

Ski and Snowboard Australia Limited (SSA)

Team Selection Policy and Criteria

Discipline: Cross Country

Level: World Championships, Under 23 World Championships, Junior World Championships, World University Winter Games

Gender: Male / Female

Related Policy: Refer to SSA Cross Country Event and Team Selection Appeals Policy

1. Objective

- 1.1. To select athletes who are capable of producing the best possible performances at the World Championships, Under 23 (U23) World Championships, Junior World Championships and World University Winter Games (WUWG).

2. Selection Committee

- 2.1. For the purpose of international event selection, the Selection Committee shall consist of five persons; the chair of the SSA Cross Country Committee (SAXC) Selection sub-committee; the National Team Head Coach, the Head Coach appointed for the event and two or three other sport experts as appointed by the SAXC. In addition, one 'reserve' selector shall be named and will become the fifth member of the Selection Committee during absence of a selector.
- 2.2. A majority decision of the Selection Committee is required. The decision of the Selection Committee shall be final. Reasons shall not be given for any selection or other decision of the Selection Committee unless requested by non-selected athlete(s). The Selection Committee may meet with non-selected athletes to explain their decision.
- 2.3. Any member of the Selection Committee who is directly related to a racer, or holds a conflict of interest with a particular athlete shall not take part in the selection process for that athlete. The 'reserve' selector shall act in his/her place.
- 2.4. Unless expressly requested by the Selection Committee, athletes have no right to make submissions or representations to, or appear before the Selection Committee. Any right or claim to natural justice in this regard is expressly excluded, such as right being preserved in the appeal process under section 9 of this policy.
- 2.5. Selections made by the Selection Committee are subject to final approval by the SSA board.

3. Eligibility

- 3.1. For an athlete to be selected to compete at an event, the athlete must meet the specific selection criteria for that event and must also satisfy the following:
 - 3.1.1. Be a current member of SSA;
 - 3.1.2. Hold a SSA license to compete at the relevant level;

- 5.1.2. Competitors in the Junior World Championship may not be more than 20 years old in the year of competition. Competitors in the U23 World Championship may not be more than 23 years old in the year of competition.
- 5.1.3. No more than 4 competitors per nation may start in any individual event.
- 5.1.4. No additional performance qualification standards are set by FIS.
- 5.2. **SAXC qualification standard.** The main qualification standard for the Junior and U23 World Championships will be based on FIS points. This standard will be determined by SAXC based on results from previous Junior and U23 World Championships, FIS point rankings of junior skiers, and results from other FIS international races.
 - 5.2.1. For 2015 the qualification standards for the Junior World Championship are:
 - 5.2.1.1. A Standard: Women & Men: 1 result < 150 FIS points OR 2 results <180 FIS points
 - 5.2.1.2. B Standard: Women & Men: 3 results < 5 % Australian Junior Selection Races*
*Behind 1st Australian U20 Junior
 - 5.2.2. For 2015 the qualification standards for the U23 World Championship are:
 - 5.2.2.1. A Standard: Women & Men: 1 result < 120 FIS points OR 2 results <150 FIS points
 - 5.2.2.2. B Standard: Women & Men: 2 results < 180 FIS points
 - 5.2.3. The FIS results above must be achieved in the current FIS season or the Northern Hemisphere component of the previous season. Where two results are required, at least one must be achieved in the current season.
 - 5.2.4. Athletes achieving the A qualification standard will be selected to the team subject to the maximum number of participants in 5.1.1 and will be eligible to start in all relevant events subject to starting rights detailed in section 7 below.
 - 5.2.5. Athletes achieving the B qualification standard will only be selected to the team if starting positions are likely to be available as outlined in section 7, and will be eligible to start in only one event at the championship. If a B qualified athlete achieves the A qualification standard during the championship they will subsequently be eligible to start in additional events.
 - 5.2.6. A Relay team will only be entered if two athletes have met the A qualification standard. A maximum of two B qualified athletes may be included in the Relay team. If three or more athletes have met the A qualification standard B qualified athletes may still be selected to the Relay Team subsequent to clause 7.6.
 - 5.2.7. Only in very exceptional circumstances may the Selection Committee make a discretionary selection for athletes who have not achieved these standards.

6. World University Winter Games

6.1. Quotas and eligibility.

6.1.1. Only the following may participate as competitors in the WUWG:

- a) students who are currently officially registered as proceeding towards a degree or diploma at the university or similar institute, the status of which is recognised by the appropriate national academic authority of their country;
- b) former students of the institutions mentioned in a), who have obtained their academic degree or diploma in the year preceding the event.

6.1.2. Competitors in the WUWG must be at least 17 and less than 28 years of age on 1 January in the year of the event.

6.1.3. The maximum number of participants at the WUWG per nation is 8 men and 8 women. The maximum number of participants allowed to compete in individual events is 6 men and 6 women.

6.1.4. No more than 4 competitors per nation may start in any individual event.

6.1.5. No additional performance qualification standards are set by FIS.

6.2. **SAXC qualification standard.** The qualification standard for the WUWG will be based on FIS points. This standard will be determined by SAXC based on results from previous WUWG.

6.2.1. For 2015 the qualification standards for the WUWG has been set as follows:

6.2.1.1. A-Standard: 120 FIS points (distance or sprint)

6.2.1.2. B Standard: 195 FIS points (distance or sprint)

6.2.2. Athletes achieving the A-standard in 6.2.1.1 will be selected to the team subject to the maximum number of participants in 4.1.1 and will be eligible to start in all relevant events subject to starting rights detailed in section 7 below.

6.2.3. Athletes achieving the B-standard in 6.2.1.1 will be selected to the team if starting positions are likely to be available following the allocation of A-standard starting rights according to section 7, subject to the maximum number of participants in 4.1.1.

6.2.4. Only one FIS point result under the qualifying standards set in 6.2.1 is required in the current season or the northern hemisphere component of the previous season. If an athlete qualifies in the previous northern season they may need to demonstrate (through race results, time trials or other means) that they are performing at a similar level in the current season.

6.3. Where any discretion is allowed for in the selection criteria it will only be applied to National Team athletes. Non-team members must meet the selection standard absolutely.

7. Starting Rights for World Championship, U23 World Championship, Junior World Championship and WUWG.

7.1. In the event that the number of athletes qualified for a World Championship and seeking a start in a particular race exceeds the Nation quota, the Selection Committee shall apply the principles below.

- 7.2. Pre-selection. A maximum of 50% of the available starts can be pre-selected, rounded down, based on performance standards set by the Selection Committee prior to the beginning of the season. If only one start is available then no athletes will be pre-selected.
- 7.3. Selection events. If required, the remaining starts shall be based on performances in selection races or otherwise identified events during a selection period. In setting selection races the Selection Committee will endeavour to use dates, locations, and distances that enable athletes to prepare appropriately for the World Championship.
- 7.4. Critical dates and details, including for additional selection races, will be set in place prior to the team departing from Australia. However the Selection Committee has the discretion to set new deadlines and selection events in exceptional circumstances.
- 7.5. The final selection will be made by Selection Committee based on pre-selection and performances in nominated selection events; where there are well founded grounds for concern in relation to an athlete's ability to perform at the required level their current health and their recent competitive history may be taken into consideration.
- 7.6. Team Events. Starts in the Relay and Team Sprint events will be selected at the discretion of the Selection Committee. The event Head Coach, after consultation with the athletes, will recommend to the Selection Committee, with rationale, the athletes deemed to constitute the fastest possible team on the day.

8. Extenuating Circumstances

- 8.1. In considering the selection criteria, the Selection Committee may in their discretion give weight to extenuating circumstances. Extenuating circumstances may include, but are not limited to; injury, illness, personal bereavement, equipment failure or travel delays. Athletes must apply in writing to the Chairperson of the Selection Committee to be considered for extenuating circumstances.
- 8.2. Athletes unable to compete at events or trials required under these criteria must notify the National Coach or the Chairperson of the Selection Committee of this fact and the reasons prior to the commencement of planned selection events.
- 8.3. In the case of illness or injury, athletes may be required to undergo a medical examination by a doctor or doctors appointed by SSA.
- 8.4. In the case of bereavement or other extenuating circumstances, the Selection Committee will make a decision on a case by case basis.
- 8.5. For FIS points in a race to be valid for selection purposes the calculated FIS penalty should be an accurate reflection of the standard of the race. This is relevant when the maximum FIS points are used in the penalty calculation. As a general rule the penalty should be close to the points of the best athlete in the event.

Example

The first five athletes in a race have the following FIS points:

| | | | |
|-----------------------|------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| <i>1st</i> | <i>155</i> | <i>155</i> | |
| <i>2nd</i> | <i>180</i> | <i>176 (max)</i> | <i>150 + 155 + 176 = 481</i> |
| <i>3rd</i> | <i>150</i> | <i>150</i> | <i>Penalty Calculation:</i> |

$$\begin{array}{ll}
 4^{\text{th}} & 250 \quad \quad \quad \cancel{176}-(\text{max}) \quad \quad \quad 481 / 3.75 = \underline{128.26} \\
 5^{\text{th}} & 300 \quad \quad \quad \cancel{176}-(\text{max})
 \end{array}$$

Applying normal calculation rules, the worst 2 points are eliminated and for individual start distance races a maximum of 176 points are used for anyone over this value. Hence the calculated FIS penalty for this competition is 128.26. However because the penalty is considerably better than the points of the best athletes in the race, FIS points from this race may not be valid for selection purposes.

8.5.1. In the case where the race is deemed to be invalid, the Selection Committee may make a discretionary selection depending on the circumstances.

8.6.

9. Appeal

9.1. The appeal process concerning the selection or non-selection of an athlete for various National Teams and for international events will follow the process as detailed in the document ‘**SSA Cross Country Event and Team Selection Appeals Policy**’.

10. Removal from a selected event squad or team

10.1. Any athlete who:

- 10.1.1. breaches or fails to observe this Policy;
- 10.1.2. breaches or fails to observe any provision of the SSA Constitution or bylaws;
- 10.1.3. by reason of illness or injury is unable to perform to the required standard in the opinion of the Selection Committee or the National Team Head Coach (after having received advice from a medical practitioner);
- 10.1.4. breaches or fails to fulfill a requirement of the SSA Anti-Doping Policy;
- 10.1.5. breaches or fails to comply, fulfill and observe the requirements in the National Team Agreement (if any);
- 10.1.6. is ineligible for selection to, or continued membership of, the national squad or national team as the case may be.

10.2. Any athlete may be removed from any selected event squad or team by the Selection Committee in consultation with the National Team Head Coach as the circumstances may require including where the athlete has failed to sustain his or her performance and attitude to a satisfactory level, provided that the required performance levels had first been discussed with the athlete and the athlete had been given the opportunity to attain those performance levels within a defined timeframe.