



Ski Mountaineering Competition Canada Selection Criteria for Competitive Teams 2024-2025

Objectives

This document describes the guidelines and policies employed in the selection of the **Canadian National Ski Mountaineering Team**. The system is reviewed annually, following the selection of the National Team for the current year, and the following policies are amended, approved, and published prior to the competition season for which they will apply.

These 2024-2025 Selection Criteria will be applied during the 2024-2025 racing season, in order to determine the 2025-2026 National Team. The Canadian team for the 2025 ISMF World Championships and the 2026 Olympics is determined with other criteria.

1. GOALS

The main goals of this TEAM SELECTION criteria are to:

- 1.1. Build a strong future for the sport of Ski Mountaineering in Canada;
- 1.2. Promote attendance of the best and strongest Canadian athletes at international races;
- 1.3. Encourage athletes to train hard to achieve top performances within international fields;
- 1.4. Encourage athletes to attend Canadian calendar races, travel to international competitions, and demonstrate dedication to the sport;
- 1.5. Provide clear and well-articulated selection criteria for our athletes;

2. ATHLETES

SMCC expects that its Athletes will contribute to the development of Ski Mountaineering in Canada, including:

- 2.1. Promoting the sport within their communities;
- 2.2. Being a member of SMCC in good standing;
- 2.3. Supporting and assisting other athletes to improve and compete successfully;
- 2.4. Representing Canada in a positive manner when attending all events;
- 2.5. Becoming actively involved in the team and group tasks relating to sponsorship, uniforms, and relationships with supporting industries;
- 2.6. Communicating issues to the team management;

- 2.7. Maintaining a positive and respectful approach with all team members, managers, and directors;
- 2.8. Abiding by the Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent and Address Maltreatment in Sport as well as the Code of Conduct of SMCC.

3. NATIONAL TEAM SELECTION CRITERIA

3.1. National Team

Up to 6 male and 6 female athletes shall be selected for the Canadian National Ski Mountaineering Team in the following tiered order of priority:

3.1.1. International Tier A:

3.1.1.1. Athletes who achieve at least 1 ISMF World Cup result during the qualifying season within:

3.1.1.1.1. Top 12 in a sprint or individual race.

3.1.1.1.2. Top 10 in a vertical race

3.1.2. International Tier B:

3.1.2.1. Athletes who achieve at least 2 ISMF World Cup results during the qualifying season within:

3.1.2.1.1. top 80% of the field and top 30 based on final ranking position in a sprint race.

3.1.2.1.2. Achieve results better than 85% time percentage in an individual or vertical race. Where time percentage is (winner's time in seconds)/(athlete's time in seconds).

3.1.2.2. Top Ranked male and female athlete on the Mixed Relay Athlete Ranking List at the end of the 2024/25 season.

3.1.3. Domestic Tier A:

3.1.3.1. 1st ranked sprint, individual and vertical athletes in SMCC sanctioned races during the qualifying season if not already qualified.

3.1.3.2. If less than three spots are available, ties will be broken as per "Ties" below.

3.1.3.3. Ranking is calculated based on time % in best 50%+1 races as defined below

3.1.4. Domestic Tier B and beyond:

3.1.4.1. 2nd, 3rd, etc. ranked athletes as in Domestic Tier A.

3.1.5. An additional 2 male and 2 female (bringing the total to 8 male and 8 female) discretionary spots may be selected for athletes who are unable to meet the above criteria. No guarantee of discretionary placement is made by SMCC. Athletes are strongly encouraged to qualify using non-discretionary pathways. Discretion will take into account:

3.1.5.1.1. International results at ISMF and USSMA sanctioned races.

3.1.5.1.2. Technical issues during SMCC races.

3.1.5.1.3. Any other extenuating circumstances which the athlete feels affected their ability to qualify.

- 3.1.5.2. Athletes must provide evidence of these results and/or circumstances to SMCC if requested.
- 3.1.6. In seasons where only 1 SMCC sanctioned race is held for a given discipline:
 - 3.1.6.1. National Team ranking shall be calculated based on 50% single race result and 50% discretion.
 - 3.1.6.2. In seasons where no SMCC sanctioned races are held for a given discipline, National Team qualifying for that discipline shall be calculated based solely on discretion.
 - 3.1.6.3. In either aforementioned instance, an athlete may petition for results from any ISMF or USSMA sanctioned race to be considered in discretionary rankings.
 - 3.1.6.4. In all discretionary decisions, preference shall be given to races attended by the highest number of prospective National Team members.
 - 3.1.6.5. Discretionary rankings shall be established by SMCC Selection Committee when required.
- 3.1.7. Ties:
 - 3.1.7.1. In the event of a tie between two athletes, the primary tiebreaker shall be the sum total of head to head results between the athletes.
 - 3.1.7.2. If necessary, the secondary tiebreaker shall be the discretion of the SMCC Selection Committee.
- 3.1.8. Junior (U16, U18) and U23 Selections:
 - 3.1.8.1. Junior and U23 athletes may be selected to the National Team based on competitiveness within the SMCC sprint, individual, and vertical rankings as well as international results in accordance with ISMF age requirements and limitations for racing.
 - 3.1.8.2. Junior and U23 athletes may be selected to a Development Team based on competitiveness within the SMCC sprint, individual, and vertical rankings.
 - 3.1.8.3. Junior and U23 selections shall not count against any National or Development Team quota.
 - 3.1.8.4. Junior and U23 selections shall be made at the discretion of the SMCC Selection Committee.
- 3.1.9. Qualifying Season:
 - 3.1.9.1. The qualifying season is defined as the period from August 1 of year N-1 to July 31 of year N, where N is the beginning year for which the team is named.
 - 3.1.9.1.1. Example: the qualifying period for the 2025/2026 National Team runs from August 1, 2024 until July 31, 2025.
- 3.1.10. SMCC Selection Committee:
 - 3.1.10.1. The SMCC Selection Committee shall be composed of the World Cup Selection Committee in consultation with the Head Coach and Athlete Representative.

- 3.1.10.2. The SMCC Selection Committee must avoid conflict of interest when discretionary selections are to be employed.
- 3.1.10.3. The SMCC Selection Committee must consist of no fewer than 3 members. Any member of the SMCC Selection Committee who abstains due to a conflict of interest or for any other reason must be replaced.
- 3.1.11. Status Holds for Medical Reasons:
 - 3.1.11.1. In the event an athlete holding National or Development Team status becomes medically unfit for competition for a period spanning at least 40% of qualification eligible races in a single season, that athlete's status may be placed on medical hold at the written request of said athlete.
 - 3.1.11.1.1. Qualification eligible races are defined as SMCC Canada Cup and ISMF World Cup races.
 - 3.1.11.2. Medical holds shall last until the athlete:
 - 3.1.11.2.1. Is determined to have completed a return to sport protocol.
 - 3.1.11.2.2. Is deemed fit to return to competition for at least 60% of qualification eligible races during a single season.
 - 3.1.11.3. Determinations of medical fitness for competition must be performed and documented by a Medical Council of Canada certified physician and submitted to SMCC in writing.
 - 3.1.11.4. An athlete request for medical hold which is supported by the documentation required herein may not be denied by SMCC for any reason.
 - 3.1.11.5. Medical holds shall be retroactive to the date on which the athlete is determined medically unfit for competition.
 - 3.1.11.6. Medical hold status may only be revoked by SMCC for reasons defined within this document.
 - 3.1.11.6.1. To maintain eligibility for medical hold status, athletes on medical hold must:
 - 3.1.11.6.1.1. Intend to return to competition.
 - 3.1.11.6.1.2. Provide monthly progress updates at the request of SMCC.
 - 3.1.11.6.1.3. Provide annual reassessments of medical fitness at the request of SMCC.
 - 3.1.11.6.2. No single medical hold shall span a period beyond 24 consecutive calendar months unless expressly extended by the SMCC Selection Committee.
 - 3.1.11.7. Once placed on medical hold, an athlete shall not count against any future National or Development Team quota until requalified via Section 1.
- 3.1.12. Ranking Calculation
 - 3.1.12.1. Rankings for Domestic Individual and Vertical races are calculated based on a time percentage calculation: (Winner's time in seconds)/(Athlete's time in seconds)*100%.

3.1.12.2. Rankings for Sprint races are calculated based on final finishing place with points distributed as follows:

Finishing Place	Points
1	100
2	80
3	60
4	50
5	45
6	40
7	36
8	32
9	29
10	26
11	24
12	22
13	20
14	18
15	16
16	15
17	14
18	13
19	12
20	11
21	10
22	9
23	8
24	7
25	6

26	5
27	4
28	3
29	2
30	1

3.1.12.3. Rankings for each discipline will be the sum of an athlete's best performances in 50%+1 of the SMCC races, as follows:

# of SMCC Certified Races	Best Of
5	3
4	3
3	2
2	2

3.1.13. In order to be selected to the National Team, candidate athletes must:

- 3.1.13.1. Train specifically for the sport of Ski Mountaineering;
- 3.1.13.2. Sign the Athlete Agreement (sent with invitation to the Team);
- 3.1.13.3. Demonstrate commitment to Ski Mountaineering in Canada by attending:
 - 3.1.13.3.1. a total of 2 ISMF World Cup and SMCC Canada Cup race weekends unless qualifying under International Tier A
 - 3.1.13.3.2. in the case of calendar variances or cancellations, an equivalent level of race attendance in combined jurisdictions.

3.1.14. National Team Members may be selected and registered for international races. Typically, SMCC is able to provide administrative and coordination assistance. Financial assistance is dependent on SMCC funding during the competition season. SMCC will endeavor to support national team athletes to the greatest degree allowed by its funding allocation and budget. Members of the National Team will receive the following forms of support from SMCC:

- 3.1.14.1. The ability to participate in ISMF World Cups.
- 3.1.14.2. Access to National Team sponsorship arrangements and pro-deals as they might be arranged by the SMCC annually.
- 3.1.14.3. Access to coaching and training opportunities where available.

3.1.14.4. Admin support and endorsement for individual fundraising.

3.2. National Development Team Selection

3.2.1. The Team Selection Committee will select athletes for the National Development Team based on their place the previous season in the Athlete Rankings compiled by the Ranking and Points Coordinator, applied according to the criteria below. The Development Team will be announced prior to the competition season of each year.

3.2.2. In order to be selected to the Development Team, athletes must:

3.2.2.1. Apply specifically, in writing, for naming to the National Development Team.

3.2.2.2. Demonstrate technical competence and potential for outstanding international results in at least one ISMF race discipline.

3.2.2.3. Train specifically for the sport of Ski Mountaineering or another comparable endurance sport

3.2.2.4. Attend:

3.2.2.4.1. 2 SMCC race weekends in the season previous to application; or

3.2.2.4.2. with the permission of the Team Director, fulfilling race attendance requirements with international race attendance the previous season; or

3.2.2.4.3. in the case of calendar variances or cancellations, an equivalent level of race attendance in combined jurisdictions.

3.2.3. Development Team members may be sanctioned to attend international events at their own expense. No funding support should be assumed unless arranged specifically with SMCC. Development Team members will receive the following forms of support from SMCC:

3.2.3.1. Potential access to National Team sponsorship arrangements and pro-deals as they might be arranged by the SMCC annually.

3.2.3.2. Access to coaching and training opportunities where available.

3.2.3.3. Admin support and endorsement for individual fundraising.

** Age determined to match ISMF standards, currently defined as “For the sports season N-1/N, the age taken into account is the age on 31st December of year N.”

4. WORLD CUP ELIGIBILITY

4.1. National Team Members

4.1.1. National Team members are eligible to participate in ISMF World Cups.

4.2. National Development Team Members

4.2.1. National Development Team members are eligible to participate in ISMF World Cups after being approved by SMCC on a discipline and venue specific basis.

4.3. Other Canadian Athletes

4.3.1. Other Canadian Citizens are eligible to participate in ISMF World Cups after applying to and being approved by SMCC on a case by case basis.

- 4.3.2. Previous national team athletes are eligible.
- 4.3.3. Applicants must be SMCC members in good standing.
- 4.3.4. Applicants may provide relevant, *related*, high level endurance sport results for consideration.
- 4.3.5. Applicants must have participated in at least one ski mountaineering race.
- 4.3.6. Applicants must confirm that they are in possession of and familiar with the use of all required equipment in their chosen race discipline(s).
- 4.3.7. Applicants must confirm that they have read and understood all rules and technical regulations pertaining to ISMF World Cup races.