

United States Ski and Snowboard Association (USSA)
ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES
YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES – Lillehammer, Norway
Nordic Combined
June 15, 2015

1. SELECTION SYSTEM

1.1. Provide the minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for nomination to the Team:

1.1.1. Citizenship:

Athlete must be a national of the United States at the time of selection and hold a valid U.S. passport that will not expire for six months after the conclusion of the Games.

1.1.2. Minimum International Federation (IF) standards for participation (if any):

- To be eligible for the 2016 Youth Olympic Games (YOG), athletes must have been born between 1 January 1998 and 31 December 2000.
- Athletes must be registered with a FIS license and have competed in a FIS-level or Continental Cup competition to be eligible.

1.1.3. Other requirements (if any):

- Only USSA Jumping/ Nordic Competitor members with a valid FIS Ski Jumping license who are in good standing are eligible for consideration.
- Athletes must attend for the entire duration of the Games.
- Athletes must participate in the cultural and education program, and mixed team events as requested.

1.2. Tryout Events:

1.2.1. Provide the event names, dates and locations of all trials, events and camps to be used as part of the selection process.

FIS World Cups (for more information please visit:
<http://www.fis-ski.com/nordic-combined/index.html>) Selection to the World Cup for USST can be found at
<http://nordic.uskiteam.com/nordic-programs/coaches/criteria>

FIS Continental Cup: (for more information please visit:
<http://www.fis-ski.com/nordic-combined/index.html>). Selection

to the COC for USST can be found at
<http://nordic.usskiteam.com/nordic-programs/coaches/criteria>

USSA Youth Olympic Trials - December 5, 2015 in Steamboat Springs, CO (HS100/5km) and December 29, 2015 in Lake Placid, NY (HS100/5km)
(both events will be used to determine the overall ranking).

- 1.2.2. Provide event names, dates, locations and description of how athletes qualify for the trials, events and camps listed above in 1.2.1.

FIS World Cups (for more information please visit:
<http://www.fis-ski.com/nordic-combined/index.html>) Selection to the World Cup for USST can be found at
<http://nordic.usskiteam.com/nordic-programs/coaches/criteria>

FIS Continental Cup: (for more information please visit:
<http://www.fis-ski.com/nordic-combined/index.html>). Selection to the COC for USST can be found at
<http://nordic.usskiteam.com/nordic-programs/coaches/criteria>

Both trials events in Steamboat and Lake Placid are open events. For more information on registration contact: The Steamboat winter sports club events page at
<http://www.sswsc.org/ncjumping/events.html> and the Lake Placid events page at: <http://www.whiteface.com/activities-events/events>

- 1.3. Provide a comprehensive, step-by-step description of the method that explains how athletes will go through the selection process to become Team nominees (include maximum Team size).

- Up to one (1) man will be named based on quotas established by the FIS.
- One (1) man will be named as alternate, but will not travel to the 2016 YOG unless replacing a team member.
- Events to be contested will include a Normal Hill Nordic Combined Individual 5km event.

Selection Procedures

Athletes may be selected to the U.S. Nordic Combined Youth Olympic Team based solely upon their competition results during the period of November 1, 2015 to January 4th, 2016.

- Eligible NC athletes achieving a top 15 in a World Cup and/or a top 5 in the Continental Cup (COC) competition will be selected to the team.

- In the case of two or more individuals residing in the top15 World Cup or Top 5 in the COC, the athlete with the highest ranking will be selected. (A single World Cup point or rank will be selected over any Continental Cup point or rank. I.E. 30th place in World Cup beats 1st place in the Continental Cup)
- If there are no athletes that meet the World Cup or the COC criteria, than the athlete selection shall be granted to the eligible junior athlete with the best world ranking on January 4, 2016. If there are no athletes that qualify on the world ranking lists, the using the FIS World Cup list first. If no athlete appears on the FIS World Cup List then we will move to the FIS COC list. (Explained above / true, we may not have a YOG candidate on either ranking list).If an athlete (and alternate) have not been selected through the world cup and continental cup ranking, the USSA will select an athlete based on results from the USSA Youth Olympic Trials set for December 5, 2015 in Steamboat Springs, CO (HS100/5km) and December 28-30, 2015 in Lake Placid, NY (HS100/5km). World Cup point ranking system will be used to establish the ranking order after each event. The two events will be added together. The athlete with the highest points will be chosen from the combined list.
In the event of a tie in any ranking (WC, COC or YOG Trials), the following tie breaking method will be used:
 - Highest single WC finish during the selection period.
 - Highest single COC finish during the selection period.
 - Highest World Ranking during the 2015-16 season.
 - Highest single USSA JWC Trials finish.

2. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION (if applicable)

2.1. Provide rationale for utilizing discretionary selection (if any):

N/A

2.2. List the discretionary criteria and explain how they will be used (if any):

N/A

2.3. Provide the name of the committee that will be responsible for making discretionary selections, along with a complete list of the members currently serving on the committee and their titles:

N//A

2.3.1. Conflict of Interest

Any member of the selection committee that has a possible conflict of interest must disclose it. If such conflict exists, the selection committee member must recuse him/herself from committee discussions and voting. Further, the committee member should not otherwise influence other members of the committee in the nomination process. However, a committee member who recused him/herself, but who has relevant and necessary information with respect to athlete performance, for example a national team coach or high performance director, may, if requested by the selection committee, provide such information to the committee so long as such information is provided in a fair and unbiased manner and the committee member who declared the conflict of interest does not vote toward the final decision.

3. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES

- 3.1. Prior to acceptance of nominations by the USOC, USSA has jurisdiction over potential nominees.

An athlete who is to be nominated to the Team by USSA may be removed as a nominee for any of the following reasons, as determined by USSA:

- 3.1.1. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written letter to the USSA's Executive Director.
- 3.1.2. Injury or illness as certified by an approved USSA physician (or medical staff). If an athlete refuses verification of his/her illness or injury by an approved USSA physician (or medical staff), his/her injury will be assumed to be disabling and he/she may be removed.
- 3.1.3. Violation of USSA's Code of Conduct. (Attachment 1)

An athlete who is removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per USSA's Constitution and Bylaws as mentioned in "Article IX A. Grievances" and the USOC's Bylaws, Section 9.

- 3.2. Once an athlete nomination is accepted by the USOC, the USOC has jurisdiction over the Team, at which time, in addition to USSA's Code of Conduct, the USOC's Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures apply.

The USOC's Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures can be found at:

<http://www.teamusa.org/Athlete-Resources/Athlete-Ombudsman/Resources/Code-of-Conduct>

<http://www.teamusa.org/Footer/Legal/Governance-Documents>

- 3.3. An athlete may be removed as a nominee to the Team or from the Team for an adjudicated violation of IOC, PASO, IPC, WADA, IF, USADA and/or USOC anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures, as applicable.

4. REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES

- 4.1. Describe the selection and approval process for determining replacement athlete(s) should a vacancy occur:

- 4.1.1. Prior to submission of Entries by Name to the Local Organizing Committee, including any applicable group or committee:

In the case that an athlete needs to be replaced, 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 replacement athlete would have sufficient time to properly prepare for the competition. This decision will be made by the replacement selection review group comprised of the President and CEO of USSA, the USSA Vice President of Athletics, the USSA Nordic Director, and the USSA Board athlete representative.

Should a replacement athlete be considered, the procedures as outlined in Section 1.3. will be followed to select the replacement athlete.

- 4.1.2. After submission of Entries by Name to the Local Organizing Committee, including any applicable group or committee:

See 4.1.2 above

5. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

USSA will retain the approved Selection Procedures and all supporting documents, including scouting or evaluation forms, etc., and data from the selection process for six months past the date of conclusion of the Games.

6. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

The following documents are required to be signed by an athlete as a condition of nomination to the Youth Olympic Games and are included as attachments:

N/A

7. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES

The USOC approved Selection Procedures (complete and unaltered) will be posted/published by USSA in the following locations:

7.1. NGB's Website: www.ussa.org

These procedures will be posted as soon as possible, but not more than five business days following notice of approval by the USOC.

7.2. Other: N/A

8. DATE OF NOMINATION

The Nomination of Athletes form, including replacements, will be announced to all athletes and submitted to the USOC on or before:

January 5, 2016

9. MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION

Specify the location, schedule and duration of mandatory training and/or competition:

At the time of development of these procedures no mandatory training or competition has been determined for the 2016 Youth Olympic Games Team. In the event that such mandatory training or competition is required for the Team, USSA will immediately notify each Team member and that athlete's coach at least 30 days in advance and will post the information on the USSA website.

10. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS

Athletes must adhere to all IOC, IPC, PASO, WADA, IF, USADA and USOC anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures, as applicable. This includes participation in Out-of-Competition Testing as required by the IOC, IPC, PASO, WADA, IF, USADA and USOC Rules, as applicable.

11. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES

The following committee/group (include names and titles) was responsible for creating these Selection Procedures:

USSA President & CEO	Tiger Shaw
USSA Vice President of Athletics	Luke Bodensteiner
USSA Nordic Manager	Joey Caterinichio
USSA Board Athlete Representative	James Southam
USSA J/NC Sport Committee Chairman	Joe Holland
USSAJ/NC Coach Subcommittee Chairman	Todd Wilson
USSAJ/NC Athlete Rep	Bryan Fletcher
USSAJ/NC Athlete Rep	Clint Jones

12. NGB BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

The USSA's Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found at:

<http://ussa.org/sites/default/files/documents/executive/2011-12/documents/USSA%20bylaws%20legal%20-%205%2011.pdf>

13. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER

These procedures are based on IOC and FIS rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in IOC and FIS rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes immediately. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to USSA. However, the selections are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances, and realistically may not have accounted for every possible contingency.

If any force of nature, or force majeure, should cause the alteration or cancellation of any of the selection events listed in this document, these selection procedures will be revised, pursuant to their resubmission to the USOC.

14. ATHLETE OMBUDSMAN

Athletes who have questions regarding their opportunity to compete that are not answered by USSA may contact the USOC Athlete Ombudsman, Kacie Wallace, by:

- Telephone at (719) 866-5000
- kacie.wallace@usoc.org
- <http://www.teamusa.org/Athlete-Resources/Athlete-Ombudsman>

15. NGB SIGNATURES

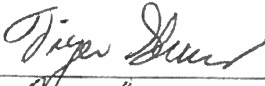
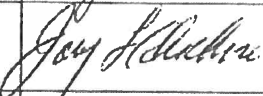
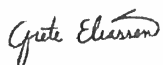
I certify that I have read and understand the standards/criteria set by our IF and incorporated those standards/criteria into our Selection Procedures. I further certify that the information provided herein regarding Athlete Selection Procedures represents the method approved by USSA.

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
NGB President or CEO/Executive Director	Tiger Shaw		
Nat. Team Coach, Head Coach, or Nat. Program Director	Joey Caterinichio		
USOC Athletes' Advisory Council Representative*	Grete Eliassen		

* If the USOC AAC Representative has delegated authority to the Alternate AAC Representative to sign the Selection Procedures, attach a letter from the AAC Representative indicating the reason he/she has delegated authority.

15. NGB SIGNATURES

I certify that I have read and understand the standards/criteria set by our IF and incorporated those standards/criteria into our Selection Procedures. I further certify that the information provided herein regarding Athlete Selection Procedures represents the method approved by USSA.

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
NGB President or CFO/Executive Director	Tiger Shaw		7/24/15
Nat. Team Coach, Head Coach, or Nat. Program Director	Joey Caterinichio		7/13/15
USOC Athletes' Advisory Council Representative*	Grete Eliassen		07 / 16 / 2015

* If the USOC AAC Representative has delegated authority to the Alternate AAC Representative to sign the Selection Procedures, attach a letter from the AAC Representative indicating the reason he/she has delegated authority.

* Signature by the Athlete Representative constitutes that he/she has read and understands the Selection Procedures. If the Athlete Representative reads and does not agree with the Athlete Selection Procedures being submitted by the NGB, he/she may submit those reasons in writing to his/her Sport Performance Team.

* If, for some reason, a sport does not have an elected USOC AAC Representative, the NGB must designate an athlete from that sport to review and sign the Selection Procedures.

Attachment 1 - USSA Code of Conduct

Membership in the United States Ski and Snowboard Association is a privilege, not a right. All USSA members (athletes, coaches, and officials) when participating in any USSA activity must agree to conduct themselves according to USSA's core values of Team, Loyalty, Integrity, Respect, Perseverance, and Accountability and abide by the spirit and dictates of this Code of Conduct. All members must agree to comport themselves in a sportsmanlike manner, and are responsible for their actions while attending or participating in all USSA activities (including but not limited to camps, competitions, and projects).

Sportsmanlike conduct is defined as, but is not limited to: respect for competition officials, resort employees, and the skiing and snowboarding public, respect for facilities, privileges and operating procedures, the use of courtesy and good manners, acting responsibly and maturely, refraining from the use of profane or abusive language, and abstinence from illegal or immoderate use of alcohol and use of illegal or banned drugs.

While participating in any USSA activity:

1. USSA members shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the International Ski Federation Statutes, the United States Olympic Committee Bylaws, the USSA Bylaws, and the USSA Code of Conduct.
2. USSA members shall conduct themselves at all times and in all places as befits worthy representatives of the United States of America, the United States Olympic Committee, USSA, their region, division, state or club and in accordance with the best traditions of national and international competition.
3. USSA members are responsible for knowledge of and adherence to competition rules and procedures. Members are also responsible for knowledge of and adherence to the rules and procedures of the USSA national teams, camps or other projects when participating in such.
4. USSA members shall maintain high standards of moral and ethical conduct, which includes self-control and responsible behavior, consideration for the physical and emotional well-being of others, and courtesy and good manners.
5. USSA members shall abide by USSA rules and procedures while traveling to and from and participating in official USSA activities.
6. USSA members shall abstain from illegal and/or immoderate consumption of alcohol. Absolutely no consumption of alcohol is permitted for those individuals under the age of 21. Members under 21 years of age shall not participate in gatherings involving consumption of alcohol unless it is an official USSA or event organizer function.
7. No USSA member shall violate the customs, travel or currency regulations of a country while traveling with a USSA group or on a USSA ticket.

8. No USSA member shall commit a criminal act.

9. No USSA member shall engage in any conduct that could be perceived as harassment based upon gender, age, race, religion or disability.

10. USSA members will avoid profane or abusive language and disruptive behavior.

11. USSA members agree to abide by anti-doping rules, policies and procedures established by WADA, USADA, the USOC and/or FIS.

Failure to comply with any of the above provisions may lead to disciplinary action by the appropriate team or competition leader. Disciplinary action may include:

- Removal from the team trip or training camp.
- Suspension from training and/or competition.
- Elimination of coaching, travel, and other benefits.
- Forfeiture of USSA membership.

USSA is committed to principles of fairness, due process and equal opportunity. Members are entitled to be treated fairly and in compliance with USSA's Bylaws, policies and procedures. Members are entitled to notice and an opportunity for a hearing before being prevented from participating in protected competition as that term is defined by the USOC Bylaws. Information on the processes for grievances, suspensions and appeals is available at www.ussa.org.

Nothing in this Code shall be deemed to restrict the individual freedom of a USSA member in matters not involving activities in which one could not be perceived as representing USSA. In choices of appearance, lifestyle, behavior and speech while not representing USSA, competitors shall have complete freedom, provided their statements and actions do not adversely affect the name and reputation of the USSA. However, in those events where one is representing or could be perceived as representing USSA, USSA demands that its members understand and agree to behave in a manner consistent with the best traditions of sportsmanship and USSA's core values.