

U. S. Ski & Snowboard 2020-21 Alpine World Cup Selection Criteria

Eligibility for Consideration:

The U.S. Ski Team 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.

For Men's Events:

- **Nation quota:** athletes must be ranked top-80 FIS world rank or be top-60 WCSL in the event being selected for.
- **Basic quota:** athletes must be top-150 FIS world rank in the event being selected for or top-30 WCSL in one of the following events SL, GS, SG, DH or AC.
- If the event is Alpine Combined, athletes must have 80 FIS points or better in the speed event being used in the Alpine Combined.
- For an athlete to take a training run in WC Downhill they must have 80 FIS points or better.

For Women's Events:

- **Nation quota:** athletes must be ranked top-120 FIS world rank or be top-60 WCSL in the event being selected for.
- **Basic quota:** athletes must be top-350 FIS world rank in the event being selected for or top-30 WCSL in one of the following events: SL, GS, SG, DH or AC.
- If the event is Alpine Combined, athletes must have 80 FIS points or better in the speed event being used in the Alpine Combined.
- For an athlete to take a training run in WC Downhill they must have 80 FIS points or better.

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 Gender Head Coach is responsible for applying the selection criteria set forth herein, subject to the oversight of the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Alpine Director.
- 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 for each discipline will be calculated and posted on the FIS website.
- Objective selections shall be based on current season discipline WCSL points, current discipline WC points, current FIS world ranks, and Europa Cup and NorAm results in the discipline as outlined below.
- Discretionary selections, if any, may be based on a variety of factors as outlined below.
- Achieving a start right does not include funding from U.S. Ski Team, nor does it automatically include ski service. The U.S. Ski Team will provide onsite event logistical support of hotel, coaching, and representation.
- Any athlete accessing a WC will be representing the USA and therefore will be provided a U.S. Ski & Snowboard uniform. This must be worn at all times in the field of play.

General Criteria:

Athletes shall be selected to the team based solely upon WCSL points, WC points, FIS Point rankings, Europa Cup, and NorAm results. Athletes shall be selected to the team according to and in order of the criteria below until the available quota is filled:

1. Current top-30 WCSL ranking in the event
2. 500-point racers will be awarded priority to quota spots above all other selection methods if determined by the head coach.
3. Europa Cup podium finish – athlete will be entered in the next available World Cup in the same discipline.
4. Winners of World Cup fixed spots through the NorAm circuit from the prior season will have their start rights when they meet all FIS eligibility criteria.

If application of these criteria would result in a total team size exceeding the current FIS quota, the following tie-breaking mechanism (in order) shall be used:

- Best FIS points in the event.

Coaches Discretion:

If quota spots in a race are unfilled by the objective criteria above, coach's discretion may be used to select athletes according to the following guidelines:

- Current top-60 WC ranking in the event (except for the first race of the season by event, for which WCSL top-60 will be used).
- Current top-60 WCSL ranking in the event.
- Athletes who will be placed on the board top-45 according to current FIS world ranks will be awarded next priority if they are skiing to the level of their world rank.
- Previous performance in the event being selected for that would indicate a strong likelihood of performance consistent with team goals and objectives, including:
 - Attaining a start position no worse than 45.
 - Demonstrated ability in training, races, and time trials that would indicate a strong likelihood of scoring World Cup points.
 - Outstanding performances in Europa Cup and or NorAm races.
- Indication of podium potential in future World Cup competition (such as international age-group results and rankings) that would be materially enhanced by selection.
- Indication of a lack of progress after many World Cup opportunities may negatively affect a discretionary selection.

Proposed discretionary selections will be reviewed and approved by the Alpine Director together with the Gender Head Coach.

Training Opportunities associated with a World Cup start

Training opportunities leading into a World Cup will be offered for certain events. These opportunities will be decided on by the Head Coach and respective event Head Coach with the goal of achieving team and individual athlete success. Generally, this will begin with access to the WC venue the day prior to the race, however, it can also include training days leading into the event. The timeframe will be no longer than one (1) week prior to the event unless approved by the Alpine Director.

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 USOPC 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

USOPC Athlete Ombudsman

Athletes who have questions regarding their opportunity to compete that are not answered by U.S. Ski & Snowboard may contact the USOPC 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@usathlete.org
- <https://www.teamusa.org/athlete-ombudsman>