

Three points for a win with new skate blades

Since the introduction of klap skates to speed skating in 1997, all new long track world records have been set using them. A major innovation for the 2013 season could now have a similar impact

ORIGINAL KLAP SKATES

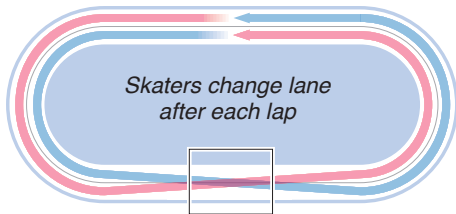
Boots: Rigid carbon fibre

Blade length:

38-46cm

LONG TRACK

400m oval – two skaters race against clock



Klap skate mechanism:

Blade stays in contact with ice when heel lifts, increasing length and power of push stroke

Two-points of contact

(Blade curvature exaggerated)

Downward pressure

Contact with ice

Downward pressure at rear flattens blade

Increased contact with ice increases friction, slowing speed

THREE-POINT BLADE

Adjustable mid-point to suit skating style

Designed to maintain blade curvature or "rockering", to minimise contact with ice for reduced friction, greater speed

Maintaining rocking improves stability on high-G cornering

Contact with ice