

# Para Nordic Competition Trip Criteria

---

Selection Criteria

**2023-24**



## Table of Contents

<b>1. GENERAL INFORMATION .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2. PURPOSE OF WORLD CUP AND WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS TRIP TEAM SELECTION.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3. OBJECTIVES .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>4. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>5. IMPORTANT DATES .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>6. SELECTION CRITERIA.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>WORLD CUP SELECTION CRITERIA .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>World Cup Period 1/2.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Biathlon World Championships.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>World Cup Finals .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>7. FUNDING .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>8. INJURY, ILLNESS and EQUIPMENT FAILURE PROVISION for the SELECTION EVENT .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>9. DEFINITIONS .....</b>	<b>11</b>

## 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. This document outlines the policies and procedures used by Nordiq Canada (NC) to select athletes for the 2023-2024 FIS Para Snow Sports (FIS PSS) World Cups and World Championships.
2. This document is created under the direction of the *NST (National Ski Team) Selection, Nomination, and Announcement Policy*.
3. The High Performance Director-Para (HPD-Para) is responsible for applying the selection criteria and will make the final selection decisions with review from [High Performance Committee](#) (HPC). Any person with a real, perceived, or potential conflict of interest as per the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada *Conflicts of Interest in Sports-Related Decision-Making* will be removed from the review and selection process.
4. Selection decisions may be appealed under the Nordiq Canada Appeal Policy. The appeal deadline is 24 hours after the team has been announced on the Nordiq Canada website.
5. The Nordiq Canada HPD-Para, or acting representative, has the authority, and reserves the right to amend this document prior to the selection date under the following circumstances:
  - a. In the event of unforeseen circumstances beyond the control of Nordiq Canada that prevents the HPD-Para from fairly and objectively implementing these selection procedures.
  - b. When additional (or altered) information deemed relevant by Nordiq Canada to the criteria is provided by external parties, such as (but not limited to) an event organizing committee, Sport Canada, the Canadian Paralympic Committee, Canadian Snowsport Association (CSA), FIS, IPC/FIS PSS, or any other relevant organization.
  - c. To correct, clarify or amend any inconsistencies, errors, or omissions in the criteria.
  - d. COVID-19 or other health/pandemic occurrences pertaining to, but not limited to: race cancellations or rescheduling, any country border limitations, travel restrictions, travel limitations, inability to maintain safety of athletes, etc.

Changes to this document will be communicated directly to the ski community by whatever means and wherever the original criteria were published. Nordiq Canada is not responsible or liable in any way to anyone because of any amendments.

6. It is the athlete's and coach's responsibility to read and understand the contents of this document and other supporting documents and policies. For clarification contact the HPD-Para, Kate Boyd [kboyd@nordiqcanada.ca](mailto:kboyd@nordiqcanada.ca).

7. Nordiq Canada and the HPD-Para reserve the right to select the team size based on the trip criteria, financial and staffing capacities. Nordiq Canada is not obligated to select the team to the maximum team size.

## 2. PURPOSE OF WORLD CUP AND WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS TRIP TEAM SELECTION

1. To provide FIS Para Snow Sports (FIS PSS) sanctioned World Cup (WC) and World Championship (WCH) starts for athletes who have achieved or have shown potential to achieve medal results and meet established Nordiq Canada international benchmarks.
2. To provide developmental competition opportunities for NextGen athletes to complement Nordiq Canada international benchmarks leading to the WCH and PWG (Paralympic Winter Games) where it is in the best interest of the team's overall results.
3. To provide developmental competition opportunities for Development athletes leading to the long-term development of athletes on a podium pathway who can progress to medal performance at FIS PSS WC, World Championships (WCH) and the 2026, 2030 PWG.

## 3. OBJECTIVES

1. Contribute to team performance targets as determined by Nordiq Canada 2023-2024 [Business Plan](#).
2. Provide athletes the opportunity to meet Nordiq Canada Para Nordic Team selection criteria to be named to one of the 2024-25 Nordiq Canada Para Nordic national Teams – World Cup Ski Team, NextGen Team, Development Team - or the Prospects Team.
3. Provide SR carded and Para Nordic National Ski Team (PNST) athletes with international race opportunities to further support their achievement towards consistent podium performances, and PNST team selection.
4. Provide athletes the opportunity to meet 2024-25 Sport Canada Athlete Assistance Program funding support criteria.
5. Provide athletes who are eligible to be Internationally Classified, and who have met selection criteria, the opportunity to be FIS PSS classified.
6. Identification of Development athletes who:
  - a. can be internationally ranked on the FIS PSS BT (biathlon) or FIS PSS CC (cross-country) ranking points list and have demonstrated potential to achieve TWO (2) races of 180 FIS PSS points or less results.

- b. demonstrate the long-term potential to achieve established benchmarks leading to FIS PSS WC, WCH or PWG podium results.
- c. can progress towards meeting the performance criteria to be eligible for the Nordiq Canada World Cup or NextGen teams.

## 4. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

1. To be eligible for selection for a PNST World Cup competition trip in the 2023-24 competition season (December 2023 – March 2024), athletes must meet the following minimum eligibility criteria:
  - a. athletes must be a current Nordiq Canada and provincial member in good standing<sup>1</sup>;
  - b. must be a Canadian citizen with a current and valid Canadian passport or can represent Canada at a Paralympic Winter Games;
  - c. must hold a current Nordiq Canada racing license;
  - d. athletes must be a current Nordiq Canada registered club member;
  - e. athletes must have a valid Para Nordic FIS license prior to race registration, and meet IPC classification criteria for Sport Class and FIS PSS eligibility;
  - f. athletes must meet all FIS PSS and other event entry standards for the competition(s) for which they qualify;
  - g. athletes must be 16 years of age or older by the end of the 2023-24 season;
  - h. athletes must meet all FIS PSS and other event entry standards for the competition(s) for which they qualify<sup>2</sup>;
  - i. must adhere to all municipal, provincial, federal, and international Covid or other health authority pandemic guidelines;
2. Selected and pre-selected athletes must demonstrate competitive readiness, evaluated on the following factors:
  - a. Optimal health and readiness to travel based on evaluation by Nordiq Canada approved physicians and IST (Integrated Support Team) support staff or personal physicians, with review by Nordiq Canada team physician. Nordiq Canada may request expertise from another medical professional, when required, in one of Canada's official languages.
  - b. To be eligible for a competition trip an athlete must be completely recovered from any illness or injury 48 hours prior to the trip departure.

---

<sup>1</sup> Please refer to the [Nordic Canada bylaws](#) for a complete description of members in good standing

<sup>2</sup> Event qualification standards are posted on the FIS website [here](#).

3. Once eligibility requirements have been verified by Nordiq Canada, athletes will be named to the team.
4. If an athlete is selected to the Team under these selection procedures and criteria the athlete acknowledges and agrees to:
  - a. comply with Nordiq Canada's policies as posted on the [Nordiq Canada website](#);
  - b. drug testing by the Canadian Sports Anti-Doping Agency (CCES), FIS PSS, or other applicable bodies and must comply with Nordiq Canada's, CCES's and FIS PSS's Anti-Doping bylaws or policies;
  - c. comply with all requests from Nordiq Canada and with their obligations set out in the Nordiq Canada Anti-Doping Bylaw to provide accurate whereabouts information to CCES and FIS PSS; and,
  - d. comply with the Nordiq Canada [Athlete Code of Conduct](#) and the Competition Trip Agreement.

## 5. IMPORTANT DATES

1. Selection Event COC\* – Canmore, AB<sup>3</sup>:  
November 21,22 (XC) and 25, 26 (Biathlon), 2023
2. World Cup Period 1/2 – Pokljuka, SLO / Toblach, ITA / Val di Fiemme, ITA:  
Jan. 17-Feb. 4, 2024
3. World Biathlon Championships – Prince George, BC:  
March 6-19, 2024
4. World Cup Finals – Prince George, BC  
March 13-17, 2024

## 6. SELECTION CRITERIA

### INTRODUCTION

1. To meet the performance goals of the National Para Nordic Ski Team program, and with provisions for potential Covid restrictions, Nordiq Canada will make team size decisions that are in aligned with Nordiq Canada's Covid protocols, high performance (HP) budget restrictions, PN performance goals and staff's availability and ability to support the team.

---

<sup>3</sup> For Selection Event COC races in Canmore, AB athlete must meet IPC classification and eligibility rules. Please see Section 4.1.e. in this document



2. Athletes may be selected for one or more World Cup events based upon the selection criteria. Individual athlete Yearly Training Plan (YTP) priorities will be taken into consideration.
3. Unless otherwise stated in the specific event selection criteria, in the event of a tie, the ranking will be based on the athletes' second-best finish placing at (1) 2023-24 FIS FSS WC event or (2) a 2023-24 FIS PSS sanctioned event, using lowest FIS PSS points in each respective category in an individual qualifying race. Depth of field<sup>4</sup> will be required and considered for each event used to tie break. If there is still a tie, the HPD-Para will make the final decision.

## **WORLD CUP SELECTION CRITERIA**

### **World Cup Period 1/2**

4. All Nordiq Canada Para Nordic 2023-2024 World Cup Team athletes are pre-selected for the World Cup Period 1/2, provided they adhere to their national training program to the satisfaction of the PNST National Team coach and HPD-Para and demonstrate competitive readiness.
5. Nordiq Canada's Para Nordic 2023-2024 NextGen and Development teams are expected to demonstrate competitive readiness and may qualify to be selected, up to a maximum of 3 athletes (plus guide as applicable), to the World Cup Period 1/2 if they achieve an average of the equivalent 140 FIS PSS points or lower at the selection races in Canmore, AB Nov. 21-26, 2023, against a current known international podium/top-5 performers.
  - a. In the event that Next Gen and/or Development athletes do not achieve the above criteria (140 FIS PSS points or less), athletes will be ranked and may qualify to be selected to a maximum of 3 athletes (plus guide as applicable), with the equivalent to 180 FIS PSS points as a minimum from the selection races.
6. Additional athletes at HPD-Para discretion based on their potential to achieve 180 or less FIS PSS points.

### **Biathlon World Championships**

7. Nordiq Canada's Para Nordic 2023-2024 National World Cup Team athletes are pre-selected for the 2024 FIS PSS Biathlon World Championships in Prince George, BC, provided they meet the eligibility criteria for the event, adhere to their national training program to the satisfaction of the PNST National Team coach and HPD-Para and demonstrate competitive readiness.

---

<sup>4</sup> Depth of Field – For an individual final finish race result to be achieved, there must be three (3) FIS PSS point ranked competitors, including at least one competitor with 60 or fewer FIS PSS (Nordic) that have started the race.

8. Additional athletes may be considered, at HPD-Para discretion. Athletes will be ranked based on their 2023-2024 World Cup biathlon race results and their potential to achieve 90 FIS PSS points or better.

## World Cup Finals

9. Nordiq Canada's Para Nordic 2023-2024 National World Cup Team athletes are pre-selected for the 2024 FIS PSS World Cup Finals in Prince George, BC, provided they adhere to their national training program to the satisfaction of the PNST National Team coach and HPD-Para and demonstrate competitive readiness.
10. Nordiq Canada's Para Nordic 2023-2024 NextGen and Development teams are expected to demonstrate competitive readiness and may qualify to be selected to the World Cup Final if they achieve an average of the equivalent 140 FIS PSS points or lower at the selection races in Canmore, AB Nov. 21-26, 2023, against a current known international podium/top-5 performers.
11. **Additional Canadian athletes:** Additional athletes may be selected to the team based on the trip criteria, and the financial and staffing capacities of the Para Nordic program.  
  
For athletes to be eligible to race at the WCF, they must meet all FIS event qualification standards **AND** be ranked using the following criteria being met:
  - a. Achieve an **average of the equivalent of 180 FIS PSS points or better** at the selection races held in Canmore at the Development Camp November 21-26 2023.
  - b. Points must be achieved against a current known FIS PSS international podium/top-5 performer.
  - c. Have submitted all required paperwork for FIS PN licensing and/or classification, and entry to the Canmore Trials event by November 1, 2023.
  - d. Be classified or eligible to be internationally classified "confirmed" or "review" by FIS PSS.
  - e. Leadership, positive attitude, and strong commitment of athletes to take part in the complete PNST coaching, IST support, training camp and competition program, **as outlined in the Nordiq Canada Code of Conduct and Ethics Policy**
12. Additional athletes at HPD-Para discretion based on their potential to achieve 180 FIS PSS points.

## MAINTAINING SELECTION AND RACING STATUS

13. An athlete who is selected under these procedures and the applicable criteria supplement must comply with the following:



- a. will report any performance limiting, contagious illness or obvious injury to the Nordiq Canada HPD-Para in a timely fashion, after consultation with experts, to ensure that they are healthy and injury free prior to departure and able to optimally compete at the level that selected them for the trip;
- b. may be asked to complete a pre-trip health screen with the Nordiq Canada team physician;
- c. comply with the municipal, provincial, federal, international and NSO (National Sport Organization) Covid 19 protocols;
- d. comply with applicable Nordiq Canada policies including these procedures:
  - i. Any selected athlete may have their selection status reviewed by the HPD-Para if any of the requirements are not met. The HPD-Para will notify the athlete in writing as to why their selection or racing status is under review. The athlete shall be given a reasonable opportunity (no more than seven days (7) to provide reasons why she/he should not be removed from the trip team or have their racing status revoked.

## 7. FUNDING

- 1. Athletes selected to a World Cup or World Championships Trip team who are on the 2023-24 PN World Cup Team will not pay trip fees.
- 2. Athletes selected to a World Cup Trip team who are on the 2023-24 NextGen team or Development team may be required to pay trip fees. Next Gen trip fees for the 2023-24 season have been defined at \$1500 for international and \$500 for domestic events. Development trip fees may be up to 100% of the trip cost.
- 3. Athletes selected to a World Cup trip, including World Championships, who are not on a 2023-24 Para Nordic World Cup Team program (PNST, NextGen, Development) will be required to self-fund.
- 4. Additionally, any additional staff that Nordiq Canada requires beyond the scheduled PN National Team appointed staff and the related expenses, will be the responsibility of non-PNST athletes.

### ANTICIPATED TRIP COSTS

- 5. PNST, NextGen, Development and Prospects team athletes will be funded based upon available budget and YTP priorities. Additional athletes will be required to pay all their trip expenses<sup>5</sup>. Outlined below are the estimated trip costs:

---

<sup>5</sup> Final trip costs will be calculated at the conclusion of the trip and will reflect the actual costs incurred.

- a. Estimated average trip costs: \$5000-7000 CDN + Contingency costs
  - i. Race fees (€20/race - approx. \$30/race)
  - ii. Accommodation/Meals (e.g. ~\$150/day x 14 days = \$2100)
  - iii. Flight & Baggage Fees approx. \$2500 - \$3000+ (depending on departure location)
  - iv. Technical Support (wax, coaching, transportation) \$500.00
  - v. Travel health insurance – and all associated fees not covered by insurance (flight change, quarantining, medical bills, etc.) - \$65-\$100 depending on provider and coverage required.
  - vi. Any costs associated with any mandatory municipal, federal, provincial requirements upon return to Canada (e.g. quarantine)

## **8. INJURY, ILLNESS and EQUIPMENT FAILURE PROVISION for the SELECTION EVENT**

- 1. Athletes who are injured or ill and unable to compete at a selection event as designated by the HPD-Para, as well as those whose performance may have been affected by no fault of their own during the race, or equipment breakage that results in a DNF, may apply for selection consideration by the HPD-Para and an expert panel (i.e., medical, or technical expertise) if they meet the following criteria:
  - a. Performance marker – Acceptance of a curtailment of competition will be evaluated on the most recent objective sanctioned race results in the current competition season supporting the fact the athlete would have expected to qualify if they had been able to compete.
  - b. If an athlete does not start an event, a written exemption can be submitted requesting and explaining the rationale for not competing. This rationale must be submitted to the HPD-Para the day of the event. If an athlete starts a race, they are deemed healthy, and the results achieved will stand.
  - c. Medical documentation confirming diagnosis from a licensed physician must be submitted to the HP-Para within two (2) days from date of the selection race (i.e., event is January 1, you have until the end of day January 3 at 23:59 MST)
  - e. Nordiq Canada reserves the right to have all submissions reviewed by the PNST physician or PNST approved licensed medical practitioner. Nordiq Canada may request expertise from another medical professional, when required, in one of Canada's official languages.
  - d. Acceptance of an injury provision will be evaluated by the PNST physician, PNST Coach, PNST Manager and HPD-Para.
  - e. Final decision will rest with the HPD-Para in consultation with the PNC (Para Nordic Committee) and HPC.

## 9. DEFINITIONS

FIS - International Ski and Snowboard Federation

IPC – International Paralympic Committee

CPC – Canadian Paralympic Committee

GMP – Gold Medal Profile

PNST – Para Nordic National Ski Team

NG – NextGen

PSS- Para Snow Sport

FIS PSS points – refers to international points lists – previously referred to as WPNS points

Depth of Field - For an individual final finish race result to be achieved, the field must include at least 2 athletes who have fewer than 20 FIS PSS points or at least three (3) athletes who have fewer than 40 FIS PSS points on the FIS PSS overall rankings in that sport class (i.e. sit, stand, visually impaired) on the date of competition.