

# Competition Trip Criteria

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Selection Criteria

**2021-22**



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## DISCLAIMER

*Due to the changing and unpredictable events surrounding COVID-19, the terms, selection criteria, and competitions outlined in this document are subject to change at any time.*

*Nordiq Canada's top priority is health of athletes and staffs. As such, it will follow best practices and recommendations from government health officials (domestic and international) in determining whether or not to proceed with any competition trip in this document. **Nordiq Canada reserves the right to cancel or amend any competition trip deemed unsafe.***

## 1. General Information and Objectives

- 1.1 To maximize Canada's nation ranking through World Cup points, we will take Canada's most competitive performers to achieve these goals, as singularly, our goal is to achieve the necessary points for Canada to maintain or improve its nation ranking.
- 1.2 This document establishes the eligibility and criteria used by Nordiq Canada for selecting athletes for international competition trips.
- 1.3 The process for the creation of selection criteria is guided by the NST Selection, Nomination and Announcement Policy.
- 1.4 Final decision authority for all selections is the Nordiq Canada High Performance Director (HPD) or their designate.
- 1.5 Selection decisions may be appealed under the Nordiq Canada Dispute Resolution and Appeal Policy. Due to tight timelines, the appeal deadline is 24 hours after the Team notice has been announced on the Nordiq Canada website.
- 1.6 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. 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.

- 1.7 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.
- 1.8 This policy does not require Nordiq Canada to select any or all athletes to the maximum number of allotted quota positions.
- 1.9 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.

## 2. Eligibility Criteria

- 2.1 Athletes must be Nordiq Canada members in good standing<sup>1</sup> with a valid Canadian passport, a Nordiq Canada racing license, and a valid FIS license.
- 2.2 Athletes will not be officially named to a competition Team until eligibility requirements have been verified by Nordiq Canada. Athletes selected to a competition Team will be notified by Nordiq Canada. The official Team will be announced by Nordiq Canada once all verification checks have been completed.
- 2.3 Athletes must meet all FIS and other event entry standards for the competition(s) for which they qualified. The World Cup entry requirements are located on the [FIS website](#) (section 3.2).
- 2.4 Selected and pre-selected athletes must meet and sign-off on the following conditions to be eligible for a competition trip:
  - a. The athlete is in optimal health and completely recovered from any illness or injury 48 hours prior to the trip departure as supported by a medical doctor, and the NST coaching and IST team. Historical blood results comparisons may be requested and reviewed to support optimal athlete health.
  - b. A negative COVID-19 test within 48 hours of departure or as per the required timeline of mandated government health orders.
  - c. The athlete must be at a competitive ready performance level, as demonstrated throughout the training season and competition season. This assessment will be made by the NST Coach(es) and the HPD.
- 2.5 Curtailment of Competition (Curtailment of Health, Force Majeure):
  - a. **An athlete starting in an event is deemed healthy and fit to compete, as such their results stand for any and all selection criteria.**

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<sup>1</sup> Refer to Nordiq Canada By-Laws for conditions of membership.

- b. If an athlete does not start an event, a written exemption can be submitted requesting and explaining the rationale for not competing. This rationale must be submitted to the HPD within an hour prior to or after the race.
- c. Medical documentation confirming diagnosis from a licensed physician must be submitted to the HPD within 48 hours of the start of the selection race.
- d. Nordiq Canada reserves the right to have all submissions reviewed by the NST medical doctor or another licensed medical doctor.
- e. Acceptance of a curtailment of competition will be decided by the HPD for the trip.
- f. Acceptance will be evaluated and based on the most recent comparative objective data and proven international success, in the current and past competition season supporting the fact the athlete would have expected to qualify if they had been able to compete.
- g. Accepted curtailment of competition applications will be ranked in the subjective nominations. If there are no subjective nominations, they will be ranked against the last objectively qualified athlete using the most recent comparative data.
- h. Submission or acceptance of curtailment of competition does not guarantee event qualification.

### 3. Selection Guidelines

- 3.1 Only events listed in this document are considered for selection rankings and standards, or under point 1.6.
- 3.2 Unless otherwise stated in the specific event selection criteria, in the event of a tie after the selection criteria has been applied, where a tie exists athletes will be ranked on their single best race result. If there still a tie it will move to 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, etc. best result in all eligible races until the tie is broken.
- 3.3 The HPD reserves the right to choose or modify team size, within the operational trip budget, to ensure the optimal health and competitiveness of the team.
- 3.4 Athletes will not be eligible for a competition team unless they are healthy and in competition ready condition at the time of the competition trip departure. *Refer to point 2.4.*
- 3.5 In the event a qualifying athlete is ineligible or otherwise unable to compete, the HPD may choose to select the next qualifying athlete for that trip.
- 3.6 The HPD, in consultation with the High Performance Committee and the HP staff team (HPM, IST, NST coaches), has the right to subjectively select an athlete to any trip based on exceptional circumstances and performances supported by the selection enhancing the athlete's development pathway and the overall performance of the team.

- 3.7 Subject to quota spots, eligible athletes are selected in priority order as per the criteria outlined in the competition trip. Qualification for a trip does not mean the athlete will be selected if quota spots are filled.
- 3.8 All race results referred to in the selection criteria are from the 2021-22 season unless otherwise indicated.
- 3.9 All qualification race results referred to are Individual Final Finish Race Results (see Definitions), unless otherwise indicated.

#### 4. World Cup (WC) Selection Criteria

- 4.1 **Athletes must have the required FIS points to start in the 2021-22 World Cups.** See point 2.3.
- 4.2 Team status on the World Cup does not include full funding from Nordiq Canada except for athletes in the FIS World Cup Red Group as per FIS rules.
- 4.3 Team size is inclusive of the COC Leaders.
- 4.4 Trip fees are estimated costs and subject to change. Athletes are eligible for a performance-based trip fee reimbursement based on the following achievements and conditions:
  - a. The following percent of trip fees<sup>2</sup> will be reimbursed to athletes achieving the following performance benchmarks in individual World Cup or World Junior/U23 Ski Championship races:
    - i. Top 20 final result = 50% reimbursement of total trip fee
    - ii. Top 12 final result = 75% reimbursement of total trip fee
    - iii. Top 6 final result = 100% reimbursement of total trip fee
  - b. Only official and final results will count; sprint qualifications and 'time of day' results will not be considered.
  - c. Reimbursements are not cumulative in a trip; only one reimbursement is applied per trip. If more than one performance benchmark is achieved the highest reimbursement percentage of the achieved performance benchmarks will be applied.
  - d. Reimbursements are not carried forward to other trips; they are only applied to the trip in which the performance benchmark was achieved. For example, a

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<sup>2</sup> Trip fees reimbursements are inclusive of airfare and the \$165/day trip fee only as invoiced by Nordiq Canada. It does not include athlete expenses incurred outside of these costs.

reimbursement applied to WC P1 for a top 20 finish is not applied to trip fees of subsequent periods of the World Cup (P2, P3, etc.).

#### 4.5 **WORLD CUP PERIOD 1 (November 19 – Dec 20, 2021)** *Dates subject to change*

Races: Ruka, Lillhammer, Davos, Dresden

Team Size<sup>3</sup>: Athletes meeting selection criteria

Trip Fee: \$165/day + flights

##### SELECTION CRITERIA

- a. COC Leaders <sup>4</sup>
- b. Athletes who have met partial OWG qualification criteria in the 2020-21 season selected in order of priority criteria achieved.
- c. Athletes who achieved World Cup individual points in the 2020-21 season.

##### RATIONALE

- World Cup P1 is for athletes who have either met partial OWG qualification, and have proven their ability to score World Cup points.
- The focus of World Cup P1 is Olympic qualification and preparation therefore athlete speed and performance takes precedence over development.
- Inability to hold fair and adequate selection races early enough to allow for domestic selection to WC P1.

#### 4.6 **WORLD CUP PERIOD 2 (December 28, 2021 – January 4, 2022)**

Races: Tour de Ski - **NOT ATTENDING**

##### RATIONALE

- Athletes who did not meet OWG qualification on the WC will return to Canada to prepare for Olympic Trials - a more financially viable pathway that enables head-to-head racing domestic qualification for the OWG.
- Potential COVID quarantine and logistics, early financial commitments required for participation, and the uncertainty of how many and which athletes would be attending makes the TDS unfeasible.

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<sup>3</sup> Athlete performance is key. Team size and composition throughout this document will be based on athlete qualification performance standards. As such, there will be no gender limits unless specifically stated. Each gender has equal opportunity to achieve qualification performance standards. Please refer to the Nordiq Canada Gender Equity policy.

<sup>4</sup> Criteria 4.5.a. is dependant on whether Nordiq Canada receives a funded COC spot for WC P1 from FIS. If no COC spot is allocated to Nordiq Canada this criteria will be void.

#### 4.7 WORLD CUP PERIOD 3 (January 14 – January 23, 2022)

**NOT ATTENDING – Olympic preparation camp**

##### RATIONAL

- Priority is the Olympic Winter Games preparation in Canada to limit athlete travel, expenses, and ensure optimal athlete health. Athletes will have access to well supported IST at relative altitude which will allow athletes to leave for the OWG optimally prepared and healthy.
- Lack of capacity in staff and equipment to support a WC P3 trip as focus is on OWG.

#### START OF THE 2026 OWG QUAD

#### 4.8 WORLD CUP PERIOD 4 (February 26 – March 13, 2022)

WC P4 Races: Lahti, Drammen, Oslo, Falun

Team Size: up to a maximum of 12

Trip Fee: \$165/day + flights

##### SELECTION CRITERIA

- a. COC Leaders
- b. Top 20 at 2021-22 WC or OWG individual final race result<sup>5</sup>
- c. Top athletes from the OWG Trials ranking process as defined in the 2022 OWG INP criteria (inclusive of athletes attending the OWG who are on the list).

NOTE: Athletes qualifying for P4 but not competing at the OWG, might have the opportunity to compete in domestic European races prior to Lahti, TBD once the FIS competition calendar has been confirmed.

#### 4.9 WORLD CUP PERIOD 5 – World Cup Finals (March 18-20, 2022)

**NOT ATTENDING**

##### RATIONAL

- All athletes will remain or return to Canada to finish the season to support head-to-head domestic racing to increase high performance development. We anticipate the Canadian Ski Championships to be very competitive with a strong contingent of top athletes from the US.
- WC P5 is a logistically challenging and expensive with little gain to be made in attending.

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<sup>5</sup> Athletes attending the OWG who did not participate in the OWG Trials need to meet this benchmark to attend P4.



## 5. **2022 Olympic Winter Games – February 4 - 20, 2022**

Refer to the 2022 Olympic INP criteria on the Nordiq Canada website. <sup>6</sup>

## 6. **2022 WJR/U23 Ski Championships – February 28 – March 6, 2022**

Races: WJR/U23 Championships; Zakopane, Poland + possibility of pre- or post- Championship's European domestic race weekend(s) for some athletes (TBD once the FIS competition calendar has been confirmed)

Trip Fee: \$3,000 approx.

**6.1** Trip authority at the training camp and the Championships is the Team Head Coach.

**6.2** Team Size

- a. Maximum of 5 athletes per gender for each of the Junior and U23 teams.
- b. Maximum Team size is 20 athletes for the entire trip.
- c. Each athlete is guaranteed one start at the World Championships. The FIS quota is a maximum of 4 race starts per gender for each race.

**6.3** Athletes must meet all NC and event eligibility requirements (Section 2) before being officially named to the Team.

**6.4** Subject to quota spots, eligible athletes are selected in priority order as per the outlined criteria. NOTE: Curtailment of competition applications will be ranked as per section 2.5.

**6.5** SELECTION CRITERIA

**Designated Selection Trials: Canmore, AB January 6 – 11, 2022<sup>7</sup>**

Selection race ranking lists will include results of the following races (dates TBC):

- 10-15K individual start classic race
- Skate sprint
- 15-30K mass start skate race

NOTE: Selection race distances at Trials will all be the same for JR and U23 athletes. All athletes will be racing either the 10k (female) or 15k (male) classic distance for the following reasons:

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<sup>6</sup> All selection races for both the OLY/WJR U23 Championships are common distances in open categories. This allows athletes to qualify for both WJR/U23, and OLY with the exception of the sprint heats which will be divided after qualification into JR and SR categories. The JR category allows athletes to qualify for WJR and open category allows your to qualify for U23 and the Olympic Sprint.

<sup>7</sup> See footnote above.

- Combined ranking list for easy comparison between U23 and JR athletes for AAP carding and selections (for both 2021-22 and 2022-23 carding and NST nominations).
- Increased race distance for JR athletes is not significant enough to have an impact on performance outcome.
  - a. First place U23 male and female and JR male and female in the mass start skate race 15k women/30k men
  - b. First place U23 male and female and JR male and female final result in the sprint skate race
  - c. First place U23 male and female and JR male and female in the distance classic race 10k women/15k men individual start
  - d. First place U23 male and female and JR male and female sprint qualification

Any additional quota spots will be allocated to 2nd place ranked athletes from the same order of priority selection races. The process is repeated using 3rd place, 4th place, etc. finishers until maximum team size is reached.

This is NOT a roll down. Selection occurs across race rankings. For example, if a 2nd place athlete is already qualified the spot goes to the 2nd place athlete in the next priority race – it does not move down to the 3rd place athlete in the race with the already qualified 2nd place athlete.

- 6.6** SELECTION CRITERIA – Post Championship European race(s) (TBD once the FIS competition calendar has been confirmed)
- a. All athletes selected for WJC
  - b. Top 20 results at U23 Ski Championships.

## **7. U.S.A. U20 B-Tour – January 26 – February 7, 2022**

Races: Lake Placid, Craftsbury

Team Size: 8 men, 8 women

Trip Departure date: TBD

Trip Fee: TBD

- 7.1** Selection is limited to U20 athletes (including U18 athletes that will race in the U20 category) who are not attending World Junior/U23 Ski Championships.
- 7.2** The top 4 of each gender will be selected from each of the Eastern Canada Cup Series and the Western Canada Cup Series.
- 7.3** Separate gender specific ranking lists, comprised of eligible U20 athletes, will be created for the Eastern and Western Canada Cup series identified below using the World Cup

scoring system as outlined in Appendix B. Athletes cannot combine Eastern and Western race results.

Western Canada Cup:

Sovereign Lake, BC – December 6-7, 2021

Rossland, BC – December 11-12, 2021

Eastern Canada Cup:

Nakkertok, ON – December 11-12, 2021

Mount Saint Anne, QC – December 18-19, 2021

- 7.4 Ties will be handled as per point 3.2.
- 7.5 Curtailment of Health does not apply to this trip.
- 7.6 SELECTION CRITERIA (there is no priority order for selection)
  - a. Top 4 males on the Eastern Canada Cup series ranking list counting best 3 of 4 races.
  - b. Top 4 females on the Eastern Canada Cup series ranking list counting best 3 of 4 races.
  - c. Top 4 males on the Western Canada Cup series ranking list counting best 3 of 4 races.
  - d. Top 4 females on the Western Canada Cup series ranking list counting best 3 of 4 races.

## 8. **APPENDIX A - Definitions**

Definitions relevant to understanding criteria procedures.

- 8.1 Distance Races - For these selection criteria, all races longer than 2.0 km will be designated as a Distance Race. This could be an individual start, mass start, pursuit or skiathlon competition. An Athlete selected or identified in a Distance Race will be referred to as a distance athlete.
- 8.2 Sprint Events - For these selection criteria, all individual races that are shorter than or equal to 2.0 km and two-athletes team events where each leg is shorter than or equal to 2.0 km are designated individual sprints or team sprints. These races 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 these criteria are references to final results unless otherwise noted.
- 8.3 Tier One Selection Events – A categorization of races used for team selection and trip standards that is limited to domestic and international FIS sanctioned races that count towards the FIS points list.

- 8.4 **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.
- 8.5 **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.

## 9. APPENDIX B – World Cup Points Scoring System

1 <sup>st</sup> place	100 points
2 <sup>nd</sup> place	80 points
3 <sup>rd</sup> place	60 points
4 <sup>th</sup> place	50 points
5 <sup>th</sup> place	45 points
6 <sup>th</sup> place	40 points
7 <sup>th</sup> place	36 points
8 <sup>th</sup> place	32 points
9 <sup>th</sup> place	29 points
10 <sup>th</sup> place	26 points
11 <sup>th</sup> place	24 points
12 <sup>th</sup> place	22 points
13 <sup>th</sup> place	20 points
14 <sup>th</sup> place	18 points
15 <sup>th</sup> place	16 points

16 <sup>th</sup> place	15 points
17 <sup>th</sup> place	14 points
18 <sup>th</sup> place	13 points
19 <sup>th</sup> place	12 points
20 <sup>th</sup> place	11 points
21 <sup>st</sup> place	10 points
22 <sup>nd</sup> place	9 points
23 <sup>rd</sup> place	8 points
24 <sup>th</sup> place	7 points
25 <sup>th</sup> place	6 points
26 <sup>th</sup> place	5 points
27 <sup>th</sup> place	4 points
28 <sup>th</sup> place	3 points
29 <sup>th</sup> place	2 points
30 <sup>th</sup> place	1 point