

## **United States Ski & Snowboard Association**

### **2024 Cross Country World U23 Championship Team Selection Criterion**

#### **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.

#### **Criterion 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. Athletes may be selected to the Team using coaches' discretion.
- The U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD Cross Country Development Director is responsible for applying the selection criteria set forth herein, subject to the oversight of the U.S. Ski Team Cross Country Program Director.
- For the purpose of 2024 World U23 Championships selection, only competitors born in 2001, 2002, and 2003 shall be considered.
- The team selected by U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD may consist of any number of athletes up to the quota set by the International Ski Federation (FIS). Assignment of start rights will at the discretion of the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Cross Country staff.
- Up to four (4) male and four (4) female athletes may start for the United States in each race.
- The target size for the USA U23 World Championship Team is 5-6 athletes per gender, however, up to eight (8) athletes per gender may be selected to the team.
- Objective selections shall be based on World Cups held on and between November 24 and December 17, 2023, FIS competitions held between Nov 1 and December 17, 2023, and competitions at the 2024 U.S. Cross Country Championships and Midway, UT U.S. SuperTour, scheduled for January 2-7, 2024 (the "selection period"). Technique, distances, and dates are subject to change within the U.S. Cross Country Championships competition schedule.
- Discretionary selections, if any, may be based on a variety of factors, including competitions conducted outside of the selection period (see below).
- Team status does not include funding from the U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD.

#### **General Criteria**

- 1) Athletes finishing in the top-30 of an individual World Cup event (excluding Time-of-Day finishes) held on or between November 24 and December 17, 2023 shall be selected to the team, unless application of this criterion would result in a total of more than eight (8) selections per gender in which case U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD shall use the following tie-breaking mechanisms in order:

##### **Tie-Breaking Procedure**

- Best individual World Cup finish in a non-Time-of-Day performance.

- Second best individual World Cup finish in a non-Time-of-Day performance.
  - Third best individual World Cup finish in a non-Time-of-Day performance.
  - Fourth best individual World Cup finish in a non-Time-of-Day performance.
- 2) Up to two (2) athletes per gender may be selected to the team based solely upon FIS race performance held within the objective selection period. Male athletes achieving two (2) FIS point results under 50 FIS points and female athletes achieving two (2) FIS point results under 60 FIS points in any FIS sanctioned race held between November 1, 2023 and December 17, 2023 shall be selected to the team, unless application of this criterion would result in a total of more than two (2) objective selections per gender, in which case the following tie-break procedure will be employed.

Tie-Breaking Procedure

- Best FIS point result in the selection period
  - Second best FIS point result in the selection period
  - Third best FIS point result in the selection period
  - Fourth best FIS point result in the selection period
- 3) If fewer than five (5) athletes per gender are selected to the team based upon both coaches' discretion and the objective criteria listed above, then U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD shall ensure that it fields a representative team by selecting as many additional athletes as may be necessary to bring the total team size up to, but not limited to, five (5) athletes. Selection is based on an athlete's best two individual U.S. Cross Country Championship and U.S. SuperTour finishes January 2-7, 2024, using the U.S. Cross Country Championship scoring. See Appendix below for complete ranking and points. 4 bonus selection points will be awarded to the U23 man and/or woman who wins the OVERALL (above all competitors of every age) sprint qualification at the first sprint at US Nationals (which typically mirrors the World U23 Championship technique). If there is a tie in points for the remaining objective selection, then the following tie breaker will be used.

Tie-Breaking Procedure

A skier will move ahead in the final championship or trials standings, and on selection lists, based on the following procedures until a tie is broken.

1. Best individual final finish at the 2024 U.S. Cross Country Championships and Houghton SuperTour Jan 2-7, 2024.
2. The second-best individual final finish at the 2024 U.S. Cross Country Championships and Houghton SuperTour Jan 2-7, 2024.
3. The third-best individual final finish at the 2024 U.S. Cross Country Championships and Houghton SuperTour Jan 2-7, 2024.
4. Best current rank on the U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD overall National Ranking List (NRL)

Bonus Points

- 1) 4 bonus points will be awarded for an Under 23 athlete who wins the OVERALL (all competitors) sprint qualification at the first sprint at the 2024 US Nationals - January 4, 2024 unless the race is moved due to unforeseen circumstances such as weather.

Discretionary Selection Policy:

U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD may select athletes to the team using coaches' discretion. If the coaching staff fills any available spot(s) on the team with discretionary selections, then the staff may consider any factors including (but not limited to) the following:

- 1) Outstanding competition results (including results achieved outside of the selection period).
- 2) Recent direction or trend of competition results (i.e., improving, flat, or declining).
- 3) Illness or injury during the selection period.
- 4) Indicia of medal potential in future Olympic or World Championship competition, which would be materially enhanced by selection to team.
- 5) Other unanticipated failure of objective criteria to select an athlete likely to achieve competition results consistent with U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD goals for the World U23 Championships.

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 Development Director in consultation with the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Medical Director, the Head 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 Under 23 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 the 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 Development Director after consulting with the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Chief of Sport 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.

U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD APPEAL AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES:

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)

Team Announcement:

Selections to the 2024 U.S. Cross Country U23 World Championship Team shall be announced on or near January 7, 2024 at the offices of U.S. Ski & Snowboard in Park City, Utah and shall be published as soon as possible after announcement.

**APPENDIX:**

### U.S. Ski & Snowboard Championship Scoring

Race Rank	Championship Points
1	30
2	25
3	21
4	18
5	16
6	15
7	14
8	13
9	12
10	11
11	10
12	9
13	8
14	7
15	6
16	5
17	4
18	3
19	2
20	1