Para Nordic National Ski Team

Selection Criteria

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nordiq CANADA

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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 2027-28 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 Para Nordic High Performance Director (HPD).
4. Nordiq Canada's PNST 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 (CPC), 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 on the World Cup (WC) circuit, at FIS/IBU World Championships (WSC/WCH), and the 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/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 2027 FIS WSC or IBU WCH.
b.	Top three (3) individual final finish race result at a 2026-27 FIS WC or IBU WC with equal to or less than sixty-five (65) FIS or IBU points.
c.	Health-Related Reasons for Athletes named to the 2026-27 Para Nordic Senior Team
d.	One (1) individual final finish race results of 100 or less FIS or IBU points in the 2026-27 season at a FIS or IBU WC, WSC, or WCH.
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/IBU points using the best two (2) qualifying races. A tie will be resolved as per section 4.3.

2. NEXTGEN	
a.	An average of 160 FIS or IBU points using the best two (2) individual final finish race results in the 2026-27 season at FIS or IBU sanctioned events.
b.	Health-Related Reasons for Athletes named to the 2026-27 Para Nordic NextGen team.
c.	HPD Discretion as described in section 8.

3. DEVELOPMENT	
a.	Two (2) individual final finish race results of 240 or less FIS or IBU points in the 2026-27 season at FIS or IBU sanctioned events.
b.	HPD Discretion as described in section 8.

4. Selection Guidelines

1. The qualification period is November 25, 2026, to March 14, 2027.
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 will be ineligible for PNST nomination until they satisfy the relevant and applicable condition(s).
4. Only events which meet the Depth of Field definition as per section 9.11. will be considered eligible for PNST nomination.
5. 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. Athletes will be ranked based on their single best qualifying race result within the qualification selection criteria, using the lowest FIS/IBU points within their respective category. If a tie remains, the second-best result will be compared, followed by the third-best result, and so on, until all eligible results have been considered.

    b. If a tie remains after all eligible race results from the qualification selection criteria have been considered, athletes will be ranked according to their position on the FIS/IBU points ranking list as of March 14, 2027.

    c. If a tie remains after applying the above criteria, the HPD will make the final selection decision in consultation with the HPC.

    d. Only race results meeting the Depth of Field requirements, as defined in Section 9.11, will be eligible for consideration.

5. Eligibility

1. To be considered for PNST selection by Nordiq Canada, Athletes must:

    a. Be a Nordiq Canada member in good standing; including, without limitation, not having any outstanding debt toward Nordiq 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 and/or IBU license;

    e. Meet international classification criteria for Sport Class and FIS and/or IBU eligibility;

    f. Agree and sign the Para Nordic Athlete Agreement; 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 Sport Integrity Canada (SIC), FIS, IBU, or other applicable

bodies;

III. Will complete all SIC, Safe Sport, True Sport Clean education modules and forms;

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 SIC, FIS and/or IBU.

2. NextGen:

   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:

   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.

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

1. Nordiq Canada may consider re-nominating an Athlete to the Senior or NextGen Team who has been unable to meet the established renewal criteria due to injury or illness.

   Health-related re-nomination is intended for exceptional circumstances and should be considered only when an Athlete cannot qualify through the established selection criteria. In determining whether re-nomination is warranted, consideration will be given to the Athlete's previous competitive performances, including whether they have demonstrated superior results relative to other Athletes being considered for nomination.

   To be eligible for consideration, the Athlete must have experienced an extended period during which their ability to train or compete was compromised by injury or illness. The Athlete must also have a positive prognosis, supported by a Nordiq Canada-approved recovery plan, with an anticipated return to training or competition within twelve (12) months of the injury or illness. Meeting the previous year's objective criteria establishes eligibility for consideration under this provision but does not guarantee re-nomination to the PNST.

2. An Athlete who met the 2026-27 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. The athlete must notify the HPD in writing within seven (7) days of the injury, illness, or medical diagnosis. Supporting documentation must be submitted in accordance with the requirements of this section and no later than the deadline established in Section 6.6. The report should include:

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. A previous health-related application submitted for another selection process, including nomination to a World Cup or World Championships, does not constitute an application for PNST re-nomination. Athletes seeking re-nomination under this section must submit a separate application in accordance with its requirements. Previously submitted supporting documentation may be accepted at the discretion of the HPD.

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. An Athlete who is unable to participate in a qualifying event due to injury, illness, or a medical condition must notify the HPD in accordance with Section 6.2.a.

   This provision is intended to discourage Athletes from competing when an injury, illness, or medical condition may result in further harm or compromise their health or recovery.

   If an Athlete participates in a qualifying event, the race result achieved will stand, regardless of whether the Athlete was injured or ill before or during the event. The Athlete may not subsequently invoke this section to seek an exemption from that result.

   An Athlete who subsequently becomes unable to participate in additional qualifying events due to injury, illness, or a medical condition may apply for PNST re-nomination under this section, provided the applicable notification and documentation requirements are satisfied.

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. All documentation required under this section must be submitted to the HPD by March 14, 2027, 11:59 PM in the time zone where the Athlete resides.

7. PNST Nomination Related to Pregnancy

1. An Athlete who met the 2026-27 PNST objective criteria 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 14, 2027, 11:59 PM of the time zone where the Athlete resides.

8. High Performance Director (HPD) Discretion

1. HPD discretion will only be exercised in exceptional circumstances where a clear and reasonable justification exists. In such circumstances, the HPD will consult with the High-Performance Committee (HPC), and decisions regarding an Athlete's eligibility for nomination will be reached by majority consensus.

    In making these decisions, the HPD and HPC may consider the following as evidence:

    a. Current and historical competition results and/or rankings.

    b. Current and historical testing data.

    c. Current and historical training data.

    d. Additional relevant evidence, including emerging data or circumstances specific to the Athlete, provided such evidence aligns with the intent of this policy and supports fair and consistent 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 Para Nordic Athlete Agreement;

    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, 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; or

    f. Fraudulent misrepresentation to the PNST program.

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.

9. Definitions

The following definitions apply to the terminology, qualification standards, and procedures outlined in this selection policy.

1. **Paralympic Winter Games (PWG):** Refers to the Paralympic Winter Games
2. **World Cup (WC):** Refers to a World Cup competition.
3. **World Ski Championship (WSC):** Refers to the FIS World Ski Championships.
4. **World Championships (WCH):** Refers to the IBU World Championships.
5. **High Performance Director (HPD):** All references to the HPD throughout this document refer specifically to the Para Nordic High Performance Director.
6. **High Performance Committee (HPC):** Refers to Nordiq Canada's High Performance Committee.
7. **Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada (SDRCC):** Refers to the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada.
8. **Sport Integrity Canada (SIC):** Refers to Sport Integrity Canada.
9. **Para Nordic National Ski Team (PNST):** Refers to the Para Nordic National Ski Team.
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/IBU points for any result to be considered a race result.
11. **Depth of Field:** For an individual final finish World Cup or World Championship race result to be used for qualification, the field must include at least two (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.
    a. Where an event does not meet the Depth of Field requirement, the HPD may determine whether an individual race result may nevertheless be considered for qualification.
12. **Single Best Equivalent FIS/IBU Points:** Refers to the lowest points achieved in an individual FIS/IBU sanctioned race.