

CROSS COUNTRY CANADA

INTERNAL NOMINATION PROCEDURES – 2018 OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES

SECTION 1 - INTRODUCTION

1. **Purpose**. The aim of this document is to set out the process and criteria that will be used by Cross Country Canada to nominate athletes to the Canadian Olympic Committee (COC) for selection to compete for Canada at the 2018 Olympic Winter Games (OWG).
2. **Strategic Goals**.
 - a) **Primary goal:** The primary objective of the selection policy and procedures is to select the maximum number of medal potential athletes for the Olympic Team including the relay teams in order to maximize podium performances at the 2018 Olympic Winter Games and meet CCC individual and team benchmarks for this event. Preparation and competition support will be focused on this goal as a first priority and;
 - b) **Secondary goal:** To promote and facilitate the development of athletes with identified potential to achieve future podium or top-12 results at future Olympic Winter Games where it is in the best interest of the team's overall results at this event.
3. **Performance Objectives**.
 - a) **Medal Contribution:** For athletes qualifying under the primary qualifying criteria (refer to Section 6.1.a), the objective is to contribute two medals to Canada's total medal count at these Games. Preparation and competition support will be focused on these identified objectives as a first priority and;
 - b) **Top 30 benchmark:** For athletes qualifying under the alternate qualifying criteria (refer to Section 6.1.b), the objective is top 30 results in individual events.

SECTION 2 – DECISION MAKING AUTHORITY

1. **Publishing Authority**. This document is published under the authority of the High Performance Committee (HPC) of CCC.
2. **CCC Selection Committee Authority**. From the group of athletes that has met one or more of the qualifying criteria, the CCC Selection Committee (constituted in accordance with CCC Document 2.1.3 (refer to:

<http://www.cccski.com/getmedia/79139ddb-7278-468b-a2da-0dd845ed29f1/213NSTSelectionPolicy-April-2012.pdf.aspx>) will select the athletes who will be nominated to the COC based on the selection criteria considerations and ranking priorities specified in sections 6 and 7.

3. **At Games Decision Making Authority**. Nomination on the basis of a particular race format, including relay events, does not provide an entitlement to be entered in a particular race at the OWG. The decision as to which athletes are entered in each race at the OWG will be made by the CCC Head Coach in collaboration with the High Performance Director, having considered the advice of the coaching team. This includes, but is not limited to, decision around removal of an athlete from the team, injuries and/or use of alternates, starting orders, relay team make up, etc. These decisions cannot be appealed.

SECTION 3 – INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION (IF) CRITERIA

1. **FIS Qualification System for the 2018 OWG**: <http://cccski.com/getmedia/385f2496-84b7-40e2-b453-b8f04b497aca/FIS---Cross-Country-Skiing---EN.pdf.aspx>
2. **FIS Minimum Qualification Standards**: Athletes are eligible for selection to participate in the distance and/or sprint events provide they have a maximum of 100.00 distance Olympic FIS points. Athletes are eligible for selection to participate in the sprint events and 10 km (ladies)/15 km (men) distance event provided they have a maximum of 120.00 sprint Olympic FIS points and a maximum of 300.00 distance points in the Olympic FIS Points List published on 22 January 2018.
3. **FIS Qualification Period**: July 1, 2016 – January 21, 2018
4. **Changes to FIS Qualifications System**: In the event of changes by the FIS to the selection and eligibility criteria, Cross Country Canada is bound by these changes and will inform the membership as soon as possible on the CCC website.

SECTION 4 – ADDITIONAL ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

In addition to meeting all relevant IF, and IOC requirements for eligibility, an athlete must:

1. Be a Canadian Citizen (this refers to Rule 41 of the Olympic Charter);
2. Have a valid Canadian Passport that does not expire on or before August 28, 2018;
3. Sign and submit the COC Athlete Agreement and PyeongChang 2018 Conditions of Participation Form no later than January 21st, 2018;

4. Sign and submit the 2017-18 CCC National Team Athlete Agreement which includes being a member in good standing of CCC and being bound by the CCC Code of Conduct for members of the National Ski Team.

SECTION 5 – QUALIFICATION PERIOD

1. **Qualifying Period.** The qualifying period commences July 1, 2016 and ends January 21, 2018.
2. **Qualification Process.** Athletes who meet one or more of the qualifying criteria stated in this document will be eligible for nomination to the COC for membership on the 2018 Olympic Team. However, meeting one or more of the qualifying criteria as specified in this process does not guarantee nomination or team selection.

SECTION 6 – SELECTION PROCESS and CRITERIA

1. **Concept for Criteria and Nomination.** In support of the performance objectives identified in Section 1.2, CCC has established the following general concept for criteria and nomination:
 - a) **Primary Qualifying Criteria.** The primary means of qualifying for the 2018 OWG will be determined by performances in World Championships or World Cup races, during the qualifying period, that are predictive of the potential to achieve podium results in 2018. For this purpose, all individual events in the Tour de Ski will be considered as individual World Cup events;
 - b) **Alternate Qualifying Criteria.** In the event that the number of athletes who qualify based on the primary qualifying criteria are insufficient to satisfy the performance objectives specified in Section 1.2, athletes may be nominated on the basis of meeting alternate criteria that are predictive of the potential to achieve top 30 results at the 2018 Olympic Games.
2. **Team Size.** Team size will be limited by the maximum allowable entries per event: 4 athletes (individual events) and one team in each relay race.
 - a) Subject to Section 7.1 (a) i., all athletes meeting the Primary Qualifying Criteria will be nominated, up to a maximum team size of 12 subject to the ranking process outlined in 7.1 and any further FIS selection criteria restrictions (refer to Section 3.2);
 - b) CCC has established that a team of eight athletes (including a minimum of four men and four women) is the minimum that is desirable for the 2018 OWG in order to meet the performance objectives set out in 1.2 a) and b). In the event that the number of athletes who qualify based on the primary qualifying criteria

are insufficient to produce a team of this size, additional athletes will be nominated from the group of athletes who qualify on the basis of alternate qualifying criteria up to a team size of twelve;

- c) CCC has established that a team of 12 athletes is the maximum team size, subject to any further FIS selection criteria restrictions (refer to 3.2), that will be nominated for selection in a situation where athletes are being nominated on the basis of alternate qualifying criteria. The maximum team size of 12 is sufficient to incorporate athletes with particular skill in individual sprint, distance, or relay races if such skills are not already represented in the first four athletes (per gender) being nominated. As stated in Section 7.1 b), the final team size in this circumstance will be determined by the CCC Selection Committee, in its discretion, after applying the Selection Criteria to achieve the goals set out in Section 1.2.

3. Primary Qualifying Criteria (2017 World Championships & 2016-17 World Cups.

- a) Athletes with the following placings at the 2017 World Championships and 2016-17 & 2017-18 World Cup events within the qualifying period (refer to Section 3.3) will meet the Primary Qualifying Criteria on the condition that all of the World Cup events have reasonable and similar depth of field. In order to maintain equity and fairness in this selection process, the HPC reserves the right to exclude, or to count only partially, the results of any World Cup event with a weak depth of field. The CCC Selection Committee will be charged with evaluating the depth of field in this circumstance based on comparative analysis of World Cups over two seasons (2015-16 and 2016-17). The CCC Selection Committee will bring forth to the HPC any such recommendation to exclude, in whole or part, a World Cup event. This analysis of depth of field will consider time behind the winner (FIS points), an analysis of the top 6, top 12 and top 16 individual athletes or team events in the race based on World Cup ranking, World Cup points, total FIS points of athletes in the race and any other factors that allow for a fair and equitable World Cup depth of field analysis.
 - i. Distance. An athlete finishing once in the top 12 or twice in the top-16 or two results with 10 FIS points or less counting only the top four competitors per nation will meet the Primary Qualifying Criteria;
 - ii. Sprint. An athlete finishing in the top 6, counting the top four competitors per nation or twice in the top-16, counting four competitors per nation will meet the Primary Qualifying Criteria;
 - iii. Sprint or Distance. An athlete with a combined total of one distance result in the top-16 and one top-16 classic sprint result, counting the top four competitors per nation will meet the Primary Qualifying Criteria;
 - iv. Relay. All members of a relay team (i.e. four athletes) with a result in the top-3 (counting one team per nation) will meet the Primary Qualifying Criteria.

- v. Team Sprint. All members of a team sprint (i.e. two athletes) with a result in the top-3 (counting one team per nation) will meet the Primary Qualifying Criteria.

4. Alternate Qualifying Criteria A – (2017 World Championships & 2016-17 and 2017-18 World Cups)

Athletes with the following placing at the 2017 World Championships and 2016-17 & 2017-18 World Cup events within the qualifying period (refer to Section 3.1) will meet the Alternate Qualifying Criteria A on the condition that all of the World Cup events have reasonable and similar depth of field as per the parameters outlined in Section 5.3.a.

- a) Distance. An athlete finishing three times in the top 30 counting only the top four competitors per nation in individual distance races will meet the Alternate Qualifying Criteria A.
- b) Sprint. An athlete finishing three times in the top 30, including a minimum of 2 classic sprint results, counting only the top four competitors per nation in the individual sprint will meet the Alternate Qualifying Criteria A.
- c) Sprint or Distance. An athlete with a combined total of 3 distance and/or sprint results in the top-30, counting four competitors per nation will meet the Alternate Qualifying Criteria A.

5. Alternate Qualifying Criteria B – (Olympic trials event December 2017 and/or January 2018).

- a) Athletes will be ranked based on the finish placings achieved in designated selection races to be held in December 2017 or January 2018. The HPC will specify at least 90 days in advance where these races will be held and the types of races that will be used for qualification under the Alternate B Qualifying Criteria. The designated location of the races and the formats of the designated selection races will be dependent on the remaining available nominations for specific events at the OWG and the predictive potential of athletes to achieve top 30 results at the OWG in these events;
- b) Ranking will be on the basis of the best individual distance and sprint finish or sprint qualifying place achieved in the designated selection races. Separate lists will be established for men and women for each distance race and individual sprint race. These ranking lists will only include Canadian athletes eligible for OWG selection and athletes who have not already met the Primary and/or Alternate Qualifying Criteria. Should any non-eligible athletes finish ahead of Canadian eligible athletes, they will be removed from the selection ranking list and the following eligible athletes will move up accordingly in ranking;

- c) For each specified race as outlined in 6.5.a, separate ranking lists will be established for men and women for each distance race and each individual sprint race.

i. Distance Ranking List. ***MEN and Women***

There will be a distance ranking list for each designated distance selection event based on final results ranking;

Distance selection ranking process: Distance selections may be made based on the following ranking:

- 1) Race winner(s) in the distance events;
- 2) Second place finishers in the distance events. If there is only one position available, then the ranking will consider the athletes' finish ranking in the other distance race. In the event of a tie, the Olympic Team Coaches will make a recommendation to the Selection Committee as they deem appropriate to the goal of fielding the best possible Team for the 2018 Olympic Games. This recommendation will consider:
 - The make-up of the team after considering Primary Qualifying Criteria and Alternate Criteria A, i.e the need to strengthen the team in an individual distance or relay;
 - Past international experience and performance profile of the athletes;
 - Current performance level/indicators of the athletes.

ii. Sprint Ranking Lists: ***MEN and Women***

The two designated sprint races will have separate ranking lists and each race will have two types of sprint ranking lists:

- A final results list for each sprint race;
- A sprint qualifying list for each sprint qualifier.

Sprint selection ranking process: Sprint selections may be made based on the following ranking:

- 1) Race winner(s) of the Sprint Final in the two sprint events. If there is only one position available, then the ranking will consider the athlete's second best sprint finish. If they are still tied, the ranking will consider the athlete's best single ranking in the sprint qualifier, then the second best single ranking in the sprint qualifier;
- 2) An athlete who is the top qualifier in both of the sprint qualifiers;
- 3) Second place finishers in the two sprint events. If there is only one position available, then the ranking will consider the athlete's second best sprint finish. If they are still tied, the ranking will consider the

athlete's best single ranking in the sprint qualifier. In the event that there is still a tie, the Olympic Team Coaches will make a recommendation to the Selection Committee as they deem appropriate to the goal of fielding the best possible Team for the 2018 Olympic Games. This recommendation will consider:

- The make-up of the team after considering Primary Qualifying Criteria and Alternate Criteria A, i.e the need to strengthen the team in an individual distance or relay;
- Past international experience and performance profile of the athletes;
- Current performance level/indicators of the athletes.

SECTION 7 - RANKING FOR NOMINATION

1. **Ranking Priorities.** From the group of qualifying athletes, athletes will be nominated by the CCC Selection Committee on the following basis:

- a) **Priority #1.** All athletes who meet the Primary Qualifying Criteria, sprint, distance, relay and team sprint will be nominated, except as provided for below. If the number of athletes meeting the Primary Qualifying Criteria exceeds the maximum team size, the ranking procedure in 7.1.a.i-ii will be used to select the athletes so as to not exceed the maximum team size.

For the purpose of breaking a tie in the ranking process, ranking will be based on the best FIS points obtained in a single qualifying race during the qualifying period. If there is still a tie, it will be broken using the 2nd best FIS points obtained in a single qualifying race during the qualifying period. If still tied, then the 3rd best finish, etc. would be used.

From the athletes who meet the Primary Qualifying Criteria for individual sprint races (Section 6.3.a.ii and iii), athletes will be nominated up to a maximum of only four of each gender. From the athletes who meet the Primary Qualifying Criteria for distance races (Section 6.3.a.i and iii), athletes will be nominated up to maximum of four of each gender per distance event. Nominations will be based on the following ranking process combining distance and sprint qualifying events;

- i. **First.** Male and female athletes who meet the Primary Qualifying Criteria in a single individual race at the World Championships will be nominated first and ranked according to best finish placing in either sprint or distance events and then;
- ii. **Second.** Male and female athletes who meet the Primary Qualifying Criteria in a single individual World Cup race, top-12 distance or top-6 sprint will be ranked in accordance with their best finish placing in a World Cup race and then;

- iii. Third. Male and female athletes who otherwise meet this criterion by finishing twice in the top-16 distance or two results with less than 10 FIS points twice or top-12 sprint or a combination of once top-16 distance and once top-12 sprint at the World Championships and/or World Cup will be ranked in accordance with their best finish placing in a World Championship or World Cup race and then;
 - iv. Fourth. Male and female athletes who meet the Primary Qualifying Criteria for the team relay and/or team sprint races, athletes will be nominated up to a maximum of only four for each team relay event and up to two for each team sprint event.
- b) **Priority #2.** In the event that a minimum team size of 8 (including a minimum of four men and four women) has not been reached through athletes meeting the Primary Qualifying Criteria, additional athletes qualifying under Alternate Qualifying Criteria A will be nominated, except as provided below. From the athletes who meet the Alternate A Qualifying Criteria for individual sprint races, athletes will be nominated up to a maximum of only four of each gender. From the athletes who meet the Alternate Qualifying A Criteria for distance races, athletes will be nominated up to maximum of four per event. Nominations will be based on the following ranking process combining distance and sprint qualifying events.
- i. First. Male and female athletes who qualify at the World Championships will be nominated first and ranked according to best finish placing in either sprint or distance events, and then;
 - ii. Second. Male and female athletes who qualify in World Cup races, will be ranked in accordance with their best finish placing in a World Cup race;

In the event of a tie, ranking will be based on the best FIS points obtained in a single qualifying race during the qualifying period.

- c) **Priority #3.** If, in the opinion of the CCC Selection Committee, the nominations under Priorities 1-2 do not produce men's and women's teams capable of generating entries to meet the team's goals and performance expectations, the CCC Selection Committee may at its discretion nominate additional athletes up to minimum team size of 8 (including a minimum of four men and four women) and up to the to the maximum team size of 12 (refer to Section 6.2 c). Having determined that the team size should be increased in order to address a particular requirement or requirements (e.g. a skier with particular strength in free technique distance competitions), the CCC Selection Committee will use the following ranking order to nominate an athlete or athletes with the appropriate skill(s):
- i. Alternate A Qualifying Criteria: Consideration of any athletes who meet Alternate A Qualifying Criteria but were not selected under 7.1.b;
 - ii. Alternate B Qualifying Criteria: Consideration of the distance and sprint qualifying ranking lists described in Section 6.5.b and 6.5.c above.

2. **Substitutes.** Substitutes will be nominated by the CCC Selection Committee, as follows:
 - a) **Priority #1.** Athletes qualifying under Primary Qualifying Criteria but not selected due to team size will be considered in accordance with the ranking considerations in 6.1a above.
 - b) **Priority #2.** Athletes qualifying under Alternate Qualifying Criteria will be considered in accordance with the ranking considerations in 7.1b-d above.

SECTION 8 – INJURY, SICKNESS AND PERFORMANCE READINESS

1. For athletes with previous multiple podium results at the 2014 OWG, 2015-17 World Championships or 2014-2018 World Cup events, who are injured or sick during the 2016-17 training and competition season preventing them from competing on the World Cup or World Championships, the HPC reserves the right to set top 16 distance and sprint benchmarks for these athletes at World Cup events in 2017-18. There will be no special consideration for other athletes who are injured or sick during the qualifying period to be nominated without a qualifying performance;
2. In a situation where an athlete has met one or more qualifying criteria but then becomes seriously injured or ill prior to the end of the qualifying period, the Selection Committee will have the athlete's health and fitness assessed by competent authorities (NST Physician and Physiologist) and will then make the decision as to whether to nominate the athlete for selection;
3. Athletes meeting one or more qualifying criteria must continue to demonstrate competitive readiness based on the performance standard they met in the qualifying criteria. This evaluation of competitive readiness will be based on the following factors:
 - a) Optimal Health and readiness to travel based on examination by CCC physicians and IST support staff or personal physicians;
 - b) A performance level, as demonstrated throughout the training season, indicating that the athlete can continue to perform at the level that selected them to the specific international trip. This assessment will be made by the NST Coaching Team and the High Performance Director.
4. If a nominated athlete is injured or becomes seriously ill between the time of nomination, January 21st, 2018 and the Technical Meeting before the start of the first event, the CCC Selection Committee will decide whether to replace the nominated athlete with a substitute athlete. If a substitute is to be named, he/she will be nominated by the Selection Committee in accordance with Section 7.2 of this document. Replacement of the entered competitors by a NOC in case of injury or force majeure is possible until the Technical Meeting before the start of the first

event. All replacements following nomination are subject to the approval of the COC Team Selection Committee. Replacements following the January 28th PyeongChang 2018 Sport Entries Deadline are also subject to the IOC / PyeongChang 2018 Late Athlete Replacement Policy.

SECTION 9 – CONFIRMATION OF ENTRIES

1. Nominations to the COC will be submitted as soon as possible after the end of the qualifying period. The deadline for nominations to the COC is 11:59 Eastern Standard Time, January 21, 2018.
2. The list of athletes nominated, together with the supporting rationale, will be made public by the CCC Nomination Committee at the time that it is submitted to the COC.
3. Following its review of CCC's nominations, the COC will approve and announce the final Olympic Team selections as soon as possible after January 23rd, 2018.
4. **Late Athlete Replacement Policy.** Substitutes will be nominated at the time of COC's entry deadline of January 21, 2018. After January 28, 2018 any substitutions are subject to the IOC/PyeongChang 2018 Late Athlete Replacement Policy and must also comply with all the procedures contained in this document.

SECTION 10 – AMENDMENTS & UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES

1. **Unforeseen Circumstances.** In the event of unforeseen circumstances beyond the control of Cross Country Canada that prevent the CCC Selection Committee from fairly and objectively implementing these internal nomination procedures, the HPC reserves the right to make changes to this document, which in its discretion are necessary to ensure selection of the best teams possible for the 2018 Olympic Games; the HPC shall have the full discretion to resolve the matter as they see fit, taking into account factors and circumstances that they deem relevant. Any changes to this document shall be communicated directly to all affected parties as soon as possible.
2. **Amendments to Nomination Procedures.** At the end of the 2016/17 season, and no later than June 1, 2017, the HPC will review the content of these procedures. At that time, if necessary to address issues requiring clarification only, an addendum to these procedures may be produced to address issues that were overlooked initially or that have arisen unexpectedly. The COC will be notified of such changes and the rationale for the amendments to this document will be made public on the CCC website as soon as possible.

SECTION 11 – APPEALS

Appeals. In the interests of expediting resolution, there will be no recourse to appeal nomination decisions through CCC's internal appeal procedure. Appeals of nominations submitted to the COC in accordance with this *Selection Policy* must be addressed to arbitration through the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada (SDRCC) in the initial instance.

SECTION 12 – LANGUAGE

Where there is a difference in interpretation between the French and English versions of this document, then the English version shall prevail.

SECTION 13 – FUNDING

Team status on the 2018 Olympic Team does not include full funding for the pre-Games training camp and the Games period. A trip fee may be included.

SECTION 14 – TIMELINES SUMMARY

DATE	ACTION	Who
1 September 2016	Deadline for NSFs to submit their Internal Nomination Procedures (INPs) to the COC for its review.	CCC submits / COC reviews
1 December 2016	End of COC INP Review Period	COC
9 February 2017	Deadline for CCC to internally ratify the finalized INP as approved by the HPC and publish finalized INP on the CCC website and communicate INP to athletes on the national team) Deadline for CCC to resubmit finalized INPs to the COC.	HPD
1 June 2017	CCC Deadline for any amendments to INP and notification to athletes, officials and COC.	HPD
1 October 2017	CCC deadline for announcing types of races that will be used for qualifying under	HPD

	Alternate B Qualifying Criteria	
Mid-January 2018	CCC official announcement of OWG team nominations	HPD
21 January 2018	Deadline for NSFs to submit team nomination certificates to COC	HPD
23 January 2018	COC Team Selection Committee meets to review NSF nominations	COC
28 January 2018	Final day for COC to register Canadian Olympic Winter Team with PyeongChang 2018	COC
9-25 February 2018	PyeongChang 2018 Olympic Winter Games	