

# United States Freestyle Ski Team

## 2016-17 World Cup and 2017-18 Team Qualification Criteria

### FIS Freestyle World Cup Criteria 2016-17

The FIS Freestyle World Cup represents the highest caliber of competition in freestyle skiing; including more than 20 countries. The World Cup calendar begins in December and continues through the end of March. Top U.S. Freestyle Ski Team skiers accumulate World Cup points in determining final season World Cup titles.

### Start Allocations

Athlete quotas are determined by the FIS. USSA reserves the right to fill those quotas at its discretion. The following criteria will be used to determine start allocations for the 2016-17 competition seasons. Please note that to be eligible to compete in World Cup competition; athletes must qualify via the following minimum criteria. However, simply because an athlete qualifies, that does not guarantee that he/she shall start or guarantee a level of funding an athlete will receive. This can be due to a number of factors, but not limited to number of starts allocated to USSA by the FIS, athlete code of conduct, requirements, etc. In the event that more athletes qualify than there are starts, athlete results from the prior year will be considered. All ties in all criteria (unless specifically noted to the contrary) will be broken by comparing:

- Best finish
- Next best finish
- Next best finish and so on as necessary until tie is broken.

An injured or returning athlete at the discretion of USSA staff may be added to the start allocation at any event or competition period. Injured athletes will be considered per injury criteria; see below. Early, Mid and Late season periods will be decided based upon completion of the FIS competition calendar. All criteria are listed in order of importance in the selection processes.

### Aerials and Moguls Early Season (December) World Cup Competitions

1. All A and B Team athletes will receive starts in their qualified discipline up to the maximum allowable by FIS.
2. Any USFST athlete selected through coaches discretion.

### Aerials and Moguls \*Mid Season (Calgary-Val St. Come) and U.S. World Cup Competitions (Deer Valley, Lake Placid)

1. All A Team athletes receive starts in their qualified discipline up to maximum allowable by FIS.
2. All remaining B Team athletes in their discipline, up to the maximum quota allowed by the FIS.
3. All C-D Team athletes in their discipline who competed in the Early Season World Cup competitions and achieved a top 16 result in moguls, or the top 12 results in aerials, up to the maximum quota allowed by the FIS.
4. Athletes who are selected by coaches discretion.

\* see specific criteria below for United States World Cups in Lake Placid and Deer Valley

### Aerials and Moguls Mid Season (Deer Valley, Lake Placid)

1. Top one athlete per gender for Moguls and Aerials by adding best place points together from two out of three single Mogul events or Aerials events. Events considered in criteria are 2016 U.S. \*Nationals and the 2016-17 U.S. Selections events. These athletes will be considered World Cup start athletes if not presently qualified for current United States Freestyle Ski Team. All Qualified World Cup athletes will train and compete within the USFST system.

\* 2016 Jr. Worlds results will not be used due to no schedule conflict

# **United States Freestyle Ski Team 2016-17 World Cup and 2017-18 Team Qualification Criteria**

## **Aerials and Moguls Late Season (Post North America) World Cup Competitions**

After the North American World Cups, A-D Team and World Cup start athletes must have placed within specified minimum placing(s) listed below, one for every one to four events, or two for every five to eight events. Qualified athletes cannot exceed maximum quota allowable by FIS, ties will be broken as noted above. A single top 5 finish would also satisfy this requirement. The number of events is calculated by the total number of events conducted in early and mid season periods; regardless of the number of events skied in by the athlete. Athletes may also be selected by coaches discretion for start allocation. Funded athletes who do not meet minimum requirements for the late season period may lose funding even if discretion starts are received. Minimum placing(s) are as follows:

### **Event-**

- Aerials Top 10
- Moguls Top 10

## **2017-18 U.S. Freestyle Ski Team Nomination Criteria**

Eligibility for Consideration: The USSA will consider for selection only those USSA members in good standing who have a valid FIS license.

Further, an athlete shall be ineligible for consideration if previously suspended or removed from team membership without having been reinstated by USSA. Also, athletes who have previously declined an offer of team membership shall not be automatically offered team membership regardless of results achieved during the competition season unless that athlete specifically requests consideration and the USSA Freestyle Sport Director approves the request.

Team status does not guarantee funding from USSA for competition or preparation. However, every effort will be made to maximize available funding to all teams in order to develop and implement comprehensive preparation and competition programs. Athletes who have been given individual performance criteria to meet will be subject to that specific criteria and not to general criteria as outlined below. Athletes who do not meet minimum physical fitness requirements as determined by USSA will not be considered for team nomination.

## **2016-17 In-Season Promotion of Team Status**

Athletes will not be promoted in season. No athlete will be demoted during the season, however funding may be suspended at any time if progress or commitment is not consistent with the designed program and or required results.

# **United States Freestyle Ski Team 2016-17 World Cup and 2017-18 Team Qualification Criteria**

## **2017-18 U.S. Freestyle Ski Team Nomination Criteria, Aerials**

The following criteria will be used to nominate a maximum of 10 Athletes based on World Cup Quota to the Aerials 2017-18 U.S. Freestyle Ski Team A and B Teams. Additional athletes above maximum quota that have satisfied A and B Team criteria will be named to the C Team. Athletes may be subject to individual criteria. Maximum team size should not exceed (16) athletes in Aerials. Use of discretion criteria is not mandatory if maximum Team size is not achieved. Athletes who do not meet criteria within max team size may not be named to the United States Freestyle Ski Team. Athletes nominated to the Team must accept or decline their nomination within 10 days after notification.

The following criteria are listed in order of selection and importance. If maximum team size (16) is achieved criteria below that point may not be considered. All ties in all criteria (unless specifically noted to the contrary) will be broken by comparing:

- Best World Cup finish
- Next best World Cup finish
- Next best World Cup finish and so on as necessary until tie is broken.

### **Aerials A Team**

1. World Championship medalist from the 2016-17 season
2. One World Cup win in the 2016-17 season
3. Two top 3 World Cup results, in the 2016-17 season
4. Three top 6 World Cup results (including WSC) in the 2016-17 season
5. Top 8 World Cup Aerials final standings
6. Athletes selected by coaches discretion

### **Aerials B Team**

1. One top 3 World Cup result, in the 2016-17 season
2. Two top 6 World Cup results(including WSC) in the 2016-17 season
3. Top 12 World Cup Aerials final standings
4. First place finish at the 2017 U.S. National Championships with minimum scores 85 women, 115 men.
5. Top athlete using an average of the top four FIS event scores
6. Athletes selected by coaches discretion.

### **Aerials C Team\***

1. Top 15 World Cup Aerial final standings
2. 2017 NorAm Grand Prix Champion in Aerials
3. 2017 Junior World Championships gold medalist in Aerials
4. Top 2 athletes using an average of the top four FIS event scores not presently named from the above criterion
5. Athletes selected by coaches discretion

# United States Freestyle Ski Team

## 2016-17 World Cup and 2017-18 Team Qualification Criteria

\* In order to be eligible for selection to the U.S. Freestyle "C" Team athletes must be capable to perform Back Full(bF) in all ranges and be capable of consistently performing and landing (bLL).

### 2017-18 U.S. Freestyle Ski Team Nomination Criteria, Moguls

The following criteria will be used to nominate a maximum of 12 athletes based on World Cup quota in Moguls to the 2017-18 U.S. Freestyle Ski A - B Teams. Additional athletes above maximum quota that have satisfied A-B Team criteria will be named to the D Team. Athletes may be subject to individual criteria. Maximum team size should not exceed (20) athletes. Use of discretion criteria is not mandatory if maximum Team size is not achieved. Athletes who do not meet criteria within max team size may not be named to the United States Freestyle Ski Team. Athletes nominated to the Team must accept or decline their nomination within 10 days after notification.

The following criteria are listed in order of selection and importance. If maximum Team size (20) is achieved criteria below that point may not be considered. All ties in all criteria (unless specifically noted to the contrary) will be broken by comparing:

- Best World Cup finish
- Next best World Cup finish
- Next best World Cup finish and so on as necessary until tie is broken.

### Moguls A Team

1. World Championship medalist from the 2016-17 season
2. One World Cup win in single moguls
3. Two top 3 World Cup results in the 2016-17 season
4. Three top 6 World Cup results in single moguls (including WSC) or combination of Two top 6 World Cup (including WSC) results in single moguls and One top 4 World Cup (including WSC) result in dual moguls in the 2016-17 season
5. Top 8 World Cup Moguls final standings
6. Athletes selected by coaches discretion

### Moguls B Team

1. One top 3 World Cup result in the 2016-17 season
2. Two top 6 World Cup results in single moguls (including WSC) or combination of One top 6 World Cup (including WSC) result in single moguls and One top 4 World Cup (including WSC) result in dual moguls in the 2016-17 season
3. Top 10 World Cup Moguls final standings
4. Athletes selected by coaches discretion

### Moguls D Team age specific criteria indicated by: (YOB) 1998 - 2002

1. Two top 10 2016-17 World Cup (including WSC) results
2. Top 15 World Cup Moguls final standings
3. One top 10 2016-17 World Cup (including WSC) result **(YOB) 1998 – 2002**

## **United States Freestyle Ski Team 2016-17 World Cup and 2017-18 Team Qualification Criteria**

4. 2017 NorAm Grand Prix Champion in moguls
5. Athletes selected by coaches discretion
6. 2017 Junior World Championships gold medalist in single moguls
7. First Place finish at the 2017 U.S. Freestyle Championships in single moguls
8. Four 2017 Nor Am final results (defined as top 6 in singles or top 4 in duals) **(YOB) 1998 - 2002**
9. Athletes selected by coaches discretion

### **D Team Criteria 6-8; ties will be broken from results from that particular event or tour by comparing:**

- Best result
- Next best finish and so on as necessary until tie is broken.

### **USSA Freestyle Coaches Discretion Policy**

The following are guidelines for discretionary selections. In addition to these guidelines there may be other factors that influence a coach to grant or not grant a discretionary position.

- Outstanding results.
- Recent direction of results (improving or declining)
- Sickness or injury of an outstanding athlete which caused that athlete to miss events.
- Opportunities previously provided to an athlete in relationship to results.
- Attitude and commitment.
- Physical fitness level.
- Athletes that demonstrate consistent execution, strength, and extension in fundamental air maneuvers, including but not limited to bt, bl and bf.

### **Protocol for Injured Athletes**

#### **Section 1: Injury**

1. An injury is defined as a physical debilitation resulting in the inability of an athlete to compete and or ski.
2. Athletes will be recognized as "injured" by the USSA Medical department (the medical director, Freestyle physical therapist, Freestyle physician).

#### **Section 2: Recognition of Injured Status**

An athlete recognized as "injured" will be excused from formal training and competition as recommended by the USSA Medical Department. Injured athletes will continue to be recognized by USSA at the level of team status achieved for the remainder of the season providing the following conditions are met:

1. The athlete does not withdraw from the program and provides confirmation that he or she will return to full participation at the earliest possible date.
2. The athlete follows a proper rehabilitation and training program as endorsed by the USSA Medical Department. Failure to follow the program as recommended without due cause may result in (a) inability to be considered "injured" for purposes of this section; (b) demotion of team status, and/or (c) dismissal from the program entirely

#### **Section 3: Returning to Competition**

Any athlete returning from an injury requiring any time out of training or competition for greater than a week, will require two levels of clearance prior to beginning a USSA Medical Staff designed progression back to full sport training or competition. This process will include the following:

## **United States Freestyle Ski Team 2016-17 World Cup and 2017-18 Team Qualification Criteria**

1. Medical clearance by USSA Medical Director with the USSA Medical Clearance Form completed and faxed to USSA Medical Director prior to athlete being ticketed for any camp. If this form is not on file at USSA, the athlete should not be ticketed or allowed to go to camp.
2. Functional clearance by USSA approved therapist or trainer as determined by injury sustained with results to team PT/ATC prior to travel to camp/comp.

These two criteria must be accomplished before the return to sport progression is designed. Results or limitations from the clearance process will determine the progression for return to full sport activity levels. This progression will be designed between USSA Medical staff and Team Coaching staff with athlete input. Because each athlete has individual specific responses to training loads and because every injury can be different in nature, return to full training loads or competition will be determined as a result of the individual reaction to progressive loads. This path will be a daily process monitored and determined appropriate by team medical staff and coaching staff with athlete input.

The athlete may be entered at a lower level of competition if deemed appropriate by the coaching staff of the given athlete's discipline. Returning to competition at a reduced level would in no way affect the athlete's team status for that particular season. An injured athlete may be reinstated into the World Cup in any competition period or event. If FIS quota is reached due to a returning athlete the lowest ranked athlete will be removed from that level of competition. Athlete ranking and tie breaks will be compared using the formula below.

- Best World Cup finish
- Next best World Cup finish
- Next best World Cup finish and so on as necessary until tie is broken.

When an athlete has returned to competition at the given level of team selection he/she will then be considered "able bodied" and be removed from injury status.

### **Section 4: Team Selection**

An injured athlete may be considered for the 2017-18 United States Freestyle Ski Team under the discretion policy.