

# Para Nordic Competition Trip Criteria

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Selection Criteria

**2022-23**



## Table of Contents

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1. GENERAL INFORMATION .....	4
2. PURPOSE OF WORLD CUP AND WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS TRIP TEAM SELECTION.....	5
3. OBJECTIVES .....	5
4. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA .....	6
5. IMPORTANT DATES .....	7
6. SELECTION CRITERIA.....	7
7. FUNDING .....	10
8. INJURY, ILLNESS and EQUIPMENT FAILURE PROVISION for the SELECTION EVENT .....	11

## **COVID – 19 Virus**

*Nordiq Canada is carefully following the coronavirus pandemic and all related impacts on the global and domestic level and how it may affect the criteria for Para Nordic Competition Trip 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.*

## **International Governance**

*On May 26, 2022, the International Ski and Snowboard Federation (FIS) membership voted 94% in favour of taking over the governance of all Para winter snow sports (Alpine, Snowboard, Nordic and Biathlon) from the IPC. The transference of governance will take place beginning in the 2022-23 season. While we anticipate a smooth transition to FIS, there may be decisions and changes beyond the control of Nordiq Canada . 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.*

## **Para Nordic Teams**

*Beginning in the 2023-24 season, to align terms used across within the Canadian sport system that describe athletes and team tiers along the high performance pathway, Para nordic will revise the team names in the following order:*

- *World Cup – Para Nordic World Cup Team*
- *NextGen – Para Nordic Athletes forecasted to have medal potential in 4-8 years*
- *Development – Para Nordic athletes forecasted to have medal potential 8+ years*
- *Prospects – Para Nordic athletes who have been identified with potential to make Development or NextGen team in 4-8 years*

*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 these 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. This document outlines the policies and procedures used by Nordiq Canada (NC) to select athletes for the 2022-2023 FIS Para Snow Sports (FIS PSS) World Cups and World Championships.
2. This document is created under the direction of the *NST (National Ski Team) Selection, Nomination, and Announcement Policy*.
3. The High Performance Director-Para (HPD-Para) is responsible for applying the selection criteria and will make the final selection decisions with review from [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. The appeal deadline is 24 hours after the team has been announced on the Nordiq Canada website.
5. The Nordiq Canada HPD-Para, 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-Para 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 Paralympic Committee, Canadian Snowsport Association (CSA), FIS, IPC/FIS PSS, 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 because 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-Para.

7. Nordiq Canada and the HPD-Para reserve the right to select the team size based on the trip criteria, financial and staffing capacities. Nordiq Canada is not obligated to select the team to the maximum team size.

## 2. PURPOSE OF WORLD CUP AND WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS TRIP TEAM SELECTION

1. To provide FIS Para Snow Sports (FIS PSS) sanctioned World Cup (WC) and World Championship (WCH) starts for athletes who have achieved or have shown potential to achieve medal results and meet established Nordiq Canada international benchmarks.
2. To provide development opportunities for NextGen athletes to complement Nordiq Canada international benchmarks leading to the WCH and PWG (Paralympic Winter Games) where it is in the best interest of the team's overall results.
3. To provide competition opportunities for Development athletes leading to the long-term development of athletes on a podium pathway who can progress to medal performance at FIS PSS WC, World Championships (WCH) and the 2026 PWG.

## 3. OBJECTIVES

1. Contribute to team performance targets as determined by Nordiq Canada 2022-2023 [Business Plan](#).
2. Provide athletes the opportunity to meet Nordiq Canada Para Nordic Team selection criteria to be named to one of the 2023-24 Nordiq Canada Para Nordic national Teams – World Cup Ski Team, NextGen Team, Development Team - or the Prospects Team.
3. Provide SR carded and PNST athletes with international race opportunities to further support their achievement towards consistent podium performances, and PNST team selection
4. Provide athletes the opportunity to meet 2023-24 Sport Canada Athlete Assistance Program funding support criteria.
5. Provide athletes who are eligible to be Internationally Classified, and who have met selection criteria, the opportunity to be FIS PSS classified.
6. Identification of Development athletes who:
  - a. can be internationally ranked on the FIS PSS BT (biathlon) or FIS PSS CC (cross-country) ranking points list and have demonstrated potential to achieve TWO (2) races of 180 FIS PSS points or less results

- b. demonstrate the long-term potential to achieve established benchmarks leading to FIS PSS WC, WCH or PWG podium results.
- c. can progress towards meeting the performance criteria to be eligible for the Nordiq Canada World Cup or NextGen teams.

## 4. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

1. To be eligible for selection for a PNST World Cup competition trip in the 2022-23 competition season (December 2022 – March 2023), athletes must meet the following minimum eligibility criteria:
  - a. athletes must be a current Nordiq Canada and provincial member in good standing<sup>1</sup>;
  - b. must be a Canadian citizen with a current and valid Canadian passport or can represent Canada at a Paralympic Winter Games;
  - c. must hold a current Nordiq Canada racing license;
  - d. athletes must be a current Nordiq Canada registered club member;
  - e. athletes must have a current and valid FIS license<sup>2</sup>;
  - f. athletes must be a minimum of 16 years of age or older by the end of the 2022-23 season;
  - g. athletes must meet all FIS PSS and other event entry standards for the competition(s) for which they qualify<sup>3</sup>;
  - h. must adhere to all municipal, provincial, federal, and international Covid or other health authority pandemic guidelines;
2. Selected and pre-selected athletes must demonstrate competitive readiness, evaluated on the following factors:
  - a. Optimal health and readiness to travel based on evaluation by Nordiq Canada approved physicians and IST (Integrated Support Team) support staff or personal physicians, with review by Nordiq Canada team physician. Nordiq Canada may request expertise from another medical professional, when required, in one of Canada's official languages.
  - b. To be eligible for a competition trip an athlete must be completely recovered from any illness or injury 48 hours prior to the trip departure.

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<sup>1</sup> Please refer to the [Nordic Canada bylaws](#) for a complete description of members in good standing

<sup>2</sup> FIS Licenses for PN must be applied for through Nordiq Canada, as they are tied to an athlete's classification eligibility.

<sup>3</sup> Event qualification standards are posted on the FIS website [here](#).



3. Once eligibility requirements have been verified by Nordiq Canada, athletes will be named to the team.
4. If an athlete is selected to the Team under these selection procedures and criteria the athlete acknowledges and agrees to:
  - a. comply with Nordiq Canada's policies as posted on the [Nordiq Canada website](#);
  - b. drug testing by the Canadian Sports Anti-Doping Agency (CCES), FIS PSS, or other applicable bodies and must comply with Nordiq Canada's, CCES's and FIS PSS's Anti-Doping bylaws or policies;
  - c. comply with all requests from Nordiq Canada and with their obligations set out in the Nordiq Canada Anti-Doping Bylaw to provide accurate whereabouts information to CCES and FIS PSS; and,
  - d. comply with the Nordiq Canada [Athlete Code of Conduct](#) and the Competition Trip Agreement.

## 5. IMPORTANT DATES

- |   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. Selection Event – Canmore, AB        | November 22 and 23, 2022 |
| 2. World Cup – Vuokatti, FIN            | December 10 -18, 2022    |
| 3. World Championships – Östersund, SWE | January 21-29, 2023      |
| 4. World Cup – Solider Hollow, USA      | March 1-8, 2023          |

## 6. SELECTION CRITERIA

### INTRODUCTION

1. To meet the performance goals of the National Para Nordic Ski Team program, and with provisions for potential Covid restrictions, Nordiq Canada will make team size decisions that are aligned with Nordiq Canada's Covid protocols, high performance (HP) budget restrictions, PN performance goals and staff's availability and ability to support the team.
2. Athletes may be selected for one or more World Cup events based upon the selection criteria. Individual athlete Yearly Training Plan (YTP) priorities will be taken into consideration.
3. Unless otherwise stated in the specific event selection criteria, in the event of a tie, the ranking will be based on the athletes' second-best finish placing at (1) 2022-23 FIS FSS WC event or (2) a 2022-23 FIS PSS sanctioned event, using lowest FIS PSS points in each

respective category in an individual qualifying race. Depth of field<sup>4</sup> will be required and considered for each event used to tie break. If there is still a tie, the HPD-Para will make the final decision.

## WORLD CUP SELECTION CRITERIA IN PRIORITY ORDER

### World Cup Vuokatti, FIN

4. All Nordiq Canada Para Nordic 2022-2023 World Cup Team athletes are pre-selected for the Vuokatti, FIN World Cup, provided they adhere to their national training program to the satisfaction of the PNST National Team coach and HPD-Para and demonstrate competitive readiness.
5. Nordiq Canada's Para Nordic 2022-2023 NextGen and Development teams are expected to demonstrate competitive readiness and will be selected to the World Cup in Vuokatti, FIN, if they achieve an average of the equivalent 180 FIS PSS points or lower at the selection races in Canmore, AB Nov. 22 & 23, against a current known international podium/top-5 performers.
6. **Additional Canadian athletes:** For athletes to be eligible to race at this WC, they must meet all FIS event qualification standards **AND** be ranked using the following criteria being met:
  - a. Achieve an **average of the equivalent of 180 FIS PSS points or better** at the selection races held in Canmore at the Development Camp November 22 and 23, 2022.
  - b. Points must be achieved against a current known WPNS/FIS PSS international podium/top-5 performer.
  - c. Have submitted all required paperwork for FIS PN licensing and/or classification, and entry to the Canmore Trials event by November 1, 2022.
  - d. Be classified or eligible to be internationally classified "confirmed" or "review" by FIS.
  - e. Leadership, positive attitude, and strong commitment of athletes to take part in the complete PNST coaching, IST support, training camp and competition program, **as outlined in the Nordiq Canada Code of Conduct and Ethics Policy**
7. Additional athletes at HPD-Para discretion based on their potential to achieve 180 FIS PSS points.

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<sup>4</sup> Depth of Field – For an individual final finish race result to be achieved, there must be three (3) FIS PSS point ranked competitors, including at least one competitor with 60 or fewer FIS PSS (nordic) that have started the race.



### **World Championships, Östersund, SWE**

- 8.** Nordiq Canada's Para Nordic 2022-2023 National World Cup Team athletes are pre-selected for the 2023 FIS PSS World Championships provided they adhere to their national training program to the satisfaction of the PNST National Team coach and HPD and demonstrate competitive readiness.
- 9.** Any athlete who achieves a 90 FIS PSS points or less at the 2022-2023 World Cup competitions in Vuokatti, FIN.
- 10.** Additional athletes may be considered, at HPD-Para discretion. Athletes will be ranked based on their 2022-2023 World Cup race results and their potential to achieve 90 FIS PSS points or better.

### **World Cup Soldier Hollow, USA**

- 11.** Nordiq Canada's Para Nordic 2022-2023 National World Cup Team athletes are pre-selected for the 2023 FIS PSS World Cup, Soldier Hollow, provided they adhere to their national training program to the satisfaction of the PNST National Team coach and HPD-Para and demonstrate competitive readiness.
- 12.** Additional athletes may be considered, at HPD-Para discretion. Athletes will be ranked based on their 2022-2023 World Cup race results and their potential to achieve 90 FIS PSS points or better.

### **MAINTAINING SELECTION AND RACING STATUS**

- 13.** An athlete who is selected under these procedures and the applicable criteria supplement must comply with the following:
  - a.** will report any performance limiting, contagious illness or obvious injury to the Nordiq Canada HPD-Para in a timely fashion, after consultation with experts, to ensure that they are healthy and injury free prior to departure and able to optimally compete at the level that selected them for the trip;
  - b.** may be asked to complete a pre-trip health screen with the Nordiq Canada team physician;
  - c.** comply with the municipal, provincial, federal, international and NSO (National Sport Organization) Covid 19 protocols;
  - d.** comply with applicable Nordiq Canada policies including these procedures:
    - i.** Any selected athlete may have their selection status reviewed by the HPD-Para if any of the requirements are not met. The HPD-Para will notify the athlete in writing as to why their selection or racing status is under review. The athlete shall be given a reasonable opportunity (no more than seven days (7)) to provide reasons why she/he should not be removed from the trip team or have their racing status revoked.

## 7. FUNDING

1. Athletes selected to a World Cup or World Championships Trip team who are on the 2022-23 PN World Cup Team will not pay trip fees.
2. Athletes selected to a World Cup Trip team who are on the 2022-23 NextGen team or Development team may be required to pay trip fees.
3. Athletes selected to a World Cup trip, including World Championships, who are not on a 2022-23 Para Nordic World Cup Team program (PNST, NextGen, Development) will be required to self-fund.
4. Additionally, any additional staff that Nordiq Canada requires beyond the scheduled PN National Team appointed staff and the related expenses, will be the responsibility of non-PNST athletes.

### ANTICIPATED TRIP COSTS

5. PNST, NextGen, Development and Prospects team athletes will be funded based upon available budget and YTP priorities. Additional athletes will be required to pay all their trip expenses<sup>5</sup>. Outlined below are the estimated trip costs:
  - a. Estimated average trip costs: \$5500.00 CDN + Covid Contingency Costs
    - i. Race fees (€20/race - approx. \$30/race)
    - ii. Accommodation/Meals (\$150/day x 13 days = \$1950)
    - iii. Flight & Baggage Fees approx. \$2500 (depending on departure location)
    - iv. Technical Support (wax, coaching, transportation) \$500.00
    - v. Travel health insurance – and all associated fees not covered by insurance (flight change, quarantining, medical bills, etc.) - \$65-\$100 depending on provider and coverage required.
    - vi. Covid testing costs according to FIS/organizing committee – could potentially be \$200/test/every 4 days
    - vii. Any costs associated with any mandatory municipal, federal, provincial requirements upon return to Canada (e.g. quarantine)

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<sup>5</sup> Final trip costs will be calculated at the conclusion of the trip and will reflect the actual costs incurred.

## **8. INJURY, ILLNESS and EQUIPMENT FAILURE PROVISION for the SELECTION EVENT**

- 1.** Athletes who are injured or ill and unable to compete at a selection event as designated by the HPD-Para, as well as those whose performance may have been affected by no fault of their own during the race, or equipment breakage that results in a DNF, may apply for selection consideration by the HPD-Para and an expert panel (i.e., medical, or technical expertise) if they meet the following criteria:
  - a.** Performance marker – Acceptance of a curtailment of competition will be evaluated on the most recent objective sanctioned race results in the current competition season supporting the fact the athlete would have expected to qualify if they had been able to compete.
  - 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-Para the day of the event. If an athlete starts a race, they are deemed healthy, and the results achieved will stand.
  - c.** Medical documentation confirming diagnosis from a licensed physician must be submitted to the HP-Para within two (2) days from date of the selection race (i.e., event is January 1, you have until the end of day January 3 at 23:59 MST)
  - e.** Nordiq Canada reserves the right to have all submissions reviewed by the PNST physician or PNST approved licensed medical practitioner. Nordiq Canada may request expertise from another medical professional, when required, in one of Canada's official languages.
  - d.** Acceptance of an injury provision will be evaluated by the PNST physician, PNST Coach, PNST Manager and HPD-Para.
  - e.** Final decision will rest with the HPD-Para in consultation with the PNC (Para Nordic Committee) and HPC.

## **Definitions:**

FIS - International Ski and Snowboard Federation

IPC – International Paralympic Committee

CPC – Canadian Paralympic Committee

GMP – Gold Medal Profile

PNST – Para Nordic National Ski Team

NG – NextGen

PSS- Para Snow Sport

FIS PSS points – refers to international points lists – previously referred to as WPNS points

Depth of Field