

United States Ski & Snowboard Association

2015 U.S. Cross Country World Championship Team Selection Criteria

Eligibility for Consideration:

The USSA will consider for selection only those USSA members in good standing who have a valid U.S. passport, a valid FIS license and who meet FIS minimum eligibility standards.

Criteria Guidelines:

- USSA policy mandates that team selection criteria shall be principally objective (or performance-based), but it may select additional athletes to the Team using coaches' discretion.
- Up to four (4) athletes may start for the United States in each of the events unless otherwise specified by the International Ski Federation (FIS). Assignment of start rights will be at the discretion of the USSA Cross Country staff.
- The Cross Country Head Coach is responsible for applying the selection criteria set forth herein, subject to the approval of the Chief Executive Officer and the Executive Vice President, Athletics of the USSA.
- No minimum team size will be established.
- Objective selections shall be based on results in World Cup competitions held between November 29, 2014 and January 18, 2015, and all USSA races scored the 4th publication of the USSA National Ranking List, January, 2015 (the "selection period").
- Only athletes qualified on the day of selection to start in World Championships competitions will be selected to the team (minimum FIS point requirements apply).
- Discretionary selections, if any, may be based on a variety of factors, including competitions conducted outside of the selection period.
- U.S. Cross Country World Championships Team status does not guarantee funding from the USSA.

Objective Criteria:

Athletes may be selected to the team based solely upon their competition results during the selection period.

- Up to eight (8) athletes per gender shall be selected to the team based solely upon their World Cup competition results during the objective selection period. Athletes ranking in the top 60 in the World Cup Overall, top 50 in the Distance World Cup standings or the top 50 in the Sprint World Cup standings as of January 18, 2015 shall be selected to the team.

Athletes meeting the general criteria shall be selected to the team, unless application of this criterion would result in a total of more than eight (8) objective selections per

gender, in which case the USSA shall use the following tie-breaking mechanisms in order:

- a.) Most World Cup points in a discipline (distance or sprint) earned between November 29, 2014 and January 18, 2015.
- b.) Best single USSA point result earned between November 29, 2014 and January 18, 2015.

A maximum of four athletes per gender may be selected according to the Sprint World Cup standings on January 18, 2015.

Discretionary Selection Policy:

The USSA may select additional athletes to the Team using coaches' discretion, using factors other than objective criteria such as:

- Outstanding competition results (including any results from the 2013/14 and 2014/15 seasons).
- Recent direction or trend in competition results (i.e., improving, flat, or declining).
- Attitude and commitment of athletes.
- Physical fitness level.
- Illness or injury during the selection period.
- Indicia of medal potential in future Olympic or World Championship competition, which would be materially enhanced by selection to team.
- Other unanticipated failure of objective criteria to select an athlete likely to achieve competition results consistent with USSA program goals for World Championships.

All discretionary selections will be documented and appropriate forms will be available for record keeping purposes. All discretionary selections will be reviewed by a discretionary selection review group comprised of the USSA President and CEO, the Executive Vice President, Athletics, and the athlete representative from that sport who is a member of the USSA Board. If the USSA Board Athlete Representative is also a currently competing athlete then another athlete, who is not actively competing, will be selected by the Athletes' Council to be the representative in this group.

Additional Objective Team Selections:

If team positions remain open after the application of the objective and discretionary criteria listed above, then additional athletes may be nominated in order of ranking, based on the 4th publication of the USSA Sprint and Distance Points Lists valid in January 2015. The USSA Head Coach will use the USSA sprint and distance lists independently to fill available start positions (using the sprint list for the individual sprint event and the distance list for distance events). The USSA Cross Country Head Coach will ensure that the number of athletes selected according to this criteria does not exceed the start rights for each event. If the application of this criteria

would result in a total of more than the maximum number of nominations allowed by the FIS, USSA shall use the following tie-breaking mechanisms in order of priority:

- a.) Most World Cup points in a discipline (distance or sprint) earned between November 29, 2014 and January 18, 2015.
- b.) Best single USSA point result earned between November 29, 2014 and January 18, 2015.

Injury Clause:

An athlete shall be ineligible for consideration if he/she is not fit to compete at the time selections are made due to any injury or illness from which he/she is not expected to recover adequately by the time of the competitions he/she has been selected for. Such determination shall be at the discretion of the USSA Cross Country Head Coach in consultation with the USSA Medical Director, the Head Team Physician, and the athlete's designated physician.

Athlete Replacement Procedure:

In the case that an athlete that has been selected to the team becomes injured or ill prior to the World Championships and is unable to compete, no replacement athlete will be named unless it is deemed that there is sufficient time to make a replacement without disrupting the competition or preparation of other athletes and that the additional athlete would have sufficient time to properly prepare for the competition. This decision will be made by the Head Cross Country Coach after consulting with the CEO of the USSA, the Executive Vice President, Athletics and the USSA Medical Director. Should an additional athlete be considered, the same criteria as outlined above shall be followed to select that athlete. No athletes will be named to the team following the conclusion of mandatory training or within five days of the start of the World Championships.

Team Announcement:

Selections to the 2015 U.S. Cross Country World Championship Team shall be announced on January 26, 2015 (tentative) at the offices of USSA in Park City, Utah and shall be published immediately upon announcement.