



2025-26 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 U.S. Ski & Snowboard Freeski Slopestyle/Big Air Head Coach is responsible for applying the selection criteria herein, subject to the oversight of the Freeski Sport Director and Chief of Sport.
- Objective selections shall be based on the results achieved by athletes in competitions held between October 18, 2024 and March 30, 2025 (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 athletes qualify under the criteria, then athletes will be nominated in order of priority as outlined in the Objective Criteria below. If ties exist following the final bullet, priority will be applied in order of the single best World Cup, World Championships, or X-Games result. This process may repeat as many times as needed to break the tie.
- If more than 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. If ties exist following the final bullet, priority will be applied in order of the single best Revolution (Rev) Tour result. This process may repeat as many times as needed to break the tie.
- Age Eligibility:
 - **Rookie Team** - To be eligible for nomination to the Rookie Team, athletes must be ages 13 to 20 inclusively, as of January 1st 2025: Birth Years 2005-2012.



- **Pro Team** - To be eligible for nomination to the ProTeam, athletes must be 15 as of January 1st 2025 – Birth Year 2010 and older.
- 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, which are listed in order of priority, may be selected to the U.S. Freeski Team within the maximum team size limits outlined above:

PRO TEAM

Athletes meeting the following objective criteria may be selected to the Pro Team. Each qualifying Slopestyle (SS) or Big Air (BA) event must be an 800-point event or higher.

1. Any athlete achieving one (1) podium and one (1) top eight (8) result in any of the following contests: World Cup, World Championships, or X-Games Slopestyle or Big Air competition during the 2024-25 season.
2. Any athlete achieving two (2) top six (6) finishes in any of the following contests: World Cup, World Championships, or X-Games Slopestyle or Big Air competition during the 2024-25 season.

ROOKIE TEAM

Athletes meeting the following objective criteria may be selected to the Rookie Team.

1. 2025 Slopestyle/Big Air NorAm Champion
2. Any athlete achieving any two (2) of the following (max one (1) Big Air result):
 - a. Rev Tour win (SS or BA)
 - b. Top eight (8) women or top ten (10) men in an 800+ point World Cup (SS or BA)
 - c. 2025 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 that interferes with the athlete's ability to meet objective criteria.
- 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 VP of High Performance) prior to February 1st will be re-nominated to their current team for the subsequent season. In certain exceptional cases due to severe injury certain athletes may be granted a 2-year re-nomination to give them time to return to peak performance. Such 2-year re-nomination will be communicated to the athlete prior to the beginning of the selection period of the second year.

Athlete's renomination following an injury sustained after February 1st will fall under discretion if objective nomination criteria have not been met, which is not guaranteed. In this circumstance the ranking at time of injury will be considered towards discretionary nomination.

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 Slopestyle/Big Air Freeski 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.

Dated: August 1, 2024.