

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

### **2018 U.S. Cross Country Team Nomination Criteria**

#### **Eligibility for Consideration:**

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.

An athlete shall be ineligible for consideration if previously suspended or removed from team membership without having been reinstated by the USSA. 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 USSA Cross Country Head Coach approves the request.

The U.S. Ski Team will select only the most qualified athletes with the greatest possibilities for winning medals in future World Championship and Olympic Winter Games competitions. Selection criteria will stress performance in the World Ski Championships, the World Cup and the U23/World Junior Championships in the 2016-17 season. Selection criteria will also stress progress toward individual performance markers, set forth by the U.S. Ski Team coaches, which point toward international success.

#### **Criteria Guidelines:**

- The USSA Cross Country Head Coach is responsible for applying the selection criteria set forth herein, subject to the oversight of the Chief Executive Officer and the VP of Athletics USSA.
- Objective selections shall be based on the results achieved by athletes in FIS competitions held between November 1, 2016 and April 3, 2017 (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 USSA for competition or for preparation.
- No minimum team size will be established.
- Athletes who have been given individual performance criteria to meet will be subject to those specific criteria and not to general criteria as outlined below.
- Athletes must be willing to commit to and to participate in the full U.S. Ski Team camp and race season structure.

#### **General Criteria:**

Athletes may be selected to the team based solely upon their competition results during the selection period. Athletes meeting the following objective criteria will be selected to the U.S. Ski Team:

- Attain top-50 ranking in the 2017 final World Cup Overall ranking list.
- Attain top-30 ranking in the 2017 final World Cup Sprint or Distance ranking list.
- Attain top-20 ranking in the 2017 FIS final sprint or distance points list.
- Attain a top-3 individual finish at the 2017 Junior World Championships or U-23 World Championships.

Discretionary Selection Policy:

USSA may select additional athletes to the team using coaches' discretion based upon factors other than the objective criteria. If the coaching staff fills any spot(s) on the team with discretionary selections, then the staff may consider any factors including (but not limited to) the following:

- Completion of individual markers, as set forth by the U.S. Ski Team coaching staff and as approved by the USSA Head Cross Country Coach, which point toward the achievement of competition results consistent with U.S. Ski Team program goals.
- Attitude and commitment of athletes to take part in the complete USST coaching, camp and competition program.
- Illness or injury during the selection period.
- Indicia of medal potential in future Olympic and World Championship competitions, 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 the USSA program goals.

In-season Promotion:

Athletes will not be promoted in season. No athletes will be demoted during the season; however, funding may be suspended at any time if progress or commitment is not consistent with the team program and athlete does not remain in good standing.

USSA Core Values and Code of Conduct

Athletes must demonstrate a capability to adhere to USSA Values and Code of Conduct in order to be eligible for nomination.