



SKIMO CANADA

# Skimo Canada

Internal Nomination Procedure, Version 1: October 22, 2024  
For the 2026 Olympic Winter Games in Milan-Cortina, Italy

## 1. General

- 1.1. The Internal Nomination Procedure Development Committee is responsible for developing and approving the selection process and procedures for the Skimo Canada (SC) team that will be nominated to the Canadian Olympic Committee (COC) for participation at the 2026 Olympic Winter Games (the "Games").

## 2. Introduction

### 2.1. Purpose

- 2.1.1. The purpose of this Internal Nomination Procedure (INP) is to set out the process and criteria that will be used by SC to nominate athletes to the COC for selection to participate at the Games.

### 2.2. Performance Objectives

- 2.2.1. The objective of the selection policy and procedures is to nominate the maximum number of athletes who have demonstrated medal potential, including the nomination of the best possible relay team.

### 2.3. Team Size

- 2.3.1. SC will nominate the maximum number of athletes allowed based on the qualified quota places.

## 3. Decision Making Authority

- 3.1. Athletes will be nominated for selection to the COC for participation at the Games by the Olympic Selection Committee. The Skimo Canada Olympic Selection Committee is composed of the following individuals: Legal counsel independent of the Board, SC Coach, Canadian Board Certified Physician, ISMF referee, Independent SC License holding member. In the case of a conflict of interest, a SC licence holding member who has no conflicts of interest will be called upon to take the voting spot of the Olympic Selection Committee Member.
- 3.2. On-site Decision Making Authority
  - 3.2.1. During the competition period onsite at the Games, all final decision making authority will reside with the SC Head Coach or the Olympic team leader in the absence of a Head Coach.

## 4. International Federation (IF) Criteria

- 4.1. The International Ski Mountaineering Federation (ISMF) eligibility criteria can be found at <http://www.ismf-ski.org/webpages/wp->

[content/uploads/2023/07/Milano-Cortina-2026-Qualification-System-for-Ski-Mountaineering.pdf](#). In the event of changes by the ISMF to the selection and eligibility criteria, or the Olympic qualification system, SC is bound by these changes and will inform impacted individuals as soon as possible.

4.2. Age Requirements

- 4.2.1. To be eligible to participate in the Games, athletes must be born on or before December 31, 2007.

4.3. Medical Requirements

- 4.3.1. To be eligible to participate in the Games, all athletes must satisfy the medical requirements in accordance with Article 2.3 of the ISMF [Athlete Participation Rules](#) and the [ISMF Anti-Doping Rules](#).

4.4. Performance Requirements

- 4.4.1. To be eligible to participate in the Games, athletes must have achieved either standard A, B, or C as below:
- 4.4.1.1. 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.
  - 4.4.1.2. B: Have placed in the top 90.00% of the ranked athletes as published on the official ISMF results at least two times (2) in any Sprint or Mixed Relay competition at an ISMF World Cup during the Olympic Qualification period or in the ISMF World Championships 2025.
  - 4.4.1.3. C: Have placed in the top 6 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 U18 Youth World Cup during the Olympic Qualification period or in the U18 ISMF World Championships 2025.

## 5. Athlete Eligibility

5.1. Required Criteria

- 5.1.1. To be eligible for nomination to the COC for selection to participate in the Games, an athlete must:
- 5.1.1.1. Be a Canadian Citizen in accordance with Rule 41 of the Olympic Charter;
  - 5.1.1.2. Have a valid Canadian passport that does not expire on or before August 22, 2026;
  - 5.1.1.3. Be in compliance with all relevant SC, IF, IOC and COC requirements for eligibility;
  - 5.1.1.4. Sign, submit, and comply with the COC Athlete Agreement and Organising Committee (OCOG) Conditions of Participation form no later than January 18, 2026. Where the athlete is under the age of 19 years, the parent or guardian must also sign these agreements.
  - 5.1.1.5. Be a SC licensed athlete with SC.
  - 5.1.1.6. Where applicable, comply with the vaccination policies and vaccination requirements of SC, COC, ISMF, IOC, and Italy.

5.1.2. Additional Criteria

- 5.1.2.1. Comply in all respects with the Anti-Doping Rules of the ISMF, the Canadian Anti-Doping Program (“CADP”) and the Anti-Doping Rules of any other Anti-Doping Organization that has authority and must not be serving a period of ineligibility or provisional suspension for an anti-doping rule violation at the time of nomination, or during the Games; and
- 5.1.2.2. Be available for sample collection and have provided accurate and up-to-date whereabouts information on a regular basis as directed by SC, the ISMF and/or CCES.

## 6. NSO Athlete Selection Criteria & Process

### 6.1. Qualification Period

- 6.1.1. The qualification periods for each discipline shall be as follows:

Discipline	Qualification Begins	Qualification Ends	Quota Announced
Sprint	November 1, 2024	December 21, 2025	December 30, 2025
Mixed Relay	November 1, 2024	December 21, 2025	December 30, 2025

### 6.2. Process that will be used

- 6.2.1. Eligible qualifying events
  - 6.2.1.1. ISMF World Cups during the qualification period.
    - 6.2.1.1.1. Sprint
    - 6.2.1.1.2. Mixed Relay
  - 6.2.1.2. 2025 ISMF World Championships
    - 6.2.1.2.1. Sprint
    - 6.2.1.2.2. Mixed Relay
- 6.2.2. Mixed Relay Discipline
  - 6.2.2.1. For each event during the qualification period, a Mixed Relay Athlete Ranking (MRAR) based off of time percentage will be calculated in accordance with SC MRAR calculations document. This will compare an athlete’s time during qualification, their first finals lap, and their second finals lap to the fastest times posted by their respective gender of any nation in each of those segments.
    - 6.2.2.1.1. An athlete’s best segment lap time percentage as noted in 6.2.2.1 is taken as their result for the event.

- 6.2.2.1.2. If the athlete's team does not qualify for finals, the time percentage of the qualification lap is taken as their result for the event.
- 6.2.2.2. The final ranking will consist of the average of an athlete's best four (4) event time percentages.
- 6.2.2.3. In the event that an athlete is unable to compete in four (4) events over the qualification period due to a limited number of relay pairings at events, the ranking will take into account the average of the athlete's three (3) event time percentages.
  - 6.2.2.3.1. This applies if the athlete is present at the world cup venue but cannot compete in the Mixed Relay because there is no partner for them. The athlete competes in another world cup event format at the venue.
  - 6.2.2.3.2. ALTERNATE This applies if the athlete is present at the world cup venue but cannot compete in the Mixed Relay because there is no partner for them. The athlete competes in four (4) sprint races over the qualification period.
- 6.2.2.4. The male and female athlete with the highest ranking on the MRAR will be nominated to the COC for selection to participate at the Games for the mixed relay event.
- 6.2.2.5. An athlete selected for the mixed relay discipline is automatically eligible to compete in the sprint event at the Games.
- 6.2.3. Sprint Discipline:
  - 6.2.3.1. ISMF maintains an Olympic Sprint Ranking List ranking athletes over the qualification period. Additional quota spots for the sprint discipline are awarded based on this ranking.
  - 6.2.3.2. If Canada is awarded a quota spot for the sprint event based on the ISMF Olympic Sprint Ranking List, the highest ranked Canadian athlete on the ISMF Olympic Sprint Ranking List will be nominated to the COC for selection to participate in the Games for that spot.
  - 6.2.3.3. If the highest ranked Canadian athlete on the ISMF Olympic Sprint Ranking List has already been selected for the Mixed Relay discipline, the next highest ranked Canadian athlete on the ISMF Olympic Spring Ranking List will be nominated to the COC for selection to participate in the Games.
- 6.2.4. Reallocation
  - 6.2.4.1. If Canada earns an additional quota spot as a result of reallocation, it will be awarded based on the above criteria.
- 6.2.5. Team Nomination Date January 14, 2026
- 6.2.6. Team Announcement Date January 16, 2026
- 6.2.7. Alternate Athletes
  - 6.2.7.1. SC shall identify the next highest ranked athletes set out in this INP, who cannot be nominated due to quota limitations, as travelling alternates in their specific event or events.

## 7. Performance Readiness & Injuries

### 7.1. Performance Readiness

- 7.1.1. To demonstrate that an athlete is ready to compete at the Olympic Winter Games, attendance is required at an ISMF World Cup during the 2025/26 season before the Olympic Winter Games.

### 7.2. Injuries

- 7.2.1. In the event that an athlete is determined to be injured (or ill) by the Olympic Selection Committee as a result of having completed an injury/health status assessment by a licensed Medical Doctor, the Olympic Selection Committee shall decide if the athlete will be sufficiently recovered to be nominated to the Team prior to the COC nomination deadline/team selection date. Injuries or illnesses that occur after the nomination deadline will be dealt with similarly.
- 7.2.2. If an injury of illness prevents an athlete from competing in competitions during the qualification period, the athletes' MRAR will be adjusted as follows:
  - 7.2.2.1. If the athlete was able to compete in 4 or more races, no adjustment will be made.
  - 7.2.2.2. If an injury or illness prevents an athlete from attending a qualifying race, the average will take into account 3 races instead of 4. If an injury or illness prevents an athlete from attending 2 or more qualifying races, the average will take into account 2 races instead of 4.
  - 7.2.2.3. In any of the situations described above, an athlete may be required to submit documentation demonstrating the status of their injury and their recovery plan.

## 8. Removal of an Athlete

### 8.1. Nomination/Qualification Period

- 8.1.1. The Olympic Selection Committee in consultation with the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre (SDRCC) may, at any time during the nomination/qualification period, and at their discretion, remove an athlete from consideration for nomination to the Team if, after following a relevant and applicable disciplinary process, the athlete has been found to have violated SC's Code of Conduct, the Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent and Address Maltreatment in Sport (UCCMS) or the rules of any sport organisation with authority over the athlete. SC will advise the affected athlete, in writing, of their decision to remove them from consideration.
- 8.1.2. As applicable, an athlete may not be nominated or will be removed from the Team if they have been subject to a period of ineligibility or a provisional suspension by any anti-doping organisation with authority over the athlete and the period of ineligibility or provisional suspension will be in force during the qualification period or the Games.
- 8.1.3. If an athlete is injured during the Games, a decision regarding their continued participation at the Games will be made by the Chef de

Mission Team, in consultation with the COC Chief Medical Officer, SC Team Leader and the Integrated Support Team (IST) member responsible for the sport, and the athlete, and shall be governed by the terms of the Team Canada Athlete Agreement.

8.2. Post Nomination

8.2.1. The Olympic Selection Committee, in consultation with the SDRC, reserves the right to withdraw an athlete's nomination from the Canadian Team:

8.2.1.1. If the athlete has not fulfilled their responsibilities as identified in the SC Athlete Agreement.

8.2.1.2. If the athlete has not fulfilled their responsibilities as identified in the SC Code of Conduct or the Code of Conduct of any sport organisation with authority over the athlete.

8.2.1.3. If the athlete fails to respect any other conditions of nomination as specified by SC at the time of nomination.

8.2.2. After the athlete has been nominated to the Team, the COC may remove an athlete from the Team if, after following a relevant and applicable disciplinary process, the athlete is found to have violated the COC's Code of Conduct, the terms of the COC Athlete Agreement or any other relevant and applicable COC policy, the Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent and Address Maltreatment in Sport (UCCMS) or the policy of any other sport organisation with authority over the athlete.

## 9. Confirmation of Entries

9.1. On January 14, 2026, SC shall determine the athletes (and alternate athletes) it proposes to nominate to the COC for selection to the Team. Subject to any revisions required by an athlete's decision to decline a nomination to be a member of the Team, or by an athlete's inability to participate at a competitive level due to a health-related curtailment of activities, SC shall submit its list of athletes and alternates being nominated to the COC for the Team on January 16, 2026.

9.2. Substitutions after nomination to the COC are subject to the approval of the COC Team Selection Committee. Any such replacements after COC deadlines are also subject to the IOC Late Athlete Replacement Policy.

9.3. In the case of an athlete replacement, Canadian Olympic Team privileges will be transferred to the incoming athlete while the privileges of the athlete who is being replaced will be re-evaluated.

## 10. Amendments and Unforeseen Circumstances

10.1. Any changes to this document shall be publicly disclosed as soon as possible. This clause shall not be used to justify changes after a competition or trials which formed part of these Internal Nomination Procedures unless it is related to an unforeseen circumstance. This is to allow for changes to this document that may become necessary due to a typographical error or a lack of clarity in a definition or wording before it has an impact on athletes. In the event of a change to this document, SC shall inform the COC of the changes and the reasons for those changes as soon as possible.

- 10.2. Should the ISMF make changes to the format of the qualification period or qualifying events, amendments to this INP may be required and will be made and communicated as soon as reasonably possible.
- 10.3. Cancelled or Postponed Events
  - 10.3.1. Should any event specified in this INP be cancelled, postponed, rescheduled or replaced, SC shall update the nomination procedures indicated in this INP, as applicable, as soon as reasonably possible and shall communicate any modifications to all impacted individuals, as well as publish the modified INP on its website, prior to the postponed, rescheduled or replacement event.
  - 10.3.2. Should the ISMF reduce the number of races included in calculating the ranking for the ISMF Olympic Sprint Ranking List and ISMF Olympic Mixed Relay Ranking List, SC will follow this number for the MRAR.

## 11. Vaccination Policies and Requirements

- 11.1. A vaccination policy may be implemented consistent with vaccination requirements for entering countries hosting events during the qualification period as well as the Games.
- 11.2. This policy will apply to all athletes, coaches, and staff attending qualification events.

## 12. Appeals

- 12.1. Internal appeals shall be made in writing to SC to the attention of the Chair. The SC appeal process may be bypassed by agreement of the athlete and SC and the appeal may be heard directly before the SDRC of Canada

## 13. INP Publication

- 13.1. The Internal Nomination Procedures for the 2026 Olympic Winter Games will be communicated through SC official publications, posted on the SC website and distributed by email to 2024/25 SC national team members .

## 14. Staff Selection

- 14.1. The Olympic Selection committee will select the support staff by way of voting, including the team leader, coach(s) for the 2026 Olympic Winter Games. The support staff will be selected based on the principle of sending a team of specialists that is best capable of assisting athletes in achieving podium performances at the Games. All staff selections are subject to COC approval.
- 14.2. Support staff must have the following qualifications:
  - 14.2.1. Support staff must have a passport valid until August 22 2026.
  - 14.2.2. All coaches must be a registered or chartered professional coach with the CAC by January 15, 2026.
  - 14.2.3. Be in compliance with all relevant COC, IF, and IOC requirements for eligibility.
  - 14.2.4. Sign, submit, and comply with the COC Support Staff Agreement and Organising Committee (OCOG) Conditions of Participation form no

later than January 15, 2026 (no later than COC registration requirement deadline).

14.2.5. Be 18 years of age or older.

## 15. Timelines Summary

2024/2025 ISMF World Cup Calendar Released	Released May 17, 2024
2025/2026 ISMF World Cup Calendar Released	Released May 17, 2024
INP Draft Submitted	September 2024
ISMF to confirm final number of best results to be taken into account for Olympic Mixed Relay Ranking List and Olympic Sprint Ranking List	June 2024
Qualification Period Starts	November 1, 2024
2025 World Championships	March 2-9, 2025
Final World Cup of Qualification Period	December 11-14 2025
Qualification Period Ends	December 21, 2025
Publication of Olympic Sprint Ranking List, Olympic Mixed Relay Ranking List and Athlete Eligibility List	December 23, 2025
ISMF confirmation of quota places	December 30, 2025
SC Internal Nomination Deadline	Between the December 30, 2025 and January 13, 2026
COC Nomination Deadline	January 21, 2026
Deadline to confirm use of allocated quota place	January 13, 2026
Reallocation of unused quota places	January 14-16, 2026
Milano Cortina 2026 Sport Entries Deadline	January 26, 2026
Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026	February 6-22, 2026
Milano Cortina 2026 Sprint Races	Feb 19, 2026
Milano Cortina 2026 Relay Race	Feb 21, 2026



## 16. Funding

- 16.1. There is limited financial support available for expenses related to attending qualification events.
- 16.2. Funding, if available, will be prioritised for national team athletes covering the following categories
  - 16.2.1. ISMF License fees.
  - 16.2.2. Uniforms.
  - 16.2.3. Race registration fees.
- 16.3. If additional funding is made available through grants, donations, or sponsorships, that funding can be used for:
  - 16.3.1. Travel and accommodation expenses.
  - 16.3.2. Support staff.
  - 16.3.3. Athletes outside of the national team.

## 17. Contact

Contact [chair@smcc.ski](mailto:chair@smcc.ski) for inquiries related to this document.

## 18. Glossary

Olympic Selection Committee- The decision making authority for SC.

ISMF - International Ski Mountaineering Federation, the International Federation (IF) that oversees Ski Mountaineering.

Mixed Relay - An event that will be contested at the 2026 Olympic Winter Games. A female and male team member each complete one lap of the course two times, with an exchange made at the end of each lap through the course. Each lap through the course takes approximately 10 minutes.

MRAR - Mixed Relay Athlete Ranking. A method of ranking an individual athlete's performance in the mixed relay event. This ranking considers an individual's lap times during the qualification, their first lap, and their second lap, compared to the fastest time of all competitors over the same lap.

SC - Skimo Canada, the National Sports Organization that oversees Ski Mountaineering.

Sprint - An event that will be contested at the 2026 Olympic Winter Games. The event is fast paced and combines all of the ski mountaineering techniques into a head to head race with heats finishing in approximately 3 minutes.