

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

### **2014 Nordic Combined Continental Cup 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 additional athletes may be selected to the Team using coaches' discretion.
- The team selected by the USSA may consist of any number of athletes up to the FIS quota for the United States.
- The quota of start rights per nation is set by the FIS. In cases where the team size may exceed the quota, start rights are determined by the USSA Nordic Combined coaching staff.
- The USSA Nordic Combined staff is responsible for applying the selection criteria set forth herein, subject to the oversight of the USSA Nordic Director.
- No minimum team size will be established unless otherwise noted.
- Objective selections shall be based on the results achieved by athletes in FIS COC competitions held during the 2012-2013 seasons (the "selection period"), and USSA COC tryout events (described below).
- Discretionary selections, 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 the USSA.

#### **General Criteria:**

Athletes may be selected to the COC Team based solely upon their competition results during the selection period.

The USSA will select athletes, up to the full FIS quota, and 100 percent of the Nations' group quota (expected to be four), who meet the following criteria for the Period One Continental Cup Nordic Combined competitions as scheduled by FIS.

- Athletes will be chosen in rank order from the USSA Nordic Combined COC tryout competitions tentatively scheduled for TBD

The USSA will select athletes, up to the full FIS quota, who meet the following criteria for the Period Two-Three-Four Continental Cup Nordic Combined competitions as scheduled by FIS.

- Athletes will be chosen in rank order from the athletes in the COC competitions in previous period.

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:

- Most World Cup points during the 2014 season.

- Most COC points during the 2014 season.
- Highest single COC finish during the selection period.
- Second highest single COC finish during the selection period.
- Third highest single COC finish during the selection period.
- Fourth highest single COC finish 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 (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.

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.