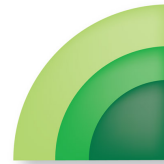




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Sports Extra

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Skaters prepare for showdown on ice

ICE SKATING >> Queensland holds high hopes for dominating the medal stakes at this weekend's short-track ice speed skating Duke Trophy competition at Boondall's Ice World.

Among Queensland's favourites to win the men's 1500m, 1000m and 500m include national squad members Jeremy Beck and Elliot Shariane.

Beck and Shariane were part of Australia's 5000m relay team which finished seventh at last year's Short Track World Team Championships in Hungary.

The best chance for Queensland in the women's races is Tatiana Borodulina, who broke Australia's overseas 500m record earlier this year.

The Duke Trophy event also gives Australia's elite female skaters an attempt to make the times required for Australia's first women's short track Olympic relay team.