

## 2023 U.S. Cross Country World Championship 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, but it may select additional athletes to the Team using coaches' discretion (*note: A priority will be placed on filling all starts at the Championships, although alternates may not be nominated solely for the purpose of filling unused starts*).
- Up to four (4) athletes may start for the United States in each of the events unless otherwise specified by the International Ski Federation (FIS).
- Total team quota is determined annually by the International Ski Federation (FIS).
- The Cross Country Program Director is responsible for applying the selection criteria set forth herein, subject to the approval of the Chief Executive Officer of U.S. Ski & Snowboard.
- No minimum team size will be established (*note: total team size across men and women is anticipated to be approximately 16 athletes*).
- Objective selections shall be based on results in individual World Cup competitions held on or between November 25, 2022 and February 5, 2023 and all individual SuperTour races held on or between December 1, 2022 and January 15, 2023.
- Only athletes qualified on the day of selection to start in World Championships competitions will be selected to the team (minimum FIS point requirements apply).
- Discretionary selections, if any, may be based on a variety of factors, including competitions conducted outside of the selection period.
- Selection to the World Championship Team does not guarantee the right to start a race at the Championships. Start selections are at the discretion of the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Cross Country coaching staff, and medical staff where applicable, and will be based on a number of factors including course profiles, technique demands, recent trends in fitness and results, health, tactical skills, and other factors possibly contributing to starting the athletes best prepared for success in a given event.
- U.S. Cross Country World Championships Team status does not guarantee funding from U.S. Ski & Snowboard.

### Objective Criteria:

Athletes will be nominated to the World Championship Team in the order of:

1. Top 8 Individual Final World Cup Finishes (Selection Method No. 1)
2. Discretionary Selection (Selection Method No. 2)
3. Top 45 World Cup Sprint or Distance Standings (Selection Method No. 3)
4. 2023 Championship Selection List Selection (Selection Method No. 4)

Selection Method No. 1 - Objective Criteria – Top 8 Individual Final World Cup Finishes:

- Any eligible athlete that posts a top-8 individual final World Cup result during the selection period in the following events will be selected to the team: Sprint C, individual start 10 km F, individual start 20 km F, and 20 km Skiathlon.

Selection Method No. 2 (if applicable) – Discretionary Selection:

U.S. Ski & Snowboard may select additional athletes to the Team using coaches' discretion, will review data on all athletes when considering the recommendations, and will consider the following criteria in any order when making selections:

- Medal Capable Athlete: A medal capable athlete is one who has had an individual World Cup podium finish in the 2021-22 season, a Top 10 individual World Cup finish in the 2022-23 season prior to February 6, 2023, or a World Cup podium finish in a team event (relay, team sprint) in the 2022-23 season prior to February 6, 2023.
- Best Predicted Finish: U.S. Ski & Snowboard's Discretionary Selection Review Committee may choose the athlete or athletes who are most likely to finish with the highest placing in the event.
- Athletes Who Maximize Team Performance: An athlete whose trajectory is such that they may be able to contribute to a medal in a team event (relay and/or team sprint).

All discretionary selections will be documented and appropriate forms will be available for record keeping purposes. All discretionary selections will be reviewed by a Discretionary Selection Review Committee comprised of the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Chief of Sport, the Chair of the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Cross Country Sport Committee, and the athlete representative from that sport who is a member of the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Board of Directors. If the Chair of the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Cross Country Sport Committee feels that he or she needs to be recused from the discretionary selection review group due to a conflict of interest surrounding the selection of an athlete or athletes, they may delegate their role to the Chair of the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Cross Country Coaches' Subcommittee. 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.

Selection Method No. 3 (if applicable) – Top 45 World Cup Sprint or Distance Standings:

- If there are remaining quota slot(s) after applying Selection Method No. 1 and No. 2, then athletes ranking in the top-45 in the Distance World Cup or Sprint World Cup standings on February 5, 2023 shall be selected to the team. Top-45 rankings will include only an athlete's individual World Cup results. This ranking will be scored alongside SuperTour points and posted here:  
<https://usskiandsnowboard.org/crosscountry>
- A maximum of five athletes per gender may be selected according to the Sprint World Cup results and standings on February 5, 2023. Athletes who are ranked in the top-45 in BOTH the Distance and Sprint World Cup standings as of February 5, 2023 will be counted against the 5-sprinter per gender cap. Athletes qualifying via top-8 individual World Cup sprint finishes will be selected before athletes qualifying via top-45 World Cup Sprint points. In the event of a tie for the 5<sup>th</sup> qualifying sprint selection, U.S. Ski & Snowboard shall use the following tie-breaking mechanisms in order:
  - a.) Best single World Cup Sprint finish in the selection period.
  - b.) Next best single World Cup Sprint finish in the selection period.
  - c.) Third best single World Cup Sprint finish in the selection period.

In the event that these objective selections would exceed the U.S. Ski & Snowboard's maximum allowable quota, the U.S. Ski & Snowboard shall use the following tie-breaking mechanisms in order:

- a.) Best single World Cup finish in the selection period.
- b.) Next best single World Cup finish in the selection period.
- c.) Third best single World Cup finish in the selection period.

Selection Method No. 4 (if applicable) – 2023 Championship Selection List:

Should there be any remaining quota slot(s) after Selection Method Nos. 1-3 above have been applied, the remaining quota slot(s) may be filled by considering the 2023 Championship Selection List\* and the pool of athletes comprised of the next best athlete in each of four disciplines: women's distance, women's sprint, men's distance, and men's sprint. The next best athlete is defined as the highest ranked athlete on the ranking list in each of the four disciplines who was not nominated to the team. In order to be in the pool, an athlete must meet the minimum eligibility requirements outlined on page 1. From the pools, the Cross Country Program Director shall recommend and the Discretionary Selection Review Committee shall select the required number of athletes from the various pools if the remaining available World Championship start positions are to be filled. Athletes may also petition directly to the Discretionary Selection Review Committee to be considered for discretionary selection by submitting, in writing, a petition including any rationale to the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Chief of Sport (anouk.patty@usskiandsnowboard.org) before 8:00 AM Mountain time on February 5, 2023.

\*The Championship 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 Championship Selection List scoring system outlined below.

- Individual sprint events to be scored for the purpose of the 2023 Championship 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, 2023) will include the following bonus points for the purpose of the 2023 Championship Selection List only: 1<sup>st</sup> place = 15 points, 2<sup>nd</sup> place = 10 points, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place = 5 points. For the purpose of the 2023 Championship Selection List only, U.S. National Championship and SuperTour participants (Jan 2-7, 2023) will receive standard SuperTour points (i.e. 1<sup>st</sup> place = 30 points, 2<sup>nd</sup> place = 25 points, etc.) plus the above bonus points awarded for podium finishes.
- For the purposes of the 2023 Championship 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.

Athletes in whichever pool (sprint vs. distance for whichever gender(s) has an unfilled quota) are deemed necessary to effectively fill an open World Championships start position will be considered by the Selection Committee. The intent is to match an open start position in a specific category at the World Championships (men's sprint, men's distance, women's sprint, women's distance) to the athlete with the best points in the same respective pool who has not yet been selected.

The total number of selections made using Sprint criteria (World Cup sprint results, World Cup sprint rankings and 2023 Championship Selection List points) will not exceed 5 men and/or 5 women.

In the event of a tie, the U.S. Ski & Snowboard shall use the following tie-breaking mechanisms in order:

- a.) Best single Selection List Race finish in the selection period, within the pool that is being considered.
- b.) Second best single Selection List Race finish in the selection period, within the pool that is being considered.
- c.) Third best single Selection List Race finish in the selection period, within the pool that is being considered.
- d.) Fourth best single Selection List Race finish in the selection period, within the pool that is being considered.

#### 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 competitions he/she has been selected for. Such determination shall be at the discretion of the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Cross Country Program Director in consultation with the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Medical Director, the Head U.S. Ski Team Physician, and the athlete's designated physician.

#### Athlete Replacement Procedure:

In the case that an athlete that has been selected to the team becomes injured or ill prior to the World 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 Cross Country Program Director after consulting with the Chief of Sport of U.S. Ski & Snowboard, and the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Medical Director. Should an additional athlete be considered, the same criteria as outlined above shall be followed to select that athlete.

Team Announcement:

Selections to the 2023 U.S. Cross Country World Championship Team shall be announced on or near February 7, 2023 at the offices of U.S. Ski & Snowboard in Park City, Utah and shall be published immediately upon announcement.

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 USOPC Bylaws, shall be entitled to appeal such decision.

The U.S. Ski & Snowboard Grievance Procedures can be found within Article IX of the U.S. Ski & Snowboard bylaws found at: [usskiandsnowboard.org](http://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 USOPC 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@usopc.org](mailto:kacie.wallace@usopc.org)
- [www.athleteombudsman.org](http://www.athleteombudsman.org)
- <http://www.teamusa.org/For-Athletes/Athlete-Ombudsman.aspx>