

Para Nordic Competition Trip

Selection Criteria
2025-26



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1. World Cup (WC) Selection Criteria

1. World Cup Period 1 (WC P1)	
Dates	Cross-Country: Dec 1 – 7, 2025 Biathlon: Dec 8 – 14, 2025
Selection Date	Nov 30, 2025
Announcement Date	Nov 30, 2025
Location	Canmore, AB
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualification for the 2026 Paralympic Winter Games. • Provide meaningful competition pathway opportunities for developing athletes who can contribute to long-term high-performance objectives.
Team Size	Open
Cross-Country Criteria	
a.	2025-26 World Cup National Ski Team
b.	Athletes scoring 240 or less FIS points in an individual race in the 2024-2025 season, or the Canmore Continental Cup Nov 26-27, 2025.
c.	Curtailed of Health
In exceptional circumstances, HPD discretion may be used to nominate an athlete to the WC P1 following guidelines outlined in section 8.4.	
d.	HPD Discretion
Note	Non-FIS penalty points will be used from the Canmore PN COC Nov 26-27, 2025.
Biathlon Criteria	
a.	2025-26 World Cup National Ski Team
b.	Athletes scoring 240 or less IBU points in an individual race in the 2024-2025 season or the Calforex Cup Nov 29-30, 2025.
c.	Curtailed of Health
In exceptional circumstances, HPD discretion may be used to nominate an athlete to the WC P1 following guidelines outlined in section 8.4.	
d.	HPD Discretion
Note	Non- IBU penalty points will be used from the Calforex Cup Nov 29-30, 2025.

2. World Cup Period 2 (WC P2)	
Dates	Cross-Country: Jan 14 – 18 Biathlon: Jan 6 – 25, 2026
Selection Date	Dec 15, 2025
Announcement Date	Dec 18, 2025
Location	Cross-Country: Finsterau, GER Biathlon: Notschrei, GER / Jakuszyce, POL
Objectives	Preparation for the 2026 Paralympic Winter Games
Team Size	12-14 (6-7 men / 6-7 women)
Cross-Country Criteria	
a.	Athletes meeting criteria to be nominated to the 2026 Paralympic Winter Games (PWG) Team in order of the 2026 PWG selection criteria priority ranking list.
b.	Athletes meeting criteria to be nominated as the first alternate to the 2026 PWG Team in order of the 2026 PWG selection criteria priority ranking list.
Note	Nordiq Canada may choose to bring the first alternates nominated to the 2026 PWG Team with considerations to team size, budget, competition objectives, and competitiveness of the team as per section 5.3.
Biathlon Criteria	
a.	Athletes meeting criteria to be nominated to the 2026 PWG Team in order of the 2026 PWG selection criteria priority ranking list.
b.	Athletes meeting criteria to be nominated as the first alternate to the 2026 PWG Team in order of the 2026 PWG selection criteria priority ranking list.
Note	Nordiq Canada may choose to bring the first alternates nominated to the 2026 PWG Team with considerations to team size, budget, competition objectives, and competitiveness of the team as per section 5.3.

3. World Cup Period 3 (WC P3)	
Dates	Dates not finalized by FIS/IBU
Locations (Races)	Locations not finalized by FIS/IBU
Note	If FIS/IBU confirms race dates and locations, Nordiq Canada may consider publishing selection criteria.

2. PN Continental (COC) and Alberta Calforex Competition Support

1. Canmore	
Dates	Cross-country: November 26-27, 2025 Biathlon: November 29-30, 2025
Location	Canmore, AB
Team Size	Open
Cross-Country Criteria	
a.	2025-26 World Cup National Ski Team
b.	2025-26 NextGen National Ski Team
c.	2025-26 Development National Ski Team
d.	Nordiq Canada will provide wax service to athletes who have achieved 300 FIS points or less in an individual race in the 2024-2025 season.
Biathlon Criteria	
a.	2025-26 World Cup National Ski Team
b.	2025-26 NextGen National Ski Team
c.	2025-26 Development National Ski Team
d.	Nordiq Canada will provide wax service to athletes who have achieved 300 IBU points or less in an individual race in the 2024-2025 season
Note	All athletes who have met the minimum FIS/IBU eligibility are entitled to start the PN COC and Alberta Calforex Competitions. Nordiq Canada will only be providing wax service to athletes who have achieved 300 FIS/IBU points or less in an individual race in the 2024-2025 season.

3. Information and Objectives

1. This document establishes the eligibility and criteria used by Nordiq Canada for selecting athletes for international competitions.
2. The process for establishing selection criteria is guided by the NST Selection, Nomination and Announcement Policy.
3. Final decision for all selections falls under the authority of Nordiq Canada's High-Performance Director (HPD) or their designate.
4. Selection decisions may be appealed under the Nordiq Canada Dispute Resolution and Appeals Policy.
 - a. Any dispute must be brought directly to the SDRCC to be heard pursuant to the Canadian Sport Dispute Resolution Code. 2.
 - b. An athlete who wishes to appeal shall file an appeal with the SDRCC within 72 hours of the nomination Synopsis and Rationale being posted to the Nordiq Canada website.

5. The Nordiq Canada HPD, or their designate, has the authority, and reserves the right to amend this document prior to the selection date.
6. It is the athlete's responsibility to read and understand the contents of this document and other supporting documents and policies.

4. Eligibility Criteria

1. Athletes must be Nordiq Canada members in good standing with a valid Canadian passport, and Nordiq Canada racing license.
2. Hold a valid Para FIS license prior to race registration for cross-country.
3. Hold a valid Para IBU license prior to race registration for biathlon.
4. Hold a valid Biathlon Canada license if competing in biathlon prior to race registration.
5. Must be International Paralympic Committee (IPC) classified for Sport Class and FIS/IBU eligibility for the competition discipline.
6. Meet all FIS and/or IBU and other event entry standards for the competition(s) for which they qualify.

5. Selection Guidelines

1. Only events listed in this document are considered for selection rankings and standards.
2. The HPD reserves the right to determine or adjust team size based on the operational budget, where doing so supports athlete health, performance readiness, and the overall competitiveness of the team.
3. Nordiq Canada is not obligated to select athletes up to the maximum number of allotted quota positions. Selection decisions will be made in consideration of the FIS/IBU nation quota, available budget, team resources, and the athlete's readiness and suitability for international competition. Even if an athlete meets the qualification criteria, they may not be selected if it is determined that participation would not align with the objectives of the team.
4. In the event a qualifying athlete is ineligible or otherwise unable to compete, the HPD may choose to select the next qualifying athlete for that competition.
5. Only qualifying race results that meet the definitions in Appendix A will be used for selections; this includes what constitutes individual and team final race results and depth of fields.

6. In the event of a tie after the selection criteria has been applied, the athletes will be ranked by the priorities in the following order:
 - a. Their single best race result within the qualification selection criteria. If there is still a tie it will move to 2nd, 3rd, etc. best result, using the lowest FIS/IBU points in each respective category in eligible races until the tie is broken.
 - b. If there is still a tie, the HPD will make the final decision. Depth of field will be required and considered for each event used to tie break.
7. All race results referred to in the selection criteria are from the 2024-2025, and 2025-2026 season unless otherwise indicated.
8. The competition dates only indicate the start, and end period of the competition events. The trip dates will be defined in the competition trip agreement.

6. Curtailment of Health (Exceptional Circumstances, Injury, & Illness)

1. If an athlete satisfies the eligibility requirements indicated in section 4, but due to an injury, illness or other exceptional circumstance that is beyond the athlete's control, is unable to compete at a selection event, the athlete may be considered for nomination provided they satisfy the requirements indicated in this Section 6.
2. Nordiq Canada's HPD has the right to accept or reject any applications made under this Section 6.
3. Provided that they otherwise satisfy the requirements set out in Section 7, an Athlete may be exempt from racing at selection event or Trials and may be considered for nomination to the international competition trip if they suffer an injury, illness or exceptional circumstance.
4. In order for an athlete to receive an exemption from racing at a selection or trials event they must:
 - a. Notify a member of Nordiq Canada's medical team of their injury or illness as soon as possible after it occurs and receive an exemption no later than the start of the first competition impacted by the injury, illness or exceptional circumstance.
 - b. Demonstrate, to the medical team's satisfaction, that it is more likely than not that their performance at the selection race or trials would be negatively impacted by their injury or illness.
5. Any decision by Nordiq Canada's medical team to exempt an athlete from racing is final and not subject to appeal by the athlete seeking the exemption or any other person who may be impacted by an exemption decision.
6. If an athlete starts a selection race or trials race despite being injured or ill, their performance shall stand, and they shall not be permitted to request an exemption from racing.

7. Qualification under Curtailment of Competition (Exceptional Circumstances, Injury, & Illness)

Athletes seeking nomination to a competition trip through curtailment of Health must satisfy the following requirements:

1. In the case of injury or illness, the athlete's injury or illness must be documented by a licensed, qualified, and relevant medical health practitioner, which must be validated by the Nordiq Canada IST Lead and Team Doctor.
2. The athlete must submit a written application to the HPD within 7 days of being diagnosed with an injury or illness by a licensed, qualified, and relevant medical health practitioner.
3. The application must include the following:
 - a. A medical certificate completed by a licensed, qualified, and relevant medical health practitioner validated by Nordiq Canada indicating the date and nature of the athlete's injury or illness with the prescribed rehabilitation program and an estimated recovery period, as well as the practitioner's opinion regarding whether the athlete will return to their normal state of health and at the level of performance that would have otherwise justified their nomination to the competition trip prior to the commencement of the athlete's first competition. Nordiq Canada may require the athlete to submit to a second medical evaluation and opinion;
 - b. The IST and coaching staff's written recommendation regarding whether the athlete is unable to continue to compete during the 2025-26 season due to their injury or illness in order to allow them to recover from their injury or illness prior to the commencement of their first competition;
 - c. The athlete's written agreement that, for the period of time during which they are unable to fulfill their training and competition commitments as specified in their Athlete or Competition Agreement, they will train and/or rehabilitate under the supervision of Nordiq Canada coaches and IST team at a level which minimizes risk to the athlete's health, and ensures optimum return to full training and competition at the earliest possible date; and
 - d. The athlete's written confirmation of their intention to return to full high-performance training and competition at the earliest date possible following the illness or injury.
4. When determining whether an athlete may be nominated pursuant to this Section 7, Nordiq Canada reserves the right to require that the athlete submit to a performance readiness test, the results of which will be kept confidential between the athlete, their coach and medical practitioner(s) and Nordiq Canada staff and the Nordiq Canada HPC (where relevant).
 - a. The performance readiness test will consist of a controlled performance such as a competition or observed test or trial. The athlete will be given reasonable notice of the date of the test or trial, taking into account the circumstances of the athlete's illness or injury. Tests may also include, but are not limited to physiotherapy assessment, medical assessment/clearance and time trial/race results to confirm health and readiness to compete at a high-performance level.
 - b. The objective of a performance readiness test shall be to determine whether it is more likely than not that the athlete will be ready to return to competition at their normal state of health and at the level of performance that would have otherwise justified their nomination

to the international competition trip. When making any of the aforementioned determinations, the HPD may consult with the IST Lead, Nordiq Canada team doctor, the HPC or any other individual with relevant expertise.

5. If an athlete is required to undergo a performance readiness test as described above, the athlete will not be nominated to the competition trip team until they have undergone the test and until the HPD is satisfied that the athlete will return to their normal state of health and at the level of performance that would have otherwise justified their nomination to the competition trip team.
6. If the athlete satisfies all the requirements described in this Section 7, including, if requested, satisfactory performance of a performance readiness test, they may be nominated pursuant to Curtailment of Health.
7. However, if the athlete does not satisfy all the requirements described in this Section 7, including, if requested, satisfactory performance of a performance readiness test, they shall not be nominated pursuant to Curtailment of Health.
8. The final decision to nominate an athlete to an international competition trip team pursuant to this Section 7 shall be made by Nordiq Canada's HPD.

8. APPENDIX A - Definitions

Definitions relevant to understanding criteria procedures:

1. Depth of Field - For an individual final finish race result to be used for qualification, the field must include at least 2 athletes who have fewer than 20 FIS points or at least 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.
2. If an event does not satisfy the Depth of Field requirement, individual race results may be utilized by the HPD to determine if the result can be considered for qualification.
3. Single Best Equivalent FIS/IBU Points – Lowest points achieved in an individual FIS/IBU sanctioned race.
4. Non-FIS penalty 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.
5. High Performance Director (HPD) discretion: HPD discretion will only be applied in exceptional circumstances. In such circumstances the HPD will consult with the High-Performance Committee (HPC), and a decision as to whether an athlete could be considered for nomination will be reached by majority consensus. The HPD and HPC may use the following as evidence:
 - a. A performance readiness test as per section 7.4.
 - b. Current and historical results
 - c. Current and historical testing data
 - d. Current and historical training data