

National Ski Team

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 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 Canadian 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), the Canadian Ski Championships, 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 International selection races must reflect a competitive depth of field (see definitions, pt 7.3) 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 a combination of Gold Medal Pathway performance benchmarks (per age and development stage), and domestic national events results (WJR trials and Nationals) for U20 and U18 athletes.
- 2.5 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 NST program based on exceptional circumstances and performances supported by the selection enhancing the athlete's development pathway and the overall performance of the team.

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

3. Curtailment of Health, Training and Competition (COH)

- 3.1 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 for 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.
- 3.2 NST Junior or Senior Team athletes who met 2021-22 NST objective criteria and not through a ranking list nomination, who at the end of the 2021-2022 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.**

- 3.3 The athlete may be nominated to 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, 2022 11:59 PM MST**. Submissions that have not adhered to 3.0 will not be accepted nor will submissions received after the deadline.

4. National Ski Team Programs

- 4.1 The National Ski Team is comprised of the Senior, Next Gen and Development programs.
- 4.2 Athletes named to the NST may receive access to different levels of high performance resources based on their qualification priority.
- 4.3 Senior Team
- a. The Senior Team program is designed for athletes on the pathway to achieve top 6 individual results on the World Cup circuit.
 - b. The objective of the program is to provide optimal support to the athletes in progressing towards these performance goals.
 - c. Only athletes in the senior age category (YOB 2002 and under) are eligible for this program as per the Nordiq Canada Competition Pathway model.
- 4.4 Next Gen Team
- a. The Next Gen Team program is designed for athletes U23 and younger who are on the pathway to achieving Senior NST standards.
 - b. The objective of the program is to provide optimal support to the athletes in progressing towards these performance goals.
 - c. Only athletes in the U23 or Junior (JR) age categories in the 2021-22 competition year (YOB 1999-2004) are eligible for this program as per the Nordiq Canada Competition Pathway model.

4.5 Development Team

- a. The Development Team program is designed for athletes U20 and younger who are on the pathway to achieving Next Gen Team standards.
- b. The objective of the program is to provide optimal support to the athletes in progressing towards these performance goals.
- c. Only athletes in the U20 and U18 age categories in the 2021-22 competition year (YOB 2002-2005) are eligible for this program as per the Nordiq Canada Competition Pathway model.

5. **NST Selection Criteria**

- 5.1 Selection for the Senior, Next Gen and Development Teams will be done in order of priority ranking as listed below with 5.7.1a being the highest ranking and 5.8 h the lowest ranking.
- 5.2 All criteria are for competitions held in the 2021-22 season.
- 5.3 Athletes may qualify under several Team program criteria and will be ranked according to the prioritized criteria (as per 5.1); however they will also have to meet the age eligibility criteria for a specific program (as per 4.3c, 4.4c and 4.5c) to be named to that program. Ex. A U18 athlete meeting a standard that would qualify him or her for the Next Gen Team will not be named to that program but to the Development Team.
- 5.4 Discretionary nominations are based on the HPD and Nordiq Canada coaching staff recommendations ONLY. Athletes may be nominated based on evidence that may include:
 - a. Outstanding competition results in the 2021-22 season as determined by the Nordiq Canada coaching staff.
 - b. Recent positive trend of competition results indicating potential for Olympic or World Ski Championships success against the GMP.
 - c. Repeated international results against a known depth of field outside of the identified competitions.
 - d. Repeated national head-to-head results against a World Cup Team athlete of the same age.
 - e. Continued progress against the GMP parameters: ski speed, physiological testing, technical report card, etc.
 - f. Other as evidenced by HPD or Nordiq Canada coaching staff.
- 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.

27+ = Athletes born in or before 1994
 U27 = Athletes born in 1995 - 1996
 U25 = Athletes born in 1997 - 1998
 U23 = Athletes born in 1999
 U22 = Athletes born in 2000 - 2001
 U20 = Athletes born in 2002
 U19 = Athletes born in 2003
 U18 = Athletes born in 2004 - 2005
 WSC = World Ski Championships (there are no WSC in 2022)
 OWG = Olympic Winter Games
 WC = World Cup
 WJR = World Junior Ski Championships
 U23 WSC = U23 World Ski Championships

5.6 Team Size:

- a. Senior and Next Gen Team: To be determined in April 2022 based on athletes meeting selection criteria and the approved 2022-23 budget
- b. Development Team: 12 athletes

5.7 Athletes will be selected in this order of priority:

5.7.1. Senior Team Selection Criteria

- a. 27+ One top 6 WSC/OWG/WC individual final finish race result
- b. 27+ Two top 12 WSC/OWG/WC individual final finish race result
- c. U27 One top 12 WSC/OWG/WC individual final finish race result
- d. U27 Two top 20 WSC/OWG/WC individual final finish race result
- e. U25 One top 20 WSC/OWG/WC individual final finish race result
- f. U25 Two top 25 WSC/OWG/WC individual final finish race result

5.7.2. Next Gen Team Selection Criteria

- a. U23 One top 30 WSC/OWG/WC **open** individual final finish race result
- b. U23 One top 10 U23 WSC individual final finish race result
- c. U22 One top 40 WSC/OWG/WC **open** individual final finish race result
- d. U22 One top 16 U23 WSC individual final finish race result
- e. U20 One top 10 WJR individual final finish race result
- f. U-19 One top 15 WJR individual final finish race result
- g. U-18 One top 20 WJR individual final finish race result
- h. U23 One top 40 WSC/OWG/WC individual open final finish race result
- i. U23 One top 16 U23 WSC individual **open** final finish race result
- j. U22 one top 22 U23 WSC individual **open** final finish race result
- k. U20 One top 20 WJR individual final finish race result
- l. U19 One top 25 WJR individual final finish race result
- m. U18 One top 30 WJR individual final finish race result
- n. Curtailment of Health (if applicable)
- o. HPD discretion (if applicable)

5.7.3. Senior Team Selection Criteria

- a. 27+ One top 12 WSC/OWG/WC individual final finish race result
- b. 27+ Two top 20 WSC/OWG/WC individual final finish race result
- c. U27 One top 20 WSC/OWG/WC individual final finish race result
- d. U27 Two top 25 WSC/OWG/WC individual final finish race result
- e. U25 One top 30 WSC/OWG/WC individual final finish race result
- f. Curtailment of Health (if applicable)
- g. HPD discretion (if applicable)

5.8 Development Team Selection Criteria

- a. All WJR team athletes who did not make any of the criteria above (5.7.1a to 5.7.3g), ranked in order of their single best individual result at the 2022 WJR.
- b. Best ranked male and female in the U18 category at the Canadian Ski Championships on an aggregate ranking list counting all individual events, not already selected under criteria 5.8a. This aggregate ranking will use the same point system as the official National Championships Year Of Birth (YOB) aggregate rankings (see the 2022 Canadian Ski Championships and US SuperTour Finals technical package) but will reflect race results with no distinction of YOB within the category (i.e. U20 and U18).
- c. Next available spots within the stated Team size will go to the next best ranked male and female in the U20 category at the Canadian Ski Championships on an aggregate ranking list counting all individual events, not already selected under criteria 5.8a. This aggregate ranking will use the same point system as the official Canadian Ski Championships YOB aggregate rankings but will reflect race results with no distinction of YOB within the category (i.e. U20 and U18)
- d. Next available spots, if applicable, within the maximum team size will go to the next best ranked U18 male and female athletes on the ranking list described under 5.8b and not already selected under criteria 5.8a or 5.8b
- e. If needed, criteria 5.8c and 5.8d will be repeated in this order of priority until all Development Team spots are filled.
- f. Any ties for the last Development Team spot will be broken by the athlete with most points in the aggregate ranking. Further ties will be decided up on the number of 1, 2, 3 place race finishes. For example, an athlete with two first place finishes and two second place finishes will rank higher than an athlete with two first place finishes, one second place finish and one third place finish.
- g. Curtailment of Health (if applicable)
- h. HPD discretion (if applicable)

6. **Removal of an Athlete Once Selected**

- 6.1 The HPD reserves the right to withdraw an athlete from a Team if:
 - a. the athlete has not fulfilled his/her/their responsibilities with respect to mandatory training camps, testing, and competitions;

- b. the athlete has not fulfilled his/her/their responsibilities as identified in the NC Athlete Agreement;
 - c. the athlete has not fulfilled his/her/their responsibilities as identified in the NC Code of Conduct or NC Discipline Policy;
 - d. the athlete has demonstrated repeated toxic behavior eroding the NC Culture of Excellence;
 - e. the athlete has not adhered to his/her/their responsibilities as they pertain to WADA, and CCES antidoping protocols;
 - f. the athlete has not adhered to the municipal, provincial, federal, NSO or international Covid 19 protocols;
 - g. 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.
- 6.2 The HPD may recommend the withdrawal of an athlete's national team status under the following condition:
- a. 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.
- 6.3 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 *Dispute Resolution and Appeal* policy process within the prescribed time.

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).