

USOPC Internally Managed Sports (IMS) - Ski Mountaineering

Athlete Selection Procedures

2025 ISMF World Championships

- Publication Date: January 13, 2025
- IMS – Ski Mountaineering posted a Preliminary Notice in December 2024 (see <https://www.teamusa.com/ski-mountaineeing/selection-procedures>)

SECTION 1: OVERVIEW

These procedures outline the pathway for selection to the 2025 International Ski Mountaineering Federation (ISMF) World Championships for Ski Mountaineering. The total quota per National Olympic Committee (NOC) in the Sprint discipline at the Senior level is four (4) men and four (4) women. The total quota per NOC in the Mixed Relay race is three (3) teams, each consisting of one (1) man and (1) woman.

SECTION 2: ATHLETE REQUIREMENTS

1. Nationality/Passports Requirements:
 - Have a valid United States passport at the time of nomination that does not expire for six months after the conclusion of the 2025 ISMF World Championships.
2. Minimum International Ski Mountaineering Federation (ISMF) Requirements:
 - Abide by the rules in [ISMF Rules and Guidelines](#), including nationality/citizenship requirements.
 - For additional information regarding an athlete who is a national of two or more countries, has changed his or her nationality or acquired a new nationality, refer to section 25.1.1. of the [ISMF Rules and Guidelines](#).
 - Comply with all ISMF eligibility requirements found here: <https://www.ismf-ski.org/webpages/official-texts/sport-regulations/>.
 - Athletes must be born on or before 31 December 2006 to compete in the Senior Level Sprint event in accordance with Article 23.1 of the ISMF Athlete Participation Category Rules.
 - Athletes must be born on or before 31 December 2008 to compete in the Senior Level Mixed Relay event in accordance with Article 23.1 of the ISMF Athlete Participation Category Rules.
 - Athlete must satisfy the medical requirements in accordance with Article 2.3 of the [ISMF Athletes Participation Rules](#) and the [ISMF Anti-Doping Rules](#).
3. IMS Requirements:
 - Comply with the USOPC IMS – Ski Mountaineering Athlete Agreement.
 - Comply with the IMS [Athlete Code of Conduct for Internally Managed Sport Programs](#).
 - Comply with the [USOPC Athlete Safety Policy](#) and the [U.S. Center for SafeSport Code](#).
 - Undergo a background screen in accordance with the current [USOPC Background Check Policy](#) if you will be age 18 or older.
 - Athlete must have an active USA Skimo membership.
 - Athlete does not have an active suspension from the U.S. Center for SafeSport that would make the Athlete ineligible to participate in the Games.
 - Athlete does not have an active sanction for an anti-doping rule/policy violation that would make the

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Athlete ineligible to participate in the Games.

- Meet all health and safety protocols, to include vaccine requirements and/or testing requirements set forth by the government, local laws, USOPC, and ISMF.

4. Anti-Doping Requirements:

- Agree to be bound by and adhere to all IOC, WADA, ISMF, USADA and USOPC anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures, as applicable. This includes participation in Out-of-Competition Testing and an agreement to be bound to the results management authority of the IOC, WADA, ISMF, USADA, or other Anti-Doping Organization as applicable.

SECTION 3: EVALUATIVE EVENTS

Event names, dates and locations of all trials, competitions, and camps to be used as part of the selection process.

DATE(S)	DESCRIPTION/EVENT NAME
January 8 – 12, 2025	Wasatch Powderkeg (Solitude Utah, USA)

The additional quota slots will be determined by the [USA Skimo Ranking List](#), following the procedures outlined in the [USA Skimo Ranking System](#). Nomination will be made in rank order according to this system for both the Sprint and Mixed Relay disciplines. The evaluation period for these rankings will take place from February 4, 2024, to February 4, 2025. The events that occur during the evaluation period can be found here:

<https://www.ismfski.org/webpages/competitions/calendar/>.

If an athlete who qualifies for the 2025 World Championship at the Wasatch Powderkeg event is unavailable to participate in the 2025 World Championship, USOPC IMS – Ski Mountaineering will follow the athlete replacement procedures outlined in Section 9 to fill the vacancy.

SECTION 4: SELECTION PROCESS

Provide a step-by-step description of the selection process including an overview of the ISMF Qualification System.

4.1 TOTAL QUOTA PLACES:

The total quota per NOC in the Sprint discipline at the Senior Level is four (4) men and four (4) women. The total quota per NOC in the Mixed Relay race at the Senior Level is three (3) teams, each consisting of one (1) man and one (1) woman.

For the purpose of these selection procedures, the Sprint and Mixed Relay components of the Team shall be considered separately.

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4.2 EVALUATION EVENT QUALIFICATION PATHWAY:

The Wasatch Powderkeg event is open to all participants without the need for an invitation. Athletes must complete all registration requirements by the stated deadline. Event information can be found here:

<https://www.wasatchpowderkeg.com/>.

4.3 NOMINATION TO THE TEAM:

Athletes will earn a nomination to the 2025 ISMF World Championship Team through the following:

- A. Senior Sprint: Finish in either first or second place in the Senior Level Sprint discipline at the Wasatch Powderkeg event on Thursday, January 9, 2025.
 - Athletes must meet the age requirement outlined in Section 2 to compete in the Senior Level Sprint at the 2025 World Championships.
- B. Senior Mixed Relay: Achieve the fastest combined time, which consists of the individual athlete's qualification time and the A or B heat time, in the Senior Level or Youth Level Mixed Relay discipline at the Wasatch Powderkeg on Wednesday, January 8, 2025.

In the event of a conflict between this overview and the ISMF Qualification System, the ISMF Qualification System will take precedent. For more details, please refer to the ISMF Qualification System directly here:

<https://www.ismf-ski.org/webpages/official-texts/sport-regulations/> .

SECTION 5: DISCRETIONARY CRITERIA TO NOMINATE ATHLETES

5.1 RATIONALE FOR UTILIZING DISCRETIONARY SELECTION: Not Applicable

5.2 DEFINE THE DISCRETIONARY CRITERIA TO BE USED: Not Applicable

5.3 SELECTION COMMITTEE: Not Applicable

SECTION 6: MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION

USOPC IMS – Ski Mountaineering does not anticipate any mandatory training and/or competition for athletes who are nominated to the 2025 World Championship Team.

SECTION 7: DATE OF TEAM NOMINATION

IMS will nominate the Team, including any replacements/alternates on or before February 14, 2025.

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SECTION 8: REMOVAL OF ATHLETES FROM THE TEAM

IMS JURISDICTION

- a. An athlete who is nominated to the Team by IMS may be removed for any of the following reasons, as determined by IMS:
 - i. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete submits a written letter to the Senior Director, Internally Managed Sports requesting to voluntarily withdraw from the Team.
 - ii. Injury or illness. A physician (or medical staff) approved by USOPC IMS – Ski Mountaineering provides certification that the Athlete has a debilitating condition. If Athlete refuses to provide verification of their illness or injury by a physician (or medical staff), their injury will be assumed to be debilitating, and they may be removed from the Team.
 - iii. Failure to participate. Athlete does not participate in all Mandatory Training and/or Competition as defined in these procedures.
 - iv. Code of Conduct Violation. Athlete violates the [Athlete Code of Conduct for Internally Managed Sport Programs](#)
 - v. Athlete Agreement. Athlete violates a term in their signed USOPC IMS – Ski Mountaineering Athlete Agreement.
 - vi. Non-compliance. Athlete does not meet the athlete eligibility requirements listed in Section 2 these selection procedures.
- b. An Athlete may be removed as a nominee to the Team or from the Team if found to have violated IOC, WADA, ISMF, USADA and/or USOPC anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures, the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code, the USOPC Athlete Safety Policy, as applicable.

SECTION 9: SELECTION PROCESS IF ATHLETE VACANCY OCCURS PRIOR TO SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES BY NAME TO THE LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

- 9.1 Should a vacancy occur prior to submission of Entries by Name to the LOC, slots will be filled by the next highest ranked eligible athlete in the respective gender and discipline on the [USA Skimo Ranking List](#). Selection will be made in rank order according to this system for both the Sprint and Mixed Relay disciplines.

The evaluation period for these rankings will take place from February 4, 2024, to February 4, 2025. The events that occur during the evaluation period can be found here: <https://www.ismf-ski.org/webpages/competitions/calendar/>.

- 9.2 More information regarding the ranking system and World Cup entry can be found below:
 - [USA Skimo Ranking System](#)
 - [USA Skimo World Cup Eligibility Information](#)

- 9.3 All replacement athletes must meet all requirements listed in Section 2.

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SECTION 10: SELECTION PROCESS IF ATHLETE VACANCY OCCURS AFTER SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES BY NAME TO THE LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

- 10.1 Should a vacancy occur after submission of Entries by Name to the LOC, if allowed, USOPC IMS – Ski Mountaineering will follow the procedure in Section 9.
- 10.2 All replacement athletes must meet all requirements listed in Section 2.

SECTION 11: RIGHT TO A HEARING

An athlete who is removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per the [IMS Complaint Procedures](#).

SECTION 12: REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

The following documents are required to be signed by an athlete as a condition of nomination to the 2025 ISMF World Championships:

- Athlete Code of Conduct for Internally Managed Sport Programs: <https://www.usopc.org/ethics-and-compliance>
- USOPC IMS – Ski Mountaineering Athlete Agreement

SECTION 13: DISCLAIMERS

These procedures are based on ISMF rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in ISMF rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes immediately. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to USOPC IMS – Ski Mountaineering.

However, the selection criteria are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances, and realistically may not have accounted for every possible contingency. If any force of nature, pandemic, or force majeure, should cause the alteration or cancellation of any of the selection events listed in this document, these selection procedures may require revisions.

SECTION 14: CONFLICT OF INTEREST

All members of the Selection Committee (Section 5.3) and all individuals who developed these selection procedures (Section 19) must comply with the [USOPC Conflict of Interest Policy](#), to include completing and submitting a disclosure form consistent with the USOPC Conflict of Interest Policy before convening the committee.

A conflict of interest exists when a personal, family, financial, professional, club, team or business relationship or interferes with, or maybe perceived to interfere with a committee member's ability to be impartial and participate in

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the selection process in a fair and impartial manner. Any member of the Selection Committee who has an actual, possible, or perceived conflict of interest must disclose it prior to the start of the selection process and may be required to recuse him/herself from the Selection Committee's discussions and/or voting.

If a conflict exists, the USOPC Ethics & Compliance Committee shall review the conflict and determine the committee member's level of involvement (e.g., whether that committee member must recuse him/herself from participating in discussions and/or voting) by following the [USOPC Ethics Procedures](#).

The AAG representative will not participate in the Ethics & Compliance Committee's deliberations or decision. Once a decision has been made, the Ethics & Compliance Committee will provide a written decision, including directions to mitigate the conflict, to the affected parties and to USOPC IMS staff. The Ethics & Compliance Committee's decision is final and is not subject to further review.

Additionally, any person with a good faith belief that a committee member has a conflict of interest may report the alleged conflict of interest through the [USOPC's Integrity Portal](#). No committee member shall retaliate in any way against a person who, in good faith, reports an alleged conflict of interest. In addition, the USOPC maintains a strict no retaliation policy that prohibits any employee, contractor, agent, volunteer, or member of the USOPC to take or threaten to take any action against an athlete for reporting information to or seeking assistance from the Office of the Athlete Ombuds.

SECTION 15: QUESTIONS REGARDING ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES

USOPC IMS – SKI MOUNTAINEERING

Athletes may contact the individuals listed below for information about these selection procedures.

Name: Matt Cramer

Position: Senior Director, Internally Managed Sports

Email: Matt.R.Cramer@usopc.org

Name: Rory Kelly

Position: Team USA Athletes' Commission Observer

Email: Rory@ussma.org

ATHLETE OMBUDS

The Team USA Athlete Ombuds serves as a safe, independent, confidential place for Team USA Athletes to seek advice about any sport-related rule, policy, or process; how to navigate raising or responding to concerns; or access legal and mental health resources.

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Team USA Athletes may contact the Athlete Ombuds:

PHONE: (719) 866-5000

EMAIL: ombudsman@usathlete.org

WEBSITE: usathlete.org

SECTION 16: GRIEVANCES

The USOPC Dispute Resolution Procedures (Effective May 31, 2024) can be found at www.usopc.org/governance/dispute-resolution

SECTION 17: NON-RETAILATION

The USOPC and IMS have zero tolerance for retaliation against people who make good faith reports of potential ethical, policy, or legal violations, or who cooperate with investigations of those reports. That means no USOPC or IMS staff, Board or Committee member, or volunteer may threaten, harass, discriminate against, or take any negative employment or related action (e.g., discharge, demotion, suspension, negative review) on that basis.

- Individuals may report concerns to the USOPC confidentially, or anonymously, online using the [USOPC Integrity Portal](#) or individuals may call the USOPC Integrity Hotline at 1-877-404-9935.
- Additional information can be found in the USOPC's [Speak Up Policy](#).

SECTION 18: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

IMS will retain the approved Selection Procedures and all supporting documents, including scouting or evaluation forms, etc., and data from the selection process as required by the USOPC Records Retention Policy or for six months past the date of the Closing Ceremony of the 2025 ISMF World Championships, whichever is longer.

SECTION 19: DEVELOPMENT, APPROVAL & CERTIFICATION OF SELECTION PROCEDURES

The following committee of individuals developed these selection procedures.

NAME	ROLE
Olivia Barker	Manager, Internally Managed Sports
Matt Cramer	Senior Director, Internally Managed Sports
Rory Kelly	Team USA Athletes' Commission Observer

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The following individuals approved these selection procedures and through their signature, certify that the procedures comply with the standards and criteria set by the ISMF. The following individuals further certify that the information provided herein regarding Athlete Selection Procedures represents the method approved by IMS and that these selection procedures will be posted on the IMS website.

POSITION	NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE
Senior Director, Internally Managed Sports	Matt Cramer	Signed by:  73979EF9C5EB4B8...	January 13, 2025 10:55:28 AM

The following individual affirms that they read and understand the selection procedures.

POSITION	NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE
Team USA Athletes' Commission Observer*	Rory Kelly	Signed by:  35FBD3FE085C4A0...	January 13, 2025 10:31:44 AM

* If the Team USA Athletes' Commission Representative has delegated authority to the Alternate Representative to sign the Selection Procedures, attach a letter from the Team USA AC Representative indicating the reason they have delegated authority.

* Signature by the Athlete Representative constitutes that they have read and understand the Selection Procedures. If the Athlete Representative reads and does not agree with the Athlete Selection Procedures being submitted by IMS, they may submit those reasons in writing to their USOPC Sport Performance Team.

* If, for some reason, a sport does not have an elected Team USA AC Representative, IMS must designate an athlete from that sport to review and sign the Selection Procedures.

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APPENDIX A – COMMONLY USED ACRONYMS

AAC – Athletes’ Advisory Council

AC – Athletes’ Commission

Act or TSOASA – Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act

APC – Americas Paralympic Committee

CAS – Court of Arbitration for Sport

Center or CSS – U.S. Center for SafeSport

CF – Continental Federation

IMS – Internally Managed Sport (sport managed by the USOPC)

IOC – International Olympic Committee

IPC – International Paralympic Committee

IF – International Federation

LOC – Local Organizing Committee

NGB – National Governing Body

NOC – National Olympic Committee

NPC – National Paralympic Committee

OCOG – Organizing Committee of the Olympic Games

PAG – Pan American Games

Panam Sports or PASO – Pan American Sports Organization

PPAG – Parapan American Games

PSO – Paralympic Sport Organization

TEAM USA AC – Team USA Athletes’ Commission (formerly USOPC AAC)

USADA – United States Anti-Doping Agency

WADA – World Anti-Doping Agency

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APPENDIX B – GLOSSARY

Contingency means a future event or circumstance which is possible but cannot be predicted with certainty.

Delegation Event means the Olympic Games, the Olympic Winter Games, the Paralympic Games, the Paralympic Winter Games, the Pan American Games, and the Parapan American Games.

Force Majeure means an event or effect that cannot be reasonably anticipated or controlled (e.g., hurricane, tornado, etc.).

Grievance Procedures means the process that enables an athlete to file a complaint with the NGB or USOPC.

Jurisdiction means the power or authority to make decisions and judgments.

Nominated means an athlete, coach or staff member whose name has been submitted by the Selection Committee to IMS.

Protected Competition means a Delegation Event or a Qualifying Competition.

Qualifying Competition means either of the following:

- i. **NGB Qualifying Competition:** Any competition or activity organized or approved by the NGB where the athlete's performance or results are considered in the published selection criteria to represent the United States in a Delegation Event.
- ii. **International Qualifying Competition:** Any international sport competition where (i) athletes represent the United States against athletes representing other nations, (ii) the NGB officially designates entrants, as required by the competition organizers, and (iii) athlete results or performance are included in the published criteria to qualify, or be selected, to represent the United States in a Delegation Event.

Selected means an athlete, coach or staff member whose name has been submitted by IMS to the LOC at the final submission date, as determined by the LOC.

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APPENDIX C – ATHLETE RESOURCES

ATHLETE OMBUDS

The Team USA Athlete Ombuds serves as a safe, independent, confidential place for Team USA Athletes to seek advice about any sport-related rule, policy, or process; how to navigate raising or responding to concerns; or access legal and mental health resources.

Team USA Athletes may contact the Athlete Ombuds:

PHONE: (719) 866-5000

EMAIL: ombudsman@usathlete.org

WEBSITE: usathlete.org

USOPC DISPUTE RESOLUTION UNIT (DRU)

USOPC's DRU oversees the administration of dispute resolution services to athletes and other members of NGBs for grievances under the USOPC's jurisdiction to ensure the complaints are heard in a timely and fair manner. For more information about this process, please visit the [dispute resolution website](#).

USOPC ETHICS AND COMPLIANCE

USOPC's Ethics and Compliance team is responsible for ensuring the USOPC and NGBs comply with the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act, their own bylaws and policies, and any other applicable laws or regulations. Any individual may report concerns confidentially, or anonymously, online using the [USOPC Integrity Portal](#) or individuals may call the USOPC Integrity Hotline at 1-877-404-9935 to report their concern over the phone.

USOPC SECURITY AND ATHLETE SAFETY REPORTING PORTAL

Athletes can report an incident of emotional, physical, or sexual misconduct, a violation of the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (MAAPP) or a general security incident or concern through the [Safety Reporting Portal](#). Athletes may also report to the USOPC over the phone at 719-866-3869.

SAFESPORT HELPLINE

The SafeSport Helpline provides crisis intervention, referrals, and emotional support specifically designed for athletes, staff, and other SafeSport participants affected by sexual violence. Through this service, support specialists provide live, confidential, one-on-one support that is available 24/7. Individuals can call the Helpline at 866-200-0796 or visit www.safesporthelpline.org.

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TEAM USA ATHLETES' COMMISSION (Team USA AC) *(Formerly Athletes' Advisory Council)*

The Team USA AC is responsible for broadening communication between the USOPC and active athletes and serves as a source of input and advice to the USOPC Board of Directors.

WEBSITE: www.usopc.org/teamusa-athletes-commission

TEAM USA MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

For those in need of mental health support, USOPC Psychological Services is available at psychservices@usopc.org, or you can connect with a licensed mental health provider 24/7 through the USOPC Psychological Services Support Line at 719-866-2255. You can also visit TeamUSA.org/psychservices for information about all available resources or complete our referral link at: go.teamusa.org/referrals to get connected.