



2026 NORDIC COMBINED JUNIOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM SELECTION CRITERIA

1. SELECTION CRITERIA GUIDELINES:

The U.S. Ski & Snowboard selection philosophy is aimed at fielding teams with athletes that are capable of winning medals or show potential for future medal success. Athletes will be selected to the Junior World Championship Team based on the following principles:

- U.S. Ski & Snowboard policy mandates that team selection criteria shall be principally objective (i.e. performance-based), but additional athletes may be selected to the Team using coaches' discretion.
- The U.S. Ski & Snowboard Ski Jumping & Nordic Combined Sport Director is responsible for applying the selection criteria set forth herein, subject to the oversight of the Chief of Sport.
- A maximum of five (5) athletes per gender will be chosen to represent the United States in the 2026 Junior World Championships.
- The quota of start rights per nation is set by the International Ski and Snowboard Federation ("FIS"), and is typically four (4) athletes per event. In cases where the team size may exceed the quota, start rights are determined by the Nordic Combined USA coaching staff.
- Objective selections shall be based on the results achieved by athletes in World Cup and Continental Cup competitions from November 1st, 2025 thru January 19th, 2025 (the "Selection Period"), and during Junior World Championship Trial competitions set for Ishpeming, MI, January 16th-18th, 2026 and Brattleboro, VT, February 13th-15th, 2026.
- All qualifying competitions are governed by the international federation rules of competition. The international federation for snowsports, as recognized by the IOC, is FIS. All criteria as they relate to rules, regulations, and competition calendars are subject to change based on changes by FIS, the USOPC, and the IOC.
- All other U.S. Ski & Snowboard rules, including its [Code of Conduct](#), and the [U.S. Center for SafeSport Code](#) shall apply to the criteria and all participants.
- Discretionary selections, if any, may be based on a variety of factors, including competitions conducted outside of the Selection Period.
- Team status does not include funding from U.S. Ski & Snowboard or Nordic Combined USA.
- Athletes must declare a sport discipline (Ski Jumping or Nordic Combined) to the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Ski Jumping and Nordic Combined Team Director by December 8th, 2025 to be eligible to be named to the Team and compete in their respective JWC event.

2. 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 FIS license and who meet FIS minimum eligibility standards.

- Athletes born in the years 2006-2010 are eligible to be selected for the 2026 FIS Nordic Combined Junior World Championship.
- All injured athletes must be cleared by a U.S. Ski & Snowboard approved Sports Medicine provider before being considered for naming to the team.



3. SELECTION CRITERIA:

Athletes meeting the following criteria, listed in order of priority, may be selected to the U.S. Nordic Combined Junior World Championship (JWC) Team based solely on their competition results during the Selection Period. If the number of athletes meeting the criteria exceeds the FIS quota, criteria are applied in order of priority until the maximum team size is reached.

- Athletes with a top-twenty (20) World Cup result for women or a top-thirty (30) World Cup result for men during the Selection Period.
- Athletes with a top-fifteen (15) Continental Cup result for women or a top- thirty (30) Continental Cup result for men during the Selection Period.
- Athletes selected to compete in a World Cup event.
- Athletes who have scored Continental Cup points during the Selection Period, according to rank order.

In the case of a tie, U.S. Ski & Snowboard shall use the following tie-breaking mechanism listed in order of priority:

- Highest single World Cup finish during the Selection Period.
- Highest single Continental Cup finish during the Selection Period.
- Highest single U.S. Ski & Snowboard JWC Trials finish.

4. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION POLICY:

If fewer than four (4) athletes have been selected through the criteria set forth in Section 3, then the Junior World Selection Committee (made up of regional and national team coaches) shall select as many additional athletes as may be necessary to bring the total team size up to the USA quota, as established by FIS. These athletes will be selected based on Continental Cup results and/or the Junior World Championship Trial competitions set for Ishpeming, MI, January 16th - 18th, 2026 and Brattleboro, VT, February 13th - 15th, 2026.

In the event that one or all of the Junior World Championship Trial events and/or Continental Cup events are canceled, additional spots may be selected by the Junior World Selection Committee using 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:

- Outstanding competition results (including results achieved outside of the Selection Period).
- Recent direction or trend of competition results (i.e., improving, flat, or declining).
- Illness or injury during the Selection Period.
- Other unanticipated failure of objective criteria to select an athlete likely to achieve competition results consistent with U.S. Ski & Snowboard program goals.

5. Remaining team selection will be based on JWSC Trial Events.

In the event that quota spots remain after application of coaches discretion, athletes will be selected based on JWSC Trials results.

JWC Trial results will be awarded based on the World Cup individual competition evaluation. Trial



competitions will be assessed by using an athlete's best 3 out of 4 results. If less than 4 events are carried out, then all remaining events will be counted. In the event of a tie-break, the Selection Committee will award the JWC nomination to the athlete with the best finish based on percent back from the winner.

Points for JWC Trials:

- 1st place: 100 points
- 2nd Place: 90 points
- 3rd Place: 80 points
- 4th Place: 70 points ...etc.

Reference rule #3.1 WC-SJ Evaluation Individual Competitions can be [found here](#).

6. 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 could have been selected for. Such determination shall be at the discretion of the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Sport Director in consultation with the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Senior Director of Medical Operations and the Head Team Physician.

7. TEAM SELECTION:

Selection to the 2026 JWC team will be made on or near February 16, 2026, and all athletes selected will be notified by the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Ski Jumping and Nordic Combined Sport Director.

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

The U.S. Ski & Snowboard Grievance Procedures can be found within section IX of the U.S. Ski & Snowboard bylaws found at: usskiandsnowboard.org

9. ATHLETE OMBUDSMAN:

Athletes who have questions regarding their opportunity to compete that are not answered by U.S. Ski & Snowboard may contact the USOPC Ombuds Office:

- Telephone at (719) 866-5000
- EMAIL: ombudsman@usathlete.org
- WEBSITE: usathlete.org