



2026-27 AERIAL TEAM NOMINATION CRITERIA

ELIGIBILITY FOR CONSIDERATION

U.S. Ski and Snowboard will consider for selection only those U.S. Ski and 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.

An athlete shall be ineligible for consideration if previously suspended or removed from team membership without being reinstated by U.S. Ski and Snowboard. An athlete who has previously declined an offer of team membership shall not be automatically offered team membership unless that athlete specifically requests consideration and the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Aerial Head Coach approves the request.

The U.S. Ski Team will select only the most qualified athletes with the greatest possibilities for winning medals in future World Championship and Olympic Winter Games competitions.

Athletes must demonstrate a capability to adhere to U.S. Ski and Snowboard Values and Code of Conduct to be eligible for nomination.

CRITERIA GUIDELINES

- The U.S. Ski & Snowboard Head Aerials Coach is responsible for applying the selection criteria herein, subject to the oversight of the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Freestyle Sport Director and Chief of Sport.
- Objective selections shall be based on the results achieved by athletes in FIS competitions held between December 1, 2025, and April 1, 2026 (the "Selection Period").
- Any athlete nominated must meet Degree of Difficulty (DD) requirements by completing the following minimum tricks in the 2025-26 season:
 - Women: Full Full (FF)
 - Men: Full Double Full (FdF) or Double Full Full (dFF)
- Discretionary nominations, if any, may be based on a variety of factors, including competitions conducted outside of the Selection Period.
- Team status does not guarantee U.S. Ski and Snowboard funding for competition or preparation.
- Team Nomination is not a guarantee of Team Naming.
- All athletes nominated to the team in May of 2026 must pass Skills Quest Fitness Testing or an approved individualized fitness assessment before team naming in October 2026.
- Athletes who have been given individual performance criteria to meet will be subject to those specific criteria and not to general criteria as outlined below.
- No minimum team size will be established.
- A maximum of fourteen (14) total athletes may be nominated, with a maximum of ten (10) A Team athletes using the objective criteria outlined below.
- Athletes will be nominated in the order of the listed objective criteria below until the maximum team size is reached. If ties exist following the final bullet, priority will be applied in order of the single best World Cup or Olympic Winter Games result. This process may repeat as many times as needed to break the tie.



- Age Eligibility: To be eligible for nomination to the Freestyle Aerial A or B Team, athletes must be 15 as of January 1st 2026 – Birth Year 2011 and older.
- Athletes must be willing to commit to and participate in the full U.S. Ski Team camp and competition season structure.

OBJECTIVE NOMINATION CRITERIA

Athletes meeting the following objective criteria during the Selection Period, which are listed in order of priority, may be selected for the A Team within the maximum team size limits outlined above.

A Team

Athletes meeting the following objective criteria during the Selection Period, which are listed in order of priority, may be selected for the A Team within the maximum team size limits outlined above. All criteria qualification is based on **individual results** only.

- One (1) top three (3) in an FIS Aerial World Cup (on snow) or Olympic Winter Games competition.
- Two (2) total top six (6) results in FIS Aerial World Cup (on snow) or Olympic Winter Games competitions.

B Team

Athletes meeting the following objective criteria during the Selection Period, which are listed in order of priority, may be selected for the B Team within the maximum team size limits outlined above. All criteria qualification is based on **individual results** only.

- Two (2) total top twelve (12) results in World Cup or Olympic Winter Games competitions.
- Four (4) total top sixteen (16) results in World Cup or Olympic Winter Games competitions.
- 2026 Aerial NorAm Grand Prix Champion.
- 2026 Aerial Junior World Champion.

DISCRETIONARY SELECTION POLICY

U.S. Ski & Snowboard may select additional athletes to the team using coaches' discretion based upon factors other than the objective criteria. If the coaching staff selects any team nominations with discretionary selections, then the staff may consider any factors, including (but not limited to) the following:

- Illness or injury during the Selection Period that interferes with the athlete's ability to meet objective criteria.
- Indication of medal potential in future Olympic and World Championship competitions, which would be materially enhanced by selection to the team.



Renomination of any named team athlete by discretion will be based on objective performance benchmarks within the individualized athlete plan that exists for all named team athletes, as established by U.S. Ski & Snowboard Staff.

PHYSICAL FITNESS AND SKILLSQUEST FITNESS TEST

Naming to all teams requires completion of physical fitness testing and U.S. Ski & Snowboard medical department clearance. All athletes will be required to pass SkillsQuest physical fitness standards or an approved individualized fitness assessment before team nomination in the 2025/2026 season. U.S. Ski & Snowboard's Medical Department will be responsible for evaluating any medical situations that may affect physical testing participation and/or results.

ATHLETE INJURY CLAUSE

Any athlete who has been objectively named to the team and sustains a season-ending injury (as declared by the SVP of High Performance) before January 4, 2026, will be re-nominated to their current team for the subsequent season. In exceptional cases involving severe injury, certain athletes may be granted a 2-year re-nomination to give them time to return to peak performance. Such a 2-year re-nomination will be communicated to the athlete before the beginning of the selection period of the second year.

Athlete's renomination following an injury sustained after February 1st will fall under discretion if objective nomination criteria have not been met, which is not guaranteed. In this circumstance, the ranking at the time of injury will be considered towards discretionary nomination.

In all cases, to retain current team status, an injured athlete must follow the prescribed rehabilitation or medical program and an approved return-to-performance progression on snow, as approved by U.S. Ski & Snowboard High Performance, the Freestyle Sport Director, and the Aerials Head Coach. Travel funding, team reintegration, and trip inclusion will be based on passing the Return to Performance tests and sport-specific competitive form, as determined by the U.S. Ski & Snowboard medical, high-performance, and coaching staff.

IN-SEASON PROMOTION

Athletes will not be promoted in-season. No athletes will be demoted during the season; however, funding may be suspended at any time if progress or commitment is inconsistent with the team program and the athlete does not remain in good standing.

Dated: **October 27th 2025**