

# Para Nordic National Ski Team Selection Criteria

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Selection Criteria

2025-26



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## 1. General Information

1. This document outlines the policies and procedures used by Nordiq Canada to select athletes for the 2025-26 Para Nordic World Cup Ski Team, Para Nordic NextGen Team, Para Nordic Development Team and Para Nordic Prospect Team.
2. This document is created under the direction of the [NST Selection, Nomination, and Announcement Policy](#).
3. Final decision authority for Para Nordic National Ski Team (PNST) selections is the Nordic Canada High Performance Director (HPD) as per the NST Selection, Nomination and Announcement Policy.
4. Selection decisions may be appealed under the Nordiq Canada Appeal Policy.
5. The HPD, or designate<sup>1</sup>, 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. Any 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.
6. Changes to this document will be communicated directly to the ski community by whatever means and wherever the original criteria were published. Nordiq

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<sup>1</sup> In the event the HPD is unavailable, a designate will be appointed within Nordiq Canada to be the decision-making authority.

Canada is not responsible or liable in any way to anyone as a result of any amendments.

7. Athletes and coaches are responsible for reading and understanding the contents of this and supporting documents and policies. For clarification contact the HPD.
8. The qualification period is November 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025.

## 2. Objectives

1. **PARA NORDIC WORLD CUP TEAM:** To provide optimal support and preparation to achieve FIS PCC and/or IBU PB World Cup (WC), World Championships (WCH) and Paralympic Winter Games (PWG) podium results.
2. **PARA NORDIC NEXTGEN TEAM:** To develop athletes who have demonstrated the ability to be competitive on the FIS PCC and/or IBU PB World Cup circuit and transition them to the Para Nordic World Cup Team program.
3. **PARA NORDIC DEVELOPMENT TEAM:** To develop athletes who have demonstrated potential to be competitive (consistently achieve under 240 FIS and/or IBU points) on the FIS PCC and/or IBU PB World Cup circuit and transition to the Para Nordic NextGen Team.
4. **PARA NORDIC PROSPECTS TEAM:** To develop new talents who have demonstrated potential to be competitive on the FIS PCC and/or IBU PB World Cup circuit within four (4) years, and transition to the Development Team.

## 3. Selection Guidelines

### Athlete Eligibility

1. To be eligible to be selected for a PNST, athletes must meet the following eligibility criteria:
  - a. athletes must be current Nordiq Canada and provincial members in good standing<sup>2</sup>;

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<sup>2</sup> Please refer to the [Nordiq Canada bylaws](#) for a complete description of members in good standing.

- b. must be a Canadian citizen with a valid Canadian passport or the ability to represent Canada at a PWG;
  - 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 and/or Para Biathlon IBU license, and meet classification criteria for Sport Class and FIS PCC and/or IBU PB eligibility;
  - f. athletes must meet all FIS PCC and/or IBU PB and other event entry standards for the competition(s) for which they qualify;
  - g. must adhere to all NSO, municipal, provincial, federal, and international Covid and/or other pandemic and health guidelines;
  - h. must follow a NC approved Yearly Training Program as reviewed by the HPD or their designate and NC Para staff;
  - i. if an athlete is selected to a Team under these selection procedures and criteria the athlete acknowledges and agrees that they:
    - i. will comply with Nordiq Canada's policies as posted on the [Nordiq Canada website](#);
    - ii. are subject to 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 the FIS/IBU Anti-Doping bylaws or policies;
    - iii. will comply with all requests from Nordiq Canada and with his/her obligations set out in the Nordiq Canada Anti-Doping Bylaw to provide accurate whereabouts information to CCES, FIS and/or IBU; and,
    - iv. comply with the Nordiq Canada [Athlete Code of Conduct](#) and/or the Athlete Agreement.
2. Athletes meeting the same criteria will be ranked on their single best points race in all eligible races until the tie is broken.
  3. All race events must meet the minimum depth of field standard as outlined in the definitions.
  4. The HPD, in consultation with the HPC SDD and the Para staff team, has the right to subjectively select an athlete to any PNST program based on exceptional circumstances and performances that could enhance the athlete's developmental pathway and the overall performance of the 2026 Paralympic Games team. Evidence should include defined podium pathway metrics, Athlete

Performance Profile (APP) evaluations and past international World Cup performances.

### **Team Size**

5. Team size is determined by budget, available program support and athlete potential for podium success at the 2026 PWG and will be determined prior to Team selection.

## **4. Selection Criteria**

### **1. Para Nordic World Cup Team**

- a. One (1) race result of 40 FIS PCC and/or IBU PB points or less in the 2024-25 season at FIS PCC or IBU PB sanctioned (WC) or World Championship (WCH) event.
- b. Accepted Curtailment of Competition as per section 6.
- c. HPD discretion.

### **2. Para Nordic NEXTGEN Team**

- a. Two (2) results of 120 FIS PCC and/or IBU PB or less in the 2024-25 season at FIS PCC and/or IBU PB sanctioned WC and/or WCH events.
- b. Accepted Curtailment of Competition as per section 6.
- c. HPD discretion.

NOTE: Once an athlete is named to the NextGen Team, they must [demonstrate progression](#) toward the PNST World Cup Team. If, after three (3) years after the initial nomination, progression has not been demonstrated, the athlete will not be eligible for nomination to any level other than when meeting the PNST criteria.

### **3. Para Nordic Development Team**

- a. Two (2) results of 240 FIS PCC and/or IBU PB points or less in the 2024-25 season at FIS PCC and/or IBU PB sanctioned WC and/or WCH events.

- b. Accepted Curtailment of Competition as per section 6.
- c. HPD discretion.

NOTE: Once an athlete is named to the Development Team, they must [demonstrate progression](#) toward the NextGen Team. If, after two (2) years after the initial nomination, progression has not been demonstrated, the athlete will not be eligible for nomination to the Development level but can still be nominated via the NextGen or World Cup Team criteria.

#### 4. Para Nordic Prospects Team

- a. One (1) race result of 320 FIS PCC and/or IBU PB points or less in the 2024-25 season at FIS PCC and/or IBU PB sanctioned WC, WCH.
- b. One (1) race result of the equivalent 320 FIS PCC and/or IBU PB points or less in the 2024-25 season at FIS PCC and/or IBU PB sanctioned CC or USA PN Nationals events.
- c. Accepted Curtailment of Competition as per section 6.
- d. HPD discretion.

NOTE: The Prospects Team is targeted at newly identified Para nordic athletes and is primarily aimed at U24 athletes. Once an athlete is named to the Prospects Team, they must [demonstrate progression](#) toward the Development Team. If after five (5) years of the initial nomination, progression has not been demonstrated, the athlete will not be eligible for nomination to the Prospects level but can still be nominated via the NextGen, Development or World Cup Team criteria.

#### 5. Curtailment of Training and Competition (COH)

- 1. A written request with rationale can be put forward **only by existing members of the PN Teams** who, due to illness, injury, pregnancy, or an impactful life event were unable to achieve the objective or subjective qualification to the PN

programs. This rationale must be submitted with:

- a. documentation confirming the athlete followed proper reporting protocol to Nordiq Canada as per the Athlete Agreement;
- b. documentation confirming diagnosis by a physician, in the case of illness or injury, or authorized notification from a professional designate relevant to the situation in non-medical circumstances;
- c. a letter from the athlete's coach outlining the impact of the illness, injury or life event.
- d. a return to training, and competition plan for the season;
- e. supporting documentation (evaluated and approved by Nordiq Canada team physician) of what the athlete's treatment has been and will be going forward;
- f. documentation supporting a NSO approved return to play training program;

All documentation must be submitted **by March 26, 2025, 11:59 AM** in the time zone of the athlete's current residence. Submissions accepted after this deadline will not be considered.

2. This provision only applies to situations that effect the athlete for longer than four (4) months but requires a positive prognosis between 8-12 months, and must show a consistent, recorded documentation of the situation to Nordiq Canada during the time the athlete was/is unable to compete.
3. Acceptance for a COH will be evaluated based on objective data supporting the premise that the athlete would have qualified for the PNST if not for the uncontrollable circumstance. Objective data reviewed could include, but not be limited to current and previous season FIS PCC and/or IBU PB points.
4. Athletes that are nominated by Curtailment of Health will be ranked according to the priority order they achieved in the 2023-24 season against the 2025-26 PNST criteria.

## **6. Removal of an Athlete Once Selected**

1. The HPD or their designate reserves the right to withdraw an athlete from a Team:



- a. If the athlete has not fulfilled responsibilities with respect to mandatory training camps, testing, and competitions;
  - b. If the athlete has not fulfilled responsibilities as identified in the Nordiq Canada Athlete Agreement;
  - c. If the athlete has not fulfilled responsibilities as identified in the Nordiq Canada Code of Conduct or Nordiq Canada Discipline Policy;
  - d. If the athlete has demonstrated toxic behavior eroding the Nordiq Canada Culture of Excellence;
  - e. If the athlete has not adhered to responsibilities as they pertain to WADA, and CCES antidoping protocols;
  - f. If the athlete is unable to perform due to injury, illness or other medical reasons as supported by the Nordic Canada team physician or appropriate IST.
2. The HPD or their designate may recommend the withdrawal of an athlete's national team status under the following conditions:
- 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.
3. If the above steps are not successful in resolving the matter and Nordiq Canada 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 Nordiq Canadas internal appeal process within the prescribed time.

## **7. Definitions Relevant to Understanding Criteria Procedures**

### **FIS PCC Points**

FIS PCC points are earned through participation at FIS PCC World Cup, World Championship and sanctioned continental cups (i.e. USA Nationals). Nordiq Canada uses 240 FIS PCC points as the minimum benchmark for Development team eligibility. An athlete must purchase a FIS PCC license and Nordiq Canada

license to be eligible for FIS PCC points. The purchase of the FIS PN licenses is facilitated through the Nordiq Canada Para Program.

### **IBU PB Points**

TBA – currently IBU uses the same FIS points system as FIS. In this case, the definition is:

IBU PB points are earned through participation at IBU PB World Cup, World Championship and other IBU sanctioned events. Nordiq Canada uses 240 FIS PB points as the minimum benchmark for Development team eligibility. An athlete must purchase an IBU PB license and Nordiq Canada license to be eligible for FIS PB points. The purchase of the FIS PN licenses is facilitated through the Nordiq Canada Para Program.

### **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 27 FIS PCC or PB points or at least three (3) athletes who have fewer than 53 FIS PSS points on the FIS PSS overall rankings in that sport class (i.e. sit, stand, visually impaired) on the date of competition.

### **Objective Metrics for Selection, Potential, and Progression**

Metrics for potential will include but not limited to: FIS and/or IBU results, FIS and/or IBU points, head-to-head racing against proven current international performers who have achieved WC or WCH Podium performances or Top-5 results at WC/WCH/PWG, validated Canadian Tire Analytics, and APP analytics.

### **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.