

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

### **2017 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 USA-coded 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 25, 2016 and January 16, 2017, and all SuperTour races held between Dec. 3, 2016 and January 10, 2017, all individual Nor/Ams held on Dec. 9-11, 2016, and a special Sprint Qualifier held at Soldier Hollow, UT on January 12, 2017 (tentative).
- 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 will be selected to the team based solely upon their competition results during the selection period, up to the maximum allowable quota.

- Any eligible athlete that posts a top-8 individual final World Cup result during the selection period in the following events will be selected to the Team: Sprint F, individual start 10/15 km C, and 15/30 km Skiathlon.
- Athletes ranking in the top-50 in the Distance World Cup standings or the top-50 in the Sprint World Cup standings as of January 16, 2017 shall be selected to the team.

A maximum of five athletes per gender may be selected according to the Sprint World Cup results and standings on January 16, 2017. Athletes qualifying via top-8 individual sprint finishes will be selected before athletes qualifying via top-50 World Cup Sprint points. In the event of a tie for the 5<sup>th</sup> qualifying sprint selection, USSA shall use the following tie-breaking mechanisms in order:

- a.) Best single World Cup Sprint finish in the selection period.
- b.) Next best single World Cup Sprint finish in the selection period.
- c.) Third best single World Cup Sprint finish in the selection period.

In the event that these objective selections would exceed the USSA's maximum allowable quota, the USSA shall use the following tie-breaking mechanisms in order:

- a.) Best single World Cup finish in the selection period.
- b.) Next best single World Cup Sprint finish in the selection period.
- c.) Third best single World Cup Sprint finish in 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 (including any results from the 2015/16 and 2016/17 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 Team Selections

Should there be any remaining positions after the Objective and Discretionary selection has been applied, those positions may be filled by considering the athlete ranking highest on the 2017 Championship Selection List, which is an accumulation of SuperTour points scored during the selection period using the athlete's best 2 finishes in a single discipline (sprint or distance) and using the Championship Selection List scoring system outlined below.

- Individual sprint events to be scored for the purpose of the 2017 Championship Selection List will only consider qualification round finish placing.
- U.S. National Championship race finishes and one additional sprint race in the week following U.S. National Championships (to be held January 12, 2017) will include the following bonus SuperTour points for the purpose of the 2017 Championship Selection List only: 1<sup>st</sup> place = 15 points, 2<sup>nd</sup> place = 10 points, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place = 5 points. For the purpose of the 2017 Championship Selection List only, U.S. National Championship participants will receive standard SuperTour points (i.e. 1<sup>st</sup> place = 30 points, 2<sup>nd</sup> place = 25 points, etc.) plus the above bonus points awarded for podium finishes.
- For the purposes of the 2017 Championship Selection List, athletes that are not US citizens will not be included in the scoring, and US athletes will move up the results/scoring list as foreign athletes are eliminated.

The highest ranked athlete who was not nominated to the team by Objective or Discretionary selection may be recommended by the Head Coach to the Selection Committee, who may nominate additional selections.

The total number of selections made using Sprint criteria (World Cup sprint results, World Cup sprint rankings and 2017 Championship Selection List points) will not exceed 5 men and/or 5 women.

In the event of a tie, the USSA shall use the following tie-breaking mechanisms in order:

- a.) Best single Selection List Race finish in the selection period, within the pool that is being considered.
- b.) Second best single Selection List Race finish in the selection period, within the pool that is being considered.
- c.) Third best single Selection List Race finish in the selection period, within the pool that is being considered.
- d.) Fourth best single Selection List Race finish in the selection period, within the pool that is being considered.

### 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 2017 U.S. Cross Country World Championship Team shall be announced on January 23, 2017 (tentative) at the offices of USSA in Park City, Utah and shall be published immediately upon announcement.