

Para Nordic National Ski Team Selection Criteria

Selection Criteria

2022-23



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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. General Information

- a. This document outlines the policies and procedures used by Nordiq Canada (NC) to select athletes for the 2022-2023 Para Nordic World Cup Ski Team, the 2022-2023 Para-Nordic Development Team, the 2022-2023 NextGen Team, and the 2022-2023 Prospects Team.
 - b. This document is created under the direction of the NST Selection, Nomination, and Announcement Policy.
 - c. The High-Performance Director-Para (HPD-PARA) 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.
1. Selection decisions may be appealed under the Nordiq Canada Appeal Policy.
2. The Nordiq Canada HPD-PARA, or designate¹, 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-PARA from fairly and objectively implementing these selection procedures.

¹ In the event the HPD-PARA is unavailable, a designate will be appointed within Nordiq Canada to be the decision-making authority.

- 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 Paralympic Committee, IPC/WPNS, 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 were published. Nordiq Canada is not responsible or liable in any way to anyone as a result of any amendments.

- d. 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-Para, Kate Boyd kboyd@nordiqcanada.ca
- e. The qualification period is November 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022. Athletes will be named to the team for the period of May 2022 – April 2023.

2. Objectives

- f. PARA NORDIC WORLD CUP TEAM: To provide optimal support and preparation to achieve PN World Cup, PN World Ski Championships and Paralympic Winter Games (PWG) podium results.
- g. 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.
- h. PARA NORDIC NEXTGEN TEAM: To develop athletes who have demonstrated potential to be competitive (consistently achieve under 180 WPNS) on the World Cup circuit and transition to the Para Nordic Development Team.
- i. PARA NORDIC PROSPECTS TEAM: To develop U23 para-nordic athletes who are progressing along the national Podium Pathway and have demonstrated the potential to transition to the NG or higher level of national team.

3. Selection Guidelines

Athlete Eligibility

1. To be eligible to be selected for a PNST Team athletes must meet the following minimum eligibility criteria:
 - a. Athletes must be current Nordiq Canada and Provincial members in good standing²;
 - b. Must be a Canadian Citizen with a valid Canadian passport or the ability to represent Canada at a Paralympic Games;
 - c. Must hold a current Nordiq Canada racing license;
 - d. Athletes must be a current Nordiq Canada registered club member;
 - e. For international competition, athletes must have a valid IPC license, and meet classification criteria for Sport Class and WPNS eligibility;
 - f. Athletes must meet all IPC/WPNS and other event entry standards for the competition(s) for which they qualify;
 - g. Must adhere to all NSO, municipal, provincial, federal, and international Covid and/or other pandemic and health guidelines;
 - h. Must follow a NC approved Yearly Training Program as reviewed by the HPD-Para and PN Head Coach;
 - i. If an athlete is selected to a Team under these selection procedures and criteria the athlete acknowledges and agrees that:
 - i. They must comply with Nordiq Canada's policies as posted on the [Nordiq Canada website](#);
 - ii. 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;
 - iii. 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,
 - iv. Comply with the Nordiq Canada [Athlete Code of Conduct](#) and/or the Athlete Agreement.

Team Size

2. Team size is determined by budget, available program support and athlete potential for podium success at the 2026 Paralympic Winter Games (PWG) and will be determined prior to Team selection.

4. Selection Criteria

1. Para Nordic World Cup Team (PNST)

- a. Athletes achieving at least one (1) race result in the 2021-22 season at WPNS sanctioned World Cup, World Cup Final events, World Championships, or Paralympic Games of 30 WPNS points or less in either cross country or biathlon

² Please refer to the [Nordic Canada bylaws](#) for a complete description of members in good standing.

events will qualify for selection to the PNST World Cup Team. This assessment will consider the depth of field at these events and a minimum of top 5/top-half final result.

- b. The PNST Head Coach may recommend to the HPD-PARA 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 2022-2023 WPNS World Cups or World Championship events or the 2026 Paralympic Games.
- c. In the event that Covid, or any other conditions, doesn't allow for safe, fair and accessible international competition, all 2021-2022 PNST named athletes will be renamed on condition that the following are met:
 - i. Adhered to PN Head Coach and HPD-PARA approved 2021-2022 training program;
 - ii. Testing results and training monitoring that support continued progress and improvement;
 - iii. FIS/IBU racing results that support continued progress and improvement;
 - iv. Maintain productive and expected communication with PN Head Coach and IST as required;
 - v. Adhere to the Nordiq Canada Athlete Agreement;
 - vi. Adhere to the Nordiq Canada Code of Conduct.

2. Para-Nordic Development Team Selection Criteria

- j. Athletes achieving at least two (2) results in the 2021-22 season at WPNS World Cups, World Championships or Paralympic Games of 90 WPNS points or less in either cross country or biathlon events on the WPNS Cross-country (CC) and/or WPNS Biathlon (BT) ranking list (April 2022) will qualify for selection to the PNST Development Team. This assessment will consider the depth of field at these events and minimum top half result.
- k. The PNST Head Coach may recommend to the HPD-PARA 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 2022-2023 WPNS World Cups or World Championship events or the 2026 Paralympic Games. Evidence should include defined podium pathway metrics, Gold Medal Profile (GMP) evaluations and past international WC performances.
- d. In the event that Covid, or any other conditions, doesn't allow for safe, fair and accessible international competition, all 2021-2022 PNST named athletes will be renamed on condition that the following are met:
 - vii. Adhered to PN Head Coach and HPD-PARA approved 2021-2022 training program;
 - viii. Testing results and training monitoring that support continued progress and improvement;
 - ix. FIS/IBU racing results that support continued progress and

improvement;

- x. Maintain productive and expected communication with PN Head Coach and IST as required;
- xi. Adhere to the Nordiq Canada Athlete Agreement;
- xii. Adhere to the Nordiq Canada Code of Conduct.

NOTE: Once an athlete is named to the Development Team, they can be named for up to 2 years however must demonstrate progression toward a the PNST World Cup Team. Athletes cannot step back to the NextGen or Prospects team.

3. Para-Nordic NextGen Team Selection Criteria

- a. Athletes achieving at least two (2) results in the 2021-22 season at WPNS sanctioned COC events (ie. US Nationals) against a depth of field and a current and proven international WC podium or Top 5 performer, World Cups, World Championships or Paralympic Games, WPNS Biathlon (BT), of 180 WPNS points or less on the WPNS Cross-country (CC) and/or WPNS Biathlon (BT) ranking list (April 2022) will qualify for selection to the PNST NextGen (Prospects) Team. This assessment will consider the depth of field at these events.
- b. The PNST Head Coach may recommend to the HPD-PARA 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 2022-2023 WPNS World Cups or World Championship events or the 2026 Paralympic Games. Evidence should include defined podium pathway metrics, GMP evaluations and past international WC performances.

NOTE: Once an athlete is named to the NextGen (Prospects) Team, they can be named for up to 3 years however must demonstrate progression toward a World Cup Team.

4. Para-Nordic Prospects Team Selection Criteria

- a. U23 Athletes will be ranked based on Nationals results based on an aggregate ranking list counting all individual events,
- b. The PNST Head Coach may recommend to the HPD-PARA 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 2022-2023 WPNS World Cups or World Championship events or the 2026 Paralympic Games.

NOTE: Once an athlete is named to the Prospects Team, they can be named up to 5 years however must demonstrate progression toward a World Cup Team.

5. Athlete Ranking

- l. Where athletes are recommended for selection via criteria 4.1 b, 4.2.b, and 4.3.b, consideration for selection will be based on an evaluation of performance where athletes will be ranked.
- m. Ranking and applying selection standards for PNST Teams will be determined in the following priority order:
 - Achievement of WPNS points standards (average of best 2 races);
 - Achievement of benchmark performances (best 5 results) as defined by Nordiq Canada metrics.
- n. Please refer to Section 7.0 for more detailed description of a) and b) above.

6. Curtailment of Training and Competition

1. 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:
 - a. Documentation confirming the athlete followed proper reporting protocol to Nordiq Canada as per the Athlete Agreement;
 - b. 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;
 - c. A letter from the athlete's coach outlining the impact of the illness, injury or life event
 - d. A return to training, and competition plan for the season;
 - e. Supporting documentation (evaluated and approved by NC Team Doctor) of what the athlete's treatment has been and will be going forward;
 - f. Documentation supporting a NSO approved return to play training program;
 - g. All documentation must be submitted **before April 4, 2022, 11:59 AM MST**. Submissions accepted after this deadline will not be considered.
2. 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.
3. 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 points.

7. Removal of an Athlete Once Selected

- o. The HPD-PARA reserves the right to withdraw an athlete from a Team:
 - a. If the athlete has not fulfilled his/her/their responsibilities with respect to mandatory training camps, testing, and competitions;
 - b. If the athlete has not fulfilled his/her/their responsibilities as identified in the NC Athlete Agreement;
 - c. If the athlete has not fulfilled his/her/their responsibilities as identified in the NC Code of Conduct or NC Discipline Policy;
 - d. If the athlete has demonstrated repeated toxic behavior eroding the NC Culture of Excellence;
 - e. If the athlete has not adhered to his/her/their responsibilities as they pertain to WADA, and CCES antidoping protocols;
 - f. If the athlete has not adhered to the municipal, provincial, federal, NSO or international Covid 19 protocols;
 - g. If the athlete is unable to perform due to injury, illness or other medical reasons as supported by the NC team physician or appropriate IST.
- p. The HPD-PARA may recommend the withdrawal of an athlete's national team status under the following conditions:
- q. 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.
- r. 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 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 NC recommendation to withdraw team status through NC's internal appeal process within the prescribed time.

8. 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 the IPC licenses is facilitated through the Nordiq Canada Para Program.

Depth of Field

For an individual final finish race result to be achieved, there must be 3 WPNS points ranked competitors, including at least one competitor with 60 or fewer WPNS that have started the race.

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 proven current international performers who have achieved WC Podium performances or Top 5 results at WC/WCH/PWG, validated Canadian Tire Analytics, and GMP analytics.