NATIONAL TEAM SELECTION CRITERIA

2021-22 U.S. Paralympics Nordic Skiing Standards

The U.S. Paralympics Nordic Skiing Team aims to win medals in Paralympic Winter Games (PWG), World Championships (WCH), and World Cup (WC) competitions. Athletes will be nominated to National or Development Teams based on objective criteria (results) from the previous season (June 2020-May 2021), along with subjective criteria that demonstrates each athlete’s capacity, preparation, and commitment to winning at WPNS WC and WCH competitions in the 2020-2021 season.

National Team status does not guarantee Athlete Stipends or activity support for the entire season. Athlete Stipends and activity support will be based on continued progress towards individual goals as outlined in each athlete’s Personal Performance Plan and a sustained commitment to excellence in training and performance in international competition. Similarly, athletes who are not on the National Team may earn funding/support for particular projects and competitions by showing significant potential towards achieving international competitiveness.

Part A: General National and Development Team Criteria and Guidelines

The following criteria and guidelines will apply to all athletes to earn official status as a National Team or Development Team member, in addition to the specific criteria listed in Part B below:

- No minimum team size will be established.
- To be eligible athletes must:
  - Be internationally classified by WPNS.
  - Have a USSS (standing/VI only), USBA (sitting and biathletes only), AND an WPNS Nordic Skiing competition license.
- National Team and Development Team status will be evaluated after each season is completed.
- To qualify for National Team or Development Team, athletes must achieve the criteria during the 2020-2021 season (June 2020-May 2021).
- National Team status includes A, B, and C Teams as described below.
- Development Team is not considered “National Team” but recognizes progress towards achieving that Team and international success. Development Team criteria is described in Part B below.
- Returning National Team athletes must meet any individual performance criteria in their Personal Performance Plan from the previous season(s) in addition to the below published criteria.
- Athletes selected to the National Team must demonstrate a commitment to and performance trends indicative of podium results in future Paralympic Winter Games, World Championships, and World Cup competitions in addition to the criteria described below.
- Athletes age 18 or older will be required to undergo a background screen in accordance with the current USOPC Background Check Policy.
- Athletes age 18 or older will be required to complete the U.S. Center for SafeSport’s online training.
- World Cup “test” events (testing a new format that is not accepted in WCH or PWG program) will not be considered for A or B Team Criteria but will be considered for C Team and Development Team.

**Part B: Specific National Team (A, B, C) and Development Team Criteria**

**A TEAM CRITERIA**
Athletes must achieve one of the following:
- Two WC/WCH wins (minimum field size of five).
- Three WC/WCH podium results (minimum field size of six).
- Five WC/WCH results within 15 WPNS points of 3rd place (minimum field size of eight).

**B TEAM CRITERIA**
Athletes must achieve one of the following:
- Two WC/WCH podium results (minimum field size of six).
- Four WC/WCH results within 20 WPNS points of 3rd place (minimum field size of eight).
- Top 4 in sprint finals in two WC/WCH XC sprint races (race must have maximum semi-finals participation by the rules).
- Two WC/WCH results within 10 WPNS points of 3rd place (minimum field size of eight).

**C TEAM CRITERIA**
Athletes must achieve one of the following:
- Finish in top 5 in WC/WCH XC sprint race (race must have maximum semi-finals participation by the WPNS Rules & Regulations).
- One WC/WCH result within 30 WPNS points of 3rd place (minimum field size of 5 & excludes XC sprints).
- Two WC/WCH results within 45 WPNS points of 3rd place (minimum field size of 5 & excludes XC sprints).
- Standing & VI athletes achieve a calculated 250 points (or lower) in any one USSS race.
- Standing & VI athletes achieve a calculated 300 points (or lower) in any two USSS races.

**DEVELOPMENT TEAM CRITERIA**
Athletes must achieve one of the following:
- Achieve 180 WPNS points (or lower) in any event (excluding XC sprints).
- Achieve 100 WPNS points (or lower) in a XC sprint qualifier.
- Standing & VI athletes achieve a calculated 450 points (or lower) in any one USSS race.
- Returning Development Team athletes must achieve a 150 (or lower) in any event (excluding XC sprints).
DISCRETIONARY CRITERIA

U.S. Paralympics Nordic Skiing may use discretionary criteria to select additional athletes onto the National Team who have not met the objective criteria for the National Team for several reasons. These include, but are not limited to, injury or illness (via the “Injury or Illness Provision” of the National Team Agreement) and the occurrence of exceptional circumstances (e.g. earthquakes, cancellation/postponement of IF events, epidemics, riots, pregnancy).

Discretionary nominations, if any, may be based on a variety of factors, including consideration of competition results outside of the (12-month) selection period and data analytics of individual and relay events, to ensure that U.S. Paralympics Nordic Skiing is investing in the most qualified athletes with the greatest potential of winning Paralympic Games medals. The following factors will be considered when considering an athlete for discretionary selection:

- athlete achieved a medal in the 2019 WPNS Nordic World Championships or in the 2018 Paralympic Games.
- athlete demonstrates a trend of improving performance in international competition that is indicative of a podium performance by the current international standards within the next 2 years.
- athlete is eligible for and needed to complete the make-up of a Team Relay due to specific sport class requirements for the Relay.

Discretionary nominations for the National Team, along with Team level and term length, will be determined by a panel of three U.S. Paralympics Nordic Skiing high performance program staff and two elite athlete representatives meeting the eligibility requirements under, and appointed pursuant to, the USOPC Bylaws. The selection committee will automatically consider all athletes who have reached Development Team objective criteria by April 30, 2021.