

# National Ski Team (NST) Selection Criteria

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**2020-21**



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## 1.0 General Information

1. This document outlines the policies and procedures used by Nordiq Canada to select athletes for the 2020-21 National Ski Team and the identification of athletes in the Prospects program.
2. This document is published under the authority of the High Performance Manager (HPM) in the absence of a High Performance Director (HPD) and is consistent with document 2.1.3 [NST-PNST Policy and Procedures for Team Selection, Nomination and Announcement](#) .
3. The NST High Performance Director is responsible for applying the selection criteria and will make the final selection decisions based on input from the NST Coaching staff, and the High Performance Committee (HPC). In the absence of an HPD the decision will be made by the HPM.
4. Selection decisions may be appealed under the Nordiq Canada [Dispute Resolution and Appeals Policy](#). The deadline for appeal submissions is **April 13, 2020 11:59 PM MST**. Appeals will not be accepted after this time.
5. It is the athlete's responsibility to read and understand the contents of this document and other supporting documents and policies. For clarification on the content of this document, contact the HPD or HPM.

## 2.0 Selection Guidelines

1. Athlete Eligibility - 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 FIS license, and who meet CPL minimum eligibility standards will be considered.
2. The National Ski Team is comprised of the World Cup, Senior Development, and Junior Development programs.
3. Team size is determined by budget, available program support and athlete potential for podium success at the 2022 and 2026 Olympic Winter Games (OWG) and will be determined prior to Team selection.
4. The only races considered for selection rankings and standards are events listed and referenced in Appendix A.

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<sup>1</sup> Examples of 'good standing' would be a positive relationship with no outstanding payments or obligations to any organization operating under or supporting NC.

5. Criteria Guidelines - Selections will be based on objective and subjective criteria guidelines.
  - a) Objective selections will be made on results from World Cup competitions, WJR/U23 Ski Championships, and events listed in Appendix A from the 2019-20 season. The HPD reserves the right to exclude, or only partially count, the results of any selection events with a weak depth of field.
  - b) Subjective selections, if any, may be based on a variety of factors, including but not limited to:
    - i. Outstanding competition results relative to the athlete's age (including results achieved outside of the selection period) defined by achieving podium pathway benchmarks
    - ii. Attitude, leadership and commitment of the athlete to take part in the complete NST coaching, IST support, training camp and competition program
    - iii. Indication of medal potential, benchmarked by key performance indicators, in future Olympic, World Cup or World Championship competition, that would be enhanced by selection to the team
6. Other factors considered in the NST selection process are:
  - a) The Nordiq Canada Strategic Ends
  - b) Cross Country Ski High Performance Review
7. Curtailment of Training and Competition for Health-Related Reasons (COH) – Existing members of the NST unable to achieve objective qualification due to illness or injury must make a written declaration of submission to the HPD (or HPM in absence of) as to why they failed to achieve qualification. This provision only applies when long-term athlete performance is compromised due to the inability to train or compete for an extended period and has a positive prognosis within 8 to 12 months. To be considered for COH the following conditions must be met:
  - Notification to the HPD/HPM at the time the injury/illness occurs
  - Consistent communication of the athlete's health and performance status to the HPD or HPM during the time the athlete is unable to train or compete
  - documentation confirming diagnosis by a licensed medical physician
  - a letter from the athlete's coach outlining the impact of the illness, or injury
  - a return to training and competition plan for the current and upcoming season
  - supporting documentation (physiotherapist/ massage) of the athlete's treatment

Medical documents will be reviewed by the NST Team Physician. In the case the team physician is unavailable, another physician will be appointed to review the documentation.

Athletes meeting the COH conditions outlined above will be evaluated using objective data. The data must support the premise the athlete would have qualified for the NST if not for the injury or illness. Objective data reviewed could include, but not be limited to, current and previous season FIS points, race and training results, etc.

Athletes with an accepted COH will be ranked within the NST subjective criteria, unless otherwise noted. If there is no subjective criteria, they will be ranked after the last objectively qualified athlete.

The declaration and all documentation must be submitted to the HPD before **April 4, 2020 11:59 AM MST**. Submissions will not be accepted after this deadline.

8. Amendments and Unforeseen Circumstances: Nordiq Canada reserves the right to amend the criteria in this document prior to the selection date. Nordiq Canada may amend the criteria 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

Amendments come into effect immediately upon publication to the Nordiq Canada website. Nordiq Canada will publish and communicate the amended criteria by whatever means and wherever the original criteria were published and communicated.

### **3.0 World Cup Program**

1. Purpose - To provide optimal support and preparation to achieve World Cup, World Ski Championships and OWG podiums
2. Objective : To achieve international podium results
3. Criteria Guidelines and Selection Events
  - a) Objective selections will be based on athlete results in the 2019-20 World Cup competitions.

- b) Athletes must commit to and participate in the designated NST training camp and competition program.
- 4. NST Support - Athletes named to the program will receive access to high performance coaching, sport science and sport medicine consultants and technical support as available.

## World Cup Criteria

Athletes with the following results at the 2019-20 World Cup:

- i. FIS Red Group Athletes
- ii. Sprint – once in the top 6 or twice in the top 12
- iii. Distance – once in the top 6 or twice in the top 12
- iv. Twice in the top 12 in a combination of one sprint race and one distance race

## 4.0 Senior Development Program

- 1. Purpose: To develop athletes who have demonstrated the ability to be competitive on the World Cup circuit and transition them to the World Cup program.
- 2. Objective: Consistent progression in World Cup rankings resulting in the advancement to the World Cup program.
- 3. Criteria Guidelines and Selection Events
  - a) Only athletes in the senior age category (YOB 2000 and under) are eligible for the Senior Development program as per the [Nordiq Canada Competition Pathway model](#).
  - b) Objective selections will be based on results achieved by athletes on the 2019-20 World Cup and WJR/U23 Championships race calendar.
  - c) Athletes must commit to and participate in the designated NST training camp and competition program.
- 4. NST Support - Athletes named to the program will receive access to high performance coaching, sport science and sport medicine consultants and technical support as available.
- 5. NST Senior Development Criteria
  - 1. Athletes born in or before 1995 must meet the following criteria in a 2019-20 World Cup:
    - I. Two top 20 World Cup individual race finishes
    - II. Top 12 World Cup individual race finish

- III. Athletes with 22 or more World Cup points
2. Athletes born in or after 1996 must meet the following criteria in 2019-20:
  - I. Top 30 World Cup finish
  - II. Top 12 at the World U23 Championships
  - III. Two top 20 at World U23 Championships
  - IV. Top 20 World Junior Championship individual result by a junior graduating athlete
  - V. The HPD, upon recommendation of the NST coaches and/or HPC, has the authority to select the highest-ranking athlete(s) to the program from the senior/junior male and/or female, sprint and/or distance ranking lists in Appendix A if:
    - the conditions in 2.3, 2.5 b) and 2.6 are met and allow,
    - the athlete has proven potential, based on past results and other supporting data, to contribute to Canada's success in the 2020-21 World Cup season and the 2022 or 2026 Olympic Winter Games (OWG), and
    - the selection supports the greatest chance of podium success on the 2020-21 World Cup circuit, 2021 World Ski Championships and the 2022 or 2026 OWG.

Rankings are inclusive of objectively qualified athletes.

Whether a distance or sprint athlete is selected will be evaluated on the greatest potential for success in the discipline and strength of the NST.

The highest-ranked athlete, exclusive of objectively qualified athletes, will be considered for selection within each list, but not between lists. For example, a 2nd ranked sprinter cannot be selected over the 1st ranked sprinter, however they can be selected over the 1st placed distance skier IF the 1st ranked sprinter has already been selected and the selection authority believes the 2nd ranked sprinter can better contribute to Canada's podium success and the strength of the NST program than the 1st ranked distance skier.

## 5.0 Junior Development Program

1. Purpose: To develop athletes who have demonstrated potential to be competitive on the World Cup circuit and transition to the Senior Development program.
2. Objective: To incorporate and prepare Junior athletes for being part of the NST high performance program and provide international competition and training experience.
3. Criteria Guidelines and Selection Events:



- a) Only athletes in the junior men and junior women age category (year of birth 2001-2002) are eligible for the Junior Development program as per the [Nordiq Canada Competition Pathway model](#).
  - b) Objective selections will be based on the results achieved by athletes in the 2019-20 competitions outlined under Selection Events in Appendix A.
  - c) Athletes must commit to and participate in the designated NST training camp and competition program.
4. NST Support: Athletes named to the program will receive access to high performance coaching, sport science and sport medicine consultants and technical support as available.
5. NST Junior Development Criteria
- I. Top 30 individual distance or sprint result at a 2019-20 World Cup
  - II. Top 30 individual distance or sprint result at the 2020 World Junior Championships
  - III. The HPD, upon recommendation of the NST coaches and/or HPC, has the authority to select the highest-ranking athlete(s) to the program from the junior male and/or female sprint and/or distance ranking lists in Appendix A if:
    - the conditions in 2.3, 2.5 b) and 2.6 are met and allow,
    - the athlete has proven potential, based on past results and other supporting data, to contribute to Canada's success in the 2020-21 World Cup season and the 2022 or 2026 Olympic Winter Games (OWG), and
    - the selection supports the greatest chance of podium success on the 2020-21 World Cup circuit, 2021 World Ski Championships and the 2022 or 2026 OWG.

Rankings are inclusive of objectively qualified athletes.

Whether a distance or sprint athlete is selected will be evaluated on the greatest potential for success in the discipline and strength of the NST.

The highest-ranked athlete, exclusive of objectively qualified athletes, will be considered for selection within each list, but not between lists. For example, a 2nd ranked sprinter cannot be selected over the 1st ranked sprinter, however they can be selected over the 1st placed distance skier IF the 1st ranked sprinter has already been selected and the selection authority believes the 2nd ranked sprinter can better contribute to Canada's podium success and the strength of the NST program than the 1st ranked distance skier.



## 6.0 Prospects Program

1. Purpose: To identify and support athlete younger than the age requirements for the Junior Development program who demonstrate strong key performance indicators of achieving international podium success.
2. Objective: To introduce and prepare young athletes with podium potential for the national high-performance program and international competition and training experience.
3. Program size will be determined strictly by available resources.
4. Selection Criteria:
  - I. World Junior Championships top half. Athletes will be ranked according to best final result.
  - II. The HPD, upon recommendation of the NST coaches and/or HPC, has the authority to select the highest-ranking athlete(s) to the program from the junior male and/or female sprint and/or distance ranking lists in Appendix A if:
    - the conditions in 2.3, 2.5 b) and 2.6 are met and allow,
    - the athlete has proven potential, based on past results and other supporting data, to contribute to Canada's success in the 2020-21 World Cup season and the 2022 or 2026 Olympic Winter Games (OWG), and
    - the selection supports the greatest chance of podium success on the 2020-21 World Cup circuit, 2021 World Ski Championships and the 2022 or 2026 OWG.

Rankings are inclusive of objectively qualified athletes.

Whether a distance or sprint athlete is selected will be evaluated on the greatest potential for success in the discipline and strength of the NST.

The highest-ranked athlete, exclusive of objectively qualified athletes, will be considered for selection within each list, but not between lists. For example, a 2nd ranked sprinter cannot be selected over the 1st ranked sprinter, however they can be selected over the 1st placed distance skier IF the 1st ranked sprinter has already been selected and the selection authority believes the 2nd ranked sprinter can better contribute to Canada's podium success and the strength of the NST program than the 1st ranked distance skier.

5. NST Support: Athletes will receive invitational access to high performance camps, sport science and sport medicine consultants and technical support as available.

*Athletes named to this Program are not members of the National Ski Team.*

## Appendix A: Definitions Relevant to Criteria Procedures

1. Distance Races - For these selection criteria, all races longer than 1.8 km will be designated as a Distance Event. This could be individual start, mass start, skiathlon competitions with or without a break. An athlete selected or identified in a distance race will be referred to as a distance athlete.
2. Sprint Races - For these selection criteria, all races shorter than or equal to 1.8 km and are individual sprints or team sprints will be designated as a Sprint Event. An athlete selected or identified in a sprint event will be referred to as a sprint athlete. All references to sprint results in this criterion are referenced as final results unless otherwise noted.
3. Selection Events – World Cup events, World Junior/U23 Championships, Canmore NorAm, Canadian Ski Championships (Nationals), Mte. Ste. Anne NorAm, Nakkertok NorAm.
4. Sprint Selection Ranking List – The sprint selection ranking list will be comprised of CPL points from the 3 best sprint races at the designated criteria selection events for the Senior Development program and best 2 for the Junior Development and Prospect programs.
5. Distance Selection Ranking List - The distance selection ranking list will be comprised of CPL points from the 4 best distance races at the designated criteria selection events for all NST program selections.