

# ATHLETE FUNDING

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## **FUNDING CRITERIA FOR JULY 1, 2019 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2022:**

The Direct Athlete Support (DAS) stipend is an elite athlete financial support program designed to specifically assist athletes in reaching the podium at the next Olympic Games. It requires international success, an approved training plan with set goals, performance reviews, team event(s) or training participation, and a commitment to the training level required to reach the 2022 Winter Olympic Games podium as determined by US Speedskating (USS).

The following criteria was produced through a collaborative process between USS, USS Athlete Representatives, and the USOC High Performance team. Within DAS there are two factors that will determine the type or level of athlete support;

1. Results at World Championships
2. NTP Invitation/participation

## **GENERAL ELIGIBILITY FOR DAS ATHLETE SUPPORT:**

- Athlete must be a member of US Speedskating in good standing by July 1<sup>st</sup> of each season.
- Athlete must be eligible to and intend to compete for Team USA at the 2022 Olympic Games.
- Athlete must qualify for funding as outlined below in Tiers 1-4 or as an emerging elite athlete.
- Athletes identified as Tier 1-4 or emerging elite must accept their full-time National Training Program (NTP) invite by the deadline.
- Athlete must participate in quarterly meetings with the Program Director, NTP Head Coach and Director of Sport Science to discuss season goals and progress towards achievement of set goals. These meetings will aid USS in reporting on the progress of the athlete's pathway towards success in 2022.
- Athlete must sign and abide by USS' and the USOC's Code of Conduct.

## **DEFINITION OF TIERS 1-4 & Emerging Elite**

Identified tiers are determined by the previous season's results except in situations of injury or extenuating circumstance as defined in Tier 4.

### **USS FUNDING TIER 1**

Short Track (ST) athletes who placed 1st-3rd at the World Championships in an individual distance; or in the overall ranking or; team members who raced in the Relay event (started with the team in any round) and the team finished 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> at the World Championships.

Long Track (LT) athletes who placed 1st-3<sup>rd</sup> at the World Single Distance (WSD) Championships in an individual distance – including mass start - or; LT team members who raced in the Team Pursuit event (started with the team in any round) and the team finished 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> at the WSD Championships.

## **USS FUNDING TIER 2**

ST athletes who placed 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> in an individual distance or in the overall ranking at the World Championships.

LT athletes who placed 4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> in an individual distance at the WSD Championships. Mass start placement will be judged strictly on time in the final and will not be based on any intermediate points earned or final placement.

## **USS FUNDING TIER 3**

ST athletes who placed 9<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> in an individual distance or in the overall ranking at the World Championships or; World Team members who raced in the Relay event (started with the team in any round) and the team finished 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>.

LT WSD team members who raced an individual distance and finished in a DAS qualifying placement:

500m – Top 16

1000m Top 16

1500m – Top 16

3000m – Top 16 (ladies only)

5000m- Top 16 (men only)

5000m –one of the top 12 Qualifiers to the WSD (reserve added at the WSD don't qualify)

10000m –one of the top 12 Qualifiers to the WSD (reserve added at the WSD don't qualify)

Mass Start – not eligible for Tier 3 funding.

LT WSD team members who raced in the Team Pursuit event (started with the team in any round) and the team finished 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> at the WSD.

## **USS FUNDING TIER 4**

Potential DAS funding for athletes who were considered to be prevented from qualifying for Tiers 1-3 due to injury or extraordinary circumstances. Upon review of previous performance, athletes who received tier 1-3 funding during the past season, may receive similar funding if injury or other like circumstances prevented them from performing to the same level. Additional consideration may be given to athletes in Long Track mass start who provided agreed upon team support to a medal winning teammate. All Tier 4 cases will be determined by US HP staff and the USOC. An Athlete Representative from the USS Board, or with non-conflicting interest, will be given an opportunity to provide input on the names potentially being put forth for Tier 4 consideration.

Athletes in Tier 4 will have clear quarterly performance benchmarks/markers to meet in order to maintain DAS Support.

## **USS EMERGING ELITE**

There will be funding consideration for emerging athletes that relocate to Salt Lake City to train with the NTP. These skaters typically:

- Must be qualified and invited to train with the NTP and accept their full-time invitation to participate in Salt Lake City.
- Traditionally be one of the following:

- ISU Junior aged skaters that have had Junior World Success and/or are beginning a pathway of an elite performance trajectory
- Neo-Senior skaters (up to 2 years post Junior) that are identified as having an elite trajectory through objective data.
- Transition athletes that have shown through objective data that they are worthy of support based on their trajectory with international progression.

Emerging athletes may be added to the DAS program during the season as determined by USS HP staff and the USOC.

**CONDITIONS OF FUNDING:**

To encourage advancement and to receive continued support throughout the quad, athletes will need to demonstrate progression through the Tier system. Tiers will be based upon performance at the most recent Long Track Single Distance World Championships or Short Track World Championships or Olympics in the Olympic season.

- An athlete may be carried in Tier 1 or 2 indefinitely.
- An athlete who achieves Tier 1 status through a team event is awarded Tier 1 status. If the following season they do not achieve Tier 1 they revert to their highest individual standing. Thus qualification to Tier 1 through a team does not impact their qualification as an individual.
- An athlete may only be carried as an individual or by means of a team member in Tier 3 for a maximum of four (4) years.

**TABLE OF DAS BASE ATHLETE SUPPORT:**

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Tier 1	\$2300/m = \$20,700/a	\$2450/m = \$22,050/a	\$2600/m = \$23,400/a
Tier 2	\$2100/m = \$18,900/a	\$2250/m = \$20,250/a	\$2400/m = \$21,600/a
Tier 3	\$1700/m = \$15,300/a	\$1700/m = \$15,300/a	\$1700/m = \$15,300/a
Tier 4*	\$1000/m = \$9000/a	\$1000/m = \$9000/a	\$1000/m = \$9000/a
Tier 5	\$500/m = \$4500/a	\$500/m = \$4500/a	\$500/m = \$4500/a

*\*For Tier 4, injuries and circumstances athletes may be placed in similar tiers as previously qualified for pending the situation. Requires approval of USS and the USOC for consideration.*

A portion of the DAS Base Athlete Support funding for Tier 1-4 athletes is for the purpose of a living stipend to assist with expenses for athlete residing in Salt Lake City and training in the NTP. The amount of \$500 per month is identified within the DAS base funding and will be withheld from an athlete’s monthly funding if they are not in Salt Lake City with the NTP.

**DISTRIBUTION TO ATHLETE:**

DAS recipients are qualified for, reviewed and allocated on an annual basis upon review of the athlete’s annual performance to ensure they are on track with achieving success in 2022. Various DAS support is combined into a single payment, paid over a 9-month period from July 1<sup>st</sup> through March 1<sup>st</sup> of each season upon continued qualification. Payments should be received by the 5<sup>th</sup> of every month.

If at any time, athletes are not perceived to be committed to a training environment, the athlete will be notified by USS HP staff and a meeting will be scheduled to discuss training accountabilities, identify performance

benchmarks and establish a reasonable timeline to ensure the athlete remains on track for achieving success at the 2022 Winter Olympic Games. Should the agreed upon benchmarks not be met, within the agreed upon time frame, the athlete will be notified, and DAS support may be stopped by USS staff in consultation with the USOC High Performance Winter Sports Director.

Athletes that fail to qualify for the Olympic Winter Games in the Olympic Season will have their payments stopped upon completion of the Olympic Trails.