

**USOPC INTERNALLY MANAGED SPORTS (IMS) – SKI MOUNTAINEERING
SPRINT & MIXED RELAY**

PRELIMINARY NOTICE TO THE ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES

2026 Milano Cortina Olympic Games

11/22/2024

Revised 7/8/2025

Revised 9/10/2025

TO: Members of USOPC IMS – Ski Mountaineering

FROM: USOPC IMS – Ski Mountaineering

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

To provide as much information in a timely manner, USOPC IMS – Ski Mountaineering is releasing this **amended** Preliminary Notice to the Athlete Selection Procedures for the 2026 Milano 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 Milano 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 Junior and Senior 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
November 2025 Training Camp and Selection Races	November 20-24, 2025 – Utah November 22-23, 2025
ISMF World Cup 1	December 6-7, 2025 – Solitude, UT (USA)

Additional information for the November 2025 Training Camp and Selection Races will be distributed to National Team athletes a minimum of thirty (30) days in advance of the event.

Nominations for the ISMF World Cup Events will be based on the qualifications established by USA Skimo. These qualifications are detailed in the [2024/2025 USA Skimo National Team Selection document](#) and [2025 USA Skimo National and World Team "In Season" Qualification](#) document. ~~This document outlines~~

These documents outline 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-mountaineeing/selection-procedures>.

November 2025 Training Camp and Selection Races

Mixed Relay athletes will be invited if they meet the eligibility criteria listed below:

- Member of the 2025-26 USA Skimo National Team
- Age-eligible to compete at the Games
- Meets the ISMF Olympic Qualification Standard in Section B

Sprint athletes will be invited if they meet the eligibility criteria listed below:

- Member of the 2025-26 USA Skimo National Team
- Age-eligible to compete at the Games

ISMF World Cup 1 - December 6-7, 2025

- Eligible athletes who are interested in competing in the Sprint will need to contact the USA Skimo Head of Sport by September 15, 2025. All athletes who wish to compete in the Sprint must compete in the November 2025 selection races.
- USA Skimo will select athletes to compete in the Mixed Relay. All athletes who wish to compete in the Mixed Relay must compete in the November 2025 selection races. ~~Athletes must be eligible to compete at the Games to be selected to compete in the Mixed Relay at ISMF World Cup 1.~~
- To optimize Team USA's chances of qualifying a Team for the Games, USA Skimo may limit the number of teams entered into the Mixed Relay. This decision will be made ~~within three weeks of the race and will be~~ based on the number of teams entered by the other competing nations. Please see the below possible scenarios for entrants.
 - USA Skimo will enter one team in the Mixed Relay if all competing nations only enter one team.
 - USA Skimo will enter multiple teams in the Mixed Relay if more than the top 14 ranked ISMF Mixed Relay national teams are entered. ~~other competing nations enter multiple teams.~~
 - The athletes selected to compete will be based on the athlete's Mixed Relay USA Skimo National Team Ranking, the athlete's performance at the November 2025 training camp/selection races, and performance in world cup races in the 2024-25 season.

Additional information regarding the selection of athletes for the Sprint and Mixed Relay will be included in the 2026 Milano Cortina Olympic Games Athlete Selection Procedures.

D. Nomination to the Olympic Team:



- 1) If IMS Ski Mountaineering earns the Mixed Relay quota slot at ISMF World Cup 1 on December 6-7, 2025, one (1) male and one (1) female athlete will be nominated to the Olympic Team.
- 2) An athlete must race a minimum of one (1) world cup race and meet the Olympic Games standard to be considered eligible for nomination to the Olympic Team per ISMF rules. Athletes who meet these criteria will be included on the Olympic Eligibility List that is owned and maintained by the ISMF on their website.
- 3) Athletes will be nominated to the Olympic Team based on their USA Skimo National Team Ranking for Mixed Relay as of December 8, 2025. To have a Mixed Relay USA Skimo National Team Ranking, athletes must finish two (2) races in the 2024-2025 and/or 2025-2026 season.

Additional information regarding the nomination of athletes for the Mixed Relay will be included in the 2026 Milano Cortina Olympic Games Athlete Selection Procedures.

E. Disclaimer:

This preliminary notice is based on the ISMF rules and regulations as presently known and understood for the 2026 Milano 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 Milano 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 Milano 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		Sep 11, 2025
Team USA Athletes Commission Observer	Rory Kelly		09/10/2025