

National Ski Team

Olympic Stream - Selection Criteria

2026-27



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AMENDMENT

November 17, 2025

Point 2.2.a

Criteria changed from:

“To be eligible for the NextGen team, an athlete must be born prior to December 31, 2001.

To:

“To be eligible for the NextGen team, an athlete must be born after December 31, 2001.

Point 2.3.a

Criteria changed from:

“To be eligible for the development team, an athlete must be born prior to December 31, 2004.”

To:

“To be eligible for the development team, an athlete must be born after December 31, 2004.”

1. General Information

1. The purpose of this document is to describe the process and criteria that will be used by Nordiq Canada to select athletes to the National Ski Team (NST) for the 2026-27 year.
2. It is the athlete's responsibility to read and understand the contents of this document and other supporting documents and policies.
3. This document is created in accordance with Nordiq Canada's [Team Selection, Nomination and Announcement Policy](#).
4. Final decision authority for NST selections is the Nordiq Canada High Performance Director (HPD).
5. Nordiq Canada's NST nomination/re-nomination decisions or recommendation to withdraw NST status may be appealed under the [Nordiq Canada Dispute Resolution and Appeals Policy](#). Any such appeals shall be brought directly to the SDRCC to be heard pursuant to the Canadian Sport Dispute Resolution Code.
6. Appeals shall be filed with the SDRCC within three (3) days of the nomination Synopsis and Rationale being posted to the Nordiq Canada website.
7. 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. If unforeseen circumstances beyond the control of Nordiq Canada prevents the HPD from fairly and objectively implementing this selection criteria.
 - b. When new information is provided by external parties, including, without limitation, an event organizing committee, Sport Canada, the Canadian Olympic Committee, the International Ski Federation (FIS), or any other relevant organization and Nordiq Canada determines that it is relevant to the fair application of and rationale of this selection criteria.
 - 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.

2. National Ski Team (NST) Definitions

1. **Senior:**

The Senior NST recognizes and supports athletes who achieve strong performances at the World Championships (WSC), Olympic Winter Games (OWG), and World Cup (WC) level. Athletes on the Senior NST are targeting top-8 results at WC, WSC, and OWG competitions.
2. **NextGen:**

The NextGen NST recognizes and rewards athletes for strong performances at WC, and U23 WSC. The NextGen NST team is intended to support the development needs of U25 athletes who show clear

potential to meet Senior NST criteria but have not yet achieved those benchmarks.

- a. To be eligible for the NextGen team, an athlete must be born after December 31, 2001.

3. Development:

The Development NST recognizes and rewards athletes for performance at Junior WSC. The Development NST is intended to support the development needs of younger athletes who demonstrate clear potential to progress toward NextGen and Senior NST criteria.

- a. To be eligible for the development team, an athlete must be born after December 31, 2004.

3. NST Selection Criteria

Each section below sets out the priority order in which athletes may be nominated to the NST. Further, in each of the sections below, the criteria for nomination to the NST are listed in priority order.

Nordiq Canada is not required to select a minimum or maximum number of athletes to the NST. As such, the number of athletes selected to the NST may vary from year to year, and may be influenced by, without limitation, athlete performances or budgetary constraints.

1. SENIOR	
a.	Top eight (8) and top half of the field at the 2026 Olympic Winter Games (OWG).
b.	Top three (3) WC team relay or team Sprint final finish race result.
c.	Top eight (8) WC individual final finish race result.
d.	Top twenty (20) WC or OWG individual final finish race result, with equal to or less than fifty-five (55) FIS points.
e.	Two (2) top thirty (30) WC or OWG individual final finishes race result, with equal to or less than sixty-five (65) FIS points per race.
f.	Top three (3) U23 WSC individual or team relay final finish race result.
g.	Equal to or less than sixty (60) FIS points from the eighth (8 th) FIS Points Distance or Sprint Ranking list.
h.	Health-Related Reasons for athletes named to the 2025-26 National High-Performance Program (NHPP) A team.
i.	HPD Discretion as described in section 8.
NOTE:	If multiple athletes meet criteria under the same priority, they will be ranked in order of the lowest average FIS points using the qualifying races. A tie will be resolved as per section 4.4 Athletes that qualify under criteria 1.h will be prioritized based on their NHPP-qualifying results from the 2024–2025 competition season.
2. NEXTGEN	
a.	Top three (3) JR WSC individual or team relay final finish race result.
b.	Three (3) top forty (40) WC or OWG individual final finish race result, with equal to or less than seventy-five (75) FIS points per race.
c.	Top ten (10) U23 WSC individual final finish race result.
d.	Top twenty (20) U23 WSC individual final finish race result and top half of field.

e.	COC Leader.
f.	Top three (3) NCAA Championships for athletes in their graduating year of competition.
g.	Health-Related Reasons for athletes named to the 2025-26 NHPP B and NG1 team.
h.	HPD Discretion as described in section 8.
Note:	If multiple athletes meet criteria under the same priority, they will be ranked in order of the lowest average FIS points using the qualifying races. A tie will be resolved as per section 4.4. Athletes that qualify under criteria 2.f will be prioritized based on their NHPP-qualifying results from the 2024–2025 competition season.
3. DEVELOPMENT	
a.	Top ten (10) JR WSC individual final finish race result.
b.	Top twenty (20) JR WSC individual final finish race result and top half of field.
c.	Top thirty (30) JR WSC individual final finish race result and top half of field.
d.	Top five (5) overall from the 2025-26 COC season.
e.	U20 Individual Race winner from the 2026 Nordiq Canada Ski Nationals.
f.	U20 Aggregate winner from the 2026 Nordiq Canada Ski Nationals.
g.	U19 Aggregate winner from the 2026 Nordiq Canada Ski Nationals.
h.	U19 Aggregate winner from the 2026 Nordiq Canada Ski Nationals.
i.	U18 Individual Race winner from the 2026 Nordiq Canada Ski Nationals.
j.	U18 Aggregate Winner from the 2026 Nordiq Canada Ski Nationals.
k.	Health-Related Reasons for athletes named to the 2025-26 NHPP Development team.
l.	HPD Discretion as described in section 8.
Note:	If multiple athletes meet criteria under the same priority, they will be ranked in order of the lowest average FIS points using the qualifying races. A tie will be resolved as per section 5.3. Athletes qualifying under criteria 3.k will be prioritized based on their NHPP-qualifying results from the 2024–2025 competition season.

4. Selection Guidelines

1. The qualification period for selection to the NST is November 15, 2025, to March 24, 2026.
2. Only events listed in this document are considered for selection rankings and standards.
3. Athletes will only be selected when eligibility requirements have been verified by Nordiq Canada. Athletes that do not satisfy the eligibility requirements set out in Section 5 below will be ineligible for NST nomination until they satisfy the relevant and applicable condition(s).
4. 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. The lowest FIS points from the single best qualifying race result within the qualification selection criteria. If there is still a tie it will move to 2nd, 3rd, etc. best result.
- 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.

5. Eligibility

1. To be considered for NST selection by Nordiq Canada, athletes must:
 - 1.1** be a Nordiq Canada member in good standing including, without limitation, not having any outstanding debt toward Nordiq Canada;
 - a. agree and sign the Nordiq Canada National Ski Team and AAP Carding Athlete Contract;
 - b. be registered with a Nordiq Canada club;
 - c. have a valid Nordiq Canada race license;
 - d. have a valid Canadian FIS license; and
2. The Athlete must be available to represent Canada in major international competitions, including WSC, OWG, Junior and U23 WSC under the eligibility requirements of the FIS.
3. Nordiq Canada reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to request further documentation or information from the selected athlete any time after the June 1, 2026.

6. Failure to Meet Renewal Criteria for Health-Related Reasons

1. Nordiq Canada will consider re-nominating Athletes for health-related reasons. The basic philosophy for selecting an Athlete by granting health-related request is that all things being equal, the Athlete nominated has clearly demonstrated superior performances in previous competition to other athletes being considered for Senior, NextGen or Development team nomination. A health-related 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 performance is compromised because they have not been able to train or compete for an extended period and the athlete has a positive prognosis with a documented recovery plan within 8 to 12 months of their injury or illness.
2. An Athlete who met the 2025-26 NHPP objective criteria (5.9 a-c, 5.10 a-c, 5.11 a-b, 5.13 a-b) who at the end of the qualification period, has not achieved the standard required for the renewal of NST nomination 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 medical practitioner in a field that is relevant to the Athlete's injury or illness;
 - iv. a return to training and competition plan for the current and upcoming season; and
 - 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.

3. **IMPORTANT:** for the purpose of invoking this Section 8 to seek NST nomination, an Athlete's previous application where a health-related circumstance has prevented them from meeting criteria (i.e., nomination to compete during a World Cup or at the World Championships) shall not be considered for NST nominations. New applications must be submitted by each Athlete in accordance with this Section 8 for the purpose of NST nomination.
4. In the case of injury or illness, no NST nominations will be made for injuries that are determined by the HPD in consultation with medical professionals to be career-ending.
5. If an Athlete competes in a qualifying event, they may not invoke Section 8 in respect to the qualifying event in which they 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 and may not make an application pursuant to this Section 8 for an event (or events) in which they competed.
6. The Athlete may be nominated to the NST on the grounds of injury, a medical condition or illness at the sole discretion of the HPD based on 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 competition ready performance and continue to demonstrate the potential to perform at the Top 8 level and progress toward the podium.
7. Any documentation required under this Section 8 must be submitted to the HPD by March 26, 2026, 11:59 PM of the time zone where the Athlete resides.

7. NST Nomination Related to Pregnancy

1. An Athlete who met the 2025-26 NHPP objective criteria (5.9 a-c, 5.10 a-c, 5.11 a-b, 5.13 a-b) who at the end of the qualification period, has not achieved the standard required for the renewal of NST nomination strictly because of pregnancy, may be considered for re-nomination for the upcoming year.
2. It must be clear for a nomination to the NST related to pregnancy that the athlete was tracking towards meeting the criteria and the program commitments but was unable to due directly to their pregnancy.
3. Any documentation required under this Section 9 must be submitted to the HPD by March 26, 2026, 11:59 PM of the time zone where the Athlete resides.

8. High Performance Director (HPD) Discretion

1. 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.
2. To be considered for a discretionary selection to the NST:
 - a. Athletes born December 31st, 2005, or earlier must have Equal to or less than eighty (80) FIS points from the eighth (8th) FIS Points Distance or Sprint Ranking list;
 - b. Athletes born January 1st, 2006, or later must have Equal to or less than one hundred seventy-five (175) FIS points from the eighth (8th) FIS Points Distance or Sprint Ranking list.
3. When assessing an athlete for discretionary selection to the NST, the HPD will review the athlete's results from the season immediately prior to the season that ended before the start of the qualification period (the "Prior Season"). The HPD will evaluate such results against the objective criteria in the current selection criteria to determine whether the athlete should be selected to the NST for the upcoming season. The HPD may also use the following evidence:
 - a. Current and historical results
 - b. Current and historical testing data
 - c. Current and historical training data

9. Withdrawal of NST Status

1. The HPD may remove an Athlete from the NST, under the following conditions:
 - a. the Athlete has not fulfilled their responsibilities with respect to mandatory training camps, testing, or competitions;
 - b. the Athlete has not fulfilled their responsibilities as identified in the Nordiq Canada National Ski Team and AAP Athlete Contract;
 - c. the Athlete is no longer considered in good standing with Nordiq Canada;
 - d. the Athlete has been found to have breached Nordiq Canada's Code of Conduct and Ethics, the Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent and Address Maltreatment in Sport (UCCMS), or any other Nordiq Canada, FIS or COC policy, or the policy of any other sport organization with authority over the Athlete, and such behaviour could have a detrimental impact to Nordiq Canada's Culture of Excellence;
 - e. the Athlete has not adhered to their anti-doping responsibilities; or
 - f. fraudulent misrepresentation to the NST program.
2. The procedures for the removal of NST status by Nordiq Canada are:
 - a. Provide a verbal warning to the Athlete, including the steps and timelines to remedy the situation and the consequences of a failure to correct their behaviour.
 - b. Follow-up with a written warning to the Athlete if the verbal warning is not respected.
 - c. If the above steps are not successful in resolving the matter Nordiq Canada must send a letter to the Athlete. This letter must indicate:
 - i. The grounds on which the removal is being made;
 - ii. The steps already taken to address the issue (verbal warning followed by a formal letter of warning);

- iii. Provide notice to the Athlete of the athlete's right to contest the Nordiq Canada's decision before the SDRCC as provided for in Section 1.5.

10. Definitions

1. OWG – Olympic Winter Games
2. WC – World Cup
3. WSC – World Ski Championships
4. HPD – High Performance Director
5. HPC – High Performance Committee
6. U23 WSC – FIS Nordic U23 World Ski Championships
7. JR WSC – FIS Nordic Junior World Ski Championships
8. NST – National Ski Team
9. NHPP – National High-Performance Program
10. 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, or prequalification times are not considered individual final finish race results. An athlete must complete the race and obtain FIS points for any result to be considered a race result.
11. Team Final Finish Race Result: The final time and ranking attributed to a team at the end of an entire team event, i.e., qualification rounds are not considered. A team must complete the race and obtain a final finish time to be considered a race result.
12. Depth of Field Team Event: For a final finish race result to be achieved, the team must be top-half of field, including all teams that start the event, i.e., teams that are lapped out, disqualified or not permitted to start will count towards the total field size.