

# National Ski Team

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Selection Criteria

**2023-24**



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*Situations, such as COVID-19, may arise that do not allow this criteria to be modified or applied as written due to time constraints or other exceptional and unforeseen circumstances. In such situations, any decision, including nomination decisions, will be made by the individual(s) with decision-making authority, as stated in this criteria, in consultation with the relevant individual(s) or committee(s) (as applicable), and in accordance with the stated performance objectives and selection philosophy and approach as stated herein. Should it be necessary to make any decision in this manner, Nordiq Canada will communicate with all affected individuals as soon as possible.*

## **1. General Information**

- 1.1** The purpose of this document is to select athletes to the National Ski Team who are following the performance pathway progression in relation to their global competitors to achieve podium success at the Olympic Winter Games and World Ski Championships.
- 1.2** This document is created following the *NST Selection, Nomination and Announcement Policy*.
- 1.3** Final decision authority for National Ski Team selections is the Nordiq Canada High Performance Director (HPD) as per the *NST Selection, Nomination and Announcement Policy*.
- 1.4** Selection decisions may be appealed under the Nordiq Canada *Dispute Resolution and Appeal Policy*.
- 1.5** The Nordiq Canada HPD, or acting representative, 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 Olympic Committee, FIS, or any other relevant organization.
  - c.** To correct, clarify or amend any inconsistencies, errors or omissions in the criteria.
  - d.** COVID-19 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.

Changes to this document will be communicated directly to the ski community by whatever means and wherever the original criteria was published. Nordiq Canada is not responsible or liable in any way to anyone as a result of any amendments.

- 1.6 Athletes and coaches are responsible for reading and understanding the contents of this and supporting documents and policies. For clarification contact the HPD.

## 2. Selection Guidelines

- 2.1 Only Nordiq Canada members in good standing<sup>1</sup> with a registered Nordiq Canada club, a valid Canadian passport, a valid Nordiq Canada race license and Canadian FIS license will be considered for NST selection.
- 2.2 The only races considered for NST selection are the World Ski Championships, World Cup, World JR/U23 Ski Championships, Nordiq Canada Selection Trials Races, the Nordiq Canada Ski Nationals, International FIS races, or other events as needed and identified by the HPD. Any event needed to be added or replaced to the above list will be communicated in a timely manner.
- 2.3 International selection races must reflect a competitive depth of field (see definitions, pt 7.3) that will be assessed using the following: number of nations in attendance, and the number of red group and seeded group athletes attending the event.
- 2.4 Selection criteria are based on a combination of Gold Medal Pathway performance benchmarks using major international events; World Ski Championships, World Cup, World JR/U23 Championships (per age and development stage, see Appendix A). U19 and U18 categories will also use domestic national events results (WJR trials and Nationals).
- 2.5 The HPD, in consultation with the High Performance Committee and the HP staff team (IST, NST coaches), has the right to subjectively select an athlete to any NST program based on exceptional circumstances and performances that could enhance the athlete's developmental pathway and the overall performance of the team.

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<sup>1</sup> Please refer to the Nordiq Canada Bylaws for a full description of member in good standing.

### 3. Curtailment of Health, Training and Competition (COH)

- 3.1 Nordiq Canada will consider nominating athletes for the NST based on a Curtailment of Health. The basic philosophy for selecting an athlete by granting an injury or illness request is that all things being equal, the athlete nominated has clearly demonstrated superior performances in previous competition to other athletes being considered for NST nomination. An injury or illness 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 athlete performance is compromised because they have not been able to train or compete for an extended period and has a positive prognosis within 8 to 12 months.
- 3.2 2022-23 NST Senior, and NextGen athletes selected on 2022-23 NST objective criteria and not through a ranking list nomination, who at the end of the 2022-2023 competitive cycle, have not achieved the standard required for the renewal of NST status 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, relevant medical practitioner;
    - iv. a return to training and competition plan for the current and upcoming season;
    - 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.
  - b. 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.
  - c. If an athlete competes in a qualifying event, they may not invoke Section 3 in respect to the qualifying event in which he or she 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.**

- 3.3 The athlete may be nominated to the NST on the grounds of injury, a medical condition (including pregnancy) 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 full fitness and continue to demonstrate the potential to perform at the Top-8 level and progress toward the podium.
- 3.4 Athletes that are nominated by Curtailment of Health will be ranked according to the priority order they achieved in the 2022-23 season.
- 3.5 The declaration and all documentation must be submitted to the HPD before **April 4, 2023 11:59 PM MST**. Submissions that have not adhered to 3.0 will not be accepted nor will submissions received after the deadline.

## 4. National Ski Team Programs

- 4.1 The National Ski Team is comprised of the Gold, Silver, Bronze and Development Team programs.
- 4.2 Athletes named to the NST may receive access to different levels of high performance resources based on their qualification priority and program.
- 4.3 **Gold Team**
  - a. The Gold Team program is designed for senior (SR) and junior (JR) athletes who have demonstrated the ability to compete for major podium performances at the Olympic Winter Games and World Ski Championships by meeting 'A' level criteria.
  - b. Only athletes born 2004 or earlier are eligible for this program as per the Nordiq Canada Competition Pathway model.
  - c. Athletes meeting criteria 5.7.1.a will be nominated for two (2) years as per Sport Canada International criteria - <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/athlete-assistance/policies-procedures.html>
  - d. Athletes meeting criteria 5.7.1.a, b and c will be nominated to WC P1 for the 2023-24 season.

- e. Athletes meeting criteria 5.7.1.d-j can be nominated to international competition trips for the 2023-24 season as determined appropriate by the goals of the NST program and aligned with their IPP (individual performance plan) in consultation with their respective NST coach, DTE coach, IST lead and HPD.
- f. Athletes can be discretionally nominated if they have previously met Gold Team criteria and are meeting objectives outlined in their International Performance Plan (IPP).

#### **4.4 Silver Team**

- a. The Silver Team program is designed for athletes who have demonstrated the ability to compete for Top-12 performances at the Olympic Games and World Ski Championships in 5 to 8 years by meeting 'B' level criteria with the objective of transitioning to the Gold Team.
- b. Only athletes born 2004 or earlier are eligible for this program as per the Nordiq Canada Competition Pathway model.
- c. Athletes can be discretionally nominated if they have previously met Silver Team criteria and are meeting objectives outlined in their IPP.

#### **4.5 Bronze Team**

- a. The Bronze Team program is designed for U23 athletes who have demonstrated the ability to compete for Top-30 performances at the Olympic Winter Games and World Ski Championships in 5 to 8 years by meeting 'C' level criteria with the objective of transitioning to the Silver or Gold Team.
- b. Only athletes born 2001-2003 are eligible for this program as per the Nordiq Canada Competition Pathway model.
- c. Athletes can be discretionally nominated if they have previously met Bronze Team criteria and are meeting objectives outlined in their IPP.

#### **4.6 Development Team**

- a. The Development Team program is designed for athletes U20 and younger to provide camp-based opportunities that are driven by the Gold Medal Pathway.
- b. Only athletes born 2004-2007 are eligible for this program as per the Nordiq Canada Competition Pathway model.

#### **4.7 Prospect Team**

- a. The Prospect Team is an East and West based camp program designed for U18 and U16 athletes, intended to provide meaningful, GMP based training opportunities from multiple divisions.

- b. Only athletes born between 2006-2008 are eligible for this program.
- c. Camps will take place at an Eastern and Western location in July 2023. Specific dates and location TBD.
- d. Athletes who have met Development Team criteria and meet the age requirements will be invited to their respective camp.

## 5. NST Selection Criteria

- 5.1 Selection for the Gold, Silver, Bronze and Development Teams will be done in order of priority ranking as listed below with 5.7.1.a being the highest ranking and 5.7.4.g the lowest.
- 5.2 All criteria are for competitions held in the 2022-23 season.
- 5.3 Athletes may qualify under several Team program criteria and will be ranked according to the prioritized criteria (as per 5.1); however they will also have to meet the age eligibility criteria for a specific program (as per 4.3.b, 4.4.b, 4.5.b and 4.6.b) to be named to that program. Ex. A U18 athlete meeting a standard that would qualify him or her for the Bronze Team will not be named to that program but to the Development Team.
- 5.4 Discretionary nominations are based on the HPD and Nordiq Canada coaching staff recommendations ONLY. Athletes may be nominated based on evidence that may include:
  - a. Outstanding competition results in the 2022-23 season as determined by the Nordiq Canada coaching staff.
  - b. Recent positive trend of competition results indicating potential for Olympic Winter Games or World Ski Championships success against the GMP.
  - c. Repeated international results against a known depth of field outside of the identified competitions.
  - d. Repeated national head-to-head results against an NST athlete of the same age.
  - e. Continued progress against the GMP parameters: ski speed, physiological testing, technical report card, etc.
  - f. Other as evidenced by HPD or Nordiq Canada coaching staff.
- 5.5 Athletes meeting the same criteria will be ranked on their single best race results in all eligible races until the tie is broken.

27+ = Athletes born in or before 1995

U27 = Athletes born in 1996 - 1997

U25 = Athletes born in 1998 - 1999

U23 = Athletes born in 2000  
 U22 = Athletes born in 2001  
 U21 = Athletes born in 2002  
 SR = Athletes born in 2002 and earlier  
 JR = Athletes born in 2003 - 2007  
 U20 = Athletes born in 2003 - 2004  
 U19 = Athletes born in 2004  
 U18 = Athletes born in 2005 - 2006  
 WSC = World Ski Championships  
 WC = World Cup  
 WJR = World Junior Ski Championships  
 U23 WSC = U23 World Ski Championships

#### 5.6 Team Size:

- a. Gold, Silver, and Bronze Team: Athletes meeting the criteria will be nominated
- b. Development Team: 10 athletes comprised of 5 men and 5 women

#### 5.7 Athletes will be selected in this order of priority:

##### 1. Gold Team Selection Criteria

- a. Any athlete meeting Sport Canada International criteria - <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/athlete-assistance/policies-procedures.html>
- b. Top-8 WSC individual final finish race counting three entries per nation
- c. Top-8 **AND** top half of the field WSC team event
- d. Any athlete finishing the 2022-23 World Cup season in the Top-15 of the FIS World Cup Sprint or Distance standings
- e. U25 athlete finishing the 2022-23 World Cup season in the Top-30 of the FIS World Cup Sprint or Distance Standings
- f. Top-12 WSC individual final finish race result
- g. U25 2 x Top-20 WC/WSC individual final finish race result
- h. U23 Top-5 U23 WSC individual final finish race result
- i. U23 Top-10 U23 WSC and 1 top 30 WC individual final finish race result
- j. U22 Top-10 U23 WSC individual final finish race result
- k. U20 Top-10 WJR individual final finish race result
- l. HPD discretion as per 4.3.f and 5.4
- m. Curtailment of Health as per 3.0

##### 2. Silver Team Selection Criteria

- a. Any athlete finishing the 2022-23 World Cup season in the Top-30 of the FIS World Cup Sprint or Distance Standings

- b. Top-15 WC/WSC individual final finish race result
- c. Top-8 **AND** top half of field WC team event
- d. U25 Top-25 WC/WSC individual final finish race result
- e. U23 Top-35 WC/WSC individual final finish race result
- f. U23 Top-15 and top half of field U23 WSC individual final finish race result
- g. U23 Top-8 and top half of field U23 WSC team event
- h. U20 Top-20 WJR individual final finish race result
- i. U20 Top-8 and top half of field WJR team event
- j. HPD discretion as per 4.4.c and 5.4
- k. Curtailment of Health as per 3.0

### 3. Bronze Team Selection Criteria

- a. U22 Top-20 **AND** top half of field U23 WSC individual final finish race result
- b. U20 Top-30 WJR individual final finish race result
- c. HPD discretion as per 4.5.c and 5.4
- d. Curtailment of Health as per 3.0

### 4. Development Team Selection Criteria

Please note that the 2023-24 Development Team is for eligible junior athletes for the 2023-24 competition season.

- a. JR athletes achieving top half of field WJR final finish race result
- b. Nordiq Canada Ski Nationals – March 11-17 2023, Thunder Bay, ON
- c. Top ranked male and female in the U18 category on the aggregate ranking list counting all individual events. Athletes who have already met criteria 5.7.4.a will not be removed from the ranking list. Male and female athletes will be ranked based on total aggregate points. If there is a tie, athletes will be ranked by the number of 1, 2 and 3 place finishes. For example, an athlete with two first place finishes and two second place finishes will rank higher than an athlete with two first place finishes, one second and one third place finish.
- d. Top ranked male and female in the U20 category on the aggregate ranking list counting all individual events. Athletes who have already met a criteria in 5.7.1-3 or 5.7.4.a will not be removed from the ranking list. Male and female athletes will be ranked based on total aggregate points. If there is a tie, athletes will be ranked by the number of 1, 2 and 3 place finishes. For example, an athlete with two first place finishes and two second place finishes will rank higher than an athlete with two first place finishes, one second and one third place finish.
- e. Next available spots within the maximum team size will go to the next best ranked male and female athlete from the same order of priority

under criteria 5.7.4.c and d and will be repeated until all Development Team spots are filled.

- i. Any ties for the last Development Team spot will be broken by the number of 1, 2, 3 place finishes. For example, an athlete with two first place finishes and two second place finishes will rank higher than an athlete with two first place finishes, one second and one third place finish.
- f. HPD discretion (if applicable)

**5. Prospect Team Criteria**

- a. Top-5 ranked Eastern athletes and Top-5 ranked Western athletes from each YOB aggregate rankings at the Nordiq Canada Ski Nationals 2023 will be selected. Athletes who have met alternate NST criteria will not be included in the ranking list. If an athlete declines their nomination, the next best athlete on the ranking list will be selected.
- b. HPD discretion (if applicable)

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




- 6.1 The HPD reserves the right to withdraw an athlete from a Team if:
  - a. the athlete has not fulfilled responsibilities with respect to mandatory training camps, testing, and competitions;
  - b. the athlete has not fulfilled responsibilities as identified in the NC Athlete Agreement;
  - c. the athlete has not fulfilled responsibilities as identified in the NC Code of Conduct or NC Discipline Policy;
  - d. the athlete has demonstrated toxic behavior eroding the Nordiq Canada culture of excellence;
  - e. the athlete has not adhered to responsibilities as they pertain to WADA, and CCES antidoping protocols;
  - f. the athlete has not adhered to the municipal, provincial, federal, NSO or international Covid 19 protocols;
  - g. the athlete is unable to perform due to injury, illness or other medical reasons as supported by the Nordiq Canada Chief Medical Officer or appropriate IST.
- 6.2 The HPD may recommend the withdrawal of an athlete's national team status under the following condition:
  - 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.
- 6.3 If the above steps are not successful in resolving the matter and NC 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 NC's *Dispute Resolution and Appeal* policy process within the prescribed time.

## 7. Definitions

- 7.1 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, pre-qualification times, team relay, or team sprint times are not considered individual final finish race results. World Cup (WC) points must be awarded for any result to be considered a WC race result.
- 7.2 Competition Ready - Defined as the ability of the athlete to achieve equal or superior performance(s) onsite at the scheduled event, as compared to the performance(s) the athlete achieved in qualifying.
- 7.3 Depth of Field: For a final finish race result to be achieved, there must be 15 of the top 30 FIS athletes according to the FIS World Cup Overall Sprint or Distance standings that have started the race. The ranking used will be the most up to date standings of the FIS World Cup (Sprint or Distance).

## 8. Appendix A – Canadian Tire Performance Benchmarks

Cross Country Skiing - Performance Profile Benchmark Summary														
		<p>Each metric across the top of the table below has a set of benchmarks for each gender and race type group - A: Major Podium; B: WC Top 12; C: WC Top 30.</p> <p>Each of these groups are cumulatively exclusive, meaning each subsequent group contains all athletes not within a previous group. Athletes are placed in each group if they have achieved that target performance since 2010. Their career performance data, dating back to the 2000 season, is then used in the benchmark calculations.</p> <p>The benchmark for each group is the 75th Percentile of the metric for those athletes within the group. The 75th Percentile was selected to eliminate any extreme out...</p>												
		 												
Gender	Race Type	Target	Number of Athletes	First Age	UWCH Best Rank	U23WCH Best Rank	U23 WC Best Rank	U25 WC Best Rank	U28 WC Best Rank	29+ WC Best Rank	U23 WC Best 5 Avg. Rank	U25 WC Best 5 Avg. Rank	U28 WC Best 5 Avg. Rank	29+ WC Best 5 Avg. Rank
Men	Distance	A: Major Podium	33	29.0	8.0	5.0	29.5	6.0	2.0	2.0	37.5	12.1	3.9	2.6
		B: WC Top 12	140	27.0	14.3	13.0	33.0	21.0	11.0	13.0	43.4	32.9	19.2	21.0
		C: WC Top 30	127	27.0	30.0	21.0	49.0	41.0	36.0	35.5	58.9	54.7	46.8	43.9
	Sprint	A: Major Podium	15	26.5	11.5	6.0	4.0	2.0	1.0	3.5	7.9	5.5	3.3	5.0
		B: WC Top 12	162	26.0	19.0	16.0	28.0	17.0	12.0	17.0	40.7	31.8	22.3	28.6
		C: WC Top 30	148	26.0	30.0	25.0	45.0	37.8	38.0	38.0	57.1	51.4	51.1	50.8
Women	Distance	A: Major Podium	20	27.3	5.5	1.3	5.0	1.5	1.0	1.3	8.1	3.7	4.4	2.4
		B: WC Top 12	133	28.0	19.0	7.8	34.0	25.3	14.0	11.0	42.1	32.4	22.3	19.0
		C: WC Top 30	143	26.0	25.8	16.5	37.0	35.8	31.0	30.3	47.8	44.6	41.9	41.1
	Sprint	A: Major Podium	15	28.0	6.0	8.0	5.0	2.5	2.0	3.0	10.2	7.1	3.6	3.9
		B: WC Top 12	122	25.0	17.0	10.8	27.0	17.0	10.5	11.3	34.1	27.8	20.6	20.2
		C: WC Top 30	126	26.0	25.0	22.5	36.0	35.0	32.0	33.0	47.8	42.4	42.9	44.7

## 9. Appendix B – Draft 2023-24 NST Program

Note: Development Team program draft plan to be updated.

<b>Camp #1</b>	Canmore (testing) and Bend, Oregon (altitude)	Late May – Early June
<b>Camp #2</b>	TBD (Intensity/race focus)	Early July
<b>Camp #3</b>	Canmore (testing/media) and Mammoth, California (altitude)	Late September – Early October
<b>Camp #4</b>	Scandinavia TBD (early season race)	Early November