

Para Nordic National Ski Team

Selection Criteria

2026-27 (Published: Nov-2025)



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1. General Information

The purpose of this document is to describe the process and criteria that will be used by Nordiq Canada to select Athletes to the Para Nordic National Ski Team (PNST) for the 2026-27 year. The following guidelines provide context to the Selection Criteria that follows:

1. It is the Athlete's responsibility to read and understand the contents of this document and other supporting documents and policies.
2. This document is created in accordance with Nordiq Canada's [Team Selection, Nomination and Announcement Policy](#).
3. Authority on final decisions for PNST selections rests with the Nordiq Canada High Performance Director (HPD).
4. Nordiq Canada's PNST nomination/re-nomination decisions or recommendation to withdraw PNST 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.
5. Appeals shall be filed with the SDRCC within three (3) days of the nomination Synopsis and Rationale being posted to 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. To correct, clarify or amend any inconsistencies, errors or omissions in the criteria.
 - b. If unforeseen circumstances beyond the control of Nordiq Canada prevents the HPD from fairly and objectively implementing these selection procedures.
 - c. When new information is provided by external parties, including, without limitation, an event organizing committee, Sport Canada, the Canadian Paralympic Committee, the International Ski Federation (FIS), the International Biathlon Union (IBU), or any other relevant organization and Nordiq Canada determines that it is relevant to the fair application of and rationale of this selection criteria.
 - d. Occurrences pertaining to, but not limited to: race cancellations or rescheduling, any country border or travel limitations, travel restrictions, or the inability to maintain the safety of Athletes, etc.

2. Para National Ski Team (PNST) Definitions

The Para National Ski Team (PNST) will be comprised of the following Athlete designations:

1. **Senior:**

The Senior PNST provides optimal support, development, and preparation to Athletes who achieve, or have the potential to achieve strong performances at the FIS and/or IBU World Championships (WSC/WCH), World Cup (WC), and Paralympic Winter Games (PWG).

2. **NextGen:**

The NextGen PNST develops, recognizes and rewards Athletes who have demonstrated the potential to be competitive on the FIS/IBU World Cup circuit.

3. **Development:**

The Development PNST develops new talents who have demonstrated potential to be competitive on the FIS and/or IBU World Cup circuit within four (4) years.

3. PNST Selection Criteria

The sections below are in priority order. Further, within each section, the criteria for nomination to the PNST are listed in priority order.

1. SENIOR	
a.	Top eight (8) and top half of the field at the 2026 Paralympic Winter Games (PWG).
b.	Top three (3) individual final finish race result, with equal to or less than sixty-five (65) PN FIS or PN IBU points.
c.	Health-Related Reasons for Athletes named to the 2025-26 Para Nordic World Cup Team
d.	Two (2) results of 120 or less FIS and/or IBU points in the 2025-26 season at FIS and/or IBU sanctioned events.
e.	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 4.3. Athletes qualifying under criteria 3.1.c will be prioritized based on their PNST qualifying results from the 2024–2025 competition season.
2. NEXTGEN	
a.	Two (2) results of 240 or less FIS and/or IBU points in the 2025-26 season at FIS and/or IBU sanctioned events.
b.	Health-Related Reasons for Athletes named to the 2025-26 Para Nordic NEXTGEN team.
c.	HPD Discretion as described in section 8.
Note:	Once an Athlete is named to the NextGen Team, they must demonstrate progression towards the Senior Team. If, after two (2) years following the initial nomination, progression has not been demonstrated, the Athlete will not be eligible for nomination at the NextGen level but can still be nominated via the Development criteria.

3. DEVELOPMENT	
a.	One (1) race result of 320 or less FIS and/or IBU points in the 2025-26 season at FIS and/or IBU sanctioned events.
b.	HPD Discretion as described in section 8.
Note:	The Development Team is primarily intended for emerging Para Nordic high performance Athletes within the development pathway. Once an Athlete is named to the Development Team, they must demonstrate progression towards the NextGen Team. If, after five (5) years following the initial nomination, progression has not been demonstrated, the Athlete may no longer be considered for nomination at the Development level.

4. Selection Guidelines

1. The qualification period is November 15, 2025, to March 31, 2026.
2. Only events listed in this document are considered for selection rankings and standards.
 - a. 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 will be ineligible for PNST nomination until they satisfy the relevant and applicable condition(s).
 - b. Non-FIS penalty points will be used for PN Continental Cup (COC) races as per section 10.12.
 - c. Only World Cup events which meet the depth of field definition as per section 10.10. will be considered eligible for PNST nomination.
3. In the event of a tie after the selection criteria has been applied, Athletes will be ranked by the priorities in the following order:
 - a. The lowest FIS/IBU 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 PNST selection by Nordiq Canada, Athletes must:
 - a. Be a Nordiq Canada and/or Biathlon Canada member in good standing; including, without limitation, not having any outstanding debt toward Nordiq Canada and/or Biathlon Canada.
 - b. Be registered with a Nordiq Canada and/or Biathlon Canada club;
 - c. Have a valid Nordiq Canada and/or Biathlon Canada race license;
 - d. Have a valid Para Nordic FIS license;
 - e. Meet international classification criteria for Sport Class and FIS and/or IBU eligibility;
 - f. Agree and sign the Nordiq Canada National Ski Team Contract; and,
 - g. The Athlete must be eligible to represent Canada in major international competitions, including World Championships and Paralympic Winter Games.

- h. 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 policies as posted on the [Nordiq Canada website](#);
 - ii. Are subject to testing by the Canadian Sports Anti-Doping Agency (CCES), FIS, IBU, or other applicable bodies;
 - iii. Will complete all CCES, Safe Sport, True Sport Clean modules;
 - iv. Will comply with all requests from Nordiq Canada with his/her obligations set out in the Anti-Doping Bylaw to provide accurate whereabouts information to CCES, FIS and/or IBU.

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, or NextGen 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 a Nordiq Canada approved recovery plan with an anticipated return within 8 to 12 months of their injury or illness.
2. An Athlete who met the 2025-26 PNST objective criteria (3.1 a/b/d, 3.2 a) who at the end of the qualification period has not achieved the standard required for the renewal of PNST 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. Documentation confirming diagnosis by a licensed medical practitioner in a field that is relevant to the Athlete's injury or illness;
 - ii. Consistent communication of the Athlete's health and performance status to the HPD or designated Nordiq Canada staff member during the time the Athlete is unable to train or compete;
 - iii. A Nordiq Canada approved return to training and competition plan for the current and upcoming season; and
 - iv. Supporting documentation of the Athlete's treatment by an accredited professional (e.g., physiotherapist/massage therapist) that supports the return to training and competition plan.
 - b. **IMPORTANT:** for the purpose of invoking this Section 8 to seek PNST 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 PNST nominations. New applications must be

submitted by each Athlete in accordance with this Section 8 for the purpose of PNST nomination.

3. In the case of injury or illness, no PNST nominations will be made for injuries that are determined by the HPD (in consultation with medical professionals) to be career-ending.
4. 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.
5. The Athlete may be nominated to the PNST 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 or designate staff member;
 - 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.
6. Any documentation required under this Section 8 must be submitted to the HPD by March 31, 2026, 11:59 PM of the time zone where the Athlete resides.

7. PNST Nomination Related to Pregnancy

1. An Athlete who met the 2025-26 PNST objective criteria (3.1 a/b/d, 3.2 a) who at the end of the qualification period, has not achieved the standard required for the renewal of PNST nomination strictly because of pregnancy, may be considered for re-nomination for the upcoming year under the following conditions:
 - a. It must be clear for a nomination related to pregnancy that the Athlete was tracking towards meeting the criteria and the program commitments, but was unable due directly to their pregnancy.
2. Any documentation required under this Section 7, must be submitted to the HPD by March 31, 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. The HPD and HPC may use the following as evidence:
 - a. Current and historical results
 - b. Current and historical testing data
 - c. Current and historical training data
 - d. Additional evidence deemed relevant by HPD and HPC, which may include emerging data or case-specific information, provided it aligns with the intent of the policy and supports fair decision-making

9. Withdrawal of PNST Status

1. The HPD may remove an Athlete from the PNST, 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 Contract;
 - c. The Athlete is no longer considered in good standing with Nordiq Canada and/or Biathlon Canada;
 - d. The Athlete has been found to have breached Nordiq Canada and/or Biathlon 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 and/or Biathlon Canada, FIS, IBU, CPC, IPC 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;
 - f. Fraudulent misrepresentation to the PNST program; or
 - g. The Athlete has engaged in conduct that constitutes a serious breach of Nordiq Canada policies, or behaviour that poses an immediate risk to the safety, well-being, or integrity of other participants or to the Culture of Excellence. In such circumstances, the HPD may remove the Athlete from the PNST immediately, without prior warning or opportunity to remedy the situation.
2. The procedures for the removal of PNST 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 1.4.
- d. Per the circumstances outlined in Section 9.1(g).

10. Definitions

1. PWG – Paralympic Winter Games
2. WC – World Cup
3. WSC – FIS World Championship
4. WCH – IBU World Championship
5. HPD – High Performance Director
6. HPC – High Performance Committee
7. SDRCC – Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada
8. PNST – Para National Ski Team
9. 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/IBU points for any result to be considered a race result.
10. Depth of Field – For an individual final finish World Cup or Paralympic 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.
 - a. 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.
11. Single Best Equivalent FIS/IBU Points - Lowest points achieved in an individual FIS/IBU sanctioned race.
12. 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