

Cross Country Ski de fond Canada (CCC) 2018-19 Selection Criteria for National Ski Team (NST) and (PNST) Competition Trips

The following revisions have been made to the document Cross Country Ski de fond Canada (CCC) 2018-19 Selection Criteria for National Ski Team (NST) and (PNST) Competition Trip March 11, 2019:

- Revision of 6.7.f. to “Top Canadians in 2019 Canadian Ski Championships senior women’s 5 km and men’s 10 km classic race”.
- Revision of 6.7.g to “Top Canadian in 2019 Canadian Ski Championships senior pursuit male 15 km and female 10 km”.
- Revision of 6.7.h to “Top Canadian in 2019 Canadian Ski Championships ‘best time of day’ male 15 km and female 10 km freestyle race”.

The following revisions have been made to the document Cross Country Ski de fond Canada (CCC) 2018-19 Selection Criteria for National Ski Team (NST) and (PNST) Competition Trip January 16, 2019:

- Removal of 1.1.3 b) “Selection to WSC/PNWC teams will be assigned to a Selection Committee chaired by the HPD” as per document 2.1.3 Cross-Country Ski de fond Canada Policy and Procedures for National Ski Team Selection, Nomination and Announcement section 5.2 b) and 5.4.
- Revision of 2.6.4 a) to “All athletes selected for the WSC will also be selected for the WC in Cogne; only athletes selected for sprint events at WSC will be selected for the WC in Lahti.”
- Revision of 2.6.5 c) to “Top Canadian female and male in each of the three open races at the World Ski Championship trials in Sherbrooke, QC.”

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SECTION 1: General Information

1.0 Objectives, Selection Policy, Decision Making Authority for Trip Selections

1. The objective of this document is to describe processes used by CCC in selecting athletes for international competition trips in the 2018-19 season.
2. This document is published under the authority of the High Performance Committee (HPC). It is consistent with CCC Document 2.1.3 NST-PNST Policy and Procedures for Team Selection, Nomination and Announcement: <http://www.cccski.com/getmedia/79139ddb-7278-468b-a2da-0dd845ed29f1/213NSTSelectionPolicy-April-2012.pdf.aspx>
3. Selection Authority for Trip Selections
A Selection Committee will be established for competition trips with the exception of the World Cup competitions. Barring extenuating circumstances, selection authority will be constituted in the following manner:
 - a) Selection to Development Competitions (i.e. U23-WJC) will be assigned to a Selection Committee chaired by the CCC High Performance Director (HPD).
4. Appeal Process
Selection decisions may be appealed under the CCC Dispute Resolution and Appeals Policy. Where time is critical (e.g., in the event of an imminent departure for a trip), the Summary Dispute Resolution Process may be employed. Reference: <http://www.cccski.com/getmedia/46ea9b4e-68e6-4271-8f9d-568f9c105cbd/17DisputeResolutionandAppealPolicy.pdf.aspx>

2.0 Definitions Relevant to Understanding Criteria Procedures

1. Distance Races - For the purpose of these selection criteria, all races longer than 2.0 km will be designated as a Distance Race. This could be an individual start, mass start, pursuit or skiathlon competition. An athlete selected or identified in a Distance Race will be referred to as a distance athlete.
2. Sprint Events - For the purpose of these selection criteria, all individual races that are shorter than or equal to 2.0 km and two-athletes team events where each leg is shorter than or equal to 2.0 km are designated individual sprints or team sprints. These races will be designated as a Sprint Event. An athlete selected or identified in a Sprint Event will be referred to as a sprint athlete. All references to sprint results in these criteria are references to final results unless otherwise noted.
3. Tier One Selection Events – A categorization of races used for team selection and trip standards that is limited to domestic and international FIS sanctioned races that count towards the FIS points list.

3.0 Selection Guidelines and Procedures: Athlete Eligibility, Ranking and Selection Standards, Criteria Guidelines, Curtailment of Training & Competition for Health-Related Reasons, Performance Readiness

1. Athlete Eligibility: Only CCC members in good standing with a valid Canadian passport, a CCC racing license, and a valid FIS license will be considered. For the following countries, passports must be valid for at least:
 - EU Countries: 3 months after date of departure for a EU country.
2. Ranking and Selection Standards for Able-bodied Skiers:
 - a) Only Tier One Selection Events are considered for selection rankings and standards.
 - b) In the event of a tie on the selection ranking list after the selection criteria have been applied, where applicable, the tie will be broken by the number of 1st place finishes, then the number of 2nd place finishes, etc. in the selection competitions. If there is still a tie, the selection committee will make the final decision.
3. Criteria Guidelines: Selections will be based on a combination of objective and subjective criteria guidelines. Objective criteria will take precedence over subjective criteria.
 - a) Objective selections will be based on athlete results from:
 - the 2018 Olympic Winter Games,
 - World Cup competitions in the 2017-18 and 2018-19 seasons
 - WJC and WU23 competitions in the 2017-18 and 2018-19 seasons
 - NorAm and Canadian National Championship competitions in 2018 and 2019
 - b) Subjective selections will be based on a variety of factors, including but not limited to:
 - i. Outstanding competition results (including results achieved outside of the selection period) defined by achieving podium pathway
 - ii. Completion of individual performance benchmarks, as set by the NST coaching staff and approved by the HPD, that point toward the achievement of competition results consistent with NST program goals
 - iii. Leadership, positive attitude and strong commitment of athletes to take part in the complete NST coaching, IST support, training camp and competition program
 - iv. Illness or injury during the selection period
 - v. Physiological indicators accumulated through monitoring and testing
 - vi. Indication of medal potential in future Olympic, World Cup or World Championship competition, that would be enhanced by selection to the team
 - vii. Other unanticipated failure of objective criteria to select an athlete likely to achieve competition results consistent with NST World Cup objectives
 - viii. Where there is only one athlete from a gender on a trip for an extended period, another athlete of that gender may be considered for selection
4. Performance Readiness: Selected and pre-selected athletes must demonstrate competitive readiness evaluated on the following factors:
 - a) Optimal health and readiness to travel based on examination by CCC approved physicians and IST support staff or personal physicians

- b) A performance level, as demonstrated throughout the training season, indicating that the athlete can continue to perform at the level that selected them to the specific international trip. This assessment will be made by the NST coaching team and the HPD.
- 5. Curtailment Competition for Health-Related and other reasons: If an athlete starts in the selection event the athlete is deemed healthy and fit to compete. If the athlete does not start the selection event, a written exemption can be submitted requesting and explaining the rationale for not competing in the selection event. This rationale must be submitted to the HPD within an hour after the race and a physician's document within 24 hours after the start of the selection race. Consideration of the exemption may include but not be limited to:
 - a) An unexpected event beyond the reasonable control of the athlete that crucially affects an athlete's ability to compete (e.g. illness, injury, transportation breakdown).
- 6. Other factors considered in the selection process are:
 - a) The CCC Strategic Plan
 - b) The NST and PNST Operational Plans
- 7. Amendments and Unforeseen Circumstances: In the event of unforeseen circumstances beyond the control of Cross Country Canada that prevent the CCC Selection Committee from fairly and objectively implementing these selection procedures, the HPD reserves the right to make changes to this document, which in its discretion are necessary to ensure selection of the best teams possible for the international trip schedule. The HPD will have the full discretion to resolve the matter through a fair and reasonable process, taking into account relevant factors and circumstances. Changes to this document will be communicated directly to the ski community as soon as possible.

4.0 FIS Continental Cup Series (COC)

All references to this series and the associated selection processes and associated WC starts can be found in the 2018-19 FIS Continental Cup Series (COC) Selection Criteria:
<http://www.cccski.com/National-Ski-Team/Selection-Criteria.aspx>

SECTION 2: 2018-19 FIS World Cups

5.0 General Information: Purpose, Objectives, Team Size, WC Entry Requirements, Trip Costs, Team Announcement Dates

1. Purpose

- a) Provide WC starts for athletes who have achieved, or shown potential to achieve, individual and team performance benchmarks outlined as success markers for the 2019 WSC.
- b) Provide WC starts for developing athletes, based on available WC quota and available support, who have shown potential to contribute to Canada's Nation Cup points by attaining individual WC points and relay points in the WC races for which the selection is made.

2. Objectives

a) Individual Events

- World Cup A-Team athlete:
 - individual athlete benchmarks of podium and/or top 8 results
 - consistent scoring of WC points
 - 1 athlete in the Red Group and top 10 overall WC results at the end of the season
 - 1 athlete on the podium at the Tour de Ski
 - 5 WC podiums
 - 1 WSC podium

- NST World Cup B-Team athletes:
 - all athletes scoring WC points
 - 3 athletes with a minimum of one top 20 result on WC
 - 2 athletes with a minimum of one top 15 result at WSC

- NST U25 Team
 - a minimum of 2 athletes scoring WC points

- Other athletes (non NST athletes):
 - a minimum of 1 athlete scoring WC points

b) Nations Cup Ranking (combined scoring of individual WC points and Team events)

- Men: Top 8
- Women: Top 12

3. Team Size

- a) Is dependent on FIS WC Quota set annually by FIS. For 2018-19, Canada's current WC quota is 3 women and 6 men. The team size may consist of any number of athletes up to the FIS WC quota for Canada.
- b) Is limited by the number of technical support staff. For optimal support to all athletes, the maximum number of athletes on the WC is 10. Athletes ranked according to their WC points in the last 365 days, and COC leaders will have priority.

4. World Cup Entry Requirement

The FIS entry standards for these competitions are that each athlete has a FIS code number and has reached at least one (1) result better than or equal to the following standards in the last 365 days:

- a) International WC Group and FIS Regional Series leaders - **distance**: men 60 FIS points; women 90 FIS points
- b) International WC Group and FIS Regional Series leaders - **sprint**: 120 FIS points for men and women

5. Trip Costs

Team status on the World Cup does not include full funding from CCC except for athletes in the WC Red Group.

6. Team Nomination Announcement Dates

Tour de Ski: December 18, 2018

WC Period 3: January 2, 2019

WC Period 4: February 4, 2019

WC Final: March 11, 2019

6.0 Selection Criteria 2018-19 FIS World Cups

Athletes who meet one of the following standards for each identified World Cup period and/or meet the Criteria Guidelines referenced in 3.3 may be selected to the following World Cup trips.

1. World Cup – Period 1 (November 24 - December 16, 2018)

- a. Pre-selected athletes:
 - i. FIS Red Group status as indicated on the final red group ranking list at the end of 2017-18 [*Alex Harvey*].
 - ii. World Cup and OWG individual top 8 results during the 2017-18 season [*Len Valjas*].
 - iii. Top 2 distance ranked NST senior women [*Cendrine Browne, Emily Nishikawa*].
 - iv. Winners of the 2017-18 Overall COC series. [*Olivia Bouffard-Nessbitt and Andy Shield*]
 - v. One additional male sprinter may be added for individual sprint events based on top-15 result during 2017-18 World Cup.

All pre-selected athletes must demonstrate performance readiness as referenced in 3.4.

2. FIS Tour de Ski (TDS) – Period 2 (December 29, 2018 – January 6, 2019)

Selections will be in the following ranking order:

- a. World Cup and OWG individual top 8 results during the 2017-18 season [*Alex Harvey, Len Valjas*].
- b. FIS Red Group status at the end of WC Period 1.
- c. One top 12 distance and/or sprint result from WC Period 1
- d. Two top 20 distance and/or sprint results from WC Period 1
- e. Three top 30 distance and/or sprint results from WC Period 1
(2.c, 2.d and 2.e include individual stage results in Stage WC events)
- f. COC Leaders as of December 26, 2018

- g. A maximum of two additional athletes who are qualified for Period 3 may be selected to participate in the TDS. Selection will be made while taking into consideration the optimal preparation of the athletes for the WSC. This subjective selection will be done by the NST coaching staff with HPD approval.

3. World Cup – Period 3 (January 12-27, 2019 – Dresden, Otepaa, Ulricehamn)

Selections will be in the following ranking order:

- a. World Cup and OWG individual top 8 results during the 2017-18 season [*Alex Harvey, Len Valjas*]
- b. FIS Red Group status at the end of WC Period 1
- c. COC Leaders as of January 9, 2019
- d. One athlete of each gender, based on the sprint race results of the 2018-19 NorAm races in Vernon (Sovereign Lake, Dec. 2018) and Whistler BC (Dec. 2018). The combination of results from both races will be used to establish a ranking of the athletes with results of the freestyle sprint race ranked highest in the case of a tie. Only Canadian athletes eligible for selection will be included in the race result ranking lists for selection. In the case that this athlete is also qualified by 3.c, only one athlete will be selected.
- e. Two individual Top 30 results or one individual Top 16 WC Period 1

4. World Cup – Period 4 (February 9-17, 2019 – Lahti, Cogne)

- a. All athletes selected for the WSC will also be selected for the WC in Cogne; only athletes selected for sprint events at WSC will be selected for the WC in Lahti.
- b. COC Leaders as of February 6, 2019.

5. World Ski Championships (February 19 – March 3, 2019 – Seefeld)

- a. Pre-qualified athletes: Alex Harvey and Len Valjas on condition of meeting criteria 1.3.4
- b. Athletes with individual Top 30 results during the 2018-19 World Cup season
- c. Top Canadian female and male in each of the three open individual races at the World Ski Championship trials in Sherbrooke, QC
- d. The WSC Coaching Team has the authority to recommend additional athletes to the WSC Team to field the strongest Team on race day. Recommendations will be based on demonstrated and compelling reasons that are evidence based. A combination of factors will be used in evaluating any recommendations, including but not limited to, ranking lists from WSC Trials, criteria guidelines 1.1.3b and trip objectives 2.5.2a.

If circumstances allow, the following alternates or additions will be named to the WSC Team in order of priority:

- e. Athletes with WJC 2019 top 5 results
- f. Athletes with WJC U-23 2019 top 8 result

The WSC Team is a maximum of 5 men and 5 women (excluding WJC and U23 additions). In a case where the number of athletes selected on the WSC Team is greater than the number of athletes that can be entered, priority will be given to athletes selected by higher ranked criterias (criteria 6.5.a. being the highest ranked, then 6.5.b. and so on). In the case of multiple athletes fulfilling criteria 6.5.b, multiple Top 30 results will be ranked highest, then followed by highest individual World Cup result during current race season.

6. World Cup Period 5 (March 9 – 17, 2019 – Oslo, Drammen, Falun)

Selections will be in the following ranking order:

- a. Athletes with 2019 WSC individual Top16 results
- b. Athletes with 2019 WSC relay-team Top 8 results
- c. Athletes with World Cup individual Top 16 results during the 2018-19 season
- d. COC Leaders as of March 4, 2019

The Team will race at Oslo and Falun World Cups. Only Red Group athletes will have the possibility to race in Falun; other Team athletes will return to Canada for the Canadian Ski Championships and to prepare for the World Cup Finals.

7. World Cup Final (March 22-24, 2019 – Quebec)

Selections will be in the following ranking order:

- a. Athletes who qualified for WSC 2019
- b. Athletes with WJC 2019 Top 10 results
- c. Athletes with U-23 2019 Top 16 results
- d. COC Leaders as of March 4, 2019
- e. Top Canadians in 2019 Canadian Ski Championships senior sprint male and female
- f. Top Canadians in 2019 Canadian Ski Championships senior women's 5 km and men's 10 km classic race
- g. Top Canadian in 2019 Canadian Ski Championships senior pursuit male 15 km and female 10 km
- h. Top Canadian in 2019 Canadian Ski Championships 'best time of day' male 15 km and female 10 km freestyle race

Any additional quota places will be allocated to 2nd place finishers for criteria 6.7.e., then to 2nd place finishers for criteria 6.7.f., and finally to 2nd place finishers for criteria 6.7.g. Eventually, 3rd place finishers will be considered in the same order mentioned above.

SECTION 3: 2019 World Junior Championships (U23-WJC)

7.0 General Information: Purpose, Objectives, Designated Selection Trials, Eligibility Requirements.

1. Purpose

To provide an international age appropriate competition for Canada's highest performance potential U23 athletes for the purpose of identifying and developing the athletes capable of progressing to World Cup, World Ski Championship and Olympic competitions.

2. Objectives

- a) WJC – 2 men and 2 women placing in the Top 20; 2 men and 2 women in the Top 21-30, top 8 relay (men and women)
- b) U23 – 2 men and 2 women placing in the Top 12; 2 men and 2 women placing 13-20.

3. Designated Selection Trials

Callaghan Valley, Whistler BC - Dec. 13-16, 2018

Date	Day	Sr. Women	Sr Men	Jr. Women	Jr. Men
Dec.13	Thu	Sp – Cl	Sp – Cl	Sp - Cl	Sp - Cl
Dec.15	Sat.	10 Km Free	15 km Free	5 km Free	10 km Free
Dec 16	Sun.	15 km Cl Mass St	30 km Cl Mass St	15 km Cl Mass St	30 km Cl Mass St

4. Eligibility Requirements

- a) Athletes must have a valid FIS license prior to these events.
- b) Passports valid until May 4th, 2019 are required before airline tickets will be purchased.
- c) Athletes must demonstrate competitive readiness and the capacity to meet the trip objectives, including:
 - i. Medical evidence of health and readiness to travel is to be provided by the athlete's coach if requested by the HPD. To be eligible for the trip, an athlete must be completely recovered from injury and/or illness 48 hours before the trip departure.

8.0 U23-WJC Trip Details: Itinerary, Team Size, Trip Costs.

1. Itinerary

- a) Championship dates and location: Lahti, Finland January 20-27, 2019
- b) Trip departure is estimated to be January 7, 2019 to include a pre-camp in Norway
- c) The trip leaders will be appointed by the CCC HPD and will have training and race preparation responsibilities

2. Team Size

Team size will be a maximum of 5 athletes per gender for the World Junior Championships and for the U23 Championships. The FIS quota is a maximum of 4 start per nation for each race. Each athlete is guaranteed one start at the World Championships. Team selection for each

competition day will be determined by the CCC National Team Coach and approved by the HPD.

3. Trip Costs

Approx. \$3500 per athlete

9.0 U23-WJC Selection Process, Priorities and Ranking

Selection will be made using the following order of priorities, up to the maximum team size and considering the maximum entry of four athletes in all U23/WJC events. Only Canadian citizens with valid FIS and CCC licenses will be considered in the ranking process.

1. Process

- a) Athletes meeting the 2019 WJC selection criteria will be nominated for selection.
- b) *Winners of Selection Trials*: The Top Canadian in each competition and in each of the four categories (U23 men and women; junior men and women) at the WJr/U23 Selection Trials in Whistler, BC will be selected.
- c) The Selection Committee will increase the Team to the maximum size in the Junior and U23 categories based only on the recommendation of the HPA in consultation with NST coaches. The recommendation will be based on demonstrated and compelling reasons for selection that are evidence based and evaluated on, but not limited to, the following factors: Distance and Sprint Ranking Lists under 9.2, criteria guidelines, and trip objectives. Only the Top 5 Canadian ranked athletes on either the sprint or distance lists will be considered.

2. Distance and Sprint Ranking Lists

- a) Sprint Ranking Lists: The sprint race for each gender will be based on the final results list.
- b) Distance Ranking Lists: An athlete's sum total of the two distance competitions will be used to establish the distance ranking list. This ranking list will be established from the distance competitions at the selection event using the athlete's rank in the race. The lowest combined result will be ranked highest. In case of a tie, the athlete with the highest individual selection race ranking will be preferred. Sprint results will be used to break a lasting tie between two athletes.

SECTION 4: Para-Nordic Trip Selection Criteria

10.0 Selection Process

Criteria for racing is at PNST Head Coach/NextGen Coach discretion based upon the following guidelines:

World Championship – Prince George, BC (February 14-24, 2019)

Canada will bring a maximum team size of **12 athletes** to the World Championships in Prince George.

Selection Process:

- 6 PNST World Cup Team athletes are pre-qualified for this event
- Athletes must meet the minimum [IPC Criteria](#) to participate at the WPNS WCH
- Athletes must achieve 180 WPNS points or less in a CC or BT race at a COC or WC event
- Be “confirmed” or “review” 2019 or later IPC classified
- 6 other Canadian athletes will be selected based on their highest ranked WPNS points from the average of 2 distance races from WPNS sanctioned events (November 2018 – January 20, 2019). **sprint race performances may be considered at a penalty of 30 WPNS points.*

WPNS World Cup – Vuokatti, FIN (December 10-20, 2018)

Selection Process:

- Meet minimum WPNS eligibility criteria for each event
- Be “confirmed” or “review” 2019 or later IPC classified (IPC Classification is available in Vuokatti)
- Athletes must achieve 20% or better against the best PN athlete in their category, at the Alberta Cup cross-country race in Canmore, AB, November 24-25, 2018
- Athletes selected outside of the PNST/Prospects team may be required to cover additional coaching costs

Anticipated Trip Costs

PNST and Prospects team athletes are fully funded based upon available budget and yearly training plan (YTP) priorities. Additional athletes will be required to pay all of their trip expenses. Outlined are the estimated trip costs.

In both cases listed below final trip costs will be calculated at the conclusion of the trip and will reflect the actual costs incurred

Vuokatti: \$4000.00 est

- Race Fees (€20/race - approx. \$30/race)
- Accommodation/Meals (\$150/day x 13 days = \$1950)
- *Flight & Baggage Fees approx. \$2000 (depending on departure location)
- Technical Support (wax, coaching, transportation) \$150.00

WCH: \$4000.00 est.

- IPC participant fee (set by IPC) \$1000.00
- Accommodations/Meals (\$150 x 13 days = \$1950)

- Race Fees(€20/race – approx. \$30/race)
- *Flight & Baggage Fees \$500 - \$1000.
- Technical Support (wax, coaching, transportation) \$150.00

*Athletes will be responsible for organizing their own flights, in coordination with PNST team arrivals/departures and will be invoiced post-event by CCC for race fees, accommodations, IPC fee and technical support.

Key Events and Dates

- WPNS WC #1 Vuokatti, FIN (3 x CC + 3 x BT): December 12-19, 2018
- *WPNS COC- Craftsbury, USA (2 x CC): Jan 3-6, 2019
- *WPNS WC #2 Ostersund, SWE (3 x CC + 2 x BT + Relay): Jan 12-19, 2019
- WPNS WCH Prince George, BC (3 x CC + 3 x BT + Relay): February 15-24, 2019
- WPNS WC # 3 Sapporo, JPN (3 x CC + 3 x BT): March 12-18, 2019

***Note:** CCC will not be supporting/sending a team to compete at Craftsbury, VT COC Jan 3-6 and Ostersund SWE WC Jan 12-19, 2019. With Para-Nordic Head Coach and NextGen Coach approval, athletes and their support staff may attend these races at their own cost and organize their own logistics. Athletes must organize registration, licensing and logistics through CCC.

11.0 General Information: Purpose and Objectives

Background

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Purpose:

- To provide World Para Nordic Skiing (WPNS) sanctioned Continental Cup (COC), World Cup (WC) and World Championship (WCH) starts for athletes who have achieved, or have shown potential to achieve medal results and meet established CCC international benchmarks.
- To provide development opportunities to complement CCC international benchmarks leading to the 2019 WCH where it is in the best interest of the team's overall results at the 2019 WCH.
- To provide competition opportunities for Next Gen athletes leading to the long-term development of athletes on a podium pathway who can progress to medal performance at WPNS WC, World Championships (WCH) and ultimately the 2022 PWG.

Objectives:

- Contribute to team performance targets as determined by the [2018-19 CCC Para- Nordic Operational Plan](#).
- Give athletes the opportunity to meet CCC team selection criteria to be named to the 2019-20 CCC PNST and/or CCC PN Prospects Teams.

- Give athletes the opportunity to meet team selection criteria for the 2019 WCH.
- Give athletes the opportunity to meet 2019-20 Sport Canada Athlete Assistance Program funding support criteria.
- Give “New” athletes the opportunity to be WPNS classified.
- Identification of Next Gen athletes who:
 - Can be ranked and have at least one race of 180 WPNS points or less on the WPNS BT or WPNS CC ranking points list.
 - Demonstrate the long term potential to achieve established benchmarks leading to WPNS WC, WCH or PWG podium results.
 - Can progress towards meeting the performance criteria to be eligible for the CCC PNST or CCC PN Prospects team.