

2021 Alpine World Ski Championship Selection Criteria

**Cortina, ITA
February 8-21, 2021**

Selection Criteria for U.S. Men's and Women's Alpine Ski Teams

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 World Championship Team based on the following principles.

- No minimum team size will be established.
- 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 athletes to the team using coaches' discretion.
- The U.S. Ski & Snowboard policy mandates that coaches' discretion must be limited to no more than twenty-five percent (25%) of total named team.

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 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, religion, age, gender, disability, national origin, or sexual orientation and with fair notice and opportunity for a hearing before declaring any such individual ineligible to participate.

3. TEAM SIZE

U.S. Ski & Snowboard may enter up to four (4) athletes per event as determined by FIS, with a maximum of up to 14 male and 14 female athletes, and 24 athletes total as determined by FIS.

4. START RIGHTS

Defending Champion, Mikaela Shiffrin, in Slalom and Super-G will have a confirmed start right in that discipline on top of the four (4) potential starters.

Up to four (4) male and up to four (4) female athletes may start for the United States in each discipline. The top two athletes to qualify in each discipline under criteria 5.A.1) through 5.A.3) will be assured of a start in that discipline. Additional starts will be filled at the discretion of the coaching staff.

5. TEAM SELECTION PROCEDURE AND CRITERIA

The Alpine Director is responsible for applying the selection criteria set forth herein, subject to the approval of the Chief Executive Officer for U.S. Ski & Snowboard. Objective selections shall be based on the results achieved by athletes in competitions held in the 2020-21 season from October 17, 2020 through January 26, 2021 (the “selection period”). Discretionary selections, if any, may be based on a variety of factors.

A. Objective Criteria:

Up to three (3) athletes for 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 (2) athletes for Men’s and Women’s Alpine Combined and Parallel shall be selected to the WSC Team based solely upon their competition results during the selection period. Criteria for objective selection shall be as follows, listed in order of priority:

1) One or more top three (3) finishes. Athletes with a top three (3) World Cup finish in that event shall be selected to the WSC Team, unless application of this criterion would result in a total of more than three (or two for Alpine Combined and Parallel) objective selections for that event, in which case the U.S. Ski & Snowboard shall use the following tie-breaking mechanisms in the following order:

- . a. Ranked by total World Cup points in that event.
- . b. Ranked by best FIS point result in World Cup races in the particular event (race points and penalty).

2) One or more top ten (10) finishes. If fewer than three (3) athletes or two (2) in Alpine Combined and Parallel, are selected to the WSC Team for that event based upon criteria 5.A.1), then athletes with a top ten (10) World Cup finish in that event shall be selected to the WSC Team, unless application of this criterion would result in a total of more than three (or two for Alpine Combined and Parallel) objective selections in which case the U.S. Ski & Snowboard shall use the following tie-breaking mechanisms in the following order:

- . a. Ranked by total World Cup points in that event.

- . b. Ranked by best FIS point result in World Cup races in the particular event (race points and penalty).

3) One or more top twenty (20) finishes in an event. If fewer than, three (3) athletes or two (2) in Alpine Combined and Parallel, are selected to the WSC Team in an event based upon the criteria 5.A.1) through 5.A.2) above, then the athletes with one or more top twenty (20) finishes in that event shall be selected to the WSC Team, unless application of this criterion would result in a total of more than three (or two for Alpine Combined and Parallel) objective selections in which case the U.S. Ski & Snowboard shall use the following tie-breaking mechanisms in order:

- . a. Ranked by total World Cup points in that event.
- . b. Ranked by best FIS point result in World Cup races in the particular event (race points and penalty).

If, after application of the Objective Criteria above and Coaches Discretion (described below), U.S. Ski & Snowboard will select athletes up to its maximum quota according to the objective criteria above, in order DH, SL, GS, SG (not including Alpine Combined and Parallel) and with disregard to the total number of athletes already selected by event.

B. Coaches' Discretion:

Outstanding competition results (including any results from the 2019-20 and 2020-21 seasons). Generally, athletes whose best World Ranking in a discipline (SL, GS, SG, DH) at the time of selection (14th FIS Points List 2020-21, printed 1.19.21) is outside of the top-120 will not be considered for discretionary selections, but will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis based on the discretionary criteria contained within these procedures:

- 1) Recent positive direction or trend of competition results (i.e. improving, flat, or declining),
- 2) Physical fitness level,
- 3) Illness or injury during the selection period,
- 4) Indicia of medal potential in the Nations Team Event, as described in Section 7 below,
- 5) Indicia of medal potential in future Olympic or World Championship competition that would be materially enhanced by selection to team. Athletes who have exhibited potential for success may be selected ahead of higher ranked athletes, and

- 6) Other unanticipated failure of objective criteria to select an athlete likely to achieve competitive results consistent with U.S. Ski & Snowboard program goals for Olympic Games and 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 President & CEO and the athlete representative from that sport who is a member of the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Board. 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.

6. NATIONS TEAM EVENT SELECTIONS

Athletes selected to represent the USA in the WSC Nations Team Event will be identified by the coaching staff from among the WSC Team members named using the above criteria. In the case that a Nations Team may not be filled with the selected athletes, discretionary selections may be used, beyond the (25%) discretionary selection limitation, for this event. These selections, if any, will consider the format of the event and will incorporate strategies to field a team with high potential for medal success.

7. COVID-19 CLAUSE

In the case that COVID-19 disruptions contribute to less than 60% (Men (DH 4, SG 3, GS 3, SL 5, AC 2, PAR 2) 19 and Women (DH 3, SG 2, GS 3, SL 4, AC 2, PAR 2)16)) of FIS Alpine World Cup races by event being contested in the 2020-21 season prior to the end of the selection period, or US athletes are unable to compete in 60% of World Cup races by event due to travel restrictions or other unforeseen events due to COVID-19, up to 3 athletes in (DH, SG, GS, SL) and 2 athletes in (AC and PAR) will be objectively named to the 2021 WSC team based on the WCSL event rankings up to the top 30 (DH, SG, GS, SL) and top 15 (AC and PAR) on the last date of the selection period (January 26, 2021). In this situation, additional discretionary selections may be considered under the discretionary procedures in 5.B.1-6.

8. ANNOUNCEMENT OF SELECTIONS

Selections to the 2021 World Ski Championship team shall be announced on Wednesday, January 27, 2021 at the offices of the U.S. Ski & Snowboard in Park City, Utah and shall be published immediately upon announcement.

9. MEDICAL CLAUSE

An athlete shall be ineligible for consideration if at the time selections are made he/she is not fit to compete due to any injury or illness from which he/she is not expected to recover adequately by the time of the 2021 WSC as verified by a member of the U.S. Ski & Snowboard medical staff. Such determination shall be at the discretion of the Alpine Director, and President & CEO in consultation with the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Sport Science staff, Men's or Women's Head Coach, the Head Men's or Women's Alpine Team Physician and the Athlete's designated physician.

10. ATHLETE REPLACEMENT PROCEDURE

In the case that an athlete that has been selected to the team becomes injured or ill prior the World Ski 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 Alpine Director after consulting with the President & CEO of U.S. Ski & Snowboard, the Head Coaches, and the Sport Science Department. Should an additional athlete be considered, the procedures as outlined in section 5.B. above will be followed to select that athlete. No athletes will be named to the team following the conclusion of mandatory training for or within five (5) days of the start of the WSC.

11. MANDATORY TRAINING

Following the selection of the 2021 WSC Team mandatory training camps may be organized in preparation for the WSC. Dates, locations, and organization of these training camps will be announced prior to final selection of the team.

12. 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 section IX of the U.S. Ski & Snowboard bylaws found at: usskiandsnowboard.org

12. 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@usathlete.org

- <https://www.teamusa.org/athlete-ombudsman>