



**2025 Freeski/Freestyle World Championship  
Selection Criteria  
St Mortiz/Engadin, SUI March 17-30, 2025**

**1. SELECTION CRITERIA GUIDELINES**

U.S. Ski & Snowboard's selection philosophy is aimed at fielding teams of athletes that are capable of winning medals or show potential for future medal success. Athletes will be selected to the World Championship Team based on the following principles.

- a. No minimum team size will be established.
- b. U.S. Ski & Snowboard policy mandates that team selection criteria shall be principally objective and performance-based, but it may also select athletes to the team using coaches' discretion.

**2. 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, religion, age, gender, disability, national origin, or sexual orientation and with fair notice and opportunity for a hearing before declaring any such individual ineligible to participate.

An athlete shall be ineligible for consideration if at the time selections are made he/she is not fit to compete due to any injury or illness from which he/she is not expected to recover adequately by the time of the 2025 World Championship as verified by a member of the U.S. Ski & Snowboard medical staff. Such determination shall be at the discretion of the respective U.S. Ski & Snowboard Sport Director, and VP of High Performance in consultation with the Sports Medicine Director, High Performance staff, Discipline Head Coach, the respective Head Team Physician, and the Athlete's designated physician.

**3. TEAM SIZE**

The International Ski and Snowboard Federation (FIS) has established the following rules regarding team composition and starts at the 2025 World Championships in Freeski and Freestyle: a maximum of four (4) athletes per gender, per discipline; a maximum team size of twenty (20) per gender and a maximum of thirty-six (36) overall athletes representing any one nation. Each of these totals excludes reigning FIS World Champions, who count above the stated quotas (see start rights below). Athletes can be named to compete in the following World Championship events: Aerials/Team Aerials, Halfpipe, Slopestyle/Big Air, Moguls/Dual Moguls, and Skicross.

**4. START RIGHTS**

The start rights, per discipline and gender, are subject to the U.S. earning those quota spots in the respective discipline and gender through the International Ski and Snowboard Federation (FIS) respective quota process for each discipline. The quota allocation system is described in the FIS World Championships Rules published within the World Championship Invitation on the



[FIS website](#). Up to four (4) male and up to four (4) female athletes may start for the United States in each discipline. Defending Champions, Hanna Faulhaber (Freeski Halfpipe) and Troy Podmilsak (Freeski Big Air) will have confirmed start rights in the stated disciplines in addition to the maximum team size four (4).

## 5. TEAM SELECTION PROCEDURE AND CRITERIA

The Freestyle and Freeski Sport Directors are responsible for applying the respective selection criteria set forth herein, subject to the approval of the Chief of Sport for U.S. Ski & Snowboard. Objective selections shall be based on the results achieved by athletes in competitions held in the 2023-24 season and in season results from the 2024-25 season as defined within each event criterion below. Discretionary selections, if any, may be based on a variety of factors as outlined below. Criteria are applied in order of priority as described below:

### A. Objective Criteria:

#### Freeski Halfpipe

A1\*. One (1) athlete per gender will be nominated for the event based on the following criteria.

The top one (1) U.S. athlete, respective of gender, ranked in the top three (3) on the 2025 FIS Base List, shall be nominated.

- Women - Hanna Faulhaber<sup>◇</sup>
- Men - Alex Ferreira

<sup>◇</sup> Athlete is also defending World Champion and will not be included in team size. No other athlete meets A1 criteria.

A2\*\*. Up to two (2) athletes, per gender, will be nominated for the event based on an athlete achieving at least one (1) top three (3) Halfpipe World Cup or X-Games result or during the 2024-25 season, as of March 3, 2025. *A third athlete may qualify by Objective Criteria A2 if no athlete from the respective gender meets the above Objective Criteria A1.*

A3. If applicable, the remaining quota spot(s) may be filled by the 5.B. Coaches' Discretion Criteria outlined below.

#### Freeski Slopestyle & Big Air

A4\*. One (1) athlete per gender will be nominated for the event based on the following criteria.

The top one (1) U.S. athlete, respective of gender, ranked in the top three (3) on the 2025 FIS Slopestyle Base List, shall be nominated. *\*Amended for clarity August 29th, 2024 to match preliminary notification.*

- Women - NA
- Men - Mac Forehand

A5\*\*. Up to two (2) athletes, per gender, will be nominated for the event based on an athlete achieving at least one (1) top three (3) Slopestyle/Big Air World Cup or X-Games result or during the 2024-25 season, as of March 3, 2025. *A third athlete may qualify by Objective Criteria A5 if no athlete from the respective gender meets the above Objective Criteria A4.*

A6. If applicable, the remaining quota spot(s) may be filled by the 5.B. Coaches' Discretion Criteria outlined below.



## Moguls

A7\*. One (1) athlete per gender will be nominated for the event based on the following criteria. The top one (1) U.S. athlete, respective of gender, ranked in the top three (3) on the 2025 FIS Moguls Base List shall be nominated.

- Women - Jaelin Kauf
- Men - NA

A8\*\*. Up to two (2) athletes, per gender, will be nominated for the event based on an athlete achieving at least one (1) top three (3) Mogul World Cup result during the 2024-25 season, as of March 3, 2025. *A third athlete may qualify by Objective Criteria A8 if no athlete from the respective gender meets the above Objective Criteria A7.*

A9. If applicable, the remaining quota spot(s) may be filled by the 5.B. Coaches' Discretion Criteria outlined below.

## Aerials

A10\*. One (1) athlete per gender will be nominated for the event based on the following criteria. The top one (1) U.S. athlete, respective of gender, ranked in the top three (3) on the 2025 FIS Aerials Base List, shall be nominated.

- Women - Winter Vinecki
- Men - Christopher Lillis

A11\*\*. Up to two (2) athletes, per gender, will be nominated for the event based on an athlete achieving at least one (1) top three (3) Aerial World Cup result during the 2024-25 season, as of March 3, 2025. *A third athlete may qualify by Objective Criteria A11 if no athlete from the respective gender meets the above Objective Criteria A10.*

A12. If applicable, the remaining quota spot(s) may be filled by the 5.B. Coaches' Discretion Criteria outlined below.

## Ski Cross

A13\*\*. Up to two (2) athletes, per gender, will be nominated for the event based on an athlete achieving at least one (1) top three (3) Ski Cross World Cup result during the 2024-25 season, as of March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025.

A14. If applicable, the remaining quota spot(s) may be filled by the 5.B. Coaches' Discretion Criteria outlined below.

\*Ties will be broken by considering the best result between the two athletes in the last head to head World Cup competition of the qualification period.

\*\*Ties will be broken by taking each athlete's next best World Cup result. This process may repeat as many times as needed to break the tie.

## B. Coaches' Discretion Criteria



If after application of the 5.A. Objective Criterion above, additional quota positions remain, Coaches' Discretion may be applied. U.S. Ski & Snowboard staff may consider any factors including, but not limited to, the following:

- 5.B.1. Illness or injury during the selection period.
- 5.B.2. World Cup results during the selection period indicative of World Championship medal potential.
- 5.B.3. (*If applicable*) Medal potential in the Nations Team Event, as described in Section 6 below.

All discretionary selections will be documented and the appropriate forms will be available for record keeping purposes. All discretionary selections will be reviewed by a discretionary selection review group composed of the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Chief of Sport, the respective Sport Director, 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.

### **C. Remaining Team Nomination Criteria**

If quota spots remain after the application of 5.A. Objective Criteria and 5.B. Coaches' Discretion Criteria, any remaining team nominations will be determined, in order of best World Cup result from any U.S. athlete not already selected to the team across both genders and all disciplines according to World Cup results in the 2024-25 season, prior to March 3rd, 2025.

U.S. Ski & Snowboard will use the following tie-breaking mechanism if two or more athletes, across disciplines and genders are tied with best World Cup result:

- i. Ties will be broken by taking each athlete's next best World Cup result. This process may repeat as many times as needed to break the tie.

### **D. NATIONS TEAM EVENT SELECTIONS**

#### **TEAM AERIALS**

U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD coaching staff shall select three (3) athletes to compete in the Aerials Team (AET) event at the 2025 World Ski Championship. Teams must have at least one (1) athlete from each gender represented. In order to be considered for selection for the Team Event athletes must be selected for the individual Aerials World Championship Team.

1. Two (2) athletes (1 male, 1 female) will be selected based on the average of their top three (3) scores for single jumps from 2024-25 World Cup Qualifications, Finals and Super-Finals competitions. The average of the top three (3) scores will be used to rank both men and women in a single list. In the case of a tie, U.S. Ski & Snowboard will use the following tie breaking mechanism, applied one at a time, in preferential order starting with (a) until the team spots, per gender, in this section are filled.

- a. Highest single jump score
- b. 2nd highest single jump score
- c. 3rd highest single jump score



d. Coaches' Discretion

2. One (1) athlete may be selected based on the coaches' discretion. Coaches' discretion may be utilized to select one athlete who has clearly demonstrated the ability to produce a medal-winning result or has demonstrated future medal potential. When considering the application of coaches' discretion the staff will consider the following in order of priority:

- a. Injury, illness or circumstances that prevent participation in the qualifying 2024- 25 World Cups
- b. 2024-2025 World Cup podiums
- c. Competed degree of difficulty (DD) - Highest DD for Jump successfully competed in World Cup competition in 2024-25 World Cup Season.

3. If Team spots remain after the application of objective criteria, and, if applicable, the application of discretionary criteria, any remaining team nominations will be determined in order of the next highest average of three (3) best single jump scores described in Team Aerials criterion A11 above.

## **TEAM SKI CROSS**

Athletes selected to represent the U.S.A. in the WSC Mixed Team Event will be identified by the coaching staff from among the WSC Team members in order of qualification based on A13 and A14 above.

## **7. ANNOUNCEMENT OF SELECTIONS**

Selections to the 2025 Freeski and Freestyle World Ski Championship teams shall be announced per discipline between Monday, March 10<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025 via media from the offices of U.S. Ski & Snowboard in Park City, Utah.

## **8. ATHLETE REPLACEMENT PROCEDURE**

In the case that an athlete that has been selected to the team becomes injured or ill prior the World Ski Championships and is unable to compete, no replacement athlete will be named unless it is deemed that there is sufficient time to make a replacement without disrupting the competition or preparation of other athletes and that the additional athlete would have sufficient time to properly prepare for the competition. This decision will be made by the respective U.S. Ski & Snowboard Sport Director after consulting with the Chief of Sport, VP of High Performance, the Head Coaches, and the High Performance Department. Should an additional athlete be considered, the procedures as outlined in section 5.B. above will be followed to select that athlete. No athletes will be named to the team following the conclusion of mandatory training for or within five (5) days of the start of the World Ski Championship.



## 9. MANDATORY TRAINING

Following the selection of the 2025 Freeski/Freestyle World Championship Team mandatory training camps may be organized in preparation for the 2025 Freeski/Freestyle World Championship. Dates, locations, and organization of these training camps will be announced prior to final selection of the team.

## 10. APPEAL AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

A. 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 a decision.

B. The U.S. Ski & Snowboard Grievance Procedures can be found within section IX of the U.S. Ski & Snowboard bylaws found at: [usskiandsnowboard.org](http://usskiandsnowboard.org)

## 11. 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: [ombudsman@usathlete.org](mailto:ombudsman@usathlete.org)