



**2020 – 2021**

**Nomination Guidelines for  
Selection to the  
Ontario Ski Team**

DRAFT



## 1. **Program Objective**

The Ontario Ski Team is a high-performance development program designed to prepare Ontario's best FIS ski racers with the broad range of skills and values needed to succeed on the international stage. Ontario Ski Team athletes are expected to be competitive at the National and Nor Am levels and to be fully committed to the Ontario Ski Team program. The primary athletic goal of the Ontario Ski Team is to advance athletes to the Canadian Alpine Ski Team (CAST).

## 2. **General Principles**

2.1 The Selection Guidelines outline the process applicable for all eligible athletes to be considered for selection to the Ontario Ski Team ("OST").

2.2 The objective of the Selection Guidelines is to select athletes most capable of achieving success.

2.3 The OST shall consist of male and female athletes.

2.4 AOA reserves the right to limit team size based on available funding and resources.

## 3. **Definitions**

3.1 "Athlete" means a FIS carded athlete that is an Ontario resident.

3.2 "Appeals Committee" means a committee to be appointed by the Executive Director of AOA in the event of appeals.

3.3 "OST" means the Ontario Ski Team.

3.4 "OST Training Group" refers to athletes meeting selection criteria, and who train together with OST alpine staff throughout the general preparation period.

3.5 "OST Alpine Staff" refers to the Head Coaches for the Men's and Women's teams and the AOA High Performance Director.

3.6 "Selection Committee" will be comprised of the AOA Executive Director and the OST Alpine Staff.

3.7 "FIS Rankings" means the rankings for each discipline based on the most current FIS Points List published prior to selections.

3.8 "Club Program" refers to any racing program operating within Ontario.



3.9 NRBAY refers to an athlete's National Ranking by Age and Younger.

3.10 WRBAY refers to an athlete's World Ranking by Age and Younger.

#### 4. **Eligibility**

4.1. Athletes must hold a Canadian FIS license.

4.2. Athletes must be a member in good standing of an Ontario alpine club within the last five seasons and possess a valid OHIP Card.

4.3. AOA will consider the eligibility of athletes who do not meet section 4.2 criteria but have established full-time residency in the province of Ontario on a case-by-case basis.

#### 5. **Selection Process Overview**

Selection Criteria will be applied to invite athletes to OST fitness testing and OST spring training Camp. OST coaches will evaluate the athletes' performance at fitness testing and the spring training camp to identify the OST Training Group. OST coaches will work with OST Training Group athletes throughout the general preparation period (summer and early fall) before selecting the final team.

#### 6. **Criteria for Invitation to OST Fitness Testing and Spring Training Camp**

6.1 Selection Criteria are minimum criteria for athletes to be invited to the OST fitness testing and spring training camp. Exceptions may be made based on other criteria (see 6.2.6).

6.2 Athletes will be considered for selection based on the following criteria:

6.2.1 YOB 2003: an average of top 5 NRBAY OR top 50 WRBAY in 2 disciplines (one discipline must be technical).

6.2.2 YOB 2002: an average of top 8 NRBAY or top 100 WRBAY in 2 disciplines (one discipline must be technical).

6.2.3 YOB 2000-2001: an average of top 12 NRBAY or top 150 WRBAY in 2 disciplines (one discipline must be technical).

6.2.4 Athletes graduating from U16 may be considered based on certain 'X' factors including an outstanding performance at Canadian U16 Championships, maturity, physical fitness, and general preparedness.



6.2.5 Senior athletes may be considered for selection on a case by case basis, at the sole discretion of the OST staff based on the performance level, attitude, and leadership qualities.

6.2.6 Exceptions to minimum criteria may be made in certain circumstances such as when an athlete is close to meeting minimum criteria, can demonstrate strong head-to-head performances at a major competition, or progress toward meeting criteria relative to opportunity. Exceptions are made at the sole discretion of the Selection Committee.

6.2.7 Qualifying athletes must attend OST fitness testing in April or May 2020 in order to be cleared and selected to the OST Training Group.

## **7. Selection Process and Timelines**

### **7.1 Process**

7.1.1 AOA HP Director and/or OST Coaching Staff will hold meetings with Club and Regional coaches to discuss performance and athletes tracking toward criteria during certain events (OCUP January 25-28, OCUP March 6-9, NC March 25-28).

7.1.2 AOA Alpine Staff may reach out to prospective athletes throughout the competitive season to discuss the Ontario Ski Team program.

7.1.3 Athletes that have not met minimum criteria for selection can apply in writing by April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 with rationale for selection based on factors listed in subsection 6.2.6.

7.1.4 A preliminary list of athletes that fulfill the performance criteria listed in subsection 6.2 will be compiled from the 17<sup>th</sup> FIS List valid from March 31, 2020. Results from the 18<sup>th</sup> FIS List valid from April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020 will also be considered in final selection.

7.1.5 The OST Alpine Staff will consider the list of identified athletes and, at its sole discretion, notify each of the selected athletes in writing or by phone by April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Athletes will have until April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 to confirm their participation in OST fitness testing and spring training camp by submitting a signed athlete agreement, and a cheque made payable to AOA for approximately 3,500\$ CAD.

7.1.6 The cheque for approximately 3,500\$ is to confirm the athletes' participation, and to cover their costs at the OST Spring Training Camp and Fitness Testing. The 3,500\$ will not include flight. Price is subject to change.

7.1.7 Athletes selected will be invited to OST fitness testing and OST spring training camp.



7.1.8 OST Coaches will name the OST Training Group based on the Selection Criteria and performance at fitness testing and the spring training camp.

7.1.9 OST coaches will work with OST Training Group athletes throughout the general preparation period (summer and early fall) before selecting the Team. The OST will be named by October 31, 2020.

## **8. OST Selection:**

8.1 The OST Training Group will train together on and off snow throughout the general preparation period.

8.2 The OST Alpine Staff will have full discretion in the selection of athletes to the OST. Factors in selection may include:

- Commitment to the OST Program – participation in all aspects of the program (unless otherwise agreed upon, in certain situations, between the coach and athlete).
- Progress and quality of work during the preparation period.
- Maturity – ability to work with or without supervision.
- Mental toughness – ability to work through adversity.
- Physical Fitness.
- General preparedness – all aspects of preparation an athlete requires to meet the demands of the competitive season.
- Adherence to the OST Code of Conduct.

8.3 OST Training Group athletes will receive periodic reports as to their progress with clear direction as to areas to improve or of concern.

8.4 OST Alpine Staff will inform athletes as to their status in writing and by phone, on or before October 31, 2020.

## **9. Appeals**

9.1. AOA will conduct an appeals process to resolve any disputes where it can be demonstrated that the Selection Criteria may have been unfairly applied.

9.2. The Appeals Committee will be appointed by the AOA Executive Director.

9.3. Athletes not invited to the OST fitness testing and spring training camp may submit a written appeal by 5 pm on April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020 to the AOA HP Director and Executive Director. The letter must document the reasoning as to why the decision should be overturned accompanied with appropriate data.



9.4. The Athlete's Club Program Director or coach and the athlete's parents (if the athlete is under 18 years of age) must endorse the appeal.

9.5. The Appeals Committee will meet as soon as is reasonably possible following the receipt of the notice of appeal.

9.6. Following the appeals meeting, the committee will advise the OST Alpine Staff and the athlete of its decision within three business days of hearing the appeal. All decisions of the Appeals Committee shall be final.

## 10. **Injury Status**

10.1 Injury Status applies only to athletes with current OST status.

10.2 Injury Status allows current OST athletes who do not meet the selection criteria due to a major injury or illness during the current season, who were clearly showing the competitive performance to be within the OST Selection criteria, to be considered for selection.

10.3 OST members on injury status may only resume training and/or competition with the approval of the athlete's medical professionals and the OST Alpine Staff.

10.4 OST Staff will follow the testing protocols and guidelines of the OST Return to Snow Policy in evaluating an injured athlete's preparedness, and (once the athlete has the approval of medical professionals) have the final say in determining when an athlete is ready.

10.5 OST Staff will use the OST Return to Snow Policy to determine the athlete's program.

## 11. **Notices**

All applications, submissions, appeals, and other notices shall be submitted to:  
Kip Harrington, OST High Performance Director  
kipharrington@alpineontario.ca

with a copy to:  
Bill Reeves, AOA Executive Director  
breeves@alpineontario.ca.