

**2026 U.S. TEAM SELECTION
and
INDEPENDENT SKIER
QUALIFICATIONS AND PROCEDURES
35+ World Championships**

Team Description

A ten-member team will be selected to compete at the 2026 35+ World Championships. The tournament will be held July 19-26, 2026 at Predator Bay in Calgary, AB, Canada. The team will be announced on or about April 20, 2026.

A. Eligibility

Eligibility for selection to the U.S. Team shall be:

1. U.S. citizen or otherwise qualified to ski as a member of the U.S. Team (see IWWF Rules of Eligibility for World and Confederation Titled Events);
2. Active member of USA Water Ski in good standing and qualified (by age) for the relevant age division (IWWF rules).

B. Notice of Interest Requirements and procedures

To be considered for a position on this team, *or to compete as an independent athlete* (see IWWF eligibility rules for independent athletes), **ALL ATHLETES MUST FULLY COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING STEPS BY April 6, 2026:**

1. **Notice of Interest to be selected as a *member* of the U.S. Team (athletes must indicate the event(s) they are interested in competing in) must be submitted;**
2. **Notice of intent to participate as an independent athlete must be submitted (independent athletes can only participate in the tournament through this process; independent athletes not completing this process will not be entered);**
3. **These notice forms are online at <https://forms.gle/q3dgLZYJG5JzBdBJ8>**
4. **All athletes must acknowledge and agree to the USA-WSWS Code of Conduct and Athlete Agreement. USA-WSWS' SafeSport Policy must also be complied with.** Those documents are available for review online at USA-WSWS's website.
5. **Full payment of all entry and team fees (\$315.00 must be received by [Jill Smith 32946 Purple Martin Ct, New Carlisle, IN 46552 (or Paypal at seniorworldsteamusa@gmail.com)], team manager, not later than the Notice of Interest deadline.** All fees are non-refundable (for any reason) except: (a) full or partial refunds will be made to athletes selected as team members in the event/to the extent that team funding is available; and (b) refunds will be made to athletes who only express interest in being selected to the team, i.e., no refund will be made to athletes submitting a Notice of Interest also indicating an intent to participate as an independent athlete; and refunds will be made to those athletes who **do not** qualify as independent. Forfeited fees will be used to fund team expenses, as determined by the IAC and Team Manager.
6. All completed athlete Notices of Interest will be acknowledged.
7. A list of all submitted athlete Notices of Interest (who have filed a Notice of Interest and paid all fees) will be available online beginning approximately four (4) weeks before the Notice of

Interest deadline. Notices of Interest will not be considered as received unless the Notice of Interest form has been completed and payment of all fees has been received).

8. **Primary consideration will be given to those individuals that have completed this process on a timely basis, but the IAC reserves the right to consider other individuals for the team.**
9. Questions regarding this process should be addressed to IAC 35+ sub-committee members Jill Smith (bsmith32946@yahoo.com), Brandy Nagle (wnaske@hotmail.com) or Connie Bergmark (conniejb1@gmail.com).

C. Team Selection Considerations

The AWSA International Activities Committee (IAC) is tasked with the responsibility of selecting athletes to participate on the Water Ski Teams that will represent the United States in International Competitions. The committee's primary goal in this process is to select teams that will have the greatest opportunity to win each of the international competitions. In this selection process there are numerous considerations that the committee will utilize in the effort to select the best combination of athletes for each tournament, with the ultimate goal to win the event. These elements include, but are not limited to:

1. Numerical Division of Male / Female athletes to make up the team;
2. Numerical scores from selected tournaments that precede the event and are close enough in time to the event to produce the most viable team (see Team Selection Score procedures below). These scores are compared to expected scores from other international teams to predict the anticipated scores that may be produced;
3. Each individual skier's past performance in recent premier tournaments, to include any issues that may or could possibly affect anticipated scores in the target international competition;
4. The ability of any skier to function in a team atmosphere, contribute to a team effort, and other positive or negative factors that may exist.
5. Even though skiers of the same gender may be competing in different National age divisions, they will be considered as having skied in the same division of each of the four 35+ World age divisions for selection scoring purposes. The scoring adjustments and process are explained below.

The IAC reserves the right to rely on all of these factors in selecting this team. In the event of unforeseen circumstances which, in the judgment of the IAC, render these considerations and procedures clearly ineffective, the IAC may (by a two-thirds vote of the full IAC committee) amend these qualifications and procedures as necessary to accomplish the goals of the AWSA International Competition Program.

D. Team Selection Procedures and Score Calculations (Team Athletes Only)

1. The team will be selected on or about April 20, 2026. No team trials will be held.
2. Sex distribution for the team shall be 5/5 or 6/4.
3. This team is comprised of men and women in four age divisions. The skier's age division is determined by his/her age as of December 31, 2025.

Division 35+ – 35 years old or more

Division 45+ – 45 years old or more

Division 55+ – 55 years old or more

Division 65+ – 65 years old or more

Division 70+ – 70 years old or more

Division 75+ – 75 years old or more

Division 80+ – 80 years old or more

Division 85+ – 85 years old or more

- .
4. Each athlete's "Team Selection Score" shall be determined. The Team Selection Score be the average of each skier's **two** best tournament scores in each event (the "events" being slalom, trick, and jump) which shall be extracted from USA Water Ski and Wakeboard ranking list performances during the period beginning on May 1, 2025 and ending on April 13, 2026 (inclusive). Each round score must be from a different site and from Class E, L, or R tournaments. One score from the 2026 ski year preferred. To be considered, all scores must be reported (through each tournament's local organizing committee or scorer) to USA Water Ski not later than Tuesday, April 14, 2026 at 11:59 PM (PDT). It is each athlete's responsibility to ensure that all eligible scores are submitted in a timely manner.

5. Adjustments shall be made as necessary in selecting the teams:

Even though skiers of the same gender may be competing in different AWSA age groups they will be considered as having skied in the same division for selection purposes with the following adjustments:

Jump: Unless jumping under the rules of IWWF for the division the skier is attempting to qualify for, adjustments may be made:

- a) All Men 2, Masters Men and Open Men attempting to be selected to the 35+ Division will have their distances reduced based on the speed and ramp height used for the selection list scores per the below:

A. 1.80 m @ 57 kph - subtract 9.8m;

- b) All Men 3, Masters Men and Open Men attempting to be selected to the 45+ Division will have their distances reduced based on the speed and ramp height used for their ranking list scores per the below:

A. 1.80 m @ 57 kph or slower – subtract 9.8m;

B. 1.65 m @ 57 kph or slower – subtract 6.1m;

C. 1.50 m @ 57 kph – subtract 3.0m

- c) All Women 2 and Open women attempting to be selected for the 35+ Division will have their distances reduced based on the speed and ramp height used for their ranking list scores as per the below:

A. 1.65 m @ 54 kph – subtract 6.1m;

B. 1.5 m @ 54 kph – subtract 2.4 m;

5. Team Selection Scores shall be based on the 1,000 point system where 1,000 points is the **greater of the average of the top two** Ranking Values on the most recent "officially posted as final" IWWF Rankings List for athletes anticipated to participate in the event, and the highest score among U.S. scores posted for this selection process excluding those who have aged out. The Team Selection Scores shall be computed in accordance with IWWF (Over 35 Competition) Rule 18.04. The scores resulting from these calculations (including an overall score computed based on the sum of these Team Selection Scores (from each event), in accordance with applicable IWWF Rules) shall be used in the numerical score evaluation process.
6. The top male and female skiers based on "overall score" in each of the four age divisions will be selected first provided that the skier contributes to the team score in at least one event. "Overall score" is computed as the sum of three event scores (two scores for the 65 and over division).

7. The ninth and tenth skiers will be the male and/or female skiers with the highest "two event score" not already selected on the team, provided that the skier contributes to the team score. "Two event score" is defined as the sum of the two highest "event scores" for a skier.
8. The team selected shall be designated as the U.S. World 35+ Championship Team until the next selection.
10. If there are no qualifying overall scores meeting some or all of the criteria (male and/or female) set forth in any of the above steps (steps (E)(5-8), the IAC will consider alternative criteria and procedures as necessary to accomplish the goals of the AWSA International Competition Program.
11. The IAC reserves the right to choose another combination of athletes who create a higher team overall score than chosen using the above steps.

E. Other Information

1. The IAC may (but may not) designate alternates to the U.S. Team. The method of selecting these alternates will be at the discretion of the IAC and will not necessarily be based on any fixed formula.
2. Partial funding may be available for team members, but all skiers are responsible for all unfunded costs.
3. Excellence in competition is the sole determining factor in making any U.S. Team. The policy of the IAC is always to send the best possible team.
4. All members of the 10-member team are expected to attend the banquet at the conclusion of the event.
5. Then entry fee of \$315.00 US dollars does not include the banquet fee for skiers. Those tickets will need to be purchased separately at a later time.