



Press Release

The Duke Trophy Erina Ice Arena 19 and 20 July 2025

Session 1: 19 July 2025, 7:00am – 11:00am

Session 2: 19 July 2025, 3:30pm – 7:00pm

Session 3: 20 July 2025, 7:30am – 11:00am

Since its inception in 1953, short track speed skating's Duke Trophy has been one of the most anticipated events on the sport's calendar, and this weekend's races will be no different. Unofficially known as Ice Racing's State of Origin.

The competition sees Australia's elite and most experienced short track speed skaters join forces with their younger developing athletes, all vying to win the gold and glory for their state.

It was first run in 1953, when Len Duke, the secretary/treasurer of the AAIRC (Australian Amateur Ice Racing Council) decided that there should be a separate event for interstate racing. Duke donated the trophy and the event was born; it was originally known as The Australian Amateur Ice Racing Council Trophy for Interstate Racing.

In 1952 a bike accident left Duke with damaged discs in his spine and eventually he had to retire from skating completely. In 1956, the decision was made to rename the event The Duke Trophy, to honour his name in the sport. You can find out more about Len Duke on the following link: [Len Duke Story](#)

The event sees skaters compete in teams of up to 20 athletes, all racing as part of their state of origin in five divisions made up of Junior C (11yrs old and under), Junior B (12-14 years old), Junior A (15-18 years old), Senior (over 19) and Masters (30 and over). Over 100 skaters and officials from all over Australia will meet in Erina Ice Arena to compete for the Duke Trophy.

Each age division races over several different distances, accruing points that add to their state's overall total. With the hotly contested relays being run at the end of the program. The exciting competition runs heats, semis and finals for the three shorter distances, with all-in Super Finals for the longest distance and relays.

Whilst it is a team event, there is recognition for individual skaters to aspire to: the **Len Duke Best & Fairest Trophy; Colin Coates Spirit of the Duke; Denis Pennington Most Improved; Teddi Jenkins Shield; and with the inaugural award, Jenny Duke Encouragement Award for Young Skaters**, to be awarded for the first time in 2025.

With just over 7 months until the next Winter Olympics in Milan, Italy, in February 2026 short track speed skating is once again on the Australia's radar and our young skaters will be keen to impress to gain places in the Australian National Development Squad.

This year the Duke Trophy is being held over three sessions on Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th July 2025, at the Erina Ice Arena.

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For up-to-date results and live action. Follow the racing on:

<https://www.facebook.com/australianiceracing/> or search on Youtube for the Duke Trophy.

We would like to invite you to attend this exciting event. If you are unable to attend and would like up-to-date images after the event, please let us know.

For more information:

Contact:

Alison Throssell

President

Australian Ice Racing

Phone: 0414736580

Email: president@australianiceracing.org

Jennifer Sheldon

Events Co-ordinator

NSW Ice Racing

Phone: 0418693772

Email: events@nswiceracing.org

Some examples of photos from previous Duke Trophy Races

