) are convincing, but the 24-year-old, who is competing in his second Winter Olympics, also has his immature side. For example, Ren Ziwei, the world no.1 in men's 1,500m, failed to show his strength in the event's semifinals, ranking third in his group for a long time, and was disqualified for foul play. Maturing as soon as possible is an essential task for Ren Ziwei in the new cycle. Compared with the men's team, the women's team faces a much more serious problem, including the traditional strength of the women's 500 meters, the Beijing Winter Olympics women's team in all individual events. Qu Chunyu (25years) and Han Yutong (27years), both two-time Olympians, and Zhang Yuting (22years) and Zhang Chutong (18years), both of whom made their debuts, failed to show their strength.

### 3.3 Opportunity

The massive market in China has brought great opportunities to athletes from all over the world, and they have also gained the development space in China to continue to pursue their short-track dreams. In the case of South Korea, it is necessary to reflect on the exodus of top short-track talent, but for China and the world short-track speed skating, it is also a way to make the Olympic dream transcend national boundaries which is the spirit of sports. The development of ice and snow sports in China has brought indispensable opportunities to athletes worldwide.

### 3.4 Threat

At the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympics, Hungary won the country's first Olympic gold medal in short-track speed skating. It can be said that without the help of China's short track, Hungary's short track would not have existed today. However, it has also created new rivals and new threats for China's short-track team.

## 4. Conclusion

The strength of China's short-track speed skating team is better than that of medium and long-distance events. The unbalanced development of the short-track speed skating team and the lag of the development of medium and long-distance events have become significant obstacles to the improvement of China's overall competitive strength of short track speed skating. The Chinese short-track speed skating team lacks the soft power of competition rules, judgment of field situations, and competition psychology. China's short-track speed skating team committed nine fouls at the Pyeongchang Olympics, making it the most fouls committed by any country. Although the outside world questions the "consistency of judgment" of the judges, it also reflects that China's short track speed skating athletes need to strengthen the ability to resist pressure in international competitions and understand the competition rules.

The establishment and construction of a domestic short track speed skating league should align with international competitions to achieve the goal of "promoting training through competition." This series of measures not only encourages our young athletes and national athletes to accumulate competition experience and improve their competitive level but also enables athletes and coaches to adapt to the new competition rules more quickly, laying a foundation for athletes to play steadily in the World Cup and Olympic Games and other international events. Reserve talents are the core of the development of competitive sports. Only by promoting the expansion of ice sports from north to east to south, vigorously developing the mass base, expanding the regional scope, and creating the ice sports cultural atmosphere can the overall strength of China's short track speed skating be developed more effectively.

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