



## **2026-27 U.S. PARA ALPINE TEAM NOMINATION CRITERIA**

### **ELIGIBILITY FOR CONSIDERATION**

U.S. Ski & Snowboard will consider for selection only those U.S. Ski & Snowboard members in good standing who have a valid U.S. passport, a valid USA-coded FIS license, and who meet FIS minimum eligibility standards.

An athlete shall be ineligible for consideration if previously suspended or removed from team membership without having been reinstated by U.S. Ski & Snowboard. An athlete who has previously declined an offer of team membership shall not be automatically offered team membership unless that athlete specifically requests consideration, and the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Para Program Director approves the request.

U.S. Ski & Snowboard will select only the most qualified athletes with the greatest possibility for winning medals in future FIS World Cup, World Championship, and Paralympic Winter Games competitions. Selection criteria will stress performance in the Paralympic Games, World Cup, and Continental Cups in the 2025-26 season. Selection criteria will also stress progress toward individual performance markers, set forth by the Para Alpine Team coaches, which point toward international success.

Athletes must demonstrate the ability to adhere to U.S. Ski & Snowboard Values and Code of Conduct to be eligible for nomination.

### **CRITERIA GUIDELINES**

- The U.S. Ski & Snowboard Para Sport Director is responsible for applying the selection criteria set forth herein, subject to the oversight of the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Chief of Sport.
- Objective nominations shall be based on the results achieved by athletes in competitions between December 1, 2025 and April 15, 2026 (the "Selection Period").
- Discretionary nominations, if any, may be based on a variety of factors, including competitions conducted outside of the Selection Period.
- Team status does not guarantee funding from U.S. Ski & Snowboard for competition or for preparation.
- No minimum team size will be established.
- A maximum of 12 athletes (max 8 per gender) will be nominated to the A, B, and D teams in the order of the criteria outlined below. Athletes renominated based on injury status are included in maximum team size. Approved injury renomination supersedes application of the objective criteria outlined below.
- If fewer than 4 athletes of one gender qualify for the Team (either objectively or through the injury clause), then more than 8 athletes of the other gender may be nominated based on the same objective criteria in order of priority.
- Athletes must be willing to commit to and participate in the full U.S. Ski Team camp and race season structure.



## OBJECTIVE CRITERIA

Athletes meeting the following objective criteria may be selected to the Team. The criteria are listed in priority order and will be applied until the maximum team size is reached.

### A Team:

Athletes meeting the following objective criteria during the Selection Period, listed in order of priority, may be selected for the A Team within the maximum team size limits outlined above.

1. One or more Paralympic Games Medals
2. FIS World Cup and Paralympic Games results:

Athletes who meet the following criteria will be ranked and selected in order of cumulative FIS points based on their best FIS points performance within the qualifying events until gender and team size limits are fulfilled.

- Men (All Categories): One or more ( $\geq 1$ ) World Cup Podiums **AND** Four (4) World Cup and/or Paralympic Winter Games results of  $\leq 69.99$  FIS race points (podium FIS point result is included)
- Women (All Categories): One or more ( $\geq 1$ ) World Cup Podiums **AND** Four (4) World Cup and/or Paralympic Winter Games results of  $\leq 119.99$  FIS race points (podium FIS point result is included)

In the case of a tie, U.S. Ski & Snowboard will select the athlete with the best single FIS point performance within the qualifying events.

### B Team.

Athletes meeting the following objective criteria during the Selection Period, listed in order of priority, may be selected for the B Team within the maximum team gender and size limits outlined above.

1. Athletes who meet the following criteria will be ranked and selected in order of the cumulative number of FIS WC points performances across all disciplines within the qualifying events.
  - Men (All Categories): Two (2) **World Cup results** of  $\leq 139.99$  FIS race points
  - Women (All Categories): Two (2) **World Cup results** of  $\leq 169.99$  FIS race points
2. Athletes will be ranked based on the average of their two best FIS point performances in any one discipline. Athletes whose average is under the threshold listed below may be named to the National Team until the maximum team size is met.



- Men (All Categories):  $\leq 99.99$  FIS points
- Women (All Categories) :  $\leq 129.99$  FIS points

In the case of a tie, U.S. Ski & Snowboard will select the athlete with the best single FIS point performance within the qualifying events.

### **D Team**

Athletes will be ranked based on the average of their two best FIS point performances in any one discipline. Athletes whose average is under the threshold listed below may be named to the National Team until the maximum team size is met.

- Men (All Categories):  $\leq 129.99$  FIS points
- Women (All Categories):  $\leq 159.99$  FIS points.

### **DISCRETIONARY SELECTION POLICY**

U.S. Ski & Snowboard may select athletes to the team using coaches' discretion based on factors other than the objective criteria. If the coaching staff makes discretionary selections, the staff may consider any factors, including (but not limited to) the following:

- Illness or injury during the Selection Period.
- Indication of medal potential in future Paralympic and World Championship competitions, which would be materially enhanced by team selection.

Re-nomination of any named team athlete by discretion will be based on objective performance benchmarks within the individualized Athlete Plan that exists for all named team athletes as established by the U.S. Ski & Snowboard staff.

### **ATHLETE INJURY CLAUSE**

Any athlete objectively named to the team who sustains a season-ending injury (as declared by the SVP of High Performance) prior to February 1<sup>st</sup> will be re-nominated to their current team for the subsequent season. In exceptional cases involving severe injury, athletes may be granted a 2-year re-nomination window to give them time to return to peak performance. This 2-year window will be communicated to the athlete before the Selection Period of the second year begins. Renomination for injuries sustained after February 1<sup>st</sup> will be discretionary if objective criteria are not met. In this case, the athlete's ranking at the time of injury will be considered in the discretionary decision.

To retain team status, an injured athlete must follow the prescribed rehabilitation or medical program and an approved return to performance on-snow progression as approved by U.S. Ski & Snowboard High Performance, the Para Sport Director, and the Head Coach. Travel funding, team reintegration, and trip inclusion will be based on passing Return to Performance tests and sport-specific competitive form, as determined by the U.S. Ski & Snowboard medical, high performance, and coaching staff.



### **IN-SEASON PROMOTION**

Athletes will not be promoted during the season. Athletes will not be demoted during the season; however, funding for an athlete may be suspended at any time if progress or commitment is not consistent with the team program and the athlete does not remain in good standing.

### **ATHLETE OMBUDSMAN**

Athletes who have questions regarding team nomination that are not answered by U.S. Ski & Snowboard may contact the USOPC Athlete Ombuds Office by:

- PHONE: (719) 866-5000
- EMAIL: [ombudsman@usathlete.org](mailto:ombudsman@usathlete.org)
- WEBSITE: [usathlete.org](http://usathlete.org)