

**US SKI & SNOWBOARD ASSOCIATION (USSA)  
 ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES  
 2018 OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES - ALPINE SKIING  
 February 8, 2017**

**1. SELECTION SYSTEM**

1.1. Minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for nomination to the Team:

1.1.1. Nationality/Passport requirements:

Athlete must be a national of the United States at the time of selection.

Athlete must hold a valid U.S. passport that will not expire for six months after the conclusion of the Games.

1.1.2. Minimum International Olympic Committee (IOC) standards for participation:

Any competitor in the Olympic Games must be a national of the country of the National Olympic Committee (NOC) which is entering such competitor. For additional information regarding an athlete who is a national of two or more countries, has changed his or her nationality or acquired a new nationality, refer to the IOC Charter (Rule 42).

All athletes participating in the PyeongChang 2018 Olympic Winter Games ("OWG") must be born before January 1, 2002.

1.1.3. Minimum International Ski Federation (FIS) standards for participation (if any):

Athletes are eligible for selection by their NOC who are ranked in the top 500 in an event of the Olympic FIS Points List published on January 22, 2018 and have the Olympic FIS points in the respective event as defined below:

<b>Ranking in the Olympic FIS Points List</b>	<b>Downhill</b>	<b>Super-G</b>	<b>*Alpine Combined</b>	<b>Slalom</b>	<b>Giant Slalom</b>
ranked <=500 in DH	<=80.00 pts	<=80.00 pts	<=80.00 pts	<=140.00 pts	<=140.00 pts
ranked <=500 in SG		<=80.00 pts		<=140.00 pts	<=140.00 pts
ranked <=500 in AC			<=80.00 pts*	<=140.00 pts	<=140.00 pts
ranked <=500 in GS				<=140.00 pts	<=140.00 pts
ranked <=500 in SL				<=140.00 pts	<=140.00 pts

\*In Alpine Combined, an athlete additionally requires <=80.00 Olympic FIS points in downhill.

1.1.4. Other requirements:

USSA will consider for nomination only those USSA members in good standing with a valid FIS license.

1.2. Tryout Events:

- 1.2.1. Event names, dates and locations of all competitions to be used as part of the selection process.

All FIS World Cup alpine races between October 21, 2017 through January 22, 2018 (the "selection period"). The schedule of competitions will be posted at [www.fisiski.com](http://www.fisiski.com) when approved.

- 1.2.2. Event names, dates, locations and description of how athletes qualify for the events listed above in 1.2.1.

Qualification criteria for the FIS Alpine World Cups for 2017/2018 will be published at [www.ussa.org](http://www.ussa.org).

1.3. Athletes shall be nominated to the team based on the following process:

There will be a maximum of twenty-two athletes representing the United States in the 2018 Olympic Winter Games, with a maximum of fourteen athletes per gender. For specific qualification system rules for establishing team size, go to [www.fisiski.com](http://www.fisiski.com).

Up to four male and four female athletes may start for the United States in each event. The two athletes with the best FIS World Cup Ranking in each event as of Feb. 9, 2018 will be assured of a start in that event. Additional starts will be filled at the discretion of the coaching staff.

Up to three athletes for each event (Men's and Women's Downhill, Men's and Women's Slalom, Men's and Women's Giant Slalom, Men's and Women's Super-G) and up to two athletes in Men's and Women's Alpine Combined shall be nominated to the team based solely upon their FIS Alpine World Cup results during the selection period provided these athletes fit within the IOC/FIS maximum team size requirement. Criteria for objective selection shall be as follows, in order of priority:

1. One or more top three finishes. Athletes with a top three FIS Alpine World Cup finish in an event shall be nominated to the OWG Team, unless application of this criterion would result in a total of more than three objective selections for an event (Men's and Women's Downhill, Men's and Women's Slalom, Men's and Women's Giant Slalom, Men's and Women's Super-G) or a total of more than two objective selections in Men's and Women's Alpine Combined or the application of this criterion would exceed the maximum allowable team size, in which case USSA shall use the following tie-breaking mechanisms in order:
  - a) Ranked by total FIS Alpine World Cup points in the event.
  - b) Ranked by most World Cup Start List points at the time of nomination

- c) Ranked by best FIS point result in FIS Alpine World Cup races in the particular event (race points and penalty)
2. One or more top five finishes. If fewer than 3 athletes are selected to the OWG team for that event based upon criterion 1, then athletes with one top five FIS Alpine World Cup finish in an event shall be nominated to the OWG Team, unless application of this criterion would result in a total of more than three objective selections for an event (Men's and Women's Downhill, Men's and Women's Slalom, Men's and Women's Giant Slalom, Men's and Women's Super-G) or a total of more than two objective selections in Men's and Women's Alpine Combined or the application of this criteria would exceed the maximum allowable team size, in which case USSA shall use the following tie-breaking mechanisms in order:
  - a) Ranked by total FIS Alpine World Cup points in the event.
  - b) Ranked by most World Cup Start List points at the time of nomination
  - c) Ranked by best FIS point result in FIS Alpine World Cup races in the particular event (race points and penalty)
3. One or more top ten finishes. If fewer than 3 athletes are selected to the OWG team for that event based upon criteria 1 and 2, then athletes with one top ten FIS Alpine World Cup finish in an event shall be nominated to the OWG Team, unless application of this criterion would result in a total of more than three objective selections for an event (Men's and Women's Downhill, Men's and Women's Slalom, Men's and Women's Giant Slalom, Men's and Women's Super-G) or a total of more than two objective selections in Men's and Women's Alpine Combined or the application of this criteria would exceed the maximum allowable team size, in which case USSA shall use the following tie-breaking mechanisms in order:
  - a) Ranked by total FIS Alpine World Cup points in the event.
  - b) Ranked by most World Cup Start List points at the time of nomination
  - c) Ranked by best FIS point result in FIS Alpine World Cup races in the particular event (race points and penalty)
4. Total FIS Alpine World Cup Points in an event. If fewer than two athletes are nominated to the OWG Team for an event based upon the criteria numbered (1) through (3) above, then the athlete with the highest total FIS Alpine World Cup points in that event shall be nominated to the OWG Team as long as doing so does not require USSA to exceed the maximum allowable team size. If two or more athletes tie for the highest total FIS Alpine World Cup points, then USSA shall use the following tie-breaking mechanism:

- a) Ranked by most World Cup Start List points at the time of nomination
- b) Ranked by best FIS point result in FIS Alpine World Cup races in the particular event (race points and penalty).

If, after application of criterion number (4) above, fewer than two athletes have been nominated to the team for an event, then criterion number 4 shall be applied again, if possible (i.e., -- if there are remaining athletes with FIS Alpine World Cup points), to ensure that a total of two athletes are nominated to the team for the event.

5. Decreasing Team Size. If, after application of the above criterion, more athletes are selected objectively than the allowable maximum team size, then USSA shall use the following tie breaking mechanisms in order among the third objective selections across events.

- a) Ranked by total FIS Alpine World Cup points in the event in which the athlete is nominated.
- b) Ranked by most World Cup Start List points at the time of nomination
- c) Ranked by best FIS point result in FIS Alpine World Cup races in the event in which the athlete is nominated (race points and penalty)

The athletes with the lowest World Cup point total in the event in which they were selected will be removed from selection in that event until the maximum allowable team size is met. If one or more athletes have an equal number of World Cup points in the event in which they were selected, the athletes will be ranked by best FIS point result in the event in which they were selected, and the athlete with the highest FIS point result in the event in which they were selected will be removed from the selection in that event.

6. If team positions remain open after application of criteria 1-4 above, the discretionary selection may be used (see Section 2. below) to determine additional nominations.

## 2. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION

### 2.1. Rationale for utilizing discretionary selection:

Athletes (including those not selected objectively due to illness or injury) may be recommended by the USSA Alpine Head Coaches for selection to the team via discretion if they satisfy any of the following, and have indicated the potential for Olympic success.

- Outstanding competition results from the 2016/2017 or 2017/2018 seasons.
- Recent positive direction or trend of competition results indicating a potential for Olympic success.

- Indication of medal potential in future Olympic or World Championship competition (such as international age group results and rankings) that would be materially enhanced by selection to team.

2.2. Committee that will be responsible for making discretionary selections, along with a complete list of the members' titles currently serving on the committee:

Tiger Shaw	USSA President and CEO
Luke Bodensteiner	USSA Executive Vice President, Athletics
Patrick Riml	USSA Alpine Director
Warner Nickerson	USSA Athlete Representative

2.2.1. Process that will be used to identify and handle any potential conflicts of interest involving a member of the committee.

Conflicts of interest may arise for Selection Committee Members during the team selection process. Conflicts of interest exist when a Selection Committee member stands to benefit privately from a decision made by the Selection Committee. A conflict may arise, but is not limited to, when a Selection Committee Member is in a position to participate in discussion or a vote concerning an athlete whom he or she coaches or trains privately who is being considered for a position on the Team. In the interest of assuring a fair selection process, the following rules will be followed by the Selection Committee when a conflict of interest arises:

Any member of the selection committee that has a possible conflict of interest must disclose it. If such conflict exists, the selection committee member must recuse him/herself from committee discussions and voting. Further, the committee member should not otherwise influence other members of the committee in the nomination process. However, a committee member who recused him/herself, but 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 committee so long as such information is provided in a fair and unbiased manner.

### 3. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES

3.1. Prior to acceptance of nominations by the USOC, USSA has jurisdiction over potential nominees.

An athlete who is to be nominated to the Team by USSA may be removed as a nominee for any of the following reasons, as determined by the USSA:

- 3.1.1. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written letter to the USSA's CEO.
- 3.1.2. Injury or illness as certified by a physician (or medical staff) approved by USSA. If an athlete refuses verification of his/her illness or injury by a physician (or medical staff) approved by USSA, his/her injury will be assumed to be disabling and he/she may be removed.

- 3.1.3. Violation of the USSA's Code of Conduct (Attachment 1).
- 3.1.4. Following the nomination of the 2018 OWG Team, mandatory-training camps may be organized in preparation for the Olympic Games. Failure to attend these mandatory camps may result in removal from the Team.

An athlete who is removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing USSA's Bylaws, Article IX Section B, and the USOC's Bylaws, Section 9.

- 3.2. Once an athlete nomination is accepted by the USOC, the USOC has jurisdiction over the Team, at which time, in addition to any applicable USSA's Code of Conduct, the USOC's Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures apply. The USOC's Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures can be found at: <http://www.teamusa.org/about-usoc/athlete-ombudsman/olympic-paralympic-and-pan-am-games-information>.
- 3.3. An athlete may be removed as a nominee to the Team or from the Team for an adjudicated violation of IOC, WADA, FIS, USADA and/or USOC anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures, as applicable.

#### **4. REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES**

- 4.1. Selection and approval process for determining replacement athlete(s) should a vacancy occur:
  - 4.1.1. prior to submission of Entries by Name to the Local Organizing Committee, replacement athletes will be identified using the same method of selection specified in sections 1 and 2 of this document.
  - 4.1.2. after submission of Entries by Name to the Local Organizing Committee, replacement athletes will be identified using the same method of selection specified in sections 1 and 2 of this document.

#### **5. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

USSA will retain the approved Selection Procedures and all supporting documents, including scouting or evaluation forms, etc., and data from the selection process for six months past the date of the Closing Ceremony of the Games.

#### **6. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**

In addition to the USOC Code of Conduct, the following documents are required to be signed by an athlete as a condition of nomination to the Olympic Winter Games and are included as attachments:

- USSA Code of Conduct (Attachment 1)

#### **7. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES**

The USOC approved Selection Procedures (complete and unaltered) will be posted/published by USSA in the following locations:

7.1. USSA's Web site: [www.ussa.org](http://www.ussa.org)

These procedures will be posted as soon as possible, but not more than five business days following notice of approval by the USOC.

7.2. Other: N/A

**8. DATE OF NOMINATION**

The Nomination of Athletes form, including replacements, will be announced to all athletes and submitted to the USOC on or before January 22, 2018.

## **9. MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION**

Mandatory training camps may be organized prior to the Games. Location, schedule and duration of these training camps will be announced 30 days prior to the start of the camps, and will be posted at [www.ussa.org](http://www.ussa.org). Final arrangements will be confirmed immediately prior to any camp based on weather conditions and availability for the best opportunity to train.

## **10. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS**

Athletes must adhere to all IOC, WADA, FIS, USADA and USOC anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures, as applicable. This includes participation in Out-of-Competition Testing as required by the IOC, WADA, FIS, USADA and USOC Rules, as applicable.

## **11. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES**

The following committee/group was responsible for creating these Selection Procedures:

Tiger Shaw, USSA President and CEO

Luke Bodensteiner – USSA Executive Vice President, Athletics

Patrick Riml – USSA Alpine Director

Warner Nickerson – USSA Athlete Representative

## **12. NGB BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES**

The NGB Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found at: <http://ussa.org/ussa/u-s-ski-and-snowboard-association>

## **13. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER**

These procedures are based on IOC and/or FIS rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in IOC and/or FIS rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes immediately. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to USSA. However, the selections are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances, and realistically may not have accounted for every possible contingency.

If any force of nature, or force majeure, should cause the alteration or cancellation of any of the selection events listed in this document, these selection procedures will be revised, pursuant to their resubmission to the USOC.

## **14. ATHLETE OMBUDSMAN**

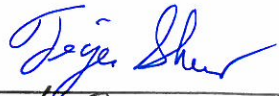

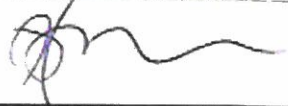
Athletes who have questions regarding their opportunity to compete that are not answered by USSA may contact the USOC Athlete Ombudsman, Kacie Wallace, by:

- 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)



## 15. NGB/PSO/HPMO SIGNATURES

I certify that I have read and understand the standards/criteria set by FIS and incorporated those standards/criteria into our Selection Procedures. I further certify that the information provided herein regarding Athlete Selection Procedures represents the method approved by USSA.

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
USSA's President or CEO/Executive Director	Tiger Shaw		4/13/17
USSA's Alpine Director	Patrick Rimi		4/11/17
USSA Alpine Athletes' Council Representative*	Holly Brooks		4/4/2017

### ATTACHMENT 1: USSA CODE OF CONDUCT

Membership in the United States Ski and Snowboard Association is a privilege, not a right. All USSA members (athletes, coaches, and officials) when participating in any USSA activity must agree to conduct themselves according to USSA's core values of Team, Loyalty, Integrity, Respect, Perseverance, and Accountability and abide by the spirit and dictates of this Code of Conduct. All members must agree to comport themselves in a sportsmanlike manner, and are responsible for their actions while attending or participating in all USSA activities (including but not limited to camps, competitions, and projects).

Sportsmanlike conduct is defined as, but is not limited to: respect for competition officials, resort employees, and the skiing and snowboarding public, respect for facilities, privileges and operating procedures, the use of courtesy and good manners, acting responsibly and maturely, refraining from the use of profane or abusive language, and abstinence from illegal or immoderate use of alcohol and use of illegal or banned drugs.

While participating in any USSA activity:

1. USSA members shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the International Ski Federation Statutes, the United States Olympic Committee Bylaws, the USSA Bylaws, and the USSA Code of Conduct.
2. USSA members shall conduct themselves at all times and in all places as befits worthy representatives of the United States of America, the United States Olympic Committee, USSA, their region, division, state or club and in accordance with the best traditions of national and international competition.
3. USSA members are responsible for knowledge of and adherence to competition rules and procedures. Members are also responsible for knowledge of and adherence to the rules

and procedures of the USSA national teams, camps or other projects when participating in such.

4. USSA members shall maintain high standards of moral and ethical conduct, which includes self-control and responsible behavior, consideration for the physical and emotional well-being of others, and courtesy and good manners.
5. USSA members shall abide by USSA rules and procedures while traveling to and from and participating in official USSA activities.
6. USSA members shall abstain from illegal and/or immoderate consumption of alcohol. Absolutely no consumption of alcohol is permitted for those individuals under the age of 21. Members under 21 years of age shall not participate in gatherings involving consumption of alcohol unless it is an official USSA or event organizer function.
7. No USSA member shall violate the customs, travel or currency regulations of a country while traveling with a USSA group or on a USSA ticket.
8. No USSA member shall commit a criminal act.
9. No USSA member shall engage in any conduct that could be perceived as harassment based upon gender, age, race, religion or disability.
10. USSA members will avoid profane or abusive language and disruptive behavior.
11. USSA members agree to abide by anti-doping rules and procedures established by WADA, USADA, and/or FIS.

Failure to comply with any of the above provisions may lead to disciplinary action by the appropriate team or competition leader. Disciplinary action may include:

- Removal from the team trip or training camp.
- Suspension from training and/or competition.
- Elimination of coaching, travel, and other benefits.
- Forfeiture of USSA membership.

USSA is committed to principles of fairness, due process and equal opportunity. Members are entitled to be treated fairly and in compliance with USSA's Bylaws, policies and procedures. Members are entitled to notice and an opportunity for a hearing before being prevented from participating in protected competition as that term is defined by the USOC Bylaws. Information on the processes for grievances, suspensions and appeals is available at [www.ussa.org](http://www.ussa.org).

Nothing in this Code shall be deemed to restrict the individual freedom of a USSA member in matters not involving activities in which one could not be perceived as representing USSA. In choices of appearance, lifestyle, behavior and speech while not representing USSA, competitors shall have complete freedom, provided their statements and actions do not adversely affect the name and reputation of the USSA. However, in those events where one is representing or could be perceived as representing USSA, USSA demands that its members understand and agree to behave in a manner consistent with the best traditions of sportsmanship and USSA's core values.