

United States Ski & Snowboard

2023-24 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 of Sport.
- 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.
- The FIS World Cup rules mandate that an athlete must carry 150 FIS points or better to start a World Cup. Sprint World Cup starts are based on the current FIS sprint list and distance World Cup starts are based on the current distance list. The valid FIS points list for athlete eligibility during the 2023-24 World Cup season are:
 - Ruka 2nd FIS Points list
 - Gällivare, Östersund, Trondheim 3rd FIS Points list
 - FIS Tour de Ski, Oberhof 4th FIS Points list
 - Goms, Canmore, Minneapolis 5th FIS Points list
 - Lahti, Oslo 6th FIS Points list
 - Drammen, Falun 7th FIS Points list
- Objective selections shall be based on the results achieved by athletes in individual World Cup competitions held during the 2022/23 and 2023/24 seasons, U.S. Ski & Snowboard SuperTour events held in the 2022/23 and 2023/24 seasons and select Nor/Am competitions held in the 2022/23 and 2023/24 seasons, and the 2024 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 2022/23 and 2023/24 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. Athletes meeting the 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 24 - December 17, 2023):
 - Attain a Sprint World Cup standing or Distance World Cup standing within the top-30 (women) or top-40 (men) at the conclusion the 2022/23 season.
 - Win the 2022/23 Overall U.S. Ski & Snowboard SuperTour title.
2. Individuals who meet the following criteria will be selected to the World Cup Cross Country Team for **Period 2 – Tour de Ski** (December 30, 2023 – January 7, 2024).
 - Attain a Sprint World Cup standing or Distance World Cup standing within the top-30 (women) or top-40 (men) at the completion of World Cup Period 1 (December 17, 2023).

- The leaders of the Overall U.S. Ski & Snowboard SuperTour classification (man and woman) at the completion of the second weekend of fall SuperTour racing (December 17, 2023).
3. Individuals who meet the following criteria will be selected to the World Cup Cross Country Team for World Cups occurring in **Period 3** (January 19-28, 2024).
- Attain a Sprint World Cup standing or Distance World Cup standing within the top-30 (women) or top-40 (men) at the completion of World Cup Period 2 (January 7, 2024).
 - The leaders of the Overall U.S. Ski & Snowboard SuperTour classification (man and woman) at the completion of U.S. National Championships (January 7, 2024).
4. Individuals who meet the following criteria will be selected (in the following order) to the World Cup Cross Country Team for World Cups occurring in **Canmore, CAN** (February 9-13, 2024). The USA will have a maximum quota of 12 men and 12 women per race when racing in the USA and Canada. Note that at least 2 of the 12 athletes per gender must be U23s or younger to comply with World Cup rules.
- The leaders of the Overall U.S. Ski & Snowboard SuperTour classification (man and woman) on (January 7, 2024).
 - Any athletes named via Coaches' Discretion (see above).
 - Attain an individual World Cup Top-30 result (distance or sprint) between November 24, 2023 and January 21, 2024. Time-of-day results are not included in this selection. Athletes securing a top-30 distance result will receive starts in the Canmore distance races. Athletes securing a top-30 sprint result will receive starts in the Canmore sprint races.
 - Attain a Sprint World Cup standing or Distance World Cup standing within the top-50 (women) or top-50 (men) on January 21, 2024.
 - Should there be any remaining positions after the Objective and Discretionary selection has been applied, those positions will be filled by selecting the athletes ranking highest in the CAN/USA World Cup Selection Lists for Sprint and Distance respectively on January 21, 2024. The CAN/USA World Cup Sprint Selection List will be used to select athletes to the Canmore World Cup Sprints, and the CAN/USA World Cup Distance Selection List will be used to select athletes to the Canmore World Cup distance races.
 - The CAN/USA World Cup Selection Lists are an accumulation of SuperTour points scored during the selection period (December 12, 2023 – January 21,

2024) using the athlete's best 2 finishes in a single discipline (sprint or distance) and using the CAN/USA World Cup Selection List scoring system outlined below.

- Individual sprint events to be scored for the purpose of the CAN/USA World Cup Sprint Selection List will only consider qualification round finish placing.
 - All 4 individual races during the U.S. National Championships and SuperTour period (Jan 2-7, 2024) will include the following bonus points for the purpose of the CAN/USA World Cup Selection List only: 1st place = 15 points, 2nd place = 10 points, and 3rd place = 5 points. For the purpose of the CAN/USA World Cup Selection List only, U.S. National Championship and SuperTour participants (Jan 2-7, 2023) will receive standard SuperTour points (i.e. 1st place = 30 points, 2nd place = 25 points, etc.) plus the above bonus points awarded for podium finishes.
 - For the purposes of the CAN/USA World Cup Selection List only, athletes that are not US citizens will not be included in the scoring, and US athletes will move up the results/scoring list as foreign athletes are removed from the list.
 - Should there be a tie in points for the last available quota spot, the following tie-breaking mechanism shall be used:
 - Single best SuperTour or U.S. Nationals finish placing in the discipline being considered (sprint or distance).
 - Next best SuperTour or U.S. Nationals finish placing in the discipline being considered (sprint or distance).
 - Best FIS points in the discipline being considered (sprint or distance).
5. Individuals who meet the following criteria will be selected (in the following order) to the World Cup Cross Country Team for World Cups occurring in **Minneapolis, USA** (February 17-18, 2024). The USA will have a maximum quota of 12 men and 12 women per race when racing in the USA and Canada. Note that at least 2 of the 12 athletes must be U23s or younger.
- The leaders of the Overall U.S. Ski & Snowboard SuperTour classification (man and woman) on (January 7, 2024).
 - Any athletes named via Coaches' Discretion (see above).
 - Attain an individual World Cup Top-30 result (distance or sprint) between November 24, 2023 and January 21, 2024. Time-of-day results are not included in this selection. Athletes securing a top-30 distance result will receive a start in the Minneapolis distance race. Athletes securing a top-30 sprint result will receive a start in the Minneapolis sprint race.
 - Attain a Sprint World Cup standing or Distance World Cup standing within the top-50 (women) or top-50 (men) on January 21, 2024.
 - Up to one (1) man and one (1) woman who finish in the top-6 in an individual distance event or the individual sprint event at the 2024 U23 World

Championships shall be named to the Team. An athlete with a top-6 finish in the sprint event will have a start in the Minneapolis sprint. An athlete with a top-6 finish in the individual distance events will have a start in the Minneapolis distance race. If more than one athlete per gender meets this standard, the following tie-breaking mechanism will be employed:

- Single best individual finish at the World U23 Championships.
 - Lowest FIS points in the discipline (sprint or distance) matching the event the athlete is using for World Cup qualification.
- Up to one (1) man and one (1) woman who finish in the top-6 in an individual distance event or an individual sprint event at the 2024 Junior World Championships shall be named to the Team. An athlete with a top-6 finish in the sprint event will have a start in the Minneapolis sprint. An athlete with a top-6 finish in the individual distance events will have a start in the Minneapolis distance race. If more than one athlete per gender meets this standard, the following tie-breaking mechanism will be employed:
 - Single best individual finish at the Junior World Championships.
 - Lowest FIS points in the discipline (sprint or distance) matching the event the athlete is using for World Cup qualification.
- Should there be any remaining positions after the Objective and Discretionary selection has been applied, those positions will be filled by selecting the athletes ranking highest in the CAN/USA World Cup Selection Lists for Sprint and Distance respectively on January 21, 2024. The CAN/USA World Cup Sprint Selection List will be used to select athletes to the Minneapolis World Cup Sprint, and the CAN/USA World Cup Distance Selection List will be used to select athletes to the Minneapolis World Cup distance race.
- The CAN/USA World Cup Selection List is an accumulation of SuperTour points scored during the selection period using the athlete's best 2 finishes in a single discipline (sprint or distance) and using the CAN/USA World Cup Selection List scoring system outlined below.
 - Individual sprint events to be scored for the purpose of the CAN/USA World Cup Sprint Selection List will only consider qualification round finish placing.
 - All 4 individual races during the U.S. National Championships and SuperTour period (Jan 2-7, 2024) will include the following bonus points for the purpose of the CAN/USA World Cup Selection List only: 1st place = 15 points, 2nd place = 10 points, and 3rd place = 5 points. For the purpose of the CAN/USA World Cup Selection List only, U.S. National Championship and SuperTour participants (Jan 2-7, 2023) will receive standard SuperTour points (i.e. 1st place = 30 points, 2nd place = 25 points, etc.) plus the above bonus points awarded for podium finishes.

- For the purposes of the CAN/USA World Cup Selection List only, athletes that are not US citizens will not be included in the scoring, and US athletes will move up the results/scoring list as foreign athletes are removed from the list.
 - Should there be a tie in points for the last available quota spot, the following tie-breaking mechanism shall be used:
 - Single best SuperTour or U.S. Nationals finish placing in the discipline being considered (sprint or distance).
 - Next best SuperTour or U.S. Nationals finish placing in the discipline being considered (sprint or distance).
 - Best FIS points in the discipline being considered (sprint or distance).
6. Individuals who meet the following criteria will be selected (in the following order) to the World Cup Cross Country Team for World Cups occurring in **Period 5** (March 1-17, 2024).
- Attain a Sprint World Cup standing or Distance World Cup standing within the top-30 (women) or top-40 (men) at the completion of World Cup Period 4 (February 18, 2024).
 - The leaders of the Overall U.S. Ski & Snowboard SuperTour classification (man and woman) on (February 18, 2024).

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:

Discretionary nominations are made by a World Cup Discretionary Selection Working Group that is comprised of athlete representatives, club coaches, and members of the U.S. Ski Team coaching staff. All nominations are then sent to the Discretionary Selection Review Committee (see below) for final approval, and posted here: <https://usskiandsnowboard.org/> For more information about the operations of the Working Group, please contact the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Cross Country Program Director at: chris.grover@usskiandsnowboard.org

All discretionary selections will be reviewed by a Discretionary Selection Review Committee comprised of the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Cross Country Development Director, the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Chief of Sport, 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>