

# Para Nordic Competition Criteria

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Selection Criteria  
**2024-25**



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## 1. General Information

1. To maximize Canada's performance and podium potential at major championships (Para World Ski Championships, Para Biathlon Championships and Paralympic Games), we will take Canada's most competitive performers to appropriate competitions to achieve these goals. Performance benchmarks for competition projects are based off data from the Canadian Tire Performance Benchmarks.
2. This document establishes the eligibility and criteria used by Nordiq Canada for selecting athletes for international competition projects.
3. The process for the creation of selection criteria is guided by the *NST Selection, Nomination, and Announcement Policy*.
4. Final decision authority for all selections is the Nordiq Canada High Performance Director (HPD) or their designate.
5. Selection decisions may be appealed under the Nordiq Canada Dispute Resolution and Appeal Policy. The appeal deadline will be posted in the selection rationale with the Team announcement on the Nordiq Canada website.
6. The Nordiq Canada HPD, or their designate, 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 Paralympic Committee, Canadian Snowsport Association (CSA), FIS, IBU, IPC, or any other relevant organization.
  - c. To correct, clarify or amend any inconsistencies, errors, or omissions in the criteria.
  - d. Events or situations (i.e. pandemics, natural disasters, war, etc.) 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.

- e. 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.
7. It is the athlete's responsibility to read and understand the contents of this document and other supporting documents and policies. For clarification contact the HPD, Chris Jeffries: [cjeffries@nordiqcanada.ca](mailto:cjeffries@nordiqcanada.ca).

## 2. Purpose

1. To provide FIS Para Cross Country (PCC) and IBU Para Biathlon (PB) sanctioned Para World Cup (WC) and Para 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 athletes leading to the long-term development of athletes on a podium pathway who can progress to medal performance at WC, World Championships (WCH) and the 2026, 2030 PWG.

## 3. Objectives

1. Contribute to team performance targets as determined by the Nordiq Canada [Strategic Plan](#).
2. Provide athletes the opportunity to meet Nordiq Canada Para Nordic Team selection criteria to be named to one of the 2025-26 Nordiq Canada Para Nordic

National Ski 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 2025-26 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 Para sport classified.
6. Identification of development athletes who:
  - a. can be internationally ranked on the FIS and/or IBU ranking points list and have demonstrated potential to achieve TWO (2) races of 240 FIS points or less results.
  - b. demonstrate the long-term potential to achieve established benchmarks leading to 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 in the 2024-25 competition season (December 2024 – March 2025), athletes must meet the following eligibility criteria:
  - a. be a current Nordiq Canada and provincial member in good standing<sup>1</sup>;
  - b. be a Canadian citizen with a current and valid Canadian passport or can represent Canada at a Paralympic Winter Games;
  - c. hold a current Nordiq Canada race license;
  - d. be a current Nordiq Canada registered club member;

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

- e. have a valid Para Nordic FIS and/or IBU licenses prior to race registration, and meet IPC classification criteria for Sport Class and FIS/IBU eligibility;
  - f. be 16 years of age or older by the end of the 2024-25 season;
  - g. meet all FIS and/or IBU and other event entry standards for the competition(s) for which they qualify<sup>2</sup>;
  - h. adhere to all municipal, provincial, federal, and international Covid or other health authority pandemic guidelines;
2. Curtailment of Competition (Curtailment of Health, Force Majeure):
- a. **An athlete starting in an event is deemed healthy and fit to compete, as such their results stand for any and all selection criteria.**
  - 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 within an hour after the race.
  - c. Medical documentation confirming diagnosis from a licensed physician must be submitted to the HPD within 48 hours of the start of the selection race.
  - d. Nordiq Canada reserves the right to have all submissions reviewed by the NST medical doctor or another licensed medical doctor.
  - e. Acceptance of a curtailment of competition will be decided by the HPD.
  - f. Acceptance will be evaluated and based on the most recent comparative objective data and proven international success, in the current and past competition season supporting the fact the athlete would have expected to qualify if they had been able to compete.
  - g. Accepted curtailment of competition applications will be ranked as per the specific competition criteria.
  - h. Submission or acceptance of curtailment of competition does not guarantee event qualification.

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

3. 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.
4. Once eligibility requirements have been verified by Nordiq Canada, athletes will be named to the competition team.
5. 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, IBU or other applicable bodies and must comply with Nordiq Canada's, CCES's and FIS's, IBU'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, FIS and IBU; and,
  - d. comply with the Nordiq Canada Athlete Code of Conduct and the Competition Trip Agreement.

## 5. Selection Guidelines

1. To meet the performance goals of the Para National Ski Team program, Nordiq Canada will make team size decisions that are in aligned with Nordiq Canada's high performance (HP) budget restrictions, performance goals and staff's availability and ability to support the team.
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) 2024-25 FIS or IBU WC/WSC event or (2) a 2024-25 FIS or IBU sanctioned event, using lowest points in each respective category in an individual qualifying race. Depth of field will be required and considered for each event used to tie break. If there is still a tie, the HPD will make the final decision.
4. The HPD, in consultation with the High Performance Committee and the NC staff (SDD, IST, NC Leads, Development Coach), has the right to subjectively select an athlete to a competition team. Athletes can be subjectively added to any team based on APP data, an athlete's Individual Athlete Performance Plan ([IAPP link here](#)) and performances supported by the selection enhancing the athlete's development pathway.

## 6. Important Dates and Information

1. Selection Event COC– Canmore, AB: November 19-21, 2024
2. World Cup Period 1 – Vuokatti, FIN: December 7-21, 2024
  - IBU - Dec. 12-15, 2024
  - FIS - Dec. 17-20, 2024
3. Continental Cup – West Yellowstone, Mt, USA: Jan. 7-12, 2025
4. World Cup Period 2 – Val di Fiemme, ITA: January 24 to February 3, 2025
  - IBU – Jan. 29-30, 2025
  - FIS – Feb. 1-2 , 2025
5. IBU World Championships (Pokljuka, SLO)
  - IBU - Feb. 6-9, 2025
6. FIS World Ski Championship (Toblach, ITA)
  - FIS – Feb. 12-14, 2025
7. FIS World Championships Sprint – Trondheim, NOR: March 1-6, 2025
  - FIS – Mar. 4-5, 2025
8. Internal FIS point standards used for objective nominations for World Cup competition trips have increased this year to correspond with the new FIS point factor change to 800 from 600, as approved at the fall FIS meetings in Zurich, SUI. Old FIS point standards and their new values are:



- 30 FIS points is now 40 FIS points
- 90 FIS points is now 120 FIS points
- 140 FIS points is now 186 FIS points
- 180 FIS points is now 240 FIS points

## 7. Selection Criteria

### 1. IBU and FIS WORLD CUP PERIOD 1

Races: Vuokatti, FIN

Dates: December 8-23, 2024

#### SELECTION CRITERIA

- a. World Cup Team athletes
- b. Selection event COC (Canmore) single best result equivalent of 186 FIS points or less against a current known international Top-5 performer.
- c. Selection event COC (Canmore) single best result equivalent of 240 FIS points or less against a current known international Top-5 performer.
- d. Accepted Curtailment of Competition as per pt. 4.2.
- e. HPD discretion as per pt. 5.4.

#### RATIONALE

- i. WC P1 is for athletes who have previously met World Cup Team standards.
- ii. Provide opportunities for athletes to meet FIS standards at World Cups.

### 2. PARA CROSS COUNTRY CONTINENTAL CUP- WEST YELLOWSTONE, MONTANA USA

Pre-Camp and Races: January 7- 12th, 2025

#### SELECTION CRITERIA

- a. NextGen, Development and Prospect athletes
- b. Accepted Curtailment of Competition as per 4.2.
- c. HPD discretion as per pt. 5.4.

#### RATIONALE

- i. This trip is meant to be an inclusive competition opportunity for development para-athletes to enhance their transition to World Cup events for the future.

### **3. IBU and FIS WORLD CUP PERIOD 2**

Races: Val di Fiemme, ITA

Dates: January 24 to February 2, 2025

#### SELECTION CRITERIA

- a. World Cup Team athletes
- b. WC Period 1 single best result of 186 FIS points or less.
- c. COC West Yellowstone or COC Canmore single best equivalent of 186 FIS points or less against a current known international Top-5 performer.
- d. Accepted Curtailment of Competition as per 4.2
- e. HPD discretion as per pt. 5.4.

#### RATIONALE

- i. WC P2 is for athletes who have previously met World Cup Team standards.
- ii. Provide opportunities to Next Gen and Development Team athletes to meet 120 FIS points, an objective standard Nordiq Canada has identified as a pre-requisite for consistent participation in World Cup events.

#### **4. 2025 IBU WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Races: Pokljuka, Slovenia

Dates: February 3-9, 2025

##### SELECTION CRITERIA

- a. World Cup Team athletes provided they meet the eligibility requirements for the event, adhere to their national training program to the satisfaction of the National Para Cross Country and Biathlon coaches and the HPD, and demonstrate competitive readiness.
- b. Any athlete who achieves a 120 FIS points or less at an IBU WC period 1 or period 2.
- c. Any athlete who achieves a 120 FIS points or less at a FIS WC period 1 or period 2, AND achieves a 186 FIS points or less at an IBU WC period 1 or period 2.
- d. Accepted Curtailment of Competition as per pt. 4.2.
- e. HPD discretion as per pt. 5.4.

##### RATIONALE

- i. Provide appropriate competition pathway opportunities to athletes who have achieved a 120 FIS point result and contribute to the long-term objectives for the 2026 and 2030 Paralympic Games.

#### **5. 2025 FIS WORLD SKI CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Races: Toblach, ITA

Dates: February 10-17, 2025

##### SELECTION CRITERIA

- a. World Cup Team athletes provided they meet the eligibility requirements for the event, adhere to their national training program to the satisfaction of the National Para Cross Country and Biathlon coaches and the HPD, and demonstrate competitive readiness.

- b. Any athlete who achieves a 120 FIS points or less at a FIS WC period 1 or period 2.
- c. Accepted Curtailment of Competition as per pt. 4.2.
- d. HPD discretion as per pt. 5.4.

#### RATIONALE

- i. Support excellence and podium performances at Nordiq Canada's high performance target event of the year as outlined in the 2030 Strategic Plan.
- ii. Provide appropriate competition pathway opportunities to athletes who have achieved a 120 FIS point result and contribute to the long-term objectives for the 2026 and 2030 Paralympic Games.

### **6. FIS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS SPRINT**

Races: Trondheim, NOR

Dates: February 27 to March 6, 2025

#### SELECTION CRITERIA

- a. World Cup Team athletes may be selected based on their IAPP and competition objectives for the 2024-25 season.
- b. Accepted Curtailment of Competition as per 4.2.
- c. HPD discretion as per pt. 5.4.

### **8. Maintaining Selection and Racing Status**

- 1. 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 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 applicable Nordiq Canada policies including these procedures:
  - i. Any selected athlete may have their selection status reviewed by the HPD if any of the requirements are not met. The HPD 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.

## 9. Funding

1. Athletes selected to a World Cup or World Championships team on the 2024-25 Para Nordic World Cup Team will not pay trip fees.
2. Athletes selected to a Para Nordic World Cup team on the 2024-25 NextGen or Development team may be required to pay trip fees. NextGen project fees for the 2024-25 season are \$1,500 per competition. Development project fees may be up to 100% of the trip cost, including athlete airfare, room and board, travel insurance and other costs incurred by the individual.
  - a. Athletes selected to a Para Nordic World Cup Project, including World Championships, who are not on a 2024-25 Para Nordic World Cup Team program (PNST, NextGen, Development) will be required to self-fund.
3. 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.

## 10. Definitions and Abbreviations

FIS - International Ski and Snowboard Federation

IBU – International Biathlon Union

IPC – International Paralympic Committee

CPC – Canadian Paralympic Committee

IAPP – Individual Athlete Performance Plan

PNST – Para Nordic National Ski Team

NG – NextGen

PCC - Para Cross Country

PB – Para Biathlon

FIS points – refers to Para Cross Country Points and Para Biathlon Qualification 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 points or at least three (3) athletes who have fewer than 40 FIS points on the FIS points overall rankings in that sport class (i.e. sit, stand, visually impaired) on the date of competition.

Single Best Equivalent FIS Points – FIS point calculations done internally by Nordiq Canada for Continental Cup Events to determine equivalent FIS points for an athlete in an individual event by removing the event penalty and using the race winner’s actual FIS points on the current FIS points list.