

United States Ski & Snowboard Association

2024 Cross Country World Junior 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 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 of the Championships 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

- 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. Athletes may be selected to the Team using coaches' discretion.
- The U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD Cross Country Development Director is responsible for applying the selection criteria set forth herein, subject to the oversight of the U.S. Ski Team Cross Country Program Director.
- 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 be 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.
- To ensure that the United States fields a representative team, minimum team size shall consist of at least five (5) athletes per gender.
- The target size for the USA Junior World Championship Team is 6 athletes per gender, however, up to eight (8) athletes per gender may be selected to the team.
- Objective selections shall be based on the results achieved by athletes in FIS competitions held between November 1 and December 17, 2023 (see below), as well as in the first three (3) competitions at the 2024 U.S. Cross Country Championships, Jan. 2-7, 2024 (the "selection period").
- 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.

Objective Criteria:

- 1) Up to two (2) athletes per gender may be selected to the team based solely upon FIS race performance between November 1 and December 17, 2023. Male athletes achieving a FIS point result under 50 FIS points and female athletes achieving a FIS point result under 60 FIS points in any FIS sanctioned race held 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

1. Lowest second-best individual FIS point result in the selection period.
 2. Lowest third-best individual FIS point result in the selection period.
- 1) Remaining objective selections will be identified in the first three (3) competitions at the 2024 U.S. Cross Country Championships, Jan. 2-7, 2024, including the men's and women's interval start event, the junior men's and women's mass start event, and first individual Sprint (including Junior Finals, if applicable). Team selections up to the maximum team size shall be granted to athletes who have achieved the best cumulative total results during the selection period based on a competitor's best two (2) races (scoring only competitors born in 2004 or later), using the U.S. Cross Country Championship scoring. See Appendix below for complete ranking and points. Technique, distances, and dates are subject to change within the U.S. Cross Country Championships competition schedule. If there is a tie in U.S. Cross Country Championship points for the remaining objective selections, then the following tie breaker will be used.

Tie-Breaking Procedure

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

1. Best individual final finish in the first three (3) competitions at the 2024 U.S. Cross Country Championships
2. Second-best individual final finish in the first three (3) competitions at the 2024 U.S. Cross Country Championships
3. Third-best individual final finish in the first three (3) competitions at the 2024 U.S. Cross Country Championships
4. Best current rank on the U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD overall National Ranking List (NRL)

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. Juniors who place in the top 3 OVERALL in the Individual Sprint Qualification competition of the same technique as the WJSC Individual Sprint competition will receive 4, 3, or 2 bonus points respectively.

Bonus Points

- 1) 4, 3, or 2 bonus points will be awarded for any Junior athlete who places in the top three (3) OVERALL (including all competitors) sprint qualification of the first sprint at 2024 US Nationals January 2-7, 2024 (the "selection period"). 1st overall Sprint qualification = 4 bonus points, 2nd overall Sprint Qualification = 3 bonus points, and 3rd overall Sprint Qualification = 2 bonus points.

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 goals for the Junior World Championships.

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 Development 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 Junior 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 Development Director after consulting with the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Chief of Sport, 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 2024 U.S. Cross Country Junior World Championship Team shall be announced on or near January 7, 2024 at the offices of U.S. Ski & Snowboard in Park City, Utah and shall be published as soon as possible after announcement.

APPENDIX:

U.S. Ski & Snowboard Championship Scoring

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U.S. Ski & Snowboard Championship Scoring

Race Rank	Championship Points
1	30
2	25
3	21
4	18
5	16
6	15
7	14
8	13
9	12
10	11
11	10
12	9
13	8
14	7
15	6
16	5
17	4
18	3
19	2
20	1