

## **United States Ski & Snowboard Association**

### **2017 Nordic Combined Junior World Championships Team Selection Criteria – Park City, UT USA January 30-February 05 2017**

#### 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.
- The USSA Nordic Combined staff is responsible for applying the selection criteria set forth herein, subject to the oversight of the USSA Nordic Director.
- A minimum of four athletes and a maximum of six athletes will be chosen to represent the United States in the 2017 Junior World Championships.
- The quota of start rights per nation is set by the FIS, but is typically four athletes per event. In cases where the team size may exceed the quota, start rights are determined by the USSA Nordic combined coaching staff.
- Objective selections shall be based on the results achieved by athletes in FIS Nordic Combined World Cup and COC competitions held between November 25, 2016 and January 22, 2017 and the Junior World Championship Trials. Discretionary selections, if any, may be based on a variety of factors, including competitions conducted outside of the selection period.
- Team status does not include funding from the USSA.

#### General Criteria:

Athletes may be selected to the U.S. Nordic Combined Junior World Championship (JWC) Team based solely upon their competition results during the selection period.

- Junior NC athletes achieving a top 15 in World Cup and/or a top 5 in COC competition will be selected to the team.
- If positions are still available, further Team selections shall be granted to those junior athletes with the best world ranking on January 22, 2017 (tentative) in order, until the team is filled. In the absence of one single world ranking list, the USSA will use the WC list first, then the COC list second.
- If fewer than four athletes have been selected through their World Cup and/or Continental Cup the USSA shall select as many additional athletes as may be necessary to bring the total team size up to the USA quota, as established by FIS. These athletes will be selected in rank order from the USSA Junior World Championship Trials set for Steamboat Springs, CO

December 03-10, 2016 (HS100/10km) and Park City, UT Dec 30-31, 2016 (HS100/5km) and (HS100/10km)

Athletes meeting the general criteria shall be selected to the team, unless application of these criteria would result in a total team size exceeding the FIS quota, in which case the USSA shall use the following tie-breaking mechanisms in order:

- Highest single WC finish during the selection period.
- Highest single COC finish during the selection period.
- Highest World Ranking during the 2016-2017 season.
- Highest single USSA JWC Trials finish.

Discretionary Selection Policy:

USSA may select up to one athlete to the team using coaches' discretion. If the coaching staff fills any available spot(s) on the team with discretionary selections, then the staff may consider any factors including (but not limited to) the following:

- Outstanding competition results (including results achieved outside of the selection period).
- Recent direction or trend of 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.
- Nordic Combined athletes are eligible to qualify as ski jumpers, and ski jumpers and Nordic combined athletes after approval from the head coaches of both the Nordic Combined and Ski Jumping programs.

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 Nordic Director in consultation with the USSA Medical Director, the Head Team Physician, and the athlete's designated physician.