

USOPC INTERNALLY MANAGED SPORTS (IMS) – SKI MOUNTAINEERING

SPRINT & MIXED RELAY

PRELIMINARY NOTICE TO THE ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES

2026 Milan Cortina Olympic Games

11/22/2024

TO: Members of USOPC IMS – Ski Mountaineering

FROM: USOPC IMS – Ski Mountaineering

RE: Preliminary Notice to the Athlete Selection Procedures for the 2026 Milan Cortina Olympic Games

To provide as much information in a timely manner, USOPC IMS – Ski Mountaineering is releasing this Preliminary Notice to the Athlete Selection Procedures for the 2026 Milan Cortina Olympic Games (Games). This document is being written as a complement, and not a substitute to the 2026 Milan Cortina Olympic Games Athlete Selection Procedures. Additional communication will be released by USOPC IMS – Ski Mountaineering once the Athlete Selection Procedures have been finalized and approved by the USOPC.

A. General Minimum Athlete Eligibility Criteria:

- Athletes must be a national of the United States and hold a valid U.S. passport that will not expire for six months after the conclusion of the Games.
- Athletes must meet all eligibility criteria in the International Ski Mountaineering Federation (ISMF) [Qualification System](#) (see Qualification) in addition to all eligibility criteria listed in the approved Athlete Selection Procedures for the 2026 Milan Cortina Olympic Games.
- Athletes must be born on or before 31 December 2007 in accordance with Article 2.1 of the ISMF Athlete Participation Rules.
- Athletes must have a signed USOPC IMS – Ski Mountaineering Athlete Agreement.
- Athletes must adhere to all USOPC IMS – Ski Mountaineering, USADA, USOPC, WADA and ISMF anti-doping protocols, policies, and procedures, as applicable.
- Any athlete age 18 or older will be required to undergo a background screen in accordance with the current [USOPC Background Check Policy](#).
- Any athlete age 18 or older as of the Closing Ceremony will be required to remain current with the U.S. Center for SafeSport’s education and training requirements in accordance with the [USOPC Athlete Safety Policy](#).

B. International Ski Mountaineering Federation Qualification System:

- The complete ISMF Qualification System for the Games can be found under “Qualification” at <https://olympics.com/ioc/documents/olympic-games/milano-cortina-2026-olympic-winter-games>.
- To be eligible to participate in the Games, athletes must have achieved either standard A, B or C as below:

- 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.
- b. Have placed in the top 90.00% of the ranked athletes as published on the official ISMF results at least two (2) times in any Sprint or Mixed Relay competition at an ISMF World Cup during the Olympic Qualification period or in the ISMF World Championships 2025.
- c. Have placed in the top 6 of the ranked athletes as published on the official ISMF results at least one (1) time 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.

C. Anticipated Evaluation Events:

It is intended that athletes being considered for nomination to the 2026 Milan Cortina Olympic Games will be evaluated on their performance at any of the below listed events.

EVENT NAME	DATE/LOCATION
ISMF World Cup 1	December 14 – 15, 2024 Courchevel, FRA
ISMF World Cup 2	January 10 – 13, 2025 Shahdag, AZE
ISMF World Cup 3	January 25 – 26, 2025 Arinsal – La Massana, AND
ISMF World Cup 4	February 1 – 2, 2025 Boí Taüll, ESP
ISMF World Cup 5	February 22 – 23, 2025 Bormio, ITA
ISMF 2025 World Championships	March 2 – 9, 2025 Morgins, SUI
ISMF World Cup 6	March 14 – 15, 2025 Schladming, AUT
ISMF World Cup 7	March 20 – 22, 2025 Val Martello, ITA
ISMF World Cup 8	April 4 – 5, 2025 Villars-sur-Ollon, SUI
ISMF World Cup 9	April 10 – 15, 2025 Tromsø, NOR
ISMF World Cup 1	December 11 – 14, 2025 Location TBC, FRA

Nominations for the ISMF World Cup Events will be based on the qualifications established by USA Skimo. These qualifications are detailed in the [2025 USA Skimo National and World Team "In Season" Qualification](#) document. This document outlines the specific criteria, including performance standards, eligibility requirements, and any necessary documentation needed for athletes seeking nomination.

Additionally, USOPC IMS – Ski Mountaineering may use discretionary criteria to nominate athletes to the 2025 ISMF World Cup events in the Olympic disciplines of Sprint and Mixed Relay who have not met the objective

criteria for the USA Skimo National Team. Discretionary criteria will be outlined in the existing [2025 USA Skimo National and World Team "In Season" Qualification](#) document and is anticipated to prioritize athletes who have experienced an injury or other similar incapacity, a personal/family emergency, or other exceptional circumstance.

Nominations for the 2025 ISMF World Championships will be based on the athlete selection procedures established by USOPC IMS – Ski Mountaineering. Once approved, the selection procedures can be found at <https://www.teamusa.com/ski-mountaineering/selection-procedures>.

D. Disclaimer:

This preliminary notice is based on the ISMF rules and regulations as presently known and understood for the 2026 Milan Cortina Olympic Games. The information in this notice is provided to assist athletes with their training and competition planning and is subject to change upon approval of the USOPC IMS – Ski Mountaineering Athlete Selection Procedures for the 2026 Milan Cortina Olympic Games. Once complete, the approved Athlete Selection Procedures will be posted at <https://www.teamusa.com/ski-mountaineering/selection-procedures>.

For questions about the 2026 Milan Cortina Olympic Games selection process, please contact Matt Cramer, Senior Director, Internally Managed Sports, at Matt.R.Cramer@usopc.org.

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
USOPC Senior Director, Internally Managed Sports	Matt Cramer	Signed by: <i>Matt Cramer</i> 73879EP9C5EB4BB...	November 22, 2024 2:50:27 PM MST
Team USA Athletes Commission Observer	Rory Kelly	Signed by: <i>Rory Kelly</i> 45B74E6A572A1	November 25, 2024 10:09:25 AM PST