

National High Performance Program

Selection Criteria

2024-25



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AMENDMENT March 28, 2024

Due to warm weather causing significant impact to the snow conditions at the 2024 Nordiq Canada Ski Nationals the original race formats listed in the selection criteria for point 5.13.d National Development Ranking List could not be accommodated and were changed or modified to the current snow conditions.

As a result, the selection races have been amended to reflect the race that was held to replace the intended race which was unable to occur.

Point 5.13.d.ii U18 Distance Ranking List

- amended to ‘Short distance, interval Start Nationals’ from ‘Interval Start Nationals’ due to required race format accommodations.
- amended to ‘Long distance, Intervals Start Nationals’ from ‘Mass Start Nationals’ as mass start races were unable to be accommodated.

Point 5.13.d.iv U20 Distance Ranking List

- amended to ‘Short distance, Interval Start Nationals’ from ‘Interval Start Nationals’ due to required race format accommodations.
- amended to ‘Long distance, Interval Start Nationals’ from ‘Mass Start Nationals’ as mass start races were unable to be accommodated.

1. General Information

- 1.1 The purpose of this document is to select athletes to the National High Performance Program (NHPP) who are following the performance pathway progression (see Appendix A) in relation to their global competitors to achieve podium success at the Olympic Winter Games and World Ski Championships.
- 1.2 This document is created following the NST Selection, Nomination and Announcement Policy.
- 1.3 Final decision authority for NHPP selections is the Nordiq Canada High Performance Director (HPD) as per the NST Selection, Nomination and Announcement Policy.
- 1.4 Selection decisions may be appealed under the Nordiq Canada Dispute Resolution and Appeal Policy.
- 1.5 The Nordiq Canada HPD, 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 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 Olympic Committee, FIS, or any other relevant organization.
 - c. To correct, clarify or amend any inconsistencies, errors, or omissions in the criteria.
 - d. 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 was published. Nordiq Canada is not responsible or liable in any way to anyone as a result of any amendments.
- 1.6 Athletes and coaches are responsible for reading and understanding the contents of this and supporting documents and policies. For clarification contact the HPD.
- 1.7 Athletes who are nominated to more than one NHPP group will be given the choice of which one they wish to join. An athlete cannot be a member of more than one group.

2. Selection Guidelines

- 2.1 Only Nordiq Canada members in good standing (see Nordiq Canada Bylaws) with a registered Nordiq Canada club, a valid Canadian passport, a valid Nordiq Canada racing license, and a valid Canadian FIS license will be considered for NHPP selection.
- 2.2 The only races considered for NHPP selection are the World Ski Championships, World

Cup, World JR/U23 Ski Championships, Nordiq Canada Selection Trials Races, the Nordiq Canada Ski Nationals, International FIS races, or other events as needed and identified by the HPD. Any event added or replaced to the above list will be communicated in a timely manner.

- 2.3 WC selection races must reflect a competitive depth of field (see Definitions, pt 7.3) that will be assessed using the following: number of nations in attendance, and the number of red group and seeded group athletes attending the event.
- 2.4 Selection criteria are based on a combination of Gold Medal Pathway performance benchmarks using major international events; World Ski Championships, World Cup, World JR/U23 Championships (per age and development stage, see Appendix A). U19 and U18 categories will also use domestic national events results (WJR trials and Nationals).
- 2.5 The HPD, in consultation with the High Performance Committee and the HP staff team (IST, NST coaches), has the right to subjectively select an athlete to any NHPP program based on exceptional circumstances and performances that could enhance the athlete's developmental pathway and the overall performance of the team.

3. Curtailment of Health, Training and Competition (COH)

- 3.1 Nordiq Canada will consider nominating athletes for the NHPP based on a Curtailment of Health. The basic philosophy for selecting an athlete by granting an injury or illness request is that all things being equal, the athlete nominated has clearly demonstrated superior performances in previous competition to other athletes being considered for NHPP nomination. An injury or illness request is considered as the last means by which an athlete can earn selection and is intended to provide for exceptional circumstances outside the normal selection criteria rather than being part of the normal means by which an athlete can earn selection. This provision only applies when athlete performance is compromised because they have not been able to train or compete for an extended period and has a positive prognosis within 8 to 12 months.
- 3.2 2023-24 NST Gold, and Silver athletes selected on 2023-24 NST objective criteria and not through a ranking list nomination, who at the end of the 2023-2024 competitive cycle, have not achieved the standard required for NHPP status strictly because of health-related reasons, may be considered for re-nomination for the upcoming year provided the following conditions are met:
 - a. An athlete must, within seven (7) days following the incident or occurrence, submit to the HPD a report which includes:
 - i. certificate of diagnosis;
 - ii. consistent communication of the athlete's health and performance status to the HPD or designated Nordiq Canada coaching or IST staff during the time the athlete is unable to train or compete;
 - iii. documentation confirming diagnosis by a licensed, relevant medical practitioner;
 - iv. a return to training and competition plan for the upcoming season;

- v. supporting documentation of the athlete's treatment by an accredited professional (e.g., physiotherapist/ massage) that supports a return to training and competition plan.
 - b. In the case of injury or illness, no NHPP nominations will be made for injuries that are determined by the HPD in consultation with medical professionals to be career-ending.
 - c. If an athlete competes in a qualifying event, they may not invoke Section 3 in respect to the qualifying event in which he or she competed. The intention of this provision is to ensure that athletes who are injured, suffering from an illness, or medical condition do not compete, which could cause further ill health, or harm. **If an athlete does compete, they must accept the race result they have achieved.**
- 3.3 The athlete may be nominated to the NHPP on the grounds of injury, a medical condition (including pregnancy) or illness at the sole discretion of the HPD based on 3.2 and the following factors:
 - a. the nature and details of the diagnosis and prognosis;
 - b. assessment and training data provided by the Athlete that is verifiable by the discipline coach and IST;
 - c. evidence of the Athlete's level of performance prior to injury;
 - d. the strength of the Athlete's rehabilitation and training plan as evaluated by the HPD;
 - e. the advice of medical experts provided to the HPD; and
 - f. the realistic expectation that the Athlete can return to full fitness and continue to demonstrate the potential to perform at the Top-8 level and progress toward the podium.
- 3.4 Athletes that are nominated by Curtailment of Health will be ranked according to the priority order they achieved in the 2022-23 season.
- 3.5 The declaration and all documentation must be submitted to the HPD before April 4, 2024, 11:59 PM in the time zone the athlete resides in. Submissions that have not adhered to 3.0 will not be accepted nor will submissions received after the deadline.

4. National High Performance Program

4.1 The National High Performance Program (NHPP) is comprised of the National Ski Team (A and B Teams), National Group (NG1 and NG2), and the National Development Group (Development Team and Prospects).

4.2 NATIONAL SKI TEAM AND NATIONAL GROUP

- a. Athletes meeting criteria 5.7.a will be nominated for two (2) years as per Sport Canada Athlete Assistance Program International criteria - <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/athlete-assistance/policies-procedures.html>.
- b. Athletes meeting criteria 5.7.a-c and 5.8.a will be nominated to WC P1 for the 2024-25 season.
- c. Athletes meeting criteria 5.7.a-e and 5.8.a-e. can be nominated to international competition trips for the 2024-25 season as determined by appropriate goals of the NHPP program and aligned with their Individual Athlete Performance Plans (IAPP) in consultation with their respective NST coach, DTE coach, IST lead and HPD.
- d. Athletes can be discretionally nominated to a Team or Group if they have previously met NST criteria. Recommendations will be made by the High Performance Director in consultation with NST coaches and IST and will consider but not limited to their training and health history evidenced by their IAPP, their commitment to the goals of the NHPP program, and their positive contributions to their teammates, staff and community.

4.3 NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT GROUP

- a. Designed for athletes U20 and younger to provide camp-based opportunities that are driven by the Athlete Performance Pathway.
- b. Athletes can be discretionally nominated to the Development Team if they have been previously nominated to the Development Team. Recommendations will be made by the Sport Development Director in consultation with the NST Development Coach and will consider but not limited to their training and health history evidenced by their IAPP, their commitment to the goals of the NHPP program, and their positive contributions to their teammates, staff, and community.

5. National High Performance Program Selection Criteria

5.1 Athletes who meet the following criteria between November 1st, 2023, and March 31st, 2024, are eligible for nomination to the NHPP.

5.2 All criteria are for competitions held in the 2023-24 season.

5.3 Discretionary nominations are based on the HPD, SDD and Nordiq Canada coaching staff recommendations ONLY. Athletes may be nominated based on evidence that may include:

- a. Outstanding competition results in the 2023-24 season as determined by the Nordiq

Canada coaching staff.

- b. Recent positive trend of competition results indicating potential for Olympic Winter Games or World Ski Championships success against the IAPP.
 - c. Repeated international results against a known depth of field outside of the identified competitions.
 - d. Repeated national head-to-head results against an NST athlete of the same age.
 - e. Continued progress against the IAPP parameters: ski speed, physiological testing, technical report card, etc.
 - f. Other as evidenced by HPD or Nordiq Canada coaching staff.
- 5.4 Athletes meeting the same criteria will be ranked on their single best race results in all eligible races until the tie is broken.
- 5.5 World Cup race results must meet the minimum depth of field standard as outlined in 7.3.
- 5.6 Team Size:
- a. National Ski Team and National Group: Athletes meeting the criteria will be nominated.
 - b. National Development Team: Minimum of 10, and up to a maximum of 16
 - c. Prospect Group: Minimum of 40 athletes
- 5.7 Athlete ages referenced in selection criteria is as of December 31, 2023.
- 5.8 Selection criteria YOB and abbreviations:
- 27+ = Athletes born in or before 1996
 - U27 = Athletes born in 1997 - 1998
 - U25 = Athletes born in 1999 - 2000
 - U23 = Athletes born in 2001
 - U22 = Athletes born in 2002
 - U21 = Athletes born in 2003
 - SR = Athletes born in 2003 and earlier
 - JR = Athletes born in 2004 - 2008
 - U20 = Athletes born in 2004 - 2005
 - U19 = Athletes born in 2005
 - U18 = Athletes born in 2006 - 2007
 - WSC = World Ski Championships
 - WC = World Cup
 - WJR = World Junior Ski Championships
 - U23 WSC = U23 World Ski Championships

NATIONAL SKI TEAM

5.9 A TEAM

- a. Any athlete meeting Sport Canada International criteria - <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/athlete-assistance/policies-procedures.html>
 - i. Top-8 WSC individual final finish race counting three entries per nation
 - ii. Top-8 AND top half of the field WSC team event
- b. Any athlete finishing the 2023-24 World Cup season in the Top-15 of the FIS World Cup Sprint or Distance standings.
- c. Top-8 WC individual final finish race result.
- d. HPD discretion as per 4.2.d and 5.4
- e. Curtailment of Health as per 3.0

5.10 B TEAM

- a. Any athlete finishing the 2023-24 World Cup season in the Top-30 of the FIS World Cup Sprint or Distance Standings
- b. Athletes achieving one of the B Team standards.
- c. Top-8 AND top half of field WC team event
- d. HPD discretion as per 4.2.d and 5.4
- e. Curtailment of Health as per 3.0

B Team Standards

Age	JR	20	21	22	23	24	25	26+
WC or WSC / OWG		Top 40	Top 35	Top 30	Top 25	Top 20	Top 15	Top 12
U23 WSC		Top 15	Top 10	Top 8				
U20 WSC	Top 8							

NATIONAL GROUP

5.11 NG1 – National Group 1

- a. Athletes achieving one of the NG1 standards.
- b. Top-8 AND top half of the field WJR or U23 WSC team event.
- c. HPD discretion as per 4.2.d and 5.4
- d. Curtailment of Health as per 3.0

NG1 Standards

Age	JR	20	21	22	23	24	25
WC or WSC/OWG		Top 50	Top 45	Top 40	Top 35	Top 30	Top 25
U23 WSC		Top 25	Top 20	Top 15			
U20 WSC	Top 20						
NCAA Championship	Top 5	Top 3	Top 3	Top 3			

5.12 NG2 – National Group 2

- a. Athletes who were nominated to one of the following Canadian Teams in the 2022-23 or 2023-24 season.
 - i. Olympic Winter Games
 - ii. World Ski Championships
 - iii. World Cup
 - iv. U23 WSC
 - v. WJRs
 - vi. Athletes born in 2003 from the 2022-23 Development Team
 - vii. Athletes born in 2004 from the 2022-23 or 2023-24 Development Team

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT GROUP

5.13 DEVELOPMENT TEAM

- a. Top-8 AND top half of field WJR team event.
- b. Top-half of field WJR final finish individual final finish result.
- c. SDD discretionary selection as per 4.3.b and 5.4.
- d. National Development Ranking List: Additional athletes will be nominated from the National Development Team Ranking List, up to the maximum of 10 athletes (5 men and 5 women) including athletes nominated under 5.14.a-c.

Selection Events:

- Nordiq Canada Selection Trials – Mont Saint Anne, QC, January 4-7, 2024
- Nordiq Canada Ski Nationals – Nakkertok, QC, March 9-16, 2024

National Development Ranking Lists:

Two (2) ranking lists will be created for both the U18 and U20 categories for each gender, one sprint and one distance, using finishing place results from the following races as outlined below using the World Cup Scoring System (see appendix).

- i. U18 Sprint Ranking List
 - Sprint Qualifier Nationals (U18 category)
 - Sprint Finish Nationals (U18 category)
- ii. U18 Distance Ranking List
 - **Short distance**, Interval Start Nationals (U18 category)
 - **Long distance**, Start Nationals (U18 category)
- iii. U20 Sprint Ranking List
 - Sprint Finals Trials
 - Sprint Qualifier Trials
 - Sprint Finals Nationals
 - Sprint Qualifier Nationals
- iv. U20 Distance Ranking List
 - Interval Start Trials
 - Mass Start Trials
 - **Short distance**, Interval Start Nationals
 - **Long Distance**, Interval Start Nationals

Selection event ranking process:

- STEP 1: First U18 male and female from the sprint and distance list. Athletes who have already met criteria a. will not be removed from the ranking list. If there is a tie, athletes will be ranked by the number of 1, 2, 3 place finishes. For example, an athlete with two first place finishes and two second place finishes will rank higher than an athlete with two first place finishes, one second and one third.

- STEP 2: First U20 male and female from the sprint and distance list. Athletes who have already met criteria a. will not be removed from the ranking list. If there is a tie, athletes will be ranked by the number of 1, 2, 3 place finishes. For example, an athlete with two first place finishes and two second place finishes will rank higher than an athlete with two first place finishes, one second and one third.
- STEP 3: Next available spots within the maximum team size will go to the next best ranked male and female athlete from the same order of priority under step 1 and 2 and will be repeated until the 10 development spots are filled.

5.14 PROSPECTS GROUP

- a. Top-5 ranked Eastern athletes and Top-5 ranked Western athletes from 2007-2009 YOB aggregate rankings at the Nordiq Canada Ski Nationals 2024 will be selected.
 - i. Athletes achieving alternate NST criteria will not be included in the ranking list.
 - ii. If a nomination is declined, the next athlete on the ranking list will be selected.
- b. SDD discretionary selection as per 4.3.b and 5.4.

6. Removal of an Athlete Once Selected

- 6.1 The HPD reserves the right to withdraw an athlete from the NHPP if:
 - a. the athlete has not fulfilled responsibilities with respect to mandatory training camps, testing, and competitions;
 - b. the athlete has not fulfilled responsibilities as identified in the NC Athlete Agreement;
 - c. the athlete has not fulfilled responsibilities as identified in the NC Code of Conduct or NC Discipline Policy;
 - d. the athlete has demonstrated toxic behavior eroding the Nordiq Canada culture of excellence;
 - e. the athlete has not adhered to responsibilities as they pertain to WADA, and CCES antidoping protocols;
 - f. the athlete has not adhered to the municipal, provincial, federal, NSO or international Covid 19 protocols;
 - g. the athlete is unable to perform due to injury, illness or other medical reasons as supported by the Nordiq Canada Chief Medical Officer or appropriate IST.
- 6.2 The HPD may recommend the withdrawal of an athlete's national team status under the following condition:
 - a. Provide a written warning to the athlete, including the steps and timelines to remedy the situation and the consequences of a failure to heed the warning.
- 6.3 If the above steps are not successful in resolving the matter and NC still wishes to recommend withdrawal of Team status, Nordiq Canada must inform the athlete in writing.




This communication must indicate:

- a. The grounds on which the recommendation is being made;
- b. The steps already taken to address the issue (verbal warning followed by a formal letter of warning);
- c. Provide notice to the athlete of the athlete’s right to contest the Nordiq Canada recommendation to withdraw team status through NC’s Dispute Resolution and Appeal policy process within the prescribed time.

7. Definitions

- 7.1 Individual Final Finish Race Result - The final time and ranking attributed to an athlete at the completion of an entire individual event, i.e., time of day, qualification heats, pre-qualification times, team relay, or team sprint times are not considered individual final finish race results. World Cup (WC) points must be awarded for any result to be considered a WC race result.
- 7.2 Competition Ready - Defined as the ability of the athlete to achieve equal or superior performance(s) onsite at the scheduled event, as compared to the performance(s) the athlete achieved in qualifying.
- 7.3 WC Depth of Field: For a final finish WC race result to be achieved, there must be 15 of the top 30 FIS athletes according to the FIS World Cup Overall Sprint or Distance standings that have started the race. The ranking used will be the most up to date standings of the FIS World Cup (Sprint or Distance).

8. APPENDIX A – Canadian Tire Performance Benchmarks

Cross Country Skiing - Performance Profile Benchmark Summary														
 <p>Each metric across the top of the table below has a set of benchmarks for each gender and race type group - A: Major Podium; B: WC Top 12; C: WC Top 30.</p> <p>Each of these groups are cumulatively exclusive, meaning each subsequent group contains all athletes not within a previous group. Athletes are placed in each group if they have achieved that target performance since 2010. Their career performance data, dating back to the 2000 season, is then used in the benchmark calculations.</p> <p>The benchmark for each group is the 75th Percentile of the metric for those athletes within the group. The 75th Percentile was selected to eliminate any extreme out.</p>  														
Gender	Race Type	Target	Number of Athletes	First Age	FINCH Best Rank	U23WCH Best Rank	U23 WC Best Rank	U25 WC Best Rank	U28 WC Best Rank	29+ WC Best Rank	U23 WC Best 5 Avg. Rank	U25 WC Best 5 Avg. Rank	U28 WC Best 5 Avg. Rank	29+ WC Best 5 Avg. Rank
Men	Distance	A: Major Podium	33	29.0	8.0	5.0	29.5	6.0	2.0	2.0	37.5	12.1	3.9	2.6
		B: WC Top 12	140	27.0	14.3	13.0	33.0	21.0	11.0	13.0	43.4	32.9	19.2	21.0
		C: WC Top 30	127	27.0	30.0	21.0	49.0	41.0	36.0	35.5	58.9	54.7	46.8	43.9
	Sprint	A: Major Podium	15	26.5	11.5	6.0	4.0	2.0	1.0	3.5	7.9	5.5	3.3	5.0
		B: WC Top 12	162	26.0	19.0	16.0	28.0	17.0	12.0	17.0	40.7	31.8	22.3	28.6
		C: WC Top 30	148	26.0	30.0	25.0	45.0	37.8	38.0	38.0	57.1	51.4	51.1	50.8
Women	Distance	A: Major Podium	20	27.3	5.5	1.3	5.0	1.5	1.0	1.3	8.1	3.7	4.4	2.4
		B: WC Top 12	133	28.0	19.0	7.8	34.0	25.3	14.0	11.0	42.1	32.4	22.3	19.0
		C: WC Top 30	143	26.0	25.8	16.5	37.0	35.8	31.0	30.3	47.8	44.6	41.9	41.1
	Sprint	A: Major Podium	15	28.0	6.0	8.0	5.0	2.5	2.0	3.0	10.2	7.1	3.6	3.9
		B: WC Top 12	122	25.0	17.0	10.8	27.0	17.0	10.5	11.3	34.1	27.8	20.6	20.2
		C: WC Top 30	126	26.0	25.0	22.5	36.0	35.0	32.0	33.0	47.8	42.4	42.9	44.7