

USSA 2008 CROSS COUNTRY WORLD CUP TEAM SELECTION CRITERIA

1. **USSA POLICY**

USSA policy mandates that team selection criteria shall be principally objective (or performance-based) and that available start rights and team spots will not necessarily be filled.

2. **TEAM SIZE**

The team selected by USSA may consist of any number of athletes up to the FIS World Cup quota for the United States.

3. **START RIGHTS:** The quota of start rights per nation is set annually by the FIS.

4. **ELIGIBILITY FOR CONSIDERATION**

USSA will consider for selection only those USSA members in good standing with valid U.S. passports and a valid FIS license, who meet FIS minimum eligibility standards. An athlete shall be ineligible for consideration if he/she is not fit to compete at the time selections are made due to any injury or illness from which he/she is not expected to recover adequately by the time of the World Cup competitions he/she has been selected for.

5. **TEAM SELECTION PROCEDURE AND CRITERIA**

The U.S. Ski Team Head Coach is responsible for applying the selection criteria set forth herein, subject to the oversight of the Chief Executive Officer, Vice President of Athletics, and Nordic Director of USSA. No minimum team size will be established. Objective selections shall be based on the results achieved by athletes in FIS competitions scored to the FIS points list, World Cup competitions held during the 2006/2007 and 2007/2008 seasons, and SuperTour competitions held between November 15, 2007 and January, 2008 (tentative, the "selection period"). Discretionary selections, if any, may be based on a variety of factors, including competitions conducted outside of the selection period.

(a) Coaches' Discretion. USSA may select athletes to the team using coaches' discretion. The coaching staff may make selections based upon factors other than the objective criteria, and if the coaching staff fills any available spot(s) on the team with discretionary selections, then the staff may consider any factors including (but not limited to) the following:

- 1) Outstanding competition results (including results achieved outside of the selection period).
- 2) Recent direction or trend of competition results (i.e., improving, flat, or declining).
- 3) Attitude and commitment of athletes.
- 4) Physical fitness level.
- 5) Illness or injury during the selection period.
- 6) Indicia of medal potential in future Olympic or World Championship competition, which would be materially enhanced by selection to team
- 7) Other unanticipated failure of objective criteria to select an athlete likely to achieve competition results consistent with USSA program goals for World Cup.

(b) Objective Criteria. Additional athletes shall be selected to the team based solely upon their competition results during the selection period. Athletes meeting criteria (b) 1-2 shall be selected to the team, unless application of this criteria would result in a total team

size exceeding the FIS quota, in which case USSA shall use the following tie-breaking mechanisms in order:

- (a) Most World Cup points on the most current World Cup ranking list used for selection
 - (b) Lowest current FIS points (sprint or distance, whichever is lower)
 - (c) Lowest current USSA points
1. Individuals who meet the following criteria will be selected to the World Cup Cross Country Team for World Cup Period 1 (tentatively October 27-December 17, 2007):
 - Attain a World Cup Overall or FIS Distance Points List international ranking in the top-50 at the conclusion of the 2006/2007 season.
 - Attain a World Cup Sprint or FIS Sprint Points List international ranking in the top 30 at the conclusion of the 2006/2007 season.
 - Attain a World Cup Distance ranking in the top-30 at the conclusion of the 2006/2007 season.
 - Win the 2007 Overall SuperTour title.
 2. Individuals who meet the following criteria will be selected to the World Cup Cross Country Team for World Cup Period 2 (January 22-26, 2008):
 - Attain a current World Cup Overall, Sprint World Cup, Distance World Cup or FIS points list ranking (sprint or distance) within the top-30 on the most current publication at the completion of World Cup Period 2 (tentatively scheduled for December 17, 2007).
 - The leaders of the Overall SuperTour classification (man and woman) on January 7, 2008.
 - USSA shall ensure that it will fill the distance quota set by FIS for the World Cup competitions in Canada by selecting - in rank order from the SuperTour distance overall classification on January 7, 2008 - as many additional athletes as may be necessary to fill that quota.
 - USSA shall ensure that it will fill the sprint quota set by FIS for the World Cup competitions in Canada by selecting - in rank order from the SuperTour sprint overall classification on January 7, 2008 - as many additional athletes as may be necessary to fill that quota.
 2. Individuals who meet the following criteria will be selected to the World Cup Cross Country Team for World Cup period 3 (February 9-March 16, 2008).
 - Attain a current World Cup Overall, Sprint World Cup, Distance World Cup or FIS points list ranking (sprint or distance) within the top-30 on the most current publication at the completion of World Cup Period 2 (tentatively scheduled for January 27, 2008).
 - Finish in the top-10 of an individual event in the World Cup competitions held in Canada January 22-26, 2008.
 - The leaders of the Overall SuperTour classification (man and woman) on January 14, 2008 will be able to start in the World Cup competitions from February 9-March 8, 2008.
 - The leaders of the Distance and Sprint SuperTour classifications (men and women) on January 14, 2008 will be able to start in the World Cup competitions from March 1-8, 2008.