



SPORTAUS



MORETON BAY TO HOST SKATE AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL INLINE SPEED CHAMPIONSHIPS IN 2019

In January 2019, Australia's best skaters will land in Queensland to compete at the Australian Inline Speed Championships from the 13th to 20th.

It's state vs state and skaters will race it out to win gold in an adrenaline-filled six days of racing on both indoor and outdoor venues.

This inclusive event welcomes male and female skaters, with participants as young as 6-years-old through to 76, representing their state.

High profile competitors include Youth Olympic Games representative Alex Myint from Perth, along with several Australian representative skaters who've competed at the recent World Inline Speed Championship in The Netherlands.

The Moreton Bay Regional Council's Morayfield Sports and Events Centre will host the indoor track events on Friday 18th and Saturday 19th for the first time in January 2019 and are thrilled to host Australia's pinnacle event for speed skating.

Spokesperson for Parks, Recreation and Sport Cr Koliana Winchester said this event would be another feather in MSEC's cap, after successfully hosting the Queensland State Judo championships in 2018.

"By mid-2019 Council's \$7.8 million upgrade to MSEC will be complete, more than doubling the size of this amazing facility and creating even more event-based tourism opportunities for Morayfield," she said.

"The upgrade will boast the construction of two new multipurpose indoor courts and an 1100sq m events space, which could be used for conferences and trade shows, as well as retractable seating for more than 1,000 spectators as well as new amenities including changerooms and a commercial-grade kitchen.

Councillor for Division 12 Adrian Raedel said the event would inject more than \$140,000 into the local economy.

"There are more than 300 competitors, officials and spectators coming to town and I know our local hospitality sector is ready to put on a show for our visitors," he said.

"I'll be encouraging our visitors to make the most of their week here by suggesting they explore our region, like checking out the stunning D'Aguiar National Park or beautiful Bribie Island beaches and Pumicestone Passage."

The Moreton Bay Council awarded a grant to Skate Australia to bring the national event to the region which will in turn provide a boost to local business' through tourism spend.

The president of Skate Australia, Karen Doyle, is extremely grateful for the council's support.

"The opportunity to take the Australian Inline Speed Championships to a new audience in the Moreton Bay region and showcase this exciting sport at the Morayfield Sports and Events Centre was one that Skate Australia and the Australian Speed Committee welcomed," she said.

“Morayfield Sports and Events Centre is an excellent facility and ideal for inline speed skating events at the Australian Championships. We look forward to great sportsmanship, fast and exciting racing with the possibility of new Australian records and many personal bests over the two-day event.”

Queensland hosts the Australian Inline Speed Championships every five years and the home team has selected 40 skaters to compete.

The Vice President for Speed Skating in Queensland, Catherine Tucker, says Team Queensland has strong competitors who are looking forward to racing in their home state.

“Queensland speed skating numbers are continuing to grow, particularly in our junior grades, and we are seeing more competitive skaters being produced as a result,” she said.

“Our skaters like to leave it all on the track, so come January Team Queensland will be giving it everything they have to make our state proud.”

Race events include a variety of distance including 100m and 500m sprints, through to 20-kilometer elimination races and even a grueling 42km marathon event to finish off the week.

Photos, videos, race results and updates from the events will be posted on Skate Australia and Queensland Speed Facebook pages, follow the action on @skateaustralia and @SkateQLDSpeed.

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About Skate Australia

Skate Australia Inc, founded in Brisbane, Queensland in 1962, is the National Sporting Organisation for Skate Sports including Skateboarding, recognised by Sport Australia, the Australian Olympic Committee and the international federation World Skate.