

United States Ski & Snowboard Association (USSA)
ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES
2018 Olympic Winter Games
Men's and Women's Snowboarding
Halfpipe, Slopestyle, Big Air, Snowboardcross, Parallel Giant Slalom
April 19, 2016
Amended October 10, 2016

1. SELECTION SYSTEM

1.1. Provide the minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for nomination to the Team:

1.1.1. Nationality/Passport requirements:

Athlete must be a national of the United States at the time of nomination.

Athlete must hold a valid U.S. passport that will not expire for six months after the conclusion of the Games.

1.1.2. Minimum International Olympic Committee (IOC) standards for participation:

Any competitor in the Olympic Games must be a national of the country of the National Olympic Committee (NOC) which is entering such competitor. For additional information regarding an athlete who is a national of two or more countries, has changed his or her nationality or acquired a new nationality, refer to the IOC Charter (Rule 42).

1.1.3. Minimum International Ski Federation (FIS) standards for participation:

Only competitors who hold a valid and active FIS license and who meet the FIS minimum eligibility standards of a Top 30 in a FIS World Cup or World Championships, in the event concerned, during the qualification period of July 1, 2016 through January 21, 2018 and have at least 100 FIS points for Parallel Giant Slalom & Snowboardcross, and 50 FIS points for Halfpipe and Slopestyle, and either 50 FIS points in Slopestyle or Big Air for the Big Air event. Athletes participating in Snowboardcross must be born before January 1, 2001. In all other events, athletes must be born before January 1, 2002.

1.1.4. Other requirements (if any):

Only competitors who are USSA members in good standing will be considered for nomination.

1.2. Tryout Events:

1.2.1. Names, dates and locations of all trials, events and camps to be used as part of the selection process.

The schedule of tryout events will be finalized and published by June 30, 2016 for the events conducted during the 2016/17 competition season and by June 30, 2017 for the events conducted during the 2017/18 competition season and shall be available on the USSA website: www.ussa.org Tryout events shall be scheduled between January 1, 2017 and January 21, 2018.

1.2.2. Names, dates, locations and description of how athletes qualify for the trials, events and camps listed above in 1.2.1.

The qualification procedures for the tryout events will be finalized and published by October 15, 2016 for the events conducted during the 2016/17 Competition Season and by October 15, 2017 for the events conducted during the 2017/18 Competition Season and shall be available on the USSA website: www.ussa.org

1.3. Athletes shall be nominated to the team based on the following process:

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has determined that a maximum of Twenty Six (26) athletes representing any one nation may compete in the 2018 Olympic Winter Games in snowboarding. The maximum number of athletes named to the U.S. team will be up to the maximum team size of Twenty Six (26), with a maximum of fourteen (14) athletes per gender. The maximum quota for a nation in any one (1) event per gender will be four (4). Athletes named to the team will start in the event for which they qualified.

The objective criteria for each discipline outlined below are subject to the U.S. earning those Olympic Nations Quota Starts, in the respective discipline, through the International Ski Federation (FIS) Olympic Nations Quota World Ranking List

After the objective criteria has been applied, any unfilled quota slots will be filled via discretionary selection outlined in Section 2 of these procedures

Objective Criteria Halfpipe

1. Up to three (3) Halfpipe athletes, per gender, who have had one (1) top three result, against the entire competition field, in the selection events will be named to the Olympic team. If more than three (3) athletes, in either gender, have had one (1) top three result then USSA will utilize the below procedure to select those three (3) athletes who will be selected via this Objective criteria:

USSA will assign those athletes selection points to create a US athlete ranking list, based on their results in each selection event, using the FIS World Cup point scoring system (1000 point scale). Only athletes that are US citizens, and are USSA members in good standing that compete in the event will be included when assigning these selection points. By way of explanation, the American athlete with the best result in a particular event, regardless of his/her actual result in that event will receive 1000 points, the athlete with the second best result in a selection event, 800, the third 600, the fourth 500 and so on pursuant to the FIS ICR. No international athletes will be included when assigning selection points. At the conclusion of the selection events, the selection points assigned as discussed above to each athlete's best (highest) two (2) results will be added together to create a US athlete ranking list for nomination in each gender. The three highest ranked athletes on the ranking list will be selected if objective criteria is achieved. If however, a tie remains, USSA will use the following tie-breaking mechanisms in order of priority to select those three athletes:

- a. Single highest point result during the selection events
- b. Second highest point result during the selection events
- c. Third highest point result during selection events
- d. Fourth highest point result during selection events
- e. Total selection points (total points earned in all selection events)

*In the event a tie remains after the tie breaking criteria above has been exhausted the highest point result from the final selection event will be used to determine the final position.

Objective Criteria Slopestyle and Big Air

1. Up to three (3) Slopestyle athletes, per gender, who have had one (1) top three result, against the entire competition field, in the selection events will be named to the Olympic team. If more than three (3) athletes, in either gender, have had one (1) top three result then USSA will utilize the below procedure to select those three (3) athletes who will be selected via this Objective criteria:

USSA will assign those athletes selection points to create a US athlete ranking list, based on their results in each selection event, using the FIS World Cup point scoring system (1000 point scale). Only athletes that are US citizens, and are USSA members in good standing that compete in the event will be included when assigning these selection points. By way of explanation, the American athlete with the best result in a particular event, regardless of his/her actual result in that event will receive 1000 points, the athlete with the second best result in a selection event 800, the third 600, the fourth 500 and so on pursuant to the FIS ICR. No international athletes will be included when assigning selection points. At the conclusion of the selection events, the selection points assigned as discussed above to each athlete's best (highest) two (2) results will be added together to create a US athlete ranking list for nomination in each gender. The three highest ranked athletes on the ranking list will be selected if objective criteria is achieved. If however, a tie remains, USSA will use the following tie-breaking mechanisms in order of priority to select those three athletes:

- a. Single highest point result during the selection events
- b. Second highest point result during the selection events
- c. Third highest point result during selection events
- d. Fourth highest point result during selection events
- e. Total selection points (total points earned in all selection events)

*In the event a tie remains after the tie breaking criteria above has been exhausted the highest point result from the final selection event will be used to determine the final position.

2. Up to four (4) male and four (4) female athletes may start for the United States in Big Air, subject to the U.S. earning those Olympic Nations Quota Starts. The top three (3) athletes, male and female, to be nominated in Slopestyle/Big Air snowboarding criteria outlined above in section 1 will be assured of a start in Big Air. Additional starts will be filled at the discretion of the coaching staff from the snowboarding athletes already nominated to the 2018 Winter Olympic Games. Athletes must meet the individual minimum standards for participation as determined by the International Ski Federation (FIS) to be eligible to start in Big Air.

Objective Criteria Snowboardcross

1. Up to three (3) Snowboardcross, per gender, who have had one (1) top three result, against the entire competition field, in the selection events will be named to the Olympic Team. If more than three (3) Snowboardcross men or three (3) Snowboardcross women have had one (1) top three result then ties will be broken as follows in order of priority:
 - a. Single highest point result during the selection events.
 - b. Second highest point result during the selection events.
 - c. Highest FIS SBX Points List Ranking at the conclusion of the selection events from the most current FIS SBX Points ranking list.

Objective Criteria Parallel Giant Slalom

1. Up to one (1) Parallel Giant Slalom men and one (1) Parallel Giant Slalom woman who have had one (1) top three result, against the entire competition field, in the selection events will be named to the Olympic Team. If more than one (1) Parallel Giant Slalom man or one (1) Parallel Giant Slalom woman have had one (1) top three result then ties will be broken as follows in order of priority:
 - a. Single highest point result during the selection events.
 - b. Second highest point result during the selection events.
 - c. Highest World Cup Parallel Giant Slalom Ranking at the conclusion of the selection events from the most current World Cup ranking list.

2. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION

2.1. Provide rationale for utilizing discretionary selection (if any):

After selection based upon objective criteria, USSA determined that the best mechanism for selecting a competitive team is to utilize a discretionary selection process that takes into consideration the specific circumstances of an athlete and allows for a variety of criteria to be considered. (See Section 2.2 below)

2.2. List the discretionary criteria and explain how they will be used (if any):

Discretionary selection will be utilized in two phases should positions remain after utilization of the objective criteria detailed in Section – 1.3

a. Phase 1 - Athletes qualified under Sections 1.1 above (including but not limited to those not selected objectively due to illness or injury) who have not met the objective criteria in Section - 1.3, may be recommended by the Head Coach of each or any discipline for selection to the team via coaches discretion if they satisfy any of the following:

- Outstanding competition results from the 2017/2018 season.
- Outstanding competition results from the 2016/2017 season.
- Recent positive direction or trend of competition results indicating a potential for Olympic success.
- Indication of medal potential in future Olympic or World Championship competition (such as international age group results and rankings) that would be materially enhanced by selection to team.

b. Phase 2 - Any remaining team nominations, after the application of criteria 1.3 and 2.a listed above has been applied, will be determined (in order of ranking) by an athletes combined best (highest) two (2) results during the selection events, against the entire competition field, using the FIS World Cup point scoring system (1000 point scale). The U.S. athlete ranking lists, outlined in the objective criteria 1.3, established for halfpipe and slopestyle/big air will determine the rank order of those athletes to be compared against athletes in snowboardcross and parallel giant slalom using this 2.b discretionary selection process.

Only selection events that are open to include international athletes competing will be used during this evaluation. ~~A selection event with only U.S. athletes competing will not be considered.~~ USSA may nominate up to 5 athletes, per gender, in the combined Slopestyle & Big Air athlete group if the athletes combined best two results rank them higher than athletes in other sports using the criteria outlined

above. Athletes will be selected in order of ranking until all available quota spots are filled. Only athletes who are eligible as outlined under section 1.1.3 will be considered. If during the application of this process a tie occurs then USSA will use the following tie-breaking mechanisms in order of priority:

- a. Single highest point result during the selection events
- b. Second highest point result during the selection events
- c. Highest World Ranking using the following rankings lists for each event:
 - The most current World Cup Parallel Giant Slalom Ranking
 - The most current FIS Snowboardcross Points List Ranking
 - The most current World Snowboarding TTR Halfpipe Points List Ranking
 - The most current World Snowboarding TTR Slopestyle Points List Ranking
- d. Third highest point result during selection events

2.3 The following committee is responsible for making discretionary selections:

USSA President and CEO
USSA Executive Vice President of Athletics
U.S. Snowboarding Director
USSA Snowboarding Board Athlete Representative

2.3.1 Specify the process that will be used to identify and handle any potential conflicts of interest involving a member of the committee.

Conflicts of interest may arise for Selection Committee Members during the team selection process. Conflicts of interest exist when a Selection Committee member stands to benefit privately from a decision made by the Selection Committee. A conflict may arise, but is not limited to, when a Selection Committee Member is in a position to participate in discussion or a vote concerning an athlete whom he or she coaches or trains privately who is being considered for a position on the Team. In the interest of assuring a fair selection process, the following rules will be followed by the Selection Committee when a conflict of interest arises:

Any member of the selection committee that has a possible conflict of interest must disclose it. If such conflict exists, the selection

committee member must recuse him/herself from committee discussions and voting. Further, the committee member should not otherwise influence other members of the committee in the nomination process. However, a committee member who recused him/herself, but who has relevant and necessary information with respect to athlete performance, for example a national team coach or high performance director, may, if requested by the selection committee, provide such information to the committee so long as such information is provided in a fair and unbiased manner.

3. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES

- 3.1. Prior to acceptance of nominations by the USOC, the USSA has jurisdiction over potential nominees.

An athlete who is to be nominated to the Team by the USSA may be removed as a nominee for any of the following reasons, as determined by the USSA:

- 3.1.1. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written letter to the USSA CEO.
- 3.1.2. Injury or illness as certified by a physician (or medical staff) approved by the USSA. If an athlete refuses verification of his/her illness or injury by a physician (or medical staff) approved by the USSA, his/her injury will be assumed to be disabling and he/she may be removed.
- 3.1.3. Violation of the USSA's Code of Conduct (Attachment 1).

An athlete who is removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per the USSA's Bylaws (USSA Bylaws Article IX Section B) and the USOC's Bylaws, Section 9.

- 3.2. Once an athlete nomination is accepted by the USOC, the USOC has jurisdiction over the Team, at which time, in addition to the USSA's Code of Conduct, the USOC's Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures apply. The USOC's Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures can be found at: <http://www2.teamusa.org/For-Athletes/Athlete-Ombudsman/Games-Information.aspx>
- 3.3. An athlete may be removed as a nominee to the Team or from the Team for an adjudicated violation of IOC, WADA, FIS, USADA and/or USOC anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures, as applicable.

4. REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES

- 4.1. Process for determining replacement athlete(s) should a vacancy occur:
 - 4.1.1. Prior to submission of Entries by Name to the Local Organizing Committee, including any applicable group or committee; Replacements athletes will be identified using the same method of selection specified in Section 1 and 2 of this document.
 - 4.1.2. After submission of Entries by Name to the Local Organizing Committee, including any applicable group or committee; Replacements athletes will be identified using the same method of selection specified in Section 1 and 2 of this document.

5. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

USSA will retain the approved Selection Procedures and all supporting documents, including scouting or evaluation forms, etc., and data from the selection process for six months past the date of the Closing Ceremony of the Games.

6. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

In addition to the USOC Code of Conduct, the following documents are required to be signed by an athlete as a condition of nomination to the Olympic Games and are included as attachments:

USSA Code of Conduct (Attachment 1)

7. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES

The USOC approved Selection Procedures (complete and unaltered) will be posted/published by the NGB in the following locations:

- 7.1. These procedures will be posted to www.ussa.org as soon as possible, but not more than five (5) business days following notice of approval by the USOC.

8. DATE OF NOMINATION

The Nomination of Athletes form, including replacements, will be announced to all athletes and submitted to the USOC on or before: January __, 2018

9. MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION

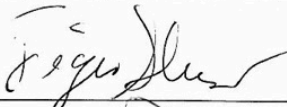
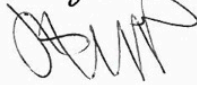

Any mandatory training and/or competitions after the date of nomination will be announced at least thirty (30) days prior to the start of training or competition. Location, schedule and duration of any mandatory training and/or competition will be posted on USSA's website at www.ussa.org.

Athletes who have questions regarding their opportunity to compete that are not answered by USSA may contact the USOC Athlete Ombudsman, _____, by:

- Telephone at (719) 866-5000
- Toll-free telephone at (888) ATHLETE (1-888-284-5383)
- E-mail at
- www.athleteombudsman.org

15. USSA SIGNATURES

I certify that I have read and understand the standards/criteria set by FIS and incorporated those standards/criteria into our Selection Procedures. I further certify that the information provided herein regarding Athlete Selection Procedures represents the method approved by USSA.

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
USSA President & CEO	Tiger Shaw		12/14/16
U.S. Snowboarding Director	Jeremy Forster		10/10/16
USOC Athletes' Advisory Council Representative*	Grete Eliassen		10/24/16

ATTACHEMENT 1 – USSA CODE OF CONDUCT

Membership in the United States Ski and Snowboard Association is a privilege, not a right. All USSA members (athletes, coaches, and officials) when participating in any USSA activity must agree to conduct themselves according to USSA's core values of Team, Loyalty, Integrity, Respect, Perseverance, and Accountability and abide by the spirit and dictates of this Code of Conduct. All members must agree to comport themselves in a sportsmanlike manner, and are responsible for their actions while attending or participating in all USSA activities (including but not limited to camps, competitions, and projects).

Sportsmanlike conduct is defined as, but is not limited to: respect for competition officials, resort employees, and the skiing and snowboarding public, respect for facilities, privileges and operating procedures, the use of courtesy and good manners, acting responsibly and maturely, refraining from the use of profane or abusive language, and abstinence from illegal or immoderate use of alcohol and use of illegal or banned drugs.

While participating in any USSA activity:

1. USSA members shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the International Ski Federation Statutes, the United States Olympic Committee Bylaws, the USSA Bylaws, and the USSA Code of Conduct.
2. USSA members shall conduct themselves at all times and in all places as befits worthy representatives of the United States of America, the United States Olympic Committee, USSA, their region, division, state or club and in accordance with the best traditions of national and international competition.
3. USSA members are responsible for knowledge of and adherence to competition rules and procedures. Members are also responsible for knowledge of and adherence to the rules and procedures of the USSA national teams, camps or other projects when participating in such.
4. USSA members shall maintain high standards of moral and ethical conduct, which includes self-control and responsible behavior, consideration for the physical and emotional well-being of others, and courtesy and good manners.
5. USSA members shall abide by USSA rules and procedures while traveling to and from and participating in official USSA activities.
6. USSA members shall abstain from illegal and/or immoderate consumption of alcohol. Absolutely no consumption of alcohol is permitted for those individuals under the age of 21. Members under 21 years of age shall not participate in gatherings involving consumption of alcohol unless it is an official USSA or event organizer function.

7. No USSA member shall violate the customs, travel or currency regulations of a country while traveling with a USSA group or on a USSA ticket.

8. No USSA member shall commit a criminal act.

9. No USSA member shall engage in any conduct that could be perceived as harassment based upon gender, age, race, religion or disability.

10. USSA members will avoid profane or abusive language and disruptive behavior.

11. USSA members agree to abide by anti-doping rules and procedures established by WADA, USADA, and/or FIS.

Failure to comply with any of the above provisions may lead to disciplinary action by the appropriate team or competition leader. Disciplinary action may include:

- Removal from the team trip or training camp.
- Suspension from training and/or competition.
- Elimination of coaching, travel, and other benefits.
- Forfeiture of USSA membership.

USSA is committed to principles of fairness, due process and equal opportunity. Members are entitled to be treated fairly and in compliance with USSA's Bylaws, policies and procedures. Members are entitled to notice and an opportunity for a hearing before being prevented from participating in protected competition as that term is defined by the USOC Bylaws. Information on the processes for grievances, suspensions and appeals is available at www.ussa.org.

Nothing in this Code shall be deemed to restrict the individual freedom of a USSA member in matters not involving activities in which one could not be perceived as representing USSA. In choices of appearance, lifestyle, behavior and speech while not representing USSA, competitors shall have complete freedom, provided their statements and actions do not adversely affect the name and reputation of the USSA. However, in those events where one is representing or could be perceived as representing USSA, USSA demands that its members understand and agree to behave in a manner consistent with the best traditions of sportsmanship and USSA's core values.