

United States Ski & Snowboard Association

2023 Cross Country Under 18 Nordic Nation's Championship Selection Criterion

Eligibility for Consideration

U.S. Ski & Snowboard will consider for selection only those U.S. Ski & Snowboard members in good standing who have a valid U.S. passport, a valid USA-coded FIS license and who meet FIS minimum eligibility standards.

At all FIS competitions, including the Under-18 Nordic Nation's Championship, a competitor must have reached his or her 16th birthday before the end of the calendar year (1st January – 31st December) in which the season ends.

U.S. Ski & Snowboard provides an equal opportunity to amateur athletes, coaches, trainers, managers, administrators, and officials to participate in amateur athletic competition, without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, or national origin, and with fair notice and opportunity for a hearing before declaring any such individual ineligible to participate.

Criterion Guidelines

- This criterion is for the year of 2023 only. Criterion will be reevaluated in May 2023 at the spring congress and changes may be made for the 2024 selection year.
- U.S. Ski & Snowboard policy mandates that team selection criteria shall be principally objective (or performance-based) and that available start rights and team spots will not necessarily be filled, but it may select athletes to the Team using coaches' discretion.
- The U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD Cross Country Development Director is responsible for applying the selection criteria set forth herein, subject to the oversight of the Cross Country Program Director of the U.S. Ski Team.
- Up to six (6) male and six (6) female athletes may start for the United States in each event. Available start rights and team spots will not necessarily be filled.
- A maximum of twelve (12) athletes (6 per gender) may represent the United States in the 2023 U18 Nordic Nation's Championship.
- Objective selections shall be based on the results achieved by athletes in the first three (3) competitions at the 2023 U.S. Cross Country Championships, Jan. 2-6, 2023 (the "selection period"). Designated U.S. Cross Country Championship selection includes the men's interval start, junior men's mass start and first individual Sprint (including Junior Finals, if applicable) competitions and women's interval start, junior women's mass start and first individual Sprint (including Junior Finals, if applicable). Technique, distances, and dates are subject to change within the U.S. Cross Country Championships competition schedule.
- Discretionary selections, if any, may be based on a variety of factors, including competitions conducted outside of the selection period.
- Team status does not include funding from the U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD.

Objective Criteria

Up to six (6) athletes per gender may be selected to the team based solely upon races during the selection period.

- Team selections up to the maximum team size shall be granted to athletes who have achieved the best cumulative total results during the selection period based on a competitor's best two races (scoring only competitors born in 2003 or later), using the World Cup scoring system outlined in the U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD Nordic Competition Guide.

Tie-Breaking Procedure

A skier will move ahead in the final championship or trials standings, and on selections lists, based on the following procedures until a tie is broken.

1. Best individual finish in the selection period
2. The second-best individual finish in the selection period
3. The third-best individual finish in the selection period
4. Best current rank on the U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD overall National Ranking List (NRL)

Discretionary Selection Policy

U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD may select athletes to the team using coaches' discretion. If the coaching staff fills any available spot(s) on the team with discretionary selections, then the staff may consider any factors including (but not limited to) the following:

- 1) Outstanding competition results (including results achieved outside of the selection period).
- 2) Recent direction or trend of competition results (i.e., improving, flat, or declining).
- 3) Illness or injury during the selection period.
- 4) Other unanticipated failure of objective criteria to select an athlete likely to achieve top results at the competition.

Injury Clause

An athlete shall be ineligible for consideration if he/she is not fit to compete at the time selections are made due to any injury or illness from which he/she is not expected to recover adequately by the time of the competitions he/she has been selected for. Such determination shall be at the discretion of the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Cross Country Development Director in consultation with the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Medical Director, the Head Team Physician, and the athlete's designated physician.

Athlete Replacement Procedure

In the case that an athlete that has been selected to the team becomes injured or ill prior to the Under-18 Nordic Nation's Championship and is unable to compete, no replacement athlete will be named unless it is deemed that there is sufficient time to make a replacement without disrupting the competition or preparation of other athletes and that the additional athlete would have sufficient time to properly prepare for the competition. This decision will be made by the Cross Country Development Director after consulting with the President and CEO of U.S. Ski & Snowboard, and the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Medical Director. Should an additional athlete be considered, the same criteria as outlined above shall be followed to select that athlete.

U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD APPEAL AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES:

The U.S. Ski & Snowboard Grievance Procedures can be found within Article IX of the U.S. Ski & Snowboard bylaws found at: usskiandsnowboard.org

Team Announcement:

Selections to the 2023 U.S. Cross Country Under-18 Nordic Nation's Championship Team shall be announced on or near January 6, 2023 at the offices of U.S. Ski & Snowboard in Park City, Utah and shall be published immediately upon announcement.