

United States Ski & Snowboard Association

2017 U.S. Nordic Combined 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 six athletes may be selected to represent the United States in Nordic Combined at the 2017 World Championships.
- Up to four 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 Nordic Combined staff.
- The Nordic Combined Head Coach is responsible for applying the selection criteria set forth herein, subject to the approval of the Chief Executive Officer and the EVP Athletics of the USSA.
- No minimum team size will be established.
- Objective selections shall be based on results in World Cup & Continental Cup (COC) competitions held between November 25, 2016 and February 05, 2017 (the "selection period").
- Discretionary selections, if any, may be based on a variety of factors, including competitions conducted outside of the selection period.
- U.S. Nordic Combined 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 five athletes shall be selected to the team based solely upon their World Cup & COC competition results during the selection period.

- Athletes ranking in the top 50 of the FIS World Cup Ranking List at the time the team is named shall be selected to the team.
- Athletes who achieve a top 10 in World Cup competition.
- Athletes who achieve a podium result in COC.
- Athletes who achieve a podium result in JWSC

Athletes meeting the objective criteria shall be selected to the team, unless application of these criteria would result in a total of more than six objective selections, in which case the USSA shall use the following tie-breaking mechanisms in order:

1. Best ranking on the most current FIS World Cup Ranking List
2. Best single performance on the World Cup during the selection period
3. Best single performance on the COC during the selection period

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 from the 2015-2016 or 2016-2017 seasons.
- Recent positive direction or trend of competition results indicating a potential for Olympic success.
- Indication of medal potential in future Olympic or World Championship competition (such as international age group results and rankings) that would be materially enhanced by selection to the team.

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 EVP 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:

Additional athletes may be selected to enable the USSA to field a team to achieve its strategic objectives at the World Championships. If additional objective team selections are made, they will be made using the FIS World Cup Ranking List for Nordic Combined first, and then the FIS Continental Cup Ranking List based on rankings as of February 05, 2017. Any number of additional objective selections may be made up to the maximum team size.

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 Head Nordic Combined 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 Nordic Director after consulting with the CEO of the

USSA, the EVP Athletics, the Head Coach 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 2017 U.S. Nordic Combined World Championship Team shall be announced on Feb 06, 2017 (tentative) at the offices of USSA in Park City, Utah and shall be published immediately upon announcement.