

<b>2021 Freestyle/Freeski World Championships</b>
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**Amended January 20, 2021**

**U.S Ski & Snowboard**

**2021 Freestyle/Freeski World Championships Men's and Women's Team Selection Criteria**

**1. U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD POLICY**

U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD policy mandates that World Championships team selection criteria shall be principally objective (or performance-based), however coaches' discretion will be allowed with no limit and that available start rights and team spots will not necessarily be filled.

**2. TEAM SIZE**

The International Ski Federation (FIS) has established that a maximum of thirty-six (36) athletes representing any one nation may compete in the 2021 World Championships in freestyle. Athletes can be named to compete in the following World Championship events: Aerials/Team Aerials, Halfpipe, Slopestyle/Big Air, Moguls/Dual Moguls, and Skicross. FIS rules require that no more than twenty (20) athletes be of one gender.

**3. START RIGHTS**

The maximum quota for a nation in any one event will be four (4) per gender up to the max total per gender of twenty (20) athletes and max total team size of thirty-six (36) athletes. Athletes named to the team will start in the event from which they qualified.

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 Federation (FIS) respective quota process for each discipline

**4. 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.

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 Championships as verified by U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD Medical Staff. Such determination shall be at the discretion of the Sport Director after consulting with the U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD Sport Science and coaching staffs, the Head Team Physician and the athlete's designated physician.

## 5. TEAM SELECTION PROCEDURE AND CRITERIA

The coaching staff is responsible for applying the selection criteria set forth herein, subject to the approval of the President and CEO of U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD.

### SKICROSS

Up to three (3) athletes, per gender, will be nominated for the event in the following order:

1. Up to the top two (2) highest ranking athletes, per gender, from the Skicross FIS Points List valid on **January 26**, 2021, will be nominated. Athlete must be ranked within the Top 6 of the rankings. The specific date of the FIS Points List is subject to change pending confirmation of the competition calendar for the 2020-21 season, with any adjustment to the date taking place as soon as possible but no later than September 30, 2020. U.S. Ski & Snowboard will use the following tie-breaking mechanism, if two or more athletes, per gender, are tied within the Skicross FIS Points List, until the quota slots, per gender, in this section are filled:
  - a. Highest result, between the tied athletes, from their most recent head-to-head World Cup competition.
2. The third quota slot and any quota slot(s) remaining unfilled by way of criteria Item 1 above, per gender, will be allocated based on an athlete having at least one (1) top three result during the 2020-21 World Cup competitions held before **January 26**, 2021. Any remaining quota slots that are still left unfilled after applying Item 2, will be evaluated under Discretionary Selection Procedures or the Remaining Team Nomination Criteria as described below.

If there are more athletes than there are remaining quota slots available within this objective criteria section, in either gender (i.e., with one (1) top three result in World Cup competitions), then U.S. Ski & Snowboard will utilize the following procedure to identify the athlete(s) who will be nominated via this objective criteria:

U.S. Ski & Snowboard will use the following tie-breaking mechanisms below one at a time – in preferential order starting with (a) – until the quota slots remaining, per gender, in this section are filled. The points awarded from the World Cup competitions toward the FIS Points List shall be used when referring to points results in the below tie-breaking mechanisms:

- a. Single highest point result from the 2020-21 Skicross World Cup Events
- b. Second highest point result from the 2020-21 Skicross World Cup Events
- c. Third highest point result from the 2020-21 Skicross World Cup Events
- d. Fourth highest point result from the 2020-21 Skicross World Cup Events

- e. Highest point result from the final 2020-21 Skicross World Cup Event before nomination.

## **HALFPIPE**

Up to three (3) athletes, per gender, will be nominated for the event in the following order:

1. Up to the top two (2) highest ranking athletes, per gender, from the Halfpipe FIS Points List valid on February 10, 2021, will be nominated. Athlete must be ranked within the Top 6 of the rankings. The specific date of the FIS Points List is subject to change pending confirmation of the competition calendar for the 2020-21 season, with any adjustment to the date taking place as soon as possible but no later than September 30, 2020. U.S. Ski & Snowboard will use the following tie-breaking mechanism, if two or more athletes, per gender, are tied within the Halfpipe FIS Points List, until the quota slots, per gender, in this section are filled:
  - a. Highest result, between the tied athletes, from their most recent head-to-head World Cup competition.
2. The third quota slot and any quota slot(s) remaining unfilled by way of criteria Item 1 above, per gender, will be allocated based on an athlete having at least one (1) top three result during the 2020-21 World Cup or Aspen X-Games competitions held before February 10, 2021. Any remaining quota slots that are still left unfilled after applying Item 2, will be evaluated under Discretionary Selection Procedures or the Remaining Team Nomination Criteria as described below.

If there are more athletes than there are remaining quota slots available within this objective criteria section, in either gender (i.e., with one (1) top three result), then U.S. Ski & Snowboard will utilize the following procedure to identify the athlete(s) who will be nominated via this objective criteria:

U.S. Ski & Snowboard will use the following tie-breaking mechanisms below one at a time – in preferential order starting with (a) – until the quota slots remaining, per gender, in this section are filled. The competitors finish place (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> etc.) at the competitions shall be used when referring to the below tie-breaking mechanisms:

- a. Single highest result from the 2020-21 Halfpipe World Cup Events and Aspen X-Games
- b. Second highest result from the 2020-21 Halfpipe World Cup Events and Aspen X-Games
- c. Third highest result from the 2020-21 Halfpipe World Cup Events and Aspen X-Games
- d. Fourth highest result from the 2020-21 Halfpipe World Cup Events and Aspen X-Games
- e. Highest result from the final 2020-21 Halfpipe World Cup

Event before nomination.

### **SLOPESTYLE / BIG AIR**

Up to three (3) athletes, per gender, will be nominated for the event in the following order:

1. Up to the top two (2) highest ranking athletes, per gender, from the Slopestyle FIS Points List valid on February 10, 2021, will be nominated. Athlete must be ranked within the Top 6 of the rankings. The specific date of the FIS Points List is subject to change pending confirmation of the competition calendar for the 2020-21 season, with any adjustment to the date taking place as soon as possible but no later than September 30, 2020. U.S. Ski & Snowboard will use the following tie-breaking mechanism, if two or more athletes, per gender, are tied within the Slopestyle FIS Points List, until the quota slots, per gender, in this section are filled:
  - a. Highest result, between the tied athletes, from their most recent head-to-head World Cup competition.
2. The third quota slot and any quota slot(s) remaining unfilled by way of criteria Item 1 above, per gender, will be allocated based on an athlete having at least one (1) top three result during the 2020-21 World Cup or Aspen X-Games competitions held before February 10, 2021. Any remaining quota slots that are still left unfilled after applying Item 2, will be evaluated under Discretionary Selection Procedures or the Remaining Team Nomination Criteria as described below.

If there are more athletes than there are remaining quota slots available within this objective criteria section, in either gender (i.e., with one (1) top three result), then U.S. Ski & Snowboard will utilize the following procedure to identify the athlete(s) who will be nominated via this objective criteria:

U.S. Ski & Snowboard will use the following tie-breaking mechanisms below one at a time – in preferential order starting with (a) – until the quota slots remaining, per gender, in this section are filled. The competitors finish place (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> etc.) at the competitions shall be used when referring to the below tie-breaking mechanisms:

- a. Single highest result from the 2020-21 Slopestyle/Big Air World Cup Events and Aspen X-Games
- b. Second highest result from the 2020-21 Slopestyle/Big Air World Cup Events and Aspen X-Games
- c. Third highest result from the 2020-21 Slopestyle/Big Air World Cup Events and Aspen X-Games
- d. Fourth highest result from the 2020-21 Slopestyle/Big Air World Cup Events and Aspen X-Games
- e. Highest result from the final 2020-21 Slopestyle/Big Air

World Cup Event before nomination.

### **MOGULS / DUAL MOGULS**

Up to three (3) athletes, per gender, will be nominated for the event in the following order:

1. Up to the top two (2) highest ranking athletes, per gender, from the Moguls FIS Points List valid on February 10, 2021, will be nominated. Athlete must be ranked within the Top 6 of the rankings. The specific date of the FIS Points List is subject to change pending confirmation of the competition calendar for the 2020-21 season, with any adjustment to the date taking place as soon as possible but no later than September 30, 2020. U.S. Ski & Snowboard will use the following tie-breaking mechanism, if two or more athletes, per gender, are tied within the Moguls FIS Points List, until the quota slots, per gender, in this section are filled:
  - a. Highest result, between the tied athletes, from their most recent head-to-head World Cup competition.
2. The third quota slot and any quota slot(s) remaining unfilled by way of criteria Item 1 above, per gender, will be allocated based on an athlete having at least one (1) top three result during the 2020-21 World Cup Moguls or Dual Moguls competitions held before February 10, 2021. Any remaining quota slots that are still left unfilled after applying Item 2, will be evaluated under Discretionary Selection Procedures or the Remaining Team Nomination Criteria as described below.

If there are more athletes than there are remaining quota slots available within this objective criteria section, in either gender (i.e., with one (1) top three result in World Cup competitions), then U.S. Ski & Snowboard will utilize the following procedure to identify the athlete(s) who will be nominated via this objective criteria:

U.S. Ski & Snowboard will use the following tie-breaking mechanisms below one at a time – in preferential order starting with (a) – until the quota slots remaining, per gender, in this section are filled. The points awarded from the World Cup competitions toward the FIS Points List shall be used when referring to points results in the below tie-breaking mechanisms:

- a. Single highest point result from the 2020-21 Moguls World Cup Events
- b. Second highest point result from the 2020-21 Moguls World Cup Events
- c. Third highest point result from the 2020-21 Moguls World Cup Events
- d. Fourth highest point result from the 2020-21 Moguls World Cup Events

- e. Highest point result from the final 2020-21 Moguls World Cup Event before nomination.

## **AERIALS**

Up to three (3) athletes, per gender, will be nominated for the event in the following order:

1. Up to the top two (2) highest ranking athletes, per gender, from the Aerials FIS Points List valid on February 10, 2021, will be nominated. Athlete must be ranked within the Top 6 of the rankings. The specific date of the FIS Points List is subject to change pending confirmation of the competition calendar for the 2020-21 season, with any adjustment to the date taking place as soon as possible but no later than September 30, 2020. U.S. Ski & Snowboard will use the following tie-breaking mechanism, if two or more athletes, per gender, are tied within the Aerials FIS Points List, until the quota slots, per gender, in this section are filled:
  - a. Highest result, between the tied athletes, from their most recent head-to-head World Cup competition.
2. The third quota slot and any quota slot(s) remaining unfilled by way of criteria Item 1 above, per gender, will be allocated based on an athlete having at least one (1) top three result during the 2020-21 World Cup Aerials competitions held before February 10, 2021. Any remaining quota slots that are still left unfilled after applying Item 2, will be evaluated under Discretionary Selection Procedures or the Remaining Team Nomination Criteria as described below.

If there are more athletes than there are remaining quota slots available within this objective criteria section, in either gender (i.e., with one (1) top three result in World Cup competitions), then U.S. Ski & Snowboard will utilize the following procedure to identify the athlete(s) who will be nominated via this objective criteria:

U.S. Ski & Snowboard will use the following tie-breaking mechanisms below one at a time – in preferential order starting with (a) – until the quota slots remaining, per gender, in this section are filled. The points awarded from the World Cup competitions toward the FIS Points List shall be used when referring to points results in the below tie-breaking mechanisms:

- a. Single highest point result from the 2020-21 Aerials World Cup Events
- b. Second highest point result from the 2020-21 Aerials World Cup Events
- c. Third highest point result from the 2020-21 Aerials World Cup Events
- d. Fourth highest point result from the 2020-21 Aerials World Cup Events
- e. Highest point result from the final 2020-21 Aerials

World Cup Event before nomination.

### **TEAM AERIALS**

The U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD coaching staff shall select the athletes who compete in the Team Aerials competition at World Championships. Only the athletes who were selected to compete in the Aerials World Championship competition shall be eligible to compete in the Team Aerials competition.

### **DISCRETIONARY CRITERIA**

Discretionary selection will be utilized should quota slots remain after utilization of the objective criteria detailed above. Athletes as well as the Head Coach or World Cup Coaches for each discipline may recommend athlete(s), according to the criteria below, to the Selection Committee. The Selection Committee will review all data when considering the recommendations, subject to the criteria listed below in paragraph (a).

- a. Discretion – An athlete (including but not limited to those not nominated objectively due to illness or injury) who has either (i) clearly demonstrated the ability to produce a medal winning result or (ii) has demonstrated future medal potential by achieving one of the following criteria listed (in no specific order of priority):
  - One (1) Top 8 result, within the last twenty-four (24) months, at a FIS World Cup, World Championships, X-Games, or Dew Tour
  - A Top 20 World Ranking within the last twenty-four (24) months on any of the below rankings lists:
    - The FIS Mogul Points List (FIS List)
    - The FIS Ski Cross Points List (FIS List)
    - The FIS Aerial Points List (FIS List)
    - The FIS Halfpipe Points List (FIS List)
    - The FIS Slopestyle Points List (FIS List)

#### U.S. Ski & Snowboard Selection Committee

Recommendations for discretionary nominations will be made by the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Head Coach and World Cup Coaches or by self-nominated athletes to the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Selection Committee by **January 26, 2021 for Ski Cross and for all other events** by February 10, 2021.

#### U.S. Ski & Snowboard Selection Committee Members:

U.S. Ski & Snowboard President and CEO

U.S. Ski & Snowboard Director – Freeski & Freestyle

U.S. Ski & Snowboard – Freeski Sport Committee Chair or an appointed Sport Committee member

U.S. Ski & Snowboard – Freestyle Sport Committee Chair or an appointed Sport Committee member

U.S. Ski & Snowboard Board Athlete Representative – Freeski

U.S. Ski & Snowboard Board Athlete Representative – Freestyle

Any member of the Selection Committee that has a possible conflict of interest must either recuse him/herself or disclose it to U.S. Ski & Snowboard's Ethics Committee prior to the start of the selection process. A conflict of interest exists when the Selection Committee member has a direct or indirect relationship, connection or affiliation, past or present, with an athlete in contention for the applicable team selection that could compromise the Selection Committee member's ability to participate in the selection process in an unbiased manner. If a conflict exists, U.S. Ski & Snowboard's Ethics Committee shall vet the conflict and make the final determination of whether that Selection Committee member must recuse him/herself from participating in discussions and/or voting. The Ethics Committee may determine that a Selection Committee member who has relevant and necessary information with respect to athlete performance, for example a national team coach or high-performance director, may, if requested by the Selection Committee, provide such information to the Selection Committee so long as such information is provided in a fair and unbiased manner and the Selection Committee member with the conflict of interest does not vote toward the final decision. The Selection Committee member should not otherwise influence other members of the Selection Committee in the selection process.

Additionally, any person (including any potentially impacted athlete or coach of a potentially impacted athlete) with a good faith belief that a Selection Committee member has a conflict of interest may report the alleged conflict of interest to U.S. Ski & Snowboard's Ethics Committee. Reports may be made anonymously.

A recused individual shall be replaced in accordance with U.S. Ski & Snowboard's Selection Committee appointment process.

If it is later determined a conflict of interest existed but was not disclosed, then the nomination will still stand, assuming a majority vote for the nominated athlete still exists after removing the conflicted member's vote.

#### **REMAINING TEAM NOMINATION CRITERIA**

If quota 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 next highest ranked U.S. athlete not already selected to the team across both genders and all disciplines with remaining positions according to World Ranking using the following most recently published ranking lists, at the time of nomination, for each event:

- The FIS Ski Cross Points List (FIS List)
- The FIS Mogul Points List (FIS List)
- The FIS Aerials Points List (FIS List)
- The FIS Halfpipe Points List (FIS List)
- The FIS Slopestyle Points List (FIS List)

U.S. Ski & Snowboard will use the following tie-breaking mechanism, if two or more athletes, per gender, within the same event, are tied within their respective ranking lists:

- a. Highest result, between the tied athletes, from their most recent head-to-head competition.



In the event a tie remains, the decision shall be made by the Selection Committee listed utilizing the Discretionary Selection criteria outlined.

**6. ANNOUNCEMENT OF SELECTIONS**

Selections to the 2021 World Championship team shall be announced at a time to be determined at the offices of U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD in Park City, Utah, and shall be published immediately upon announcement.

**7. MANDATORY TRAINING**

Following the selection of the 2021 World Championships team mandatory training camps may be organized in preparation for the World Championships. Dates, locations and organization of these camps will be announced prior to the final selection of the team.

**8. ATHLETE REPLACEMENT PRODEDURE**

In the case that an athlete that has been selected to the team becomes injured or ill prior 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 Sport Director for U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD after consulting with the President and CEO of U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD, Head World Championship Coaches, and U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD Sport Science Department. Should an additional athlete be considered, the procedures as outlined in Objective, Discretionary, and Remaining Team Nomination Criteria above will be followed to select that athlete.

**9. 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](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 USOC 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@usoc.org](mailto:Kacie.wallace@usoc.org)
- [www.athleteombudsman.org](http://www.athleteombudsman.org)
- <http://www.teamusa.org/For-Athletes/Athlete-Ombudsman.aspx>