

## 2021 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). Assignment of start rights will at the discretion of the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Cross Country staff.
- 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 27, 2020 and January 31, 2021 and all individual SuperTour races held on or between December 9, 2020 and January 17, 2021.
- 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.
- U.S. Cross Country World Championships Team status does not guarantee funding from U.S. Ski & Snowboard.

### Objective Criteria:

Athletes will be selected to the team based solely upon their competition results during the selection period, up to the maximum allowable quota.

- 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 10/15 km F, and 15/30 km Skiathlon.
- Athletes ranking in the top-50 in the Distance World Cup or Sprint World Cup standings on January 31, 2021 shall be selected to the team. Top-50 rankings will include only an athlete's individual World Cup results, and 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 January 31, 2021. Athletes who are ranked in the top-50 in BOTH the Distance and Sprint World Cup standings as of January 31, 2021 will be counted against the 5-sprinter per gender cap. Athletes qualifying via top-8 individual sprint finishes will be selected before athletes qualifying via top-50 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.

Phase 1 Discretionary Selection:

U.S. Ski & Snowboard may select additional athletes to the Team using coaches' discretion, using factors other than objective criteria such as:

- Outstanding competition results (including any results from the 2019/20 and 2020/21 seasons).
- Recent direction or trend in competition results (i.e., improving, flat, or declining).
- Physical fitness level.
- Illness or injury during the selection period.
- Indicia of medal potential in future Olympic or World Championship competition, which would be materially enhanced by selection to team.
- Other unanticipated failure of objective criteria to select an athlete likely to achieve competition results consistent with U.S. Ski & Snowboard program goals for World Championships.

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 group comprised of the U.S. Ski & Snowboard President and CEO, 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.

#### Phase 2 Discretionary Selection:

Should there be any remaining positions after the Objective and Phase 1 Discretionary selection has been applied, the remaining slots may, but are under no obligation to, be filled by considering the 2021 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 Selection 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 Selection Committee to be considered for discretionary selection by submitting, in writing, a petition including any rationale to the U.S. Ski & Snowboard President and CEO ([tiger.shaw@usskiandsnowboard.org](mailto:tiger.shaw@usskiandsnowboard.org)) before 8:00 AM Mountain time on January 31, 2021.

\*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 2021 Championship Selection List will only consider qualification round finish placing.
- All 4 individual races during the U.S. National Championships and SuperTour period (tentatively Jan 2-7, 2021) will include the following bonus SuperTour points for the purpose of the 2021 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 2021 Championship Selection List only, U.S. National Championship and SuperTour participants (Jan. 2-7, 2021) 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 2021 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.

The highest ranked athlete in whichever pool the Cross Country Program Director deems necessary to effectively fill an open World Championships start position, and who was not nominated to the team by Phase 1 or Phase 2 selection, may be recommended by the Cross Country Program Director to the Selection Committee, who may nominate additional selections.

The total number of selections made using Sprint criteria (World Cup sprint results, World Cup sprint rankings and 2021 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 President and CEO 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 2021 U.S. Cross Country World Championship Team shall be announced on or near February 2, 2021 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>