

U.S. Paralympics Nordic Skiing World Cup Team Selection Criteria 2025-26

General Criteria Guidelines & Considerations

Required for Consideration:

- Must have a valid FIS Para Cross-Country license
- Must have a valid IBU Para Biathlon license (biathletes only)
- Must have a valid U.S. passport, expiring at least 6 months after date of travel
- Athlete must meet all FIS Qualification Criteria for Para Cross-Country Competitions to be considered for any cross-country World Cup competitions.
- Athlete must meet all IBU Qualification Criteria for Para Biathlon Competitions to be considered for any biathlon World Cup competitions.
- Must meet and adhere to all WADA, USADA, and SafeSport regulations.

Criteria Guidelines:

- The team may consist of any number of athletes, with no minimum team size established.
- Athletes must be eligible to compete in the 2026 PWG according to the qualification guide criteria including classification eligibility and events on the PWG program.
- Objective selections shall be based on results achieved in sanctioned FIS Para Cross-Country races, IBU Para Biathlon races, and/or U.S. Ski & Snowboard (USSS) during the selection periods defined for each competition series listed below.
- Discretionary selections, if any, may be based on a variety of factors, see below.

Discretionary Selection Policy:

U.S. Paralympics Nordic Skiing may select athletes via discretion, using factors other than the objective criteria, including the following:

- Outstanding competition results (including results achieved outside of the selection period).
- Recent direction or trend of competition results.
- Attitude and commitment of athletes.
- Illness or injury during the selection period.
- Indication of medal potential in future Paralympic or World Championship competition.
- Other unanticipated failure of objective criteria to select an athlete likely to achieve competition results consistent with program goals.

Bipartite Guidelines:

FIS or IBU may invite nations to apply for bipartite slots for any athlete who has not met the objective qualification criteria. The US may, but is not required to, submit applications for bipartite. USPN will consider applying for any athlete for who meets the discretionary criteria described above or who has shown with recent results they would achieve the event criteria set forth in this document if they had more racing opportunities during the 2025-26 season.

Injury Clause:

An athlete shall be ineligible for consideration if they are not fit to compete at the time selections are made due to any injury or illness from which they are not expected to recover adequately by the time of the competitions for which they have been selected.

FIS Para Nordic World Cup Finals:

Athletes who meet the following criteria guidelines in addition to the criteria described above in section “Required for Consideration”, will be selected for FIS Para Nordic World Cup in Jakuszye, Poland:

- Achieve 80 points or lower on the most recently published FIS Para Cross-Country World Ranking list or the IBU Para Biathlon Ranking List as of 1/6/2026.

OR

- Standing and VI athletes achieve a calculated 150 points or better in any USSS race between November 1, 2024 & January 6th, 2026.

Funding Criteria:

- USPN will cover accommodations, food, ground transportation, entry fees, coaching, and wax support for all athletes who are named to any World Cup event.

- Flights will be covered:

- For any athlete who has a single result on either the IBU Para Biathlon or FIS Para Cross-Country World Ranking List of 80 points or better.

OR

- For U23 athletes, any athlete who has a single result on either the Para Biathlon or Para Cross-Country World Ranking List of 150 points or better.

*Any athlete who has achieved one of these standards at the event will be eligible for a flight reimbursement, if submitted within 10 days of the end of the event.

- All funding is dependent on athlete meeting all required deadlines outlined in any communication from USPN staff relating to event.