



## **2024-25 FREESKI SLOPESTYLE/BIG AIR TEAM NOMINATION 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.

An athlete shall be ineligible for consideration if previously suspended or removed from team membership without having been reinstated by U.S. Ski & 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 & Snowboard Slopestyle/Big Air Freeski Head Coach approves the request.

The U.S. Freeski Team will select only the most qualified athletes with the greatest possibilities for winning medals in future World Championship and Olympic Winter Games competitions.

Athletes must demonstrate a capability to adhere to U.S. Ski & Snowboard Values and Code of Conduct to be eligible for nomination.

### **CRITERIA GUIDELINES**

- The Freeski Sport 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 competitions held between October 20, 2023 and April 30, 2024 (the "Selection Period").
- 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 & Snowboard for competition or preparation.
- No minimum team size will be established.
- A maximum of twelve (12) Pro Team athletes and eight (8) Rookie Team athletes will be nominated using the criteria outlined below. If more than twelve (12) Pro Team and/or eight (8) Rookie Team athletes qualify under the criteria, then athletes will be nominated in order of priority as outlined in the Objective Criteria below.
- Athletes must be willing to commit to and participate in the full U.S. Freeski Team camp and competition season structure.



### **OBJECTIVE NOMINATION CRITERIA SLOPESTYLE/BIG AIR:**

Athletes meeting the following objective criteria during the Selection Period will be selected to the U.S. Freeski Team:

#### **PRO TEAM**

Athletes meeting the following objective criteria will be selected to the Pro Team. Each qualifying Slopestyle (SS) or Big Air (BA) event must be an 800-point event or higher. If ties exist following the final bullet, priority will be applied in order of the single best World Cup or X-Games result.

- Any athlete achieving one (1) podium **and** one (1) top eight (8) result in any of the following contests: World Cup and X-Games Slopestyle or Big Air competition during the 2023-24 season.
- Any athlete achieving two (2) top six (6) finishes in any of the following contests: World Cup and X-Games Slopestyle or Big Air competition during the 2023-24 season.

#### **ROOKIE TEAM**

Athletes meeting the following objective criteria will be selected to the Rookie Team. If ties exist following the final bullet, priority will be applied in order of the single best Revolution (Rev) Tour result.

Age eligibility: Year of Birth (YOB) 2004 and younger.

- 2024 Slopestyle/Big Air NorAm Champion
- Any athlete achieving any two (2) of the following (max one (1) Big Air result):
  - Rev Tour win (SS or BA)
  - Top eight (8) women or top ten (10) men in an 800+ point World Cup (SS or BA)
  - 2024 Junior World Championship Win (SS or BA)

#### **DISCRETIONARY SELECTION POLICY**

U.S. Ski & Snowboard may select additional athletes to the team using coaches' discretion based upon factors other than the objective criteria. If the coaching staff selects any team nominations with discretionary selections, then the staff may consider any factors including (but not limited to) the following:

- Illness or injury during the Selection Period.
- Indication of medal potential in future Olympic and World Championship competitions, which would be materially enhanced by selection to team.

Renomination of any named team athlete by discretion will be based on objective performance benchmarks within the individualized Athlete Plan that exists for all named team athletes as established by U.S. Ski & Snowboard Staff.

#### **ATHLETE INJURY CLAUSE**

Any athlete that has been objectively named to the team and sustains a season-ending injury (as declared by the High Performance Director) prior to February 1<sup>st</sup> will be renominated to their



current team for the subsequent season. In certain exceptional cases due to severe injury, certain athletes may be granted a 2-year renomination to give them time to return to peak performance. Such 2-year renomination will be communicated to the athlete prior to the beginning of the selection period of the second year. Athlete's sustaining an injury after February 1st who have not made objective criteria will be subject to a discretionary selection, which is not guaranteed. In this circumstance, the ranking at time of injury will be considered toward discretion.

In all cases, in order to retain current team status an injured athlete must follow the prescribed rehabilitation or medical program along with an approved return to performance on snow progression as approved by U.S. Ski & Snowboard High Performance, the Freeski Sport Director, and the Head Coach. Travel funding, team re-integration and trip inclusion will be based upon passing of Return to Performance tests and sport specific competitive form as determined by the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Medical, High Performance, and Coaching staff.

#### **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 the athlete does not remain in good standing.