



## **United States Ski & Snowboard Association**

### **2021 Cross Country International Continental Cup Selection Guidelines**

#### **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.

At all FIS competitions, including the World Junior Championship, a competitor must have reached his or her 16th birthday before the end of the calendar year (1st January – 31st December) in which the season ends.

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.

#### **Criterion Guidelines**

- This criterion is for the year of 2021 only. Criterion will be reevaluated in May 2021 at the U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD spring Congress and changes may be made for the 2022 selection year.
- 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 Cross Country Sport Development Manager is responsible for applying the selection criteria set forth herein, subject to the oversight of the Cross Country Program Director of the U.S. Ski Team.
- To ensure that the United States fields a representative team, minimum team size should strive for athlete representation from both genders from U20, U23, U26 and senior age categories. Total team size will be based on ensuring a strong race support and will not exceed a ratio of one (1) staff to four (4) athletes.
- Total team size will not exceed sixteen (16) athletes.
- When selecting athletes to the team, tie-breaking goes to the older athlete (earlier year of birth).
- Team status does not include funding from the U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD.

#### **Objective Criteria**

- Objective selections shall be based on the results achieved by athletes in FIS competitions. To be eligible, athletes must meet one of the criteria below. In the event that more than 16 athletes qualify, athletes will be selected based on the prioritization listed below. Athletes achieving a



Priority 1 standard (U20, U23, U26 and Seniors) are selected first – followed by Priority 2, and finally Priority 3.

- The U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD overall National Ranking List posted on January 24, 2021 will be used.
  - Senior (2005 and older)
    - Priority 1 - Top 8 on the U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD Overall National Ranking List
    - Priority 2 - 1 Top 3 finish at the 2020 U.S. Cross Country Championships
    - Priority 3 - Top 3 on the overall SuperTour current standings
  - U26 (2005-1995)
    - Priority 1 - Top 3 U26 on the U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD Overall National Ranking List
    - Priority 2 - 1 Top 5 finish at the 2020 U.S. Cross Country Championships
    - Priority 3 - Top 5 on the overall SuperTour current standings
  - U23 (2005-1998)
    - Priority 1 - Top 3 U23 on the U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD Overall National Ranking List
    - Priority 2 - 1 Top 5 finish or 2 Top 10's at the 2020 U.S. Cross Country Championships
    - Priority 3 - Top 10 on the overall SuperTour current standings
  - U20 (2005-2001)
    - Priority 1 - Top 3 U20 on the U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD Overall National Ranking List
    - Priority 2 - 1 Top 10 finish at the 2021 U.S. Cross Country Championships
    - Priority 3 - Qualified for the 2021 Junior World Ski Championships. Qualified top six (6) for Junior World Ski Championships selection at U.S. National Championships whether an athlete took part or did not partake in Junior World Ski Championships.
- Alternates will be ranked based on U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD Overall National Ranking List (NRL) within their respective age group outlined above. For example, the 1<sup>st</sup> alternates for discretionary selection would be the 9<sup>th</sup> ranked competitor on the U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD Overall National Ranking List (NRL), then the 4<sup>th</sup> ranked U26 on the U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD Overall NRL, then the 4<sup>th</sup> ranked U23 on the U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD Overall NRL, and then the 4<sup>th</sup> ranked U20 on the U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD Overall NRL, and so on.

#### Discretionary Selection Policy

U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD may select athletes to the team using coaches' 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:

- 1) Current gender make-up of the team. The gender with fewer athletes on the team will have the next discretionary selection opportunity.



- 2) Outstanding competition results (including results achieved outside of the selection period).
- 3) Recent direction or trend of competition results (i.e., improving, flat, or declining).
- 4) Illness or injury during the selection period.
- 5) Other unanticipated failure of objective criteria to select an athlete likely to achieve competition results consistent with U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD program goals for the International Continental Cup trip.

#### 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 Team Physician, and the athlete's designated physician.

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

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)