

United States Ski & Snowboard

2020-21 Cross Country World Cup Team Selection Criteria

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.

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.

Criteria Guidelines:

- 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.
- The U.S. Ski Team Cross Country Program Director is responsible for applying the selection criteria set forth herein, subject to the oversight of the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Chief Executive Officer.
- No minimum team size will be established.
- The team selected by U.S. Ski & Snowboard may consist of any number of athletes up to the FIS World Cup quota for the United States.
- The quota of start rights per nation is set annually by the FIS.
- Objective selections shall be based on the results achieved by athletes in FIS competitions scored to the FIS points list, individual World Cup competitions held during the 2019/20 and 2020/21 seasons, U.S. Ski & Snowboard SuperTour events held in the 2019/20 and 2020/21 seasons, select Nor/Am competitions held in the 2019/20 and 2020/21 seasons, and the 2021 World Junior / World U23 Championships.
- Athletes who have not met the General Criteria may be selected to the team via discretion if they satisfy any of the following:
 - Outstanding competition results from the 2019/20 and 2020/21 seasons, including as a member of a team event, indicating a potential for World Cup success.
 - Recent positive direction or trend of competition results indicating a potential for Olympic or World Championship success.
 - Indication of medal potential in future Olympic or World Championship competition (such as international age group results and age rankings) that would be materially enhanced by selection to the team.
- Discretionary selections, if any, may be based on a variety of factors, including competitions conducted outside of the selection period.

- Team status does not automatically include funding or ski service from U.S. Ski & Snowboard. SuperTour leaders and discretionary picks will be required to pay a fee for waxing/service and/or may be asked to provide their own serviceman/technician.

General Criteria:

Athletes shall be selected to the team based solely upon their competition results during the selection period. Athletes selected objectively from World Cup racing will be scored and selected solely on the basis of individual finishes; this scoring will be posted alongside SuperTour points spreadsheets. Athletes meeting below criteria shall be selected to the team, unless application of these criteria would result in a total team size exceeding the FIS quota, in which case U.S. Ski & Snowboard shall use the following tie-breaking mechanisms in order:

- (a) Most individual World Cup points
- (b) Lowest current FIS points (sprint or distance, whichever is lower)
- (c) Lowest current U.S. Ski & Snowboard points

1. Individuals who meet the following criteria will be selected to the World Cup Cross Country Team for **Period 1** (November 27 - December 20, 2020):

- Attain a top-50 World Cup Overall ranking at the conclusion of the 2019/20 season.
- Attain a Sprint World Cup or Distance World Cup ranking within the top-30 (women) or top-40 (men) at the conclusion the 2019/20 season.
- Win the 2019/20 Overall U.S. Ski & Snowboard SuperTour title.

2. Individuals who meet the following criteria will be selected to the World Cup Cross Country Team (in the following order) for **Period 2 – Tour de Ski** (January 1-10, 2021).

- Considering only individual World Cup finishes, attain a Sprint World Cup or Distance World Cup ranking within the top-30 (women) or top-40 (men) at the completion of World Cup Period 1 (December 20, 2020).
- Considering only individual World Cup finishes, attain an Overall World Cup ranking within the top-50 (women and men) at the completion of World Cup Period 1 (December 20, 2020).
- Win the 2019/20 Overall U.S. Ski & Snowboard SuperTour title.

3. Individuals who meet the following criteria will be selected to the World Cup Cross Country Team for World Cups (in the following order) occurring in **Period 3** (January 16 – February 7, 2021).
 - Considering only individual World Cup finishes, attain a Sprint World Cup or Distance World Cup ranking within the top-30 (women) or top-40 (men) at the completion of World Cup Period 2 (January 10, 2021).
 - Considering only individual World Cup finishes, attain an Overall World Cup ranking within the top-50 (women and men) at the completion of World Cup Period 2 (January 10, 2021).
4. Individuals who meet the following criteria will be selected to the World Cup Cross Country Team for World Cups (in the following order) occurring in **Period 4** (February 20-21, 2021).
 - Considering only individual World Cup finishes, attain a Sprint World Cup or Distance World Cup ranking within the top-30 (women) or top-40 (men) at the completion of World Cup Period 3 (February 7, 2021).
 - Considering only individual World Cup finishes, attain an Overall World Cup ranking within the top-50 (women and men) at the completion of World Cup Period 3 (February 7, 2021).
5. Individuals who meet the following criteria will be selected to the World Cup Cross Country Team for World Cups (in the following order) occurring in **Period 5** (March 12-21, 2021).
 - Considering only individual World Cup finishes, attain a Sprint World Cup or Distance World Cup ranking within the top-30 (women) or top-40 (men) at the completion of World Cup Period 4 (February 21, 2021).
 - Considering only individual World Cup finishes, attain an Overall World Cup ranking within the top-50 (women and men) at the completion of World Cup Period 4 (February 21, 2021).

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 Cup competitions he/she has been selected for.

Discretionary Selections:

All discretionary selections will be reviewed by a discretionary selection review group comprised of the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Cross Country Sport Development Manager, the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Chief Executive Officer (CEO), and the athlete representative from that sport who is a member of the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Board. If the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Board Athlete Representative is also a currently competing athlete then another athlete, who is not actively competing, will be selected by the Athletes' Council to be the representative in this group.

U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD APPEAL AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

Any member who believes that he/she has wrongfully been denied membership on any team whose members are selected through participation in "protected competition," as that term is defined in the USOC Bylaws, shall be entitled to appeal such decision.

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

ATHLETE OMBUDSMAN

Athletes who have questions regarding their opportunity to compete that are not answered by U.S. Ski & Snowboard may contact the USOC Athlete Ombudsman, Kacie Wallace, by:

- Telephone at (719) 866-5000
- Toll-free telephone at (888) ATHLETE (1-888-284-5383)
- E-mail at Kacie.wallace@usoc.org
- www.athleteombudsman.org
- <http://www.teamusa.org/For-Athletes/Athlete-Ombudsman.aspx>