



United States Ski & Snowboard

2026 U.S. Cross Country Team Nomination Criterion

Eligibility for Consideration:

U.S. Ski and Snowboard will consider for selection only those U.S. Ski and 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.

An athlete shall be ineligible for consideration if previously suspended or removed from team membership without having been reinstated by U.S. Ski and Snowboard. An athlete who has previously declined an offer of team membership shall not be automatically offered team membership unless that athlete specifically requests consideration and the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Cross Country Program Director approves the request.

The U.S. Ski Team will select only the most qualified athletes with the greatest possibilities for winning medals in future World Championship and Olympic Winter Games competitions. Selection criteria will stress performance in the Olympic Winter Games, World Cup, and the World Junior & U23 World Championships in the 2025-26 season. Selection criteria will also stress progress toward individual performance markers, set forth by the U.S. Ski Team coaches, which point toward international success.

Criteria Guidelines:

- The U.S. Ski and Snowboard 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.
- Objective selections shall be based on the results achieved by athletes in World Cup competitions held on or between November 29, 2024 and March 23, 2025, 2025 World Championships results, 2025 World Junior and U23 World Championships results, and on World Ranking as determined by FIS points accrued from March 30, 2024 to March 30, 2025 (the "Selection Period"), and found on the 8th FIS points list for the 2024-25 season.
- "Winner of the Day" World Cup performances in pursuit events are excluded from objective result consideration, but may be considered for discretionary selection.
- Discretionary nominations, if any, may be based on a variety of factors, including competitions conducted outside of the selection period.
- Team status does not guarantee funding from U.S. Ski and Snowboard for competition or for preparation.
- Athletes who have been given individual performance criteria to meet will be subject to those specific criteria and not to general criteria as outlined below.
- Athletes must be willing to commit to and to participate in the full U.S. Ski Team camp and race season structure.



General Criteria:

Athletes will be selected to the team based solely upon their competition results during the selection period. Athletes meeting the following objective criteria will be selected to the U.S. Ski Team:

A-Team

Athletes meeting any of the following objective criteria will be selected to the A-Team.

- Any athlete finishing the 2024-25 World Cup season in the top-15 of the FIS World Cup Sprint & Red Group List, and/or in the top-15 of the FIS World Cup Distance & Red Group List.
- Any athlete who achieves an individual 2024-25 World Cup or Trondheim 2025 Nordic World Championships podium.
- Any athlete achieving three (3) top-12 finishes in individual distance or sprint competitions at World Cup and/or Nordic World Championships in the 2024-25 season.

B-Team

Athletes meeting either of the following objective criteria (competition results or FIS World Rank) will be selected to the B-Team.

B-Team athletes are expected to be racing at World Cup competitions and will have greater preparation and competition season requirements than D-Team athletes.

Result

YOB 1996 & 1997

- Three (3) 2024-25 World Cup and/or 2025 Trondheim World Championships Top-20 results

YOB 1998 & 1999

- Three (3) 2024-25 World Cup and/or 2025 Trondheim World Championships Top-25 results

YOB 2000 & younger

- Three (3) 2024-25 World Cup and/or 2025 Trondheim World Championships Top-30 results

YOB 2002 & younger

- Two (2) 2025 U23 Championships individual Top-10 results or
- One (1) 2025 World Junior/U23 Championships individual podium & one (1) individual World Cup top-30 performance.



FIS World Rank

YOB 2000 & younger

- Men's Distance List: FIS World Rank of ≤ 100
- Men's Sprint List: FIS World Rank of ≤ 80
- Women's Distance or Sprint List: FIS World Rank of ≤ 80

The B-Team is limited to a maximum team size of 10 athletes (men and women combined). If there are more than 10 athletes who have made the objective qualification standard, the following procedure shall be used:

- Best individual 2025 U23 World Championships podium result.
- Best single 2024-25 World Cup finish.
- Next best single 2024-25 World Cup finish.
- Third best single 2024-25 World Cup finish.
- Continuing in this method until a potential tie for the last team nomination is broken.

D-Team

Athletes meeting the either of the following objective criteria (competition results or FIS World Rank) will be selected to the D-Team. World Rank will be assessed using FIS points accrued in the Selection Period and found on the 8th FIS points list for the 2024-25 season, and will utilize an athlete's sprint or distance ranking (whichever is better).

Result

YOB 2002 & younger

- One (1) top-30 individual 2024-25 World Cup result.

YOB 2002, 2003 & 2004

- One (1) individual Top-10 result at the 2025 U23 World Championships.

YOB 2005 & younger

- One (1) individual Top-10 result at 2025 World Junior Championships.

FIS World Rank

YOB 2002

- Men's Distance List: FIS World Rank of ≤ 125
- Men's Sprint List: FIS World Rank of ≤ 100
- Women's Distance or Sprint List: FIS World Rank of ≤ 100



YOB 2003

- Men's Distance List: FIS World Rank of ≤ 175
- Men's Sprint List: FIS World Rank of ≤ 125
- Women's Distance or Sprint List: FIS World Rank of ≤ 125

YOB 2004

- Men's Distance List: FIS World Rank of ≤ 250
- Men's Sprint List: FIS World Rank of ≤ 175
- Women's Distance or Sprint List: FIS World Rank of ≤ 175

YOB 2005 & younger

- Men's Distance List: FIS World Rank of ≤ 400
- Men's Sprint List: FIS World Rank of ≤ 250
- Women's Distance or Sprint List: FIS World Rank of ≤ 250

Discretionary Selection Policy:

U.S. Ski and Snowboard may select additional athletes to the team using discretion based upon factors other than the objective criteria. If the staff fills any spot(s) on the team with discretionary selections, then the staff may consider any factors including (but not limited to) the following:

- Completion of individual markers, as set forth by the U.S. Ski Team coaching and high performance staff and as approved by the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Cross Country Program Director and U.S. Ski & Snowboard Chief of Sport, which point toward the achievement of competition results consistent with U.S. Ski Team program goals.
- Attitude and commitment of the athlete to take part in the complete camp and competition program.
- Illness or injury during the Selection Period.
- Indicia of medal potential in future Olympic and World Championship competitions, which would be materially enhanced by selection to team.
- Other unanticipated failure of objective criteria to select an athlete likely to achieve competition results consistent with the U.S. Ski and Snowboard program goals.

In-season Promotion:

Athletes will not be promoted in season. No athletes will be demoted during the season; however, funding may be suspended at any time if progress or commitment is not consistent with the team program and athlete does not remain in good standing.

U.S. Ski and Snowboard Core Values, Code of Conduct, Athlete Safety Policies & Guidelines, Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (MAAPP) and the SafeSport Code:



Athletes must demonstrate a capability to adhere to U.S. Ski and Snowboard Values and Code of Conduct and other athlete safety policies, in addition, all athletes age 18 and older must complete SafeSport training and its required updates, complete avalanche training, and pass any necessary background screening to be eligible for nomination.