

Para Nordic National Ski Team Selection Criteria

Selection Criteria

2021-22



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Nordiq Canada is carefully following the evolution of the coronavirus on the global and domestic level and how it may impact the criteria for National Ski Team selection. Situations related to the coronavirus pandemic may arise that require these criteria to be modified. Any modifications will be made promptly and as often as required following developments that directly impact the criteria. In such circumstances, any modifications will be communicated to all affected individuals as soon as possible.

Further, situations may arise that do not allow these 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

1.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

1. This document outlines the policies and procedures used by Nordiq Canada (NC) to select athletes for the 2021-2022 Para-Nordic World Cup Ski Team, the 2021-2022 Para-Nordic Development Team, and the 2021-2022 NextGen (Prospects) Team.
2. This document is created under the direction of the NST Selection, Nomination, and Announcement Policy.
3. The High-Performance Director is responsible for applying the selection criteria and will make the final selection decisions with review from the Para Nordic Committee (PNC) and High Performance Committee (HPC). Any person with a real, perceived, or potential conflict of interest as per the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada *Conflicts of Interest in Sports-Related Decision-Making* will be removed from the review and selection process.
4. Selection decisions may be appealed under the Nordiq Canada Appeal Policy.
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.

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

6. It is the athlete's and coach's responsibility to read and understand the contents of this document and other supporting documents and policies. For clarification contact the HPD.
7. The qualification period is November 1, 2020 to April 15, 2021. Athletes will be named to the team for the period of May 2021 – April 2022.

2.0 OBJECTIVES

2.1 PARA NORDIC WORLD CUP TEAM: To provide optimal support and preparation to achieve PN World Cup, PN World Ski Championships and PWG podium results.

2.2 PARA NORDIC DEVELOPMENT TEAM: To develop athletes who have demonstrated the ability to be competitive on the World Cup circuit and transition them to the World Cup program.

2.3 PARA NORDIC NEXTGEN (PROSPECTS) TEAM: To develop athletes who have demonstrated potential to be competitive on the World Cup circuit and transition to the Para Nordic Development Team.

3.0 SELECTION GUIDELINES

3.1 Athlete Eligibility

To be eligible to be selected for a PNST Team athletes must meet the following minimum eligibility criteria:

1. Athletes must be Nordiq Canada and Provincial members in good standing¹;
2. Must be a Canadian Citizen with a valid Canadian passport or the ability to represent Canada at a Paralympic Games;
3. Must hold a current Nordiq Canada racing license;
4. Athletes must be a current Nordiq Canada registered club member;
5. Athletes must have a valid IPC license, and meet classification criteria for Sport Class and WPNS eligibility;
6. Athletes must meet all IPC and other event entry standards for the competition(s) for which they qualify;
7. Must adhere to all NSO, municipal, provincial, federal, and international Covid and/or other pandemic and health guidelines;

¹ Please refer to the Nordiq Canada bylaws for a complete description of members in good standing

8. Must follow a NC approved Yearly Training Program as reviewed by the HPD and PN Head Coach;
9. If an athlete is selected to a Team under these selection procedures and criteria the athlete acknowledges and agrees that:
 - a. They must comply with Nordiq Canada's policies as posted on the Nordiq Canada website;
 - b. They are subject to drug testing by the Canadian Sports Anti-Doping Agency (CCES), WPNS, or other applicable bodies and must comply with Nordiq Canada's, CCES's and WPNS's Anti - Doping bylaws or policies;
 - c. They will comply with all requests from Nordiq Canada and with his/her obligations set out in the Nordiq Canada Anti - Doping Bylaw to provide accurate whereabouts information to CCES and WPNS; and,
 - d. Comply with the Nordiq Canada Athlete Code of Conduct and/or the Athlete Agreement.

3.2 Team Size

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.

4.0 Selection Criteria

4.1 Para-Nordic World Cup Team (PNST)

- a) Athletes achieving at least one race results in the 2020-21 season at WPNS sanctioned World Cup, World Cup Final events, or World Championships of 30 WPNS points or less will qualify for selection to the PNST World Cup Team. The nomination will be based on the purpose and objectives outlined in Section 2.0 and the recommendation of the PNST Head Coach (HC) to the Nordiq Canada Para-Nordic Committee (PNC). This assessment will consider the depth of field at these events and a minimum of top 5/top-half final result.
- b) The PNST HC may recommend to the HPD other athletes for selection to this team based on assessment of past performance and potential to be able to contribute to Canada's medal success at the 2021-2022 WPNS World Cups or World Championship events or the 2022 Paralympic Games.
- c) In the event that Covid, or any other conditions, doesn't allow for safe, fair and accessible international competition, all 2020-2021 PNST named athletes will be renamed on condition that the following are met:
 - a. Adhered to PN Head Coach and HPD approved 2020-2021 training program;
 - b. Testing results and training monitoring that support continued progress and improvement;
 - c. FIS/IBU racing results that support continued progress and improvement;
 - d. Maintain productive and expected communication with PN Head Coach and IST as required;
 - e. Adhere to the Nordiq Canada Athlete Agreement;
 - f. Adhere to the Nordiq Canada Code of Conduct.

4.2 Para-Nordic Development Team Selection Criteria

- a) Athletes achieving at least two result in the 2020-21 season at WPNS WC or WC Final of 90 WPNS points or less on the WPNS Cross-country (CC) and/or WPNS Biathlon (BT) ranking list will qualify for selection to the PNST Development Team. Based on the purpose and objectives outlined in Section 2.0 and the recommendation of the PNST HC to the PNC. This assessment will consider the depth of field at these events and minimum top half result.
- b) The PNST HC may recommend to the HPD other athletes for selection to this team based on assessment of past performance and potential to be able to contribute to Canada's medal success at the 2021-2022 WPNS World Cups or World Championship events or the 2022 Paralympic Games.

NOTE: Once an athlete is named to the Development Team, they must demonstrate progression toward a the PNST World Cup Team. If following three years after the initial nomination, progression has not been demonstrated, the athlete will not be eligible for nomination to any level other than when meeting the PNST criteria.

4.3 Para-Nordic NextGen Team (Prospects) Selection Criteria

- a) Athletes achieving at least two result in the 2020-21 season at WPNS WC or WC Final of 180 WPNS points or less on the WPNS Cross-country (CC) and/or WPNS Biathlon (BT) ranking will qualify for selection to the PNST NextGen (Prospects) Team. Based on the purpose and objectives outlined in Section 2.0 and the recommendation of the PNST HC and NG coach to the PNC. This assessment will consider the depth of field at these events.
- b) The PNST HC may recommend to the HPD other athletes for selection to this team based on assessment of past performance and potential to be able to contribute to Canada's medal success at the 2021-2022 WPNS World Cups or World Championship events or the 2022 Paralympic Games.

NOTE: Once an athlete is named to the NextGen (Prospects) Team, they must demonstrate progression toward a World Cup Team. If following two years after the initial nomination, progression has not been demonstrated, the athlete will not be eligible for nomination to the NextGen level but can still be nominated via the Development or World Cup Team criteria.

4.4 Athlete Ranking

Where athletes are recommended for selection via criteria 4.1 b, 4.2b, and 4.3b, consideration for selection will be based on an evaluation of performance where athletes will be ranked.

Ranking and applying selection standards for PNST teams will be determined by, any and all in the following priority order:

- a) Achievement of WPNS points standards (average of best 2 races);
- b) Achievement of benchmark performances (best 5 results) as defined by Nordiq Canada metrics.

Please refer to Section 7.0 for more detailed description of a) and b) above.

5.0 Curtailment of Training

A written request with rationale can be put forward only by existing members of the PN Teams who, due to illness, injury or an impactful life event were unable to achieve the objective or subjective qualification to the PN programs. This rationale must be submitted with:

1. Documentation confirming the athlete followed proper reporting protocol to Nordiq Canada as per the Athlete Agreement;
2. Documentation confirming diagnosis by a physician, in the case of illness or injury, or authorized notification from a professional designate relevant to the situation in non-medical circumstances;
3. A letter from the athlete's coach outlining the impact of the illness, injury or life event
4. A return to training, and competition plan for the season;
5. Supporting documentation (evaluated and approved by NC Team Doctor) of what the athlete's treatment has been and will be going forward;
6. Documentation supporting a NSO approved return to play training program;
7. All documentation must be submitted **before April 4, 2021, 11:59 AM MST**. Submissions accepted after this deadline will not be considered.

This provision only applies to situations that effect the athlete for longer than 4-months but requires a positive prognosis between 8-12 months, and must show a consistent, recorded documentation of the situation to Nordiq Canada during the time the athlete was/is unable to compete.

Acceptance for a curtailment of training and competition will be evaluated based on objective data supporting the premise that the athlete would have qualified for the PN team if not for the uncontrollable circumstance. Objective data reviewed could include, but not be limited to current and previous season WPNS and CPL points.

6.0 REMOVAL OF AN ATHLETE ONCE SELECTED

The HPD reserves the right to withdraw an athlete from a team:

- If the athlete has not fulfilled his/her responsibilities with respect to mandatory training camps, testing, and competitions;
- If the athlete has not fulfilled his/her responsibilities as identified in the NC Athlete Agreement;
- If the athlete has not fulfilled his/her responsibilities as identified in the NC Code of Conduct or NC Discipline Policy;
- If the athlete has demonstrated repeated toxic behavior eroding the NC Culture of Excellence;
- If the athlete has not adhered to his/her responsibilities as they pertain to WADA, and CCES antidoping protocols;
- If the athlete has not adhered to the municipal, provincial, federal, NSO or international Covid 19 protocols;

- If the athlete is unable to perform due to injury, illness or other medical reasons as supported by the NC Chief Medical Officer or appropriate IST.

The High-Performance Director may recommend the withdrawal of an athlete's national team status under the following conditions:

- 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.

If the above steps are not successful in resolving the matter and NC still wishes to recommend withdrawal of team status, NC must inform the athlete by registered mail. This communication must indicate:

- The grounds on which the recommendation is being made;
- The steps already taken to address the issue (verbal warning followed by a formal letter of warning);
- Provide notice to the athlete of the athlete's right to contest the NC recommendation to withdraw team status through NC's internal appeal process within the prescribed time.

7.0 Definitions Relevant to Understanding Criteria Procedures

WPNS Points

WPNS points are earned through participation at IPC World Para Nordic Skiing (WPNS) World Cup and WPNS sanctioned continental cups (i.e. US Nationals). Nordiq Canada uses 180 WPNS points as the minimum benchmark for team eligibility. An athlete must purchase an IPC and Nordiq Canada license to be eligible for WPNS points. The purchase of these licenses is facilitated through the Nordiq Canada Para Program.

Objective Metrics FOR selection, POTENTIAL, and PROGRESSION

Metrics for potential will include but not limited to: FIS results, WPNS points, IBU results, head to head racing against known performers (2019-2020), validated Canadian Tire Analytics, and Gold Medal Profile analytics.