

United States Ski & Snowboard Association

2021 Cross Country World U23 Championship Team Selection Criterion

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 U23 Championships, 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.
- The team selected by U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD may consist of any number of athletes up to the quota set by the International Ski Federation (FIS). Assignment of start rights will at the discretion of the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Cross Country staff.
- Up to four (4) male and four (4) female athletes may start for the United States in each event.
- Up to six (6) athletes per gender may be selected to the team based solely upon their World Cup competition results during the objective selection period.
- Objective selections shall be based on World Cups held between November 1 and December 31, 2020, non-World Cup FIS competitions held between January 11, 2020 and December 31, 2020, and competitions at the 2021 U.S. Cross Country Championships, tentatively scheduled for Jan. 2-7, 2021 (the "selection period"). Technique, distances, and dates are subject to change within the U.S. Cross Country Championships competition schedule.
- Discretionary selections, if any, may be based on a variety of factors, including competitions conducted outside of the selection period.
- Team status does not include funding from the U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD.

General Criteria

- 1) Athletes finishing in the top-30 of an individual World Cup event held between November 1 and December 31, 2020 shall be selected to the team, unless application of this criterion would result in a total of more than five (5) selections per gender in which case U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD shall use the following tie-breaking mechanisms in order:

- Most World Cup points.
 - Lowest current U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD National Ranking List overall points.
- 2) Up to two (2) athletes per gender may be selected to the team based solely upon FIS race performance held within the objective selection period. Male athletes achieving two (2) FIS point results under 50 FIS points and female athletes achieving two (2) FIS point results under 60 FIS points in any FIS sanctioned race held between January 11 and December 31, 2020 shall be selected to the team, unless application of this criterion would result in a total of more than two (2) objective selections per gender, in which case the following tie-break procedure will be employed.

Tie-Breaking Procedure

A skier will move ahead in the final championship or trials standings, and on selections lists, based on the following procedures until a tie is broken.

1. Best individual finish in the selection period
 2. The second-best individual finish in the selection period
 3. The third-best individual finish in the selection period
 4. The fourth-best individual finish in the selection period
 5. Best current rank on the U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD overall National Ranking List
- 3) If fewer than five (5) athletes per gender are selected to the team based upon both coaches' discretion and the objective criteria listed above, then U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD shall ensure that it fields a representative team by selecting as many additional athletes as may be necessary to bring the total team size up to, but not limited to, five (5) athletes per gender based on an athlete's best two individual U.S. Cross Country Championship and SuperTour races during the selection period, tentatively Jan. 2-7, 2021, using the World Cup scoring system outlined in the U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD Competition Guide. 12 bonus selection points will be awarded to the U23 man and/or woman who wins the OVERALL (above all competitors of every age) sprint qualification of the first sprint at US Nationals (which mirrors the World U23 Championship technique).

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) Outstanding competition results (including results achieved outside of the selection period).
- 2) Recent direction or trend of competition results (i.e., improving, flat, or declining).
- 3) Illness or injury during the selection period.
- 4) Indicia of medal potential in future Olympic or World Championship competition, which would be materially enhanced by selection to team.
- 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 World U23 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 Cross Country Program Director, 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. 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 Cross Country Program Director (chris.grover@usskiandsnowboard.org) before 4:00 PM Mountain time on January 3, 2021.

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.

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.

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

Team Announcement:

Selections to the 2021 U.S. Cross Country U23 World Championship Team shall be announced on or near January 11, 2021 at the offices of U.S. Ski & Snowboard in Park City, Utah and shall be published immediately upon announcement.