

USOPC Internally Managed Sports (IMS) - Ski Mountaineering

Athlete Selection Procedures

2026 Olympic Winter Games

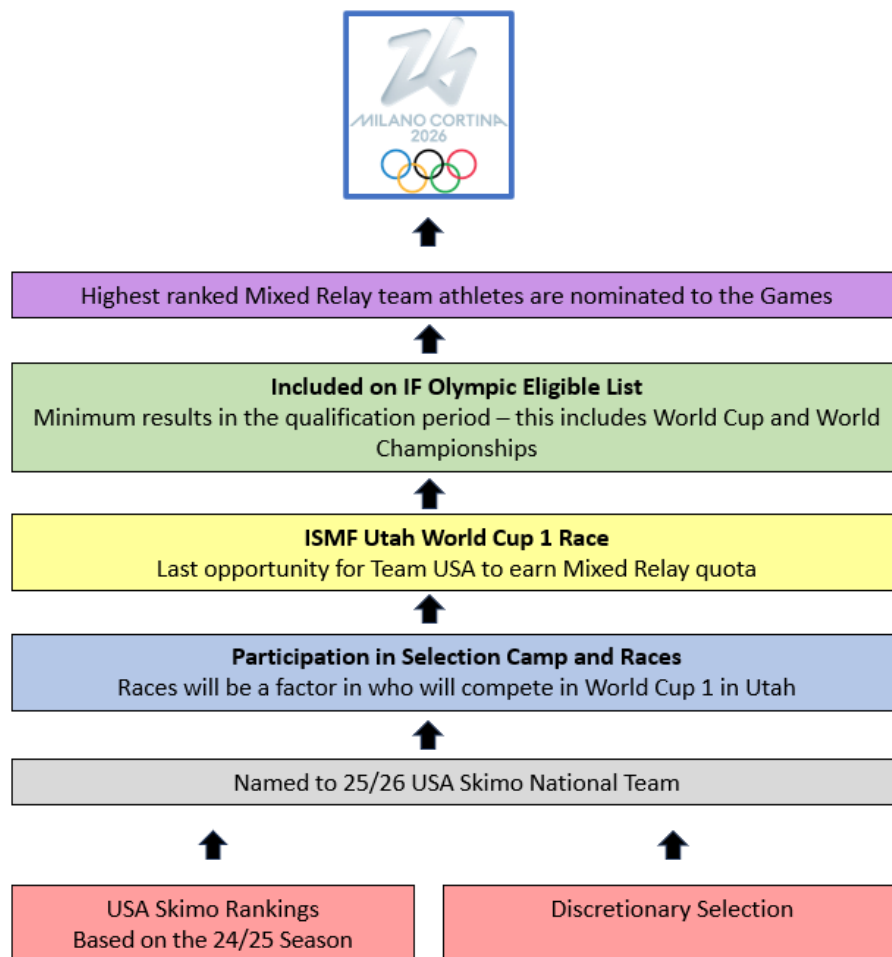
- Publication Date: September 23, 2025
- IMS – Ski Mountaineering posted a Preliminary Notice in December 2024 and a revised Preliminary Notice on July 8, 2025 and September 10, 2025 (see <https://www.teamusa.com/ski-mountaineeing/selection-procedures>)

SECTION 1: OVERVIEW

These procedures outline the pathway for nomination to the Milano-Cortina 2026 Olympic Winter Games for Ski Mountaineering. The maximum Team size for Team USA is one (1) male and one (1) female athlete. However, final Team size will depend on earned International Ski Mountaineering Federation (ISMF) Mixed Relay quota. ISMF quota is awarded to the National Olympic Committee (NOC).

SECTION 2: SELECTION PROCESS DIAGRAM

The following provides a high-level overview of how athletes will be nominated to the Team:



Note: This diagram is for informational purposes only. In the event of a conflict between the diagram and any written section herein, the written sections will take precedent.

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SECTION 3: ATHLETE REQUIREMENTS

1. Nationality/Passports Requirements:
 - Have a valid United States passport at the time of nomination that does not expire for six months after the conclusion of the 2026 Olympic Winter Games (Games).
2. Minimum International Olympic Committee (IOC) Requirements:
 - Abide by the rules in the Olympic Charter, including nationality/citizenship requirements.
 - For additional information regarding an athlete who is a national of two or more countries, has changed his or her nationality or acquired a new nationality, refer to the [Olympic Charter](#) (Rule 41).
 - Abide by the IOC Eligibility of Conditions Form/Conditions of Participation Form
3. Organizing Committee Olympic Games Requirements (OCOG) Requirements:
 - Comply with all rules and policies implemented by the OCOG for Milano-Cortina 2026.
4. ISMF (IF) Requirements:
 - Athlete must be born on or before 31 December 2007.
 - Athlete must satisfy the medical requirements in accordance with Article D-24 of the [ISMF Rules & Guidelines](#) and the [ISMF Anti-Doping Rules](#).
 - Athlete must have achieved Olympic Games standard A, B, or C as below:
 - A. Have placed in the top 80.00% of the ranked athletes as published on the official ISMF results at least once (1) in any Sprint or Mixed Relay competition at an ISMF World Cup during the Olympic Qualification period or in the ISMF World Championships 2025.
 - B. Have placed in the top 90.00% of the ranked athletes as published on the official ISMF results at least two (2) times in any Sprint or Mixed Relay competition at an ISMF World Cup during the Olympic Qualification period or in the ISMF World Championships 2025.
 - C. Have placed in the top 6 of the ranked athletes as published on the official ISMF results at least one (1) time in any Sprint or Mixed Relay competition at an ISMF U18 Youth World Cup during the Olympic Qualification period or in the U18 ISMF World Championships 2025.
 - Comply with all ISMF eligibility requirements found here (see Qualification): <https://olympics.com/ioc/documents/olympic-games/milano-cortina-2026-olympic-winter-games>
5. USOPC Requirements:
 - Comply with all USOPC rules applicable to the Games (e.g., Demonstrations).
 - Complete all USOPC Games Registration requirements by the stated deadline.
 - Comply with the USOPC Delegation Terms, including the Conduct Requirements, which will be made available here: <https://www.usopc.org/games-and-qualification>
 - Comply with the [USOPC Athlete Safety Policy](#) and the [U.S. Center for SafeSport Code](#), including education and training requirements.
 - Comply with the current [USOPC Background Check Policy](#).

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6. IMS Requirements:

- Comply with the USOPC IMS – Ski Mountaineering Athlete Agreement.
- Comply with the [Athlete Code of Conduct for Internally Managed Sport](#).
- Athlete does not have an active suspension from the U.S. Center for SafeSport that would make the Athlete ineligible to participate in the Games.
- Athlete does not have an active sanction for an anti-doping rule/policy violation that would make the Athlete ineligible to participate in the Games.

SECTION 4: OTHER MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE TEAM

- Agree to be bound by and adhere to all IOC, WADA, ISMF, USADA and USOPC anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures, as applicable. This includes participation in Out-of-Competition Testing and an agreement to be bound to the results management authority of the IOC, WADA, ISMF, USADA, or other Anti-Doping Organization as applicable.
- Meet all health and safety protocols, to include vaccine requirements and/or testing requirements set forth by the government, local laws, USOPC, ISMF and/or the OCOG.

SECTION 5: EVALUATIVE EVENTS

Event names, dates and locations of all trials, competitions, and camps to be used as part of the selection process:

EVENT NAME	DATES / DESCRIPTION
ISMF World Cup 1	December 14 – 15, 2024 Courchevel, FRA
ISMF World Cup 2	January 10 – 13, 2025 Shahdag, AZE
ISMF World Cup 3	January 25 – 26, 2025 Arinsal – La Massana, AND
ISMF World Cup 4	February 1 – 2, 2025 Boí Taüll, ESP
ISMF World Cup 5	February 22 – 23, 2025 Bormio, ITA
ISMF 2025 Junior and Senior World Championships	March 2 – 9, 2025 Morgins, SUI

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EVENT NAME	DATE(S) / DESCRIPTION
ISMF World Cup 6	March 14 – 15, 2025 Schladming, AUT
ISMF World Cup 7	March 20 – 22, 2025 Val Martello, ITA
ISMF World Cup 8	April 4 – 5, 2025 Villars-sur-Ollon, SUI
ISMF World Cup 9	April 10 – 15, 2025 Tromsø, NOR
Selection Races/Team Camp*	November 20 – 24, 2025 Brighton, UT (USA)
ISMF World Cup 1	December 6 – 7, 2025 Solitude, UT (USA)

*Participation in the November 2025 Training Camp and Selection Races is required for nomination to the Olympic Team.

SECTION 6: SELECTION PROCESS

Provide a step-by-step description of the selection process including an overview of the ISMF Qualification System.

6.1 TOTAL QUOTA PLACES:

The maximum Team size for Team USA is one (1) male and one (1) female athlete. However, final Team size will depend on earned International Ski Mountaineering Federation (ISMF) Mixed Relay quota. ISMF quota is awarded to the National Olympic Committee (NOC).

- IMS Ski Mountaineering can earn one (1) Mixed Relay quota slot at ISMF World Cup 1 in December 2025.
- If IMS Ski Mountaineering earns the Mixed Relay quota slot, the athletes nominated to compete in the Mixed Relay will also be eligible to participate in the Sprint event at the Games.

6.2 EVALUATION EVENT QUALIFICATION PATHWAY:

a. 2024-25 ISMF World Cup Events

Athletes were selected for ISMF World Cup Events in the 2024-25 season based on the qualifications established by USA Skimo. These qualifications are outlined in the [2024/2025 USA Skimo National Team Selection document](#) (see Appendix A).

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- Athletes could also have been selected for ISMF World Cup Events by USOPC IMS – Ski Mountaineering for the Olympic disciplines of Sprint and Mixed Relay through the discretionary selection criteria outlined in the 2024/2025 USA Skimo National Team Selection document. This information was also posted in the [Preliminary Notice to the Athlete Selection Procedure for the Milano Cortina 2026 Olympic Games](#).

b. 2025 ISMF World Championships

Athletes were selected for the 2025 ISMF World Championships based on the [athlete selection procedures](#) established by USOPC IMS – Ski Mountaineering.

c. 2025-26 USA Skimo National Team

Athletes can qualify for the 2025-26 USA Skimo National Team based on the [2025/26 USA Skimo National Team Selection document](#).

d. November 2025 Training Camp and Selection Races

Please note that participation in the November 2025 Training Camp and Selection Races is required for nomination to the Olympic Team unless the athlete receives an approved Waiver (see Section e(3) below).

All National Team athletes who are age-eligible to compete at the Olympic Games will be invited to participate in the November 2025 Training Camp and Selection Races.

e. ISMF World Cup 1 - December 6-7, 2025

1) Sprint athletes

- Eligible athletes who are interested in competing in the Sprint must contact the USA Skimo Head of Sport by September 30, 2025.
- Athletes will be entered to compete in the Sprint discipline at ISMF World Cup 1 if they meet the above deadline and criteria below.
 - Male athletes must finish with a result that is within 15 percent from the winner of the November selection races.
 - Female athletes must finish with a result that is within 10 percent from the winner of the November selection races.
- Athletes will also be entered to compete in the Sprint discipline at ISMF World Cup 1 if they receive an approved Waiver (see Section e(3) below).

2) Mixed Relay athletes

- USA Skimo will select eligible athletes to compete in the Mixed Relay based on the best

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strategic approach to secure the final quota slot for Team USA.

- USA Skimo will determine the number of Mixed Relay athletes to enter in the ISMF World Cup 1 no later than one (1) day prior to the competition.

Selection Scenario 1:

USA Skimo will enter one (1) athlete per gender if:

1. There are twelve (12) or fewer competitive national teams entered (defined as countries ranked in the top 14 on the official ISMF international rankings; and
2. Canada enters only one (1) athlete per gender in the Mixed Relay.

Selection Scenario 2:

If Selection Scenario 1 is not applicable, USA Skimo will enter two (2) athletes per gender to compete in the Mixed Relay at ISMF World Cup 1.

Discretionary Selection Criteria for either Mixed Relay scenario:

The following criteria which is not listed in priority order may be considered by the Selection Committee when determining which athletes will be selected for the Mixed Relay.

- The athlete's performance at the November 2025 training camp/selection races
- The athlete's performance in World Cup and World Championship races during the 2024-25 season
- The athlete's USA Skimo National Team Ranking as of November 24, 2025
- The athlete's Waiver Request Form (if applicable)

The Selection Committee for the Mixed Relay at ISMF World Cup 1 will consist of:

- Oscar Angeloni – USA Skimo Head Coach
- Sarah Cookler – USA Skimo Head of Sport
- Rory Kelly – USA Skimo Athlete Representative

3) Waiver Request Process

To be eligible to submit a waiver, an athlete must:

1. Have been invited to participate in the November 2025 training camp/selection races;
2. Have experienced a verifiable illness, injury, or extenuating circumstance that prevented the athlete from competing in the November selection races or that negatively affected the athlete's performance in the November selection races; and
3. Meet the criteria below:

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- i. For a Sprint Waiver Request: Be ranked in the top three (3) on the USA Skimo National Team Ranking or U-20 USA Skimo National Team Ranking for Sprint.
- ii. For a Mixed Relay Waiver Request: Be ranked on the USA Skimo National Team Ranking or U-20 USA Skimo National Team Ranking for Mixed Relay.

An eligible athlete who wishes to request a waiver must submit a Waiver Request Form (see Appendix B) to the USA Skimo Head of Sport by November 25, 2025 at 11:59pm MT. The waiver must include the applicable documents outlined below.

- A. If the waiver is for an illness or injury, the waiver must be accompanied by an examining physician's statement and any applicable medical records. The nature and extent of the illness or injury is subject to verification by a USA Skimo or IMS approved physician.
 - The athlete must provide a signed release and authorization statement to allow a qualified physician approved by USA Skimo or IMS to review the medical records.
- B. If the waiver is for an extenuating circumstance, medical records will not be required. An extenuating circumstance for this purpose is defined as an unanticipated event that prohibits an athlete from competing in the November 2025 selection races or an unanticipated circumstance, such as a penalty or technical ruling that alters the athlete's result without reflecting the athlete's actual performance in the November selection races. The athlete must submit written evidence to support their claim.
- C. All waivers submitted by the November 25, 2025 deadline will be reviewed by the Selection Committee noted above.
- D. Selection to compete in ISMF World Cup 1.
 - i. Sprint athletes with an approved Waiver will be selected to compete in ISMF World Cup 1.
 - ii. Mixed Relay athletes with an approved Waiver will be added to the athlete pool along with all other Mixed Relay athletes who competed in the November 2025 selection races. The Discretionary Criteria noted above will be used to determine which Mixed Relay athletes are selected to compete in ISMF World Cup 1.

6.3 NOMINATION TO THE TEAM:

- 1) If IMS Ski Mountaineering earns the Mixed Relay quota slot at ISMF World Cup 1 on December 6-7, 2025, one (1) male and one (1) female athlete will be nominated to the Team.
- 2) An athlete must race a minimum of one (1) world cup race and meet the Olympic Games standard

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to be considered eligible for nomination to the Team per ISMF rules. Athletes who meet these criteria will be included on the Olympic Eligibility List that is owned and maintained by the ISMF on [their website](#).

- 3) Athletes will be nominated to the Olympic Team based on their USA Skimo National Team Ranking for Mixed Relay as of December 8, 2025. To have a Mixed Relay USA Skimo National Team Ranking, athletes must finish two (2) races in the 2024-2025 and/or 2025-2026 season as outlined in Section 5.
- 4) The highest ranked male and female athlete on the USA Skimo National Team Ranking for Mixed Relay as of December 8, 2025 will be nominated to the Team. The two (2) athletes nominated to the Team will also be eligible to participate in the Sprint event at the Games.
 - Tiebreaker:
 - If multiple athletes in the same gender are tied or ranked within 0.2 points of each other, the athlete's USA Skimo National Team Ranking for Sprint will be used to break the tie with the highest ranked Sprint athlete being nominated to the Team. The athlete's Sprint ranking will be used to break the tie since the two (2) athletes nominated to the Team are also eligible to race in the Sprint event at the Olympic Games.

In the event of a conflict between this overview and the ISMF Qualification System, the ISMF Qualification System will take precedent. For more details, please refer to the ISMF Qualification System directly here (see Qualification): <https://olympics.com/ioc/documents/olympic-games/milano-cortina-2026-olympic-winter-games>.

SECTION 7: DISCRETIONARY CRITERIA TO NOMINATE ATHLETES

7.1 RATIONALE FOR UTILIZING DISCRETIONARY SELECTION:

Not Applicable

7.2 DEFINE THE DISCRETIONARY CRITERIA TO BE USED:

Not Applicable

7.3 SELECTION COMMITTEE:

Not Applicable

SECTION 8: MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION

USOPC IMS – Ski Mountaineering does not anticipate any mandatory training and/or competition for the two (2) athletes nominated to the Team.

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However, athletes nominated to the Team are expected to continue to work with the USA Skimo National Team and coaching staff prior to the Games. These activities may include competing in additional ISMF World Cup events and/or training opportunities and will be based on an agreed upon schedule with the nominated Team.

SECTION 9: DATE OF TEAM NOMINATION

IMS will nominate the Team, including any replacements/alternates to the USOPC on or before January 5, 2026.

SECTION 10: REMOVAL OF ATHLETES FROM THE TEAM

1. IMS JURISDICTION

IMS has jurisdiction over athlete nominees until athlete entries have been submitted by the USOPC to the OCOG.

- a. An athlete who is nominated to the Team by IMS may be removed for any of the following reasons, as determined by IMS:
 - i. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete submits a written letter to the Senior Director, Internally Managed Sports requesting to voluntarily withdraw from the Team.
 - ii. Injury or illness. A physician (or medical staff) approved by USOPC IMS – Ski Mountaineering provides certification that the Athlete has a debilitating condition. If Athlete refuses to provide verification of their illness or injury by a physician (or medical staff), their injury will be assumed to be debilitating, and they may be removed from the Team.
 - iii. Failure to participate. Athlete does not participate in all Mandatory Training and/or Competition as defined in these procedures.
 - iv. Code of Conduct Violation. Athlete violates the Athlete Code of Conduct for Internally Managed Sport.
 - v. Athlete Agreement. Athlete violates a term in their signed USOPC IMS – Ski Mountaineering Athlete Agreement.
 - vi. Non-compliance. Athlete does not meet the athlete eligibility requirements listed in Section 3 and Section 4 of these selection procedures.
- b. An Athlete may be removed as a nominee to the Team or from the Team if found to have violated IOC, WADA, ISMF, USADA and/or USOPC anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures, the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code, the USOPC Athlete Safety Policy, as applicable.

2. USOPC JURISDICTION

- a. Once Athlete entries have been submitted by the USOPC to the OCOG, the USOPC has jurisdiction over the Team.

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- b. USOPC's Delegation Conduct Requirements apply in addition to the Athlete Code of Conduct for Internally Managed Sport Programs. The Delegation Conduct Requirements in the USOPC Games Delegation Terms are specific to each Games and are made available during the Games registration process.
- c. The USOPC's Grievance Procedures and Hearing Process are found within the USOPC Dispute Resolution Policy and Hearing Procedures.
 - See www.usopc.org/governance/dispute-resolution for more information.

SECTION 11: SELECTION PROCESS IF ATHLETE VACANCY OCCURS PRIOR TO SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES BY NAME TO THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE OF THE OLYMPIC GAMES

- 11.1 Should a vacancy occur prior to submission of Entries by Name by the USOPC to the OCOG, USOPC IMS – Ski Mountaineering will nominate the next highest-ranked Mixed Relay athlete on the USA Skimo National Team Ranking as of December 8, 2025. If a tiebreaker is needed, USOPC IMS – Ski Mountaineering will follow the process outlined in Section 6.3.
- 11.2 All replacement athletes must meet all requirements listed in Sections 3-4.

SECTION 12: SELECTION PROCESS IF ATHLETE VACANCY OCCURS AFTER SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES BY NAME TO THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE OF THE OLYMPIC GAMES

- 12.1 Should a vacancy occur after submission of Entries by Name to the OCOG, if allowed, USOPC IMS – Ski Mountaineering will follow the procedure outlined in Section 11.
- 12.2 Any replacement of athletes must comply with IOC, USOPC, and IF regulations including applicable Late Athlete Replacement (LAR) policies.
- 12.3 All replacement athletes must meet all requirements listed in Sections 3-4.

SECTION 13: RIGHT TO A HEARING

An athlete who is removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per the [IMS Complaint Procedures](#).

SECTION 14: REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

In addition to the USOPC Delegation Conduct Requirements, the following documents are required to be

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signed by an athlete as a condition of nomination to the Olympic Games:

- [Athlete Code of Conduct for Internally Managed Sport](#)
- USOPC IMS – Ski Mountaineering Athlete Agreement

SECTION 15: DISCLAIMERS

These procedures are based on IOC and ISMF rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in IOC and/or ISMF rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes immediately. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to USOPC IMS – Ski Mountaineering.

However, the selection criteria are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances, and realistically may not have accounted for every possible contingency. If any force of nature, pandemic, or force majeure, should cause the alteration or cancellation of any of the selection events listed in this document, these selection procedures may require revisions, pursuant to their resubmission to the USOPC.

SECTION 16: CONFLICT OF INTEREST

All members of the Selection Committee (Section 6.2) and all individuals who developed these selection procedures (Section 21) must comply with the [USOPC Conflict of Interest Policy](#), to include completing and submitting a disclosure form consistent with the USOPC Conflict of Interest Policy before convening the committee.

A conflict of interest exists when a personal, family, financial, professional, club, team or business relationship or interferes with, or may be perceived to interfere with a committee member's ability to be impartial and participate in the selection process in a fair and impartial manner. Any member of the Selection Committee who has an actual, possible, or perceived conflict of interest must disclose it prior to the start of the selection process and may be required to recuse him/herself from the Selection Committee's discussions and/or voting.

If a conflict exists, the USOPC Ethics & Compliance Committee shall review the conflict and determine the committee member's level of involvement (e.g., whether that committee member must recuse him/herself from participating in discussions and/or voting) by following the [USOPC Ethics Procedures](#).

The AAG representative will not participate in the Ethics & Compliance Committee's deliberations or decision. Once a decision has been made, the Ethics & Compliance Committee will provide a written decision, including directions to mitigate the conflict, to the affected parties and to USOPC IMS staff. The Ethics & Compliance Committee's decision is final and is not subject to further review.

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Additionally, any person with a good faith belief that a committee member has a conflict of interest may report the alleged conflict of interest through the [USOPC's Integrity Portal](#). No committee member shall retaliate in any way against a person who, in good faith, reports an alleged conflict of interest. In addition, the USOPC maintains a strict no retaliation policy that prohibits any employee, contractor, agent, volunteer, or member of the USOPC to take or threaten to take any action against an athlete for reporting information to or seeking assistance from the Office of the Athlete Ombuds.

SECTION 17: QUESTIONS REGARDING ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES

USOPC IMS – SKI MOUNTAINEERING

Athletes may contact the individuals listed below for information about these selection procedures.

Name: Matt Cramer

Position: Senior Director, Internally Managed Sports

Email: Matt.R.Cramer@usopc.org

Name: Rory Kelly

Position: Team USA Athletes' Commission Observer

Email: Rory@ussma.org

ATHLETE OMBUDS

The Team USA Athlete Ombuds serves as a safe, independent, confidential place for Team USA Athletes to seek advice about any sport-related rule, policy, or process; how to navigate raising or responding to concerns; or access legal and mental health resources.

Team USA Athletes may contact the Athlete Ombuds:

PHONE: (719) 866-5000

EMAIL: ombudsman@usathlete.org

WEBSITE: usathlete.org

SECTION 18: GRIEVANCES

An IMS athlete who alleges that he or she has been denied, or threatened denial, by an IMS the opportunity to participate in a competition or activity (as specified in Section 2.1(D) of the USOPC Dispute Resolution Procedures) may file an "Opportunity to Participate" complaint pursuant to the USOPC Dispute Resolution Procedures, which can be found here: <https://www.usopc.org/governance/dispute-resolution>. The [Internally Managed Sport - Form to file an Opportunity to Participate Complaint](#) must be submitted to initiate an Opportunity to Participate grievance.

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SECTION 19: NON-RETALIATION

The USOPC and IMS have zero tolerance for retaliation against people who make good faith reports of potential ethical, policy, or legal violations, or who cooperate with investigations of those reports. That means no USOPC or IMS staff, Board or Committee member, or volunteer may threaten, harass, discriminate against, or take any negative employment or related action (e.g., discharge, demotion, suspension, negative review) on that basis.

- Individuals may report concerns to the USOPC confidentially, or anonymously, online using the [USOPC Integrity Portal](#) or individuals may call the USOPC Integrity Hotline at 1-877-404-9935.
- Additional information can be found in the USOPC's [Speak Up Policy](#).

SECTION 20: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS


IMS will retain the approved Selection Procedures and all supporting documents, including scouting or evaluation forms, etc., and data from the selection process per the USOPC Records Retention Policy or for six months past the date of the Closing Ceremony of the Games, whichever is later.

SECTION 21: DEVELOPMENT, APPROVAL & CERTIFICATION OF SELECTION PROCEDURES

The following committee of individuals developed these selection procedures.

NAME	ROLE
Sarah Cookler	USA Skimo Head of Sport
Matt Cramer	USOPC Senior Director, Internally Managed Sports
Rory Kelly	Team USA Athletes' Commission Observer

The following individual approved these selection procedures and through their signature, certifies that the procedures comply with the standards and criteria set by the ISMF. The following individual further certifies that the information provided herein regarding Athlete Selection Procedures represents the method approved by IMS and that these selection procedures will be posted on the IMS Ski Mountaineering website.


POSITION	NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE
USOPC Senior Director, Internally Managed Sports	Matt Cramer		9/29/25

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The following individual affirms that they read and understand the selection procedures.

POSITION	NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE
Team USA Athletes' Commission Observer*	Rory Kelly		09 / 26 / 2025

- * If the Team USA Athletes' Commission Observer has delegated authority to another 10 Year Athlete Representative to sign the Selection Procedures, attach a letter from the Team USA AC Observer indicating the reason they have delegated authority.
- * Signature by the Athlete Representative constitutes that they have read and understand the Selection Procedures. If the Athlete Representative reads and does not agree with the Athlete Selection Procedures being submitted by the NGB, they may submit those reasons in writing to their USOPC Sport Performance Team.
- * If, for some reason, a sport does not have an elected Team USA AC Representative, the NGB must designate a 10 Year Athlete from that sport to review and sign the Selection Procedures.

Revision History

Date	Revisions
September 23, 2025	Original document published

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APPENDIX A – 2024/25 USA SKIMO NATIONAL TEAM SELECTION



Eligibility for Consideration:

USA Skimo will consider for selection only those USA Skimo Members who are in good standing, are eligible to represent the USA at all levels of international competition, and are eligible to obtain a U.S. passport.

Selection criteria lay emphasis on performance in the ISMF World Championships and World Cup in the 2024-25 season.

Selection Guidelines:

- Athletes will be selected for the USA Skimo National Team (USNT) based on results in [USA Skimo National Cup](#), USA Skimo National Championships, [ISMF World Cup](#), [ISMF Youth World Cup](#), and ISMF North American Series events.
- The definition of a qualifying race is any discipline within an event (excluding Teams races). Example: National Cup events may have more than one qualifying race within a weekend.
- Placement in World Cup races is based on overall result, not result based on sub-categories
(NOTE: USA Skimo reserves the right to adjust the criteria in the case of changes in the Qualifying Race calendar above. Any change would be in favor of the athletes by reducing the minimum number of events required.)
- USNT athletes will be invited to attend domestic and international training camps as funding allows.
- Among other support, USNT athletes will be eligible to be invited to represent the USA in the 2024/25 ISMF World Cup & ISMF World Championships
- Not all USNT Athletes may be invited onto the 2025 US Skimo World Championship Team
- Discretionary nominations to race in the 2024/25 World Cup and 2024 ISMF Championships may be considered and based on a variety of factors outlined below in “discretionary selection policy”.
- Team status does not guarantee funding from USA Skimo for training, competition or logistics.
- In any given season, as funding becomes available, support will be offered first to the A-Team, and then B-Team, then the C-Team.
- No minimum team size will be established.
- Athletes must be willing to participate in USA Skimo National Team camps and international race season structure.
- If a qualifying athlete is deemed not fast enough to compete at the international level by the USSMA, the USSMA reserves the right to not select the athlete to the USNT.

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Selection Criteria

National Team Selection:

A-Team:

Athletes meeting the following objective criteria will be selected to the A-Team.

1. SR: Must win 6 Qualifying races
2. U20: Must win 6 Qualifying races

Other ways to get added to the A-Team:

1. SR/U20
 - a. Males: 2x 50th percentile finishes at a 23/24 World Cup
 - b. Females: 2x 50th percentile finishes at a 23/24 World Cup
 - c. Discretionary Selection of athlete meeting the B-Team selection criteria
2. U20
 - a. Males: 2x 82nd percentile finishes at 23/24 Youth World Cup
 - b. Females: 2x 82nd percentile finishes at 23/24 Youth World Cup
 - c. Discretionary Selection of athlete meeting the B-Team selection criteria

B-Team:

Athletes meeting the following objective criteria will be selected to the B-Team.

1. SR: Must finish Top-2 in 6 Qualifying races
2. U20: Must finish Top-2 in 6 Qualifying races

Other ways to get added to the B-Team:

1. SR/U20
 - a. Males: 2x 38th percentile finish at a 23/24 World Cup or World Championship
 - b. Females: 2x 38th percentile finish at a 23/24 World Cup
 - c. Discretionary Selection of athlete meeting the C-Team selection criteria
2. U20
 - a. Males: 2x 70th percentile finishes at 23/24 Youth World Cup
 - b. Females: 2x 70th percentile finishes at 23/24 Youth World Cup
 - c. Discretionary Selection of athlete meeting the C-Team selection criteria

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C-Team:

Athletes meeting the following objective criteria will be selected to the C-Team.

1. SR: Must finish top-4 in 6 qualifying races
2. U20: Must finish top-3 in 6 qualifying races
3. U18: Must finish top-3 in 6 qualifying races
4. U16 (only applies to those born in 2008): Must finish top-3 in 6 qualifying races

Other ways to get added to the C-Team:

1. SR/U20
 - a. Males: 2x 25th percentile finish at 23/24 World Cup
 - b. Females: 2x 25th percentile finish at a 23/24 World Cup
 - c. Discretionary Selection
2. U20
 - a. Males: 2x 60th percentile finishes at 23/24 Youth World Cup
 - b. Females: 2x Top-60th percentile finishes at 23/24 Youth World Cup
 - c. Discretionary Selection
3. U18
 - a. Males: 2x 60th percentile finishes at 23/24 Youth World Cup
 - b. Females: 2x 60th percentile finishes at 23/24 Youth World Cup
 - c. Discretionary Selection

Percentile = $100 * (\text{Number of Finishers} - \text{Finish Place}) / \text{Number of Finishers}$

Discretionary Selection Policy:

USA Skimo may select additional athletes to the team using 'coaches' discretion based upon factors other than the objective criteria. If the coaching staff or/and National Team Committee selects to fill 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 (only to be used in extreme cases), as set forth by the USA Skimo coaching staff and as approved by the USA Skimo National Team Committee, which point toward the achievement of competition results consistent with USA Skimo program goals.
- Attitude and commitment of athletes to take part in the complete camp and competition program.
- Illness or injury during the selection period.
- Indications of medal potential in Olympic and World Championship competitions, which would be materially enhanced by selection to team.

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- USNT Spots may be awarded to top US sprinters. Results from sprint races at World Cup, National Championships and National Cup series points will be used.
- Other unanticipated failure of objective criteria to select an athlete likely to achieve competition results consistent with the USA Skimo program goals.

In-season Promotion:

At the discretion of USA Skimo, an in-season promotion may be available for an athlete consistently performing above the standards set forth in this document. No athletes will be removed from the National Team for performance based reasons; however, designation and funding may be suspended at any time if progress or commitment is not consistent with the team program and/or the athlete does not remain in good standing.

USA Skimo Core Values, Code of Conduct, and SafeSport:

Athletes must adhere to USA Skimo Values and Code of Conduct. In addition, all athletes aged 18 and older must complete SafeSport training and its required updates

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APPENDIX B - WAIVER REQUEST FORM FOR NOVEMBER 2025 SELECTION RACES

Athlete Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Check One of the Following:

___ I wish to submit a waiver due to an illness or injury.

___ I wish to submit a waiver due to an extenuating circumstance.

Illness or Injury Section:

If submitting a waiver due to an illness or injury, please complete the section below:

I, _____, do hereby request that the
(Athlete name)

(Physician's Office, Name of Hospital, etc.)

release medical information contained in my medical records for the periods of and/or relative to the following
specified illness or injury:

Information can be released to the following individuals:

USOPC IMS – Ski Mountaineering Staff, USOPC IMS – Ski Mountaineering Selection Committee, and
USOPC IMS – Ski Mountaineering and USA Skimo Approved Medical Personnel

I understand that releasing copies of this information shall no longer guarantee the confidentiality
of the information contained in my medical records. I release my attending physician(s), all

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individuals listed above, and _____
(Physician's Office, Name of Hospital, etc.)

personnel from liability concerning the release of this information.

The following information can be released:

- | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|----|
| • History and Physical Examination | _____ | Yes | _____ | No | |
| • Consultation Report(s) | — | _____ | Yes | _____ | No |
| • Operative Report(s) | — | _____ | Yes | _____ | No |
| • Laboratory Report(s) | — | _____ | Yes | _____ | No |
| • Radiology Report(s) | — | _____ | Yes | _____ | No |
| • Progress Note(s) | — | _____ | Yes | _____ | No |
| • Physician's Orders | | _____ | Yes | _____ | No |
| • ER/OR Report(s) | — | _____ | Yes | _____ | No |
| • Other Reports (specify) | _____ | | | | |

I understand that this release will become a permanent part of my medical record. The release will expire thirty (30) days from the date listed above, unless previously revoked by myself.

Furthermore, I hereby fully release USOPC IMS – Ski Mountaineering, USA Skimo, and each of its members, officers, directors, employees, agents, and other representatives of any nature whatsoever of and from any and all liabilities, damages, claims or causes of action of any nature or kind whatsoever which I have or may claim to have, arising out of or having any connection, directly or indirectly with the release of my medical records.

Signature _____ Date _____
(Athlete)

Signature* _____ Date _____
(*Parent/Legal Guardian if athlete is a minor)

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Extenuating Circumstance Section:

If submitting a waiver due to an extenuating circumstance, please complete the section below:

Please provide a detailed explanation of the extenuating circumstance:

I, _____, do hereby state that the named documents, approved
(Athlete name)

testimonies, and evidence listed below are legitimate reasons which prevented me from competing in the November selection races or that negatively affected my performance in the November selection races.

List of items attached to this Waiver Request Form:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____

Signature _____ Date _____
(Athlete)

Signature* _____ Date _____
*(*Parent/Legal Guardian if athlete is a minor)*

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APPENDIX C - COMMONLY USED ACRONYMS

AAC – Athletes’ Advisory Council

AC – Athletes’ Commission

Act or TSOASA – Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act

APC – Americas Paralympic Committee

CAS – Court of Arbitration for Sport

Center or CSS – U.S. Center for SafeSport

CF – Continental Federation

IMS – Internally Managed Sport (sport managed by the USOPC)

IOC – International Olympic Committee

IPC – International Paralympic Committee

IF – International Federation

LOC – Local Organizing Committee

NGB – National Governing Body

NOC – National Olympic Committee

NPC – National Paralympic Committee

OCOG – Organizing Committee of the Olympic Games. The OCOG refers to the Organizing Committee of the Paralympic Games as well.

PAG – Pan American Games

Panam Sports or PASO – Pan American Sports Organization

PPAG – Parapan American Games

PSO – Paralympic Sport Organization

TEAM USA AC – Team USA Athletes’ Commission (formerly USOPC AAC)

USADA – United States Anti-Doping Agency

WADA – World Anti-Doping Agency

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APPENDIX D – GLOSSARY

Contingency means a future event or circumstance which is possible but cannot be predicted with certainty.

Delegation Event means the Olympic Games, the Olympic Winter Games, the Paralympic Games, the Paralympic Winter Games, the Pan American Games, and the Parapan American Games.

Force Majeure means an event or effect that cannot be reasonably anticipated or controlled (e.g., hurricane, tornado, etc.).

Grievance Procedures means the process that enables an athlete to file a complaint with the NGB or USOPC.

Jurisdiction means the power or authority to make decisions and judgments.

Nominated means an athlete, coach or staff member whose name has been submitted to the USOPC by an NGB for participation in a Delegation Event.

Protected Competition means a Delegation Event or a Qualifying Competition.

Qualifying Competition means either of the following:

- i. **NGB Qualifying Competition:** Any competition or activity organized or approved by the NGB where the athlete's performance or results are considered in the published selection criteria to represent the United States in a Delegation Event.
- ii. **International Qualifying Competition:** Any international sport competition where (i) athletes represent the United States against athletes representing other nations, (ii) the NGB officially designates entrants, as required by the competition organizers, and (iii) athlete results or performance are included in the published criteria to qualify, or be selected, to represent the United States in a Delegation Event.

Selected means an athlete, coach or staff member whose name has been submitted by the USOPC to the OCOG at the final submission date, as determined by the OCOG.

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APPENDIX E – ATHLETE RESOURCES

ATHLETE LEGAL AID

The purpose of the Athlete Legal Aid Program is to assist elite athletes without sufficient financial means to seek aid for fees and costs associated with legal representation or the proceeding itself with respect to claims before an anti-doping organization, NGB, IF, the U.S. Center for SafeSport, USOPC, IOC/IPC, Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), or other sport-related tribunal within the Olympic and Paralympic Movement.

WEBSITE: www.usopc.org/ombuds/athlete-legal-aid-program

ATHLETE OMBUDS

The Team USA Athlete Ombuds serves as a safe, independent, confidential place for Team USA Athletes to seek advice about any sport-related rule, policy, or process; how to navigate raising or responding to concerns; or access legal and mental health resources.

Team USA Athletes may contact the Athlete Ombuds:

PHONE: (719) 866-5000

EMAIL: ombudsman@usathlete.org

WEBSITE: usathlete.org

SAFESPORT HELPLINE

The SafeSport Helpline provides crisis intervention, referrals, and emotional support specifically designed for athletes, staff, and other SafeSport participants affected by sexual violence. Through this service, support specialists provide live, confidential, one-on-one support that is available 24/7. Individuals can call the Helpline at 866-200-0796 or visit www.safesporthepline.org.

TEAM USA ATHLETES' COMMISSION (Team USA AC) *(Formerly Athletes' Advisory Council)*

The Team USA AC is responsible for broadening communication between the USOPC and active athletes and serves as a source of input and advice to the USOPC Board of Directors.

WEBSITE: www.usopc.org/teamusa-athletes-commission

TEAM USA ATHLETE SERVICES

The USOPC helps support Team USA athletes from the start of their career to their retirement and beyond through direct funds, programs and services that help athletes excel in their day-to-day lives, on and off the field of play.

WEBSITE: www.usopc.org/athlete-benefits-and-resources

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TEAM USA MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

For those in need of mental health support, USOPC Psychological Services is available at psychservices@usopc.org, or you can connect with a licensed mental health provider 24/7 through the USOPC Psychological Services Support Line at 719-866-2255. You can also visit TeamUSA.org/psychservices for information about all available resources or complete our referral link at: go.teamusa.org/referrals to get connected.

USOPC DISPUTE RESOLUTION UNIT (DRU)

For Protected Competitions, USOPC's DRU oversees the administration of dispute resolution services to athletes and other members of NGBs for grievances under the USOPC's jurisdiction to ensure the complaints are heard in a timely and fair manner. For more information about this process, please visit the [dispute resolution website](#).

USOPC ETHICS AND COMPLIANCE

USOPC's Ethics and Compliance team is responsible for ensuring the USOPC and NGBs comply with the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act, their own bylaws and policies, and any other applicable laws or regulations. Any individual may report concerns confidentially, or anonymously, online using the [USOPC Integrity Portal](#) or individuals may call the USOPC Integrity Hotline at 1-877-404-9935 to report their concern over the phone.

USOPC SECURITY AND ATHLETE SAFETY REPORTING PORTAL

Athletes can report an incident of emotional, physical, or sexual misconduct, a violation of the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (MAAPP) or a general security incident or concern through the [Safety Reporting Portal](#). Athletes may also report to the USOPC over the phone at 719-866-3869.