



United States Ski & Snowboard

2024-25 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 at the time of the competition to start a World Cup. Athletes with 150 FIS Distance points or better are eligible to start a distance or a sprint World Cup. Athletes with 150 FIS Sprint points are eligible to start a sprint World Cup only.
- Objective selections shall be based on the results achieved by athletes in individual World Cup competitions held during the 2023/24 and 2024/25 seasons, U.S. Ski & Snowboard SuperTour events held in the 2023/24 and 2024/25 seasons and select Nor/Am competitions held in the 2023/24 and 2024/25 seasons.
- 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 2023/24 and 2024/25 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 29 - December 15, 2024):

- Attain a Sprint World Cup standing or Distance World Cup standing within the top-30 (women) or top-40 (men) at the conclusion the 2023/24 season.
- Win the 2023/24 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 28, 2024 – January 5, 2025).
 - 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 15, 2024).
 - The leaders of the Overall U.S. Ski & Snowboard SuperTour classification (man and woman) at the completion of the second weekend of fall SuperTour and Nor/Am racing (December 17, 2024).
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 17 – February 16, 2025).
 - 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 5, 2025).
 - The leaders of the Overall U.S. Ski & Snowboard SuperTour classification (man and woman) at the completion of U.S. National Championships (January 7, 2025).
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 **Period 4** (March 15-23, 2025).
 - 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 3 (February 16, 2025).
 - The leaders of the Overall U.S. Ski & Snowboard SuperTour classification (man and woman) on (February 22, 2025).

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

The Office of the Athlete Ombuds Office provides cost-free, independent, and confidential advice regarding athlete rights, grievance procedures and any other related guidance pertaining to selection procedures and can assist in mediating disputes between athletes and NGB.

To contact the Athlete Ombuds Office:

PHONE: (719) 866-5000

EMAIL: ombudsman@usathlete.org

WEBSITE: www.usopc.org/athlete-ombuds