

National Ski Team

Selection Criteria

2021-22



September 14, 2021

Section 5, point 5.9 has been updated to identify the process of selecting athletes to the NST to fulfill minimum team requirements. One (1) U23 female and one (1) JR female will be selected from the Canmore, AB Trials event January 2022. See point 5.5.9 for more details.

March 12, 2021

In section 1, point 1.1 was added to clearly state and clarify the purpose of the document.

In section 2, point 2.3 a definition for ‘depth of field’ was added to section 7 to provide clarity for the term.

In section 2, The Curtailment of Training and Competition for Health-Related Reasons (COH) was created as a new section – section 3. All subsequent sections have been renumbered by an increase of 1.

The new section 3, The Curtailment of Training and Competition for Health-Related Reasons (COH), has been expanded to clarify the intent of the clause and eligibility.

In section 5 (previously section 4), point 5.3 was amended to clarify Nordiq Canada’s interpretation and application of World Cup points.

In section 5 (previously section 4), NST criteria points 5.6.o, and 5.7.m were corrected to ‘U23 WSC individual final finish race result’ to fix a cut and paste error.

In section 5 (previously section 4), point 5.9 was amended to reflect point 1.1 in ensuring the most competitive and developing U23 athletes are selected to fulfill NST requirements.

In section 5 (previously section 4), point 5.10 was added to support the changes in point 5.9.

In section 7 (previously section 6), the definition for U23 ranking list and Junior ranking list were removed to reflect the changes in point 5.9.

Table of Contents

1. General Information	3
2. Selection Guidelines	4
3. Curtailment of Training and Competition for Health-Related Reasons (COH)	4
4. National Ski Team Programs	6
5. NST Selection Criteria	7
6. NST Team Composition	10
7. Definitions.....	11

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 this 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 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 international competitions.
- 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 standing¹ with a registered Nordiq Canada club, a valid Canadian passport, a valid Nordiq Canada race license and 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 Cup Trials Races (2021-2022), and the Canadian Nationals 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 Selection races must reflect a competitive depth of field (see definitions) 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 performance benchmarks an athlete needs to achieve in order to be podium competitive at that development stage.

3. Curtailment of Training and Competition for Health-Related Reasons (COH)

- 3.1 Only Nordiq Canada members in good standing with a registered Nordiq Canada club, a valid Canadian passport, a valid Nordiq Canada race license and FIS license will be considered for NST selection.

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

- 3.2** 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 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.
- 3.3** An NST Junior or Senior Team athlete who met 2020-21 NST objective criteria based on results from 2019-20, and not through a ranking list nomination, who at the end of the 2020-2021 competitive cycle, has 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 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.

- 3.4 The Athlete may be nominated for 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.

The declaration and all documentation must be submitted to the HPD before **April 4, 2021 11:59 AM MST**. Submissions will not be accepted after this deadline.

4. National Ski Team Programs

- 4.1 The National Ski Team is comprised of the Senior and Junior programs.
- 4.2 Athletes named to the NST will receive access to high performance resources based on their qualification priority. For example, an athlete who qualifies on selection criteria A will have access to more resources than an athlete who qualifies on criteria B or C regardless of which program they are selected to.
- 4.3 Senior Program
- a. The Senior Program is to develop athletes with the ability to be consistently competitive on the World Cup circuit.
 - b. The objective of the program is to create consistent progression in World Cup rankings.
 - c. Only athletes in the senior age category (YOB 2001 and under) are eligible for this program as per the Nordiq Canada Competition Pathway model.
- 4.4 Junior Program
- a. The Junior program is to develop athletes who have demonstrated potential to be competitive on the World Cup and transition to the Senior Program.
 - b. The objective of this program is to incorporate and prepare junior athletes for being part of the NST high performance program and provide international competition and training experience.
 - c. Only athletes in the junior (JR) age category (YOB 2002-2003) are eligible for the Junior program as per the Nordiq Canada Competition Pathway model.

5. NST Selection Criteria

- 5.1 Selection for the Senior and Junior Programs will be done in order of priority ranking as listed below with 5.6.a being the highest ranking and 5.8.m being the lowest ranking.
- 5.2 All criteria are for competitions held in the 2020-21 season.
- 5.3 World Cup points always refers to World Cup points achieved in an individual race. World Cup points achieved from a relay or team event do not count toward individual World Cup points required for this selection criteria.

Exceptional Circumstance Amendment for allocation of World Cup points for the 2020-21 Season Due to COVID-19

FIS does not apply World Cup points to World Ski Championships events. However, due to missed races as a result of COVID-19, for the purpose of this criteria only, and only in this exceptional circumstance, Nordiq Canada will honor the unofficial application of corresponding World Cup points to the 2021 World Ski Championship (Oberstdorf, GER) individual final finish results; criteria 5.6.c, 5.6.f, 5.6.i, 5.7.c, 5.7.f, 5.7.i, 5.8.c, 5.8.f, 5.8.g. This application of FIS World Cup points will only be recognized for these specific criteria. The official World Cup point allocations awarded and published by FIS on the FIS website will be used for all other World Cup point applications and requirements.

- 5.4 Athletes may qualify under a criteria above their age grouping, and will be ranked according to that criteria ranking; however they will remain within the NST program appropriate to their development. Ex. A JR athlete can qualify on a U25 criteria however they will remain in the Junior Program.
- 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.

28+ = Athletes born in or before 1993
 U27 = Athletes born in 1994 - 1995
 U25 = Athletes born in 1996 - 1997
 U23 = Athletes born in 1998 – 1999
 U21 = Athletes born in 2000
 U20 = Athletes born in 2001
 JR-19 = Athletes born in 2002
 JR-18 = Athletes born in 2003
 WSC = World Ski Championships
 OWG = Olympic Winter Games
 WC = World Cup
 WJR = World Junior Ski Championships
 U23 WSC = U23 World Ski Championships

5.6 Selection Criteria A

- a. 28+ One top 3 WSC/OWG/WC individual final finish race result
- b. 28+ Two top 6 WSC/OWG/WC individual final finish race result
- c. 28+ 60 World Cup individual race points

- d. U27 One top 6 WSC/OWG/WC individual final finish race result
- e. U27 Two top 12 WSC/OWG/WC individual final finish race result
- f. U27 44 World Cup individual points

- g. U25 One top 12 WSC/OWG/WC individual final finish race result
- h. U25 Two top 20 WSC/OWG/WC individual final finish race result
- i. U25 22 World Cup individual points

- j. U23 One top 20 WSC/OWG/WC individual final finish race result
- k. U23 Two top 30 WSC/OWG/WC individual final finish race result
- l. U23 One top 6 U23 WSC individual final finish race result

- m. U21 One top 30 WSC/OWG/WC individual final finish race result
- n. U21 Two top 40 WSC/OWG/WC individual final finish race result
- o. U21 One top 10 U23 WSC individual final finish race result

- p. U20 One top 10 WJR individual final finish race result
- q. JR-19 One top 15 WJR individual final finish race result
- r. JR-18 One top 20 WJR individual final finish race result

5.7 Selection Criteria B

- a. 28+ One top 6 WSC/OWG/WC individual final finish race result
- b. 28+ Two top 12 WSC/OWG/WC individual final finish race result
- c. 28+ 44 World Cup individual points

- d. U27 One top 12 WSC/OWG/WC individual final finish race result
- e. U27 Two top 20 WSC/OWG/WC individual final finish race result
- f. U27 22 World Cup individual points

- g. U25 One top 20 WSC/OWG/WC individual final finish race result
- h. U25 Two top 25 WSC/OWG/WC individual final finish race result
- i. U25 11 World Cup individual points

- j. U23 One top 30 WSC/OWG/WC **open** individual final finish race result
- k. U23 One top 12 U23 WSC individual final finish race result

- l. U21 One top 40 WSC/OWG/WC **open** individual final finish race result
- m. U21 One top 16 U23 WSC individual final finish race result

- n. U20 One top 20 WJR individual final finish race result
- o. JR-19 One top 25 WJR individual final finish race result

- p. JR-18 One top 30 WJR individual final finish race result

5.8 Selection Criteria C

- a. 28+ One top 12 WSC/OWG/WC individual final finish race result
- b. 28+ Two top 20 WSC/OWG/WC individual final finish race result
- c. 28+ 22 World Cup individual points
- d. U27 One top 20 WSC/OWG/WC individual final finish race result
- e. U27 Two top 25 WSC/OWG/WC individual final finish race result
- f. U27 11 World Cup individual points
- g. U25 One World Cup individual point
- h. U23 One top 40 WSC/OWG/WC individual final finish race result
- i. U23 One top 18 U23 WSC individual final finish race result
- j. U21 one top 22 U23 WSC individual final finish
- k. U20 One top 25 WJR individual final finish race result
- l. JR-19 One top 30 WJR individual final finish race result
- m. JR-18 Top 50% WJR individual final finish race result

- 5.9 In the event the minimum NST requirements are unable to be filled with the above criteria, the HPD will select athletes from identified selection events in the 2021-22 season. The selection event(s) and selection process will be determined and announced once the domestic race calendar has been confirmed.

Selection Event: OWG/ WJR-U23 Championship Trials - Canmore, AB January 6 -11, 2022

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

- 10K individual start classic race
- Skate sprint final result
- 15K mass start skate race
- Classic sprint final result
- a. Selection of one (1) U23 female and one (1) U20 female to the NST will occur from gender specific ranking lists for each of the U20 and U23 categories:
 - i. Highest ranked U23 female and U20 female on their respective age group ranking lists, compiling the best 2 of 4 race results from the races identified above.

- ii. The ranking list will be determined as per the World Cup scoring system as outlined in point 7.4.
- iii. Ties will be broken as per 5.5 where if the single best results are the same, then the 2nd best result will be used, then the 3rd best etc. until the tie is broken.
- iv. U23 and U20 athletes already named to the 2021-22 NST will be included in the points scoring system. However they will not be included in the final selection list. For example, NST athlete A is 1st and receives 100 pts. NST athlete B is 2nd and receives 80 pts, non-NST athlete is 3rd and receives 60 pts. For the final selection list the non-NST athlete will be scored 60 pts, not 100 pts, even though they are the highest ranked non-NST athlete.
- v. For the sprint competition, after qualification, heats will be separated into U20 and a combined SR/U23 categories. U23 will be ranked with SR, however points will be awarded in a standalone U23 category with the best U23 receiving 100 pts, 2nd best 80 pts, etc.

5.10 In the event an identified NST selection event(s) cannot be held due to cancellation or selection cannot be done fairly due to COVID-19 restrictions prior to January 10, 2022 the HPD reserves the right to not fill the minimum NST requirements for the 2021-22 season.

6. NST Team Composition

- 6.1** Team size is determined by the HPD based on budget, available program support and athlete potential for podium success at the 2022 and 2026 Olympic Winter Games (OWG). Team size will be determined prior to Team selection.
- 6.2** The NST will be comprised of the following minimum numbers to a maximum size of 16 (as per above):

	Female	Male
24+	No minimum	No minimum
U23	1	1
U20	2	2
TOTAL	6	6

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 an individual final finish race result to be achieved, there must be 15 seeded FIS athletes according to the FIS Seeded Group that have started the race. The Seeded Group is defined as the top 30 competitors in the current World Cup standings (Distance or Sprint).
- 7.4** World Cup Points Score System:

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

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

15 th place	16 points
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30 th place	1 point
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