



CCS

## 2023 Canada Winter Games - PEI

### Team Saskatchewan Cross Country Ski and Para-Nordic Selection Criteria

Approved for use by CCS November 2, 2021

*Revised and approved for use by CCS June 10, 2022*

Revisions: Added Eligibility criteria #5

**Team:** 12 Able-Bodied athletes (6 female and 6 male)  
Up to 4 Para-Nordic athletes (2 female and 2 male)

**Staff:** 3 coaches (1 designated for Para-Nordic), 1 Manager, 1 Wax Technician

#### Eligibility

1. Able-Bodied athletes must be Twenty (20) years of age and under as of December 31st, 2023 (born no earlier than 2003).
2. Para-Nordic athletes must be Thirty (30) years of age and under as of December 31, 2023.  
*Exemptions may be available for older Para-Nordic athletes.*
3. To be eligible for team selection, athletes must:
  - a. Be a registered member of a Cross Country Saskatchewan (CCS) recognized Saskatchewan cross country ski club.
  - b. Hold a valid CCS 2022-23 Race License to register for the selection trial races.
  - c. Hold a Nordiq Canada 2022-23 Race License to register for the selection trial races.
  - d. Have a Saskatchewan residence (with the exception of Flin Flon and Lloydminster athletes).
  - e. Register for the selection trial races. (Note: even if an athlete does not plan to attend one or all of the races, they must register their intent to race, then request approval to miss – see SC2)
4. Athletes **NOT** eligible for the CWG include:
  - Senior National Team athletes,
  - Athletes who have held SR1 or SR2 cards (as defined by Sport Canada's Athlete Assistance program) at any time,
  - Athletes who have previously competed at the following events:
    - FIS Senior World Championships
    - Olympic Winter Games
    - FIS World Cups (domestic World Cups not included)
    - Athletes who have medalled at a World Para-Nordic Skiing (WPNS) World Cup
    - Athletes who have finished within the top 33% of the field at the WPNS World Championships or Paralympic Winter Games
    - Non-classified athletes; Classification by an WPNS Classifier or Canadian Blind Sports Classifier must take place before December 15<sup>th</sup>

- To ensure the strongest team of athletes, CCS will not support high volume competition or camps in the 2 weeks prior to Games. Therefore athletes who are selected to the team, and accept a spot on Team Saskatchewan - Cross Country Skiing, shall not participate in the first week of the 2023 Canada Winter Games or the 2023 Saskatchewan Winter Games.*

Review the 2023 Canada Winter Games (CWG) Cross Country Ski & Para-Nordic Technical Package for more detail on Competitor Eligibility.

The most recently updated Technical Package can be found online at the Canada Winter Games Cross Country Ski and Para-Nordic Sport Page:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qail5kGmcSY73qePC9HCJlarehDIMGyc/view>

## Terms

**Eligible Athlete:** An athlete who meets the eligibility requirements in this criteria to try-out for Team Saskatchewan for the 2023 CWG and registers for the selection trial races.

**Organizing Committee (OC):** The organizing committee will consist of volunteers from Saskatchewan that will run the selection trial races. The organizing duties will be led by CCS and will not be placed on a specific club.

**Canada Games Team Selection Committee (CGTSC):** The Provincial HP Coach, the CWG Coaching staff and members of the CCS High Performance Committee (HPC) will select the team based on the selection criteria, with the Chair being the High Performance Director.

**Canada Games Appeals Committee (CGAC):** Will consist of CCS Board of Director members, excluding parents of any eligible athletes, a selected technical expert and independent advisors, with the Chair being the CCS President.

**Competition Committee (CC):** The major officials, led by the chief of competition and comprised of the chief of course, the chief of stadium, the chief of timekeeping and data processing, and the competition secretary.

**Technical Delegate and Jury:** The Technical Delegate (TD) is the representative of the sport governing body to the OC and the CC and is a guarantor for the competition sanctioning body (e.g., FIS, Nordiq Canada, its Divisions, etc.) that the competition is technically in accordance with the FIS or Nordiq Canada rules. The race jury will consist of the TD, the Chief of Competition, and a visiting team coach. An alternate coach Jury member will be designated if the primary coach is the coach of an athlete making or subject to a protest, or an athlete being sanctioned by the Jury. The jury is responsible for ensuring a safe and fair competition and hearing to any protests by athletes or coaches.

## Selection Process

Selection to the Saskatchewan Team for the 2023 CWG will be decided by the following Selection Criteria (SC), in order of importance:

**SC1 – Four athletes, per gender, with the highest accumulated points obtained from the selection trial races will be selected to the team.**

The following selection trial races will be organized in Saskatchewan to bring all competitors together for head-to-head racing and are as follows:

Race 1: Classic sprint, Interval start time trial only

Male and Female - 1200 m

Race 2: Classic Distance, interval start

Male – 10km

Female – 7.5km

Race 3: Free Technique, mass start

Male – 15km

Female – 10km

*The selection trial races will feature the most current Glide Wax Policy as directed by Nordiq Canada for the 2023 Canada Winter Games. The policy will be distributed with the Selection Race Notice in the fall of 2022.*

Details outlining the calculation of points, race protest procedure and the plan in case of cancellation or postponement can be found in *Appendix 1*.

**SC2 – Two athletes, per gender, may be selected at the discretion of the Provincial Coach and the CGTSC.**

The CGTSC reserves the right to review each athlete's circumstances or extenuating circumstances and make a decision to select the most competitive team possible for the CWGs.

If an individual is aware of a situation that may affect their ability to compete in the selection races, they shall inform CCS by email as soon as possible.

- Mandatory school event/activity.
- High level competition such as Cross Country or Biathlon World Junior Trials, or other high level sport competitions not necessarily related to skiing, etc. (Note: pre-approval is required to miss the selection races for any type of race)

The CGTSC reserves the right to fill the SC2 spots with athletes that may not have met the eligibility criteria defined under Eligibility (3) in a timely manner. (Note: athletes selected to the team in this manner are still required to eventually fully meet the eligibility requirement.)

For example:

- Athlete moves to the province
- Late cross over athlete from another sport

**SC3** – If no selection trial races occur, the athletes with the highest CPL points from the 21/22 and early 22/23 race seasons will be selected to fill out the team positions determined by SC1.

If **all** selection trial races are unable to be held, CPL points from the 2021/2022 season plus any early season 2022/2023 Alberta or Teck BC Cup races will be used as an alternative selection process to SC1. A CPL ranking list will be created that includes all Eligible Athletes using the most recent CPL Distance and Sprint lists, published by Nordiq Canada, as of mid December, 2022. Those who did not register for the selection trial races or who did not receive pre-approval to miss selection races are ineligible to be selected under SC3.

1. Alberta Cup sanctioned races held before December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022 may also be used for accumulation of points and considered in the rankings.
2. ALL sanctioned races in Canada that have resulted in the accumulation of CPL points may be considered

SC2 still applies and the CGTSC reserves the right to use CPL points to fill the remaining positions on the team, or otherwise.

## **Alternate Selection**

One alternate of each gender will be announced after the completion of the selection trial races and the selection of the discretionary team member as outlined in SC2 and/or CPL ranking in SC3. The alternate will have the next highest accumulated points from the selection trial races or CPL ranking, from the selected CWG team. This alternate will replace a selected CWG team member, if a selected CWG athlete is unable or ineligible to attend the CWGs.

All team spots are only finalized once all appeals are settled and the team roster is submitted to Sask Sport.

## **Force Majeure and Selection Appeal**

**Force Majeure** – an unexpected event beyond reasonable control of the athlete that materially affects an athlete’s ability to compete and can be put forward as rationale for not having started or completed selection trial race(s).

- Injury, illness, family misfortune or crisis, exceptional circumstances, and equipment breakage during competition will be considered valid grounds for appeal.
- In the event of illness or injury, an athlete must provide a note from a doctor or physiotherapist.
- Family misfortune or crisis and foreseen exceptional circumstances must be identified to the CGTSC prior to the start of the selection races.
- Incidents occurring during the race such as broken equipment or other race related incidents shall be appealed to the race jury immediately following the race. See Appendix 1.

**Selection Appeal** - Athletes have a right to appeal the CWG team selection decision if they think any criteria were not implemented properly. A Selection Appeal will be heard only on the grounds that the approved selection process and final decision was potentially flawed (i.e., race results cannot be appealed to the Selection Committee; race results must be formally protested in writing to the race Jury within 30 minutes of unofficial results being posted - see Appendix 1).

Athletes will be given 48 hours following the announcement of the 2023 CWG Team to request a Selection Appeal. The athlete must present their request to the CGAC in writing to [ccs@sasktel.net](mailto:ccs@sasktel.net). The CGAC will review the presented documentation and information and will hear from the CGTSC before deciding whether the request has grounds for a hearing. They will also review all selection procedure documentation from the CGSC that has a bearing on the case in question. If there are no legitimate grounds for a Selection Appeal, the chair of the CGAC will contact the athlete, advising them of the decision. This will be followed up with a formal letter to the athlete via email.

If the CGAC feels there are grounds for a Selection Appeal hearing, the following procedures will take place:

- a) The Chair of the CGAC will select a time and date to hear the Selection Appeal via conference call. This will be done no later than 72 hours after determining the Selection Appeal can proceed.
- b) The CGAC shall hear the athlete’s case. They may be accompanied by one advocate.
- c) The CGAC will hear from the CGTSC.
- d) The CGAC will make a final decision at the Selection Appeal hearing and the decision will be final and binding.
- e) The Chair of the CGAC will contact the Chair of the CGTSC no later than 72 hours after the hearing to advise them of the outcome and this will be followed up by a formal letter sent via email with a copy of the Selection Appeal findings and recommendations.
- f) The Chair of the CGAC will contact the athlete no later than 72 hours after the hearing to advise them of the outcome. This will be followed up by a formal letter sent via email with a copy of the Selection Appeal findings and recommendations.

## APPENDIX 1

### Selection Trial Races

After each race, there will be a 30-minute period immediately following the posting of the unofficial results where an athlete or team captain can protest the result of a race by submitting a protest form to the race jury at the race office. The jury will rule on the protest following FIS/CCC Jury protocols.

If unforeseen circumstances lead to a cancellation or postponement of selection races:

- The CC working alongside the CGTSC will make every effort to reschedule. The race jury holds the responsibility to decide whether to cancel a race. The most likely cause being the temperature failing to rise above -20C.
- *If one or more of the selection trial races are unable to be held, the CC and the CCS HPC will adjust the selection trial race schedule in an attempt to maintain a balance between techniques and distances, as much as is reasonably possible.*

For example, if only one day of selection trial races looks likely because of cold weather, the HPC and CC may choose to change the race format to a same-day pursuit (e.g. a 5km classic interval start, an hour break, and a 5km free technique pursuit).

### Selection trial race points

The top athlete in each selection trial race will receive 100 points. Athletes will be ranked based on their percentage of time off the leader, rounded to two decimals (e.g. 98.52). The points calculated from the selection trial races will be added together to give the athlete their total accumulated points.

In the event of a tie in total accumulated points between athletes, the athlete with the highest most recent CPL ranking will be ranked higher.

The CGTSC will review the final results tally and barring any selection trial race protests, will post the ranking of the total accumulated points for all athletes of each gender.