

United States Ski & Snowboard Association

2019 Cross Country World U23 Championship Team Selection Criteria

Eligibility for Consideration

The USSA will consider for selection only those USSA members in good standing who have an active U.S. passport, an active U.S. coded FIS license and who meet FIS minimum eligibility standards.

Criteria Guidelines

- This criteria is for the year of 2019 only. Criteria will be reevaluated in May 2019 at the spring congress and changes may be made for the 2020 selection year.
- USSA policy mandates that team selection criteria shall be principally objective (or performance-based), that coaches' discretion must be limited to no more than twenty-five percent (25%) of total team selected, and that available start rights and team spots will not necessarily be filled.
- The USSA Development coach is responsible for applying the selection criteria set forth herein, subject to the oversight of the Head Coach of the U.S. Ski Team.
- Up to six (6) athletes per gender shall be selected to the team based solely upon their World Cup competition results during the objective selection period.
- Up to four (4) male and four (4) female athletes may start for the United States in each event.
- The team selected by USSA may consist of any number of athletes up to the quota set by the International Ski Federation (FIS).
- Objective selections shall be based on the results achieved by athletes in FIS Competitions held between January 11, 2018 and December 31, 2018, and competitions at the 2019 U.S. Cross Country Championships, tentatively scheduled for Jan. 3-8, 2019 (the "selection period"). 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 USSA.

General Criteria

- 1) Athletes finishing in the top-30 of an individual World Cup event shall be selected to the team, unless application of this criterion would result in a total of more than six (6) selections per gender in which case USSA shall use the following tie-breaking mechanisms in order:
 - Most World Cup points.
 - Lowest current USSA National Ranking List overall points.
- 2) Up to two (2) athletes per gender may be selected to the team based solely upon FIS race performance held within the objective selection period. Male athletes achieving two (2) FIS point results under 30 FIS points and female athletes achieving two (2) FIS point results under 30 FIS points in any FIS sanctioned race held between January 11 and December 31, 2018 shall be

selected to the team, unless application of this criterion would result in a total of more than two (2) objective selections per gender, in which case the following tie-break procedure will be employed.

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. The fourth-best individual finish in the selection period
5. Best current rank on the USSA overall National Ranking List

- 3) If fewer than five (5) athletes per gender are selected to the team based upon both the objective criteria listed above and coaches' discretion, then USSA shall ensure that it fields a representative team by selecting as many additional athletes as may be necessary to bring the total team size up to, but not limited to, five (5) athletes per gender based on an athlete's best two individual U.S. Cross Country Championship races during the selection period, as indicated above, using World Cup scoring system outlined in the USSA Competition Guide.

Discretionary Selection Policy

USSA may select athletes to the team using coaches' discretion. The number of individuals selected through coaches' discretion cannot exceed twenty-five percent (25%) of the total named team. 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) Attitude and commitment of athletes.
- 4) Physical fitness level.
- 5) Illness or injury during the selection period.
- 6) Indicia of medal potential in future Olympic or World Championship competition, which would be materially enhanced by selection to team.
- 7) Other unanticipated failure of objective criteria to select an athlete likely to achieve competition results consistent with USSA program goals for the World U23 Championships.

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 World U23 Championships.