

Para Nordic Competition Criteria

Selection Criteria
2024-25

DRAFT



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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.**

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.

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 Development 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 180 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 standing¹;
 - b. be a Canadian citizen with a current and valid Canadian passport or can represent Canada at a Paralympic Winter Games;

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

- c. hold a current Nordiq Canada race license;
 - d. be a current Nordiq Canada registered club member;
 - 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 qualify²;
 - 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.

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

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

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. FIS World Championship (Toblach, ITA) and IBU World Championships (Pokljuka, SLO)
 - **IBU - Feb. 6-9, 2025**
 - **FIS – Feb. 11-16, 2025**
6. FIS World Championships Sprint – Trondheim, NOR: March 1-6, 2025
 - **FIS – Mar. 5-6, 2025**

7. Selection Criteria

1. WORLD CUP PERIOD 1

Races: Vuokatti, FIN

SELECTION CRITERIA

- a. World Cup Team athletes
- b. Selection event COC (Canmore) single best result equivalent of 140 FIS points or less against a current known international top-5 performer.
- c. Selection event COC (Canmore) single best result equivalent of 180 FIS points or less as a minimum from the selection races.
- d. Accepted Curtailment of Competition as per pt. 4.2.
- e. HPD discretion as per pt. 5.4.

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. Additional Athletes may be selected based on their IAPP (Individual Athlete Performance Plan), COC Canmore Selection event results, and competition objectives for the 2024-25 season.
- c. HPD discretion as per pt. 5.4.

3. WORLD CUP PERIOD 2

Races: Val di Fiemme, ITA

SELECTION CRITERIA

- a. World Cup Team athletes
- b. 90 FIS points or less at WC P1
- c. COC West Yellowstone or COC Canmore single best equivalent of 140 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.

4. 2025 FIS AND IBU WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Races: Pokljuka, Slovenia and Toblach, ITA

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 90 FIS points or less at WC period 1 or period 2.
- c. Accepted Curtailment of Competition as per pt. 4.2.
- d. HPD discretion as per pt. 5.4.

5. FIS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS SPRINT

Races: Trondheim, NOR

SELECTION CRITERIA

- a. World Cup Team athletes may be selected based on their IAPP and competition objectives for the 2024-25 season.
- b. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.