



**PRESS RELEASE: For Immediate Release**

Richmond, Virginia

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**Former US Olympic Speed Skater and Managing Director of US Speedskating Accepts New Position as Program Director for Virginia Speedskating.**

Scott Koons and Steve Burton made a joint announcement today that Scott will be the Program Director for Virginia Speedskating. Scott will also serve as Head Coach for Virginia Speedskating's new High Performance Team.

Scott's experience as an Olympic and World Cup Team skater, a US National Short Track Team Coach, and an Administrator for US Speedskating's long-track and short track programs positioned Scott as uniquely qualified to serve in this dual role at Virginia Speedskating.

"We are incredibly fortunate to have Scott join our program," said Steve Burton, Executive Director of Virginia Speedskating. "We have spent the last five years building a solid foundation for growth and Scott should be the catalyst that we need to launch our High Performance Team and take Virginia Speedskating to the International stage.

"Scott brings the experience and passion needed to get the job done at Virginia's new program," said Jack Mortell, Vice President of US Speedskating, in a recent meeting with Virginia Speedskating leadership. "Scott has been good at getting athletes to perform beyond their expectations," he added.

Scott will be moving his family to Richmond, VA in July to assume his fulltime duties just in time for Virginia Speedskating's annual summer camp and competition (Aug 8-14).

Scott will join the already impressive coaching staff at Virginia Speedskating: Sun-tae Chae, Head Coach of the Development Team and Ji-Young Chea, Head Coach of the Novice Team. Virginia's Development and Novice Teams are already recognized as among the best teams in the country, exemplified this season by their skaters winning 23 medals at the US National Short Track Championships.

Short track speed skating is the fastest self-propelled sport in the world. It has been referred to as NASCAR® on ice where you compete on a 110 meter oval track in groups of four and five skaters who fly up to 40 mph through the curves.

Virginia Speedskating is a non-profit organization that coordinates speed skating activities in the greater Richmond area. The club skates at the Richmond Ice Zone on 646 Johnston Willis Drive. Skaters of all ages and abilities are welcome to join the club. There is no cost to try short track speed skating; the first month is free for anyone interested. Needed equipment is provided for new skaters by Virginia Speedskating.

**Contact:** Dr. Steve Burton, Executive Director, Virginia Speedskating

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email: [sburton@virginiasppeedskating.org](mailto:sburton@virginiasppeedskating.org)

[www.virginiasppeedskating.org](http://www.virginiasppeedskating.org)