

2019 World Ski Mountaineering Championships

USSMA Team Selection Criteria and Guide



This is the official selection criteria for selection of the United States Ski Mountaineering World Championships Team. The World Championships will take place 9-16 March 2019 in Villars sur Ollons, Switzerland.

The World Championships is comprised of five race events; Individual, Team, Sprint, Vertical, and Relay. The ISMF allows for nations to enter athletes in the following races:

- Individual, Vertical, and Sprint - Four athletes per gender for the Senior, Junior, and Cadet age divisions. Three athletes per gender for the Espoir age division.
- Team – Eight athletes per gender for the Senior age division. Espoirs may be included.
- Relay – Four Senior male athletes (men’s team), Three Senior female athletes (women’s team), a mix of Three Junior and Cadet athletes that must include at least one female (youth team). Cadets, Juniors, an Espoirs may be included on the Senior relay teams.

The selection criteria for the 2019 World Team is designed to select the fastest possible athletes in each respective age and gender category to represent the United States at the highest level of international competition.

The mission of the USSMA World Championship Team is to enable the best possible individual results for each athlete and to achieve the best possible team result at all competitions while maintaining good sportsmanship and serve as ambassadors for the USSMA and USA.

Athletes that qualify for the World Championship Team will automatically be named to the USSMA National Team. More information regarding this matter and additional information about the National Team can be found on the USSMA website.

In order to qualify, all athletes must race and qualify in the racing season in which the World Championships are held. No racer without qualifying results in the 2018/2019 season will take part in the World Championships. Previous year’s results are not grounds for selection. Team members must be United States Citizens, are current 2018/19 USSMA members, and must be in good standing with the USSMA.

Qualifying will occur on two separate race weekends. In the event that either or both of the qualification races are cancelled due to insufficient snow or other reasons, contingency races will be identified and held within 2 weeks of the original race date. Race dates and locations will be finalized by November 1, 2018. Preliminary race dates are:

1. **Qualifier #1 (Arapahoe Basin):** Individual and Vertical Races on December 15-16, 2018
 - a. Races are planned for Arapahoe Basin in Summit County, Colorado.
 - b. Final location will be determined by mid-November 2018 based on snow conditions.

- c. This qualifying event is aimed at selecting the best Individual and Vertical Event racers and will most closely depict the courses of Individual and Vertical events at the World Championships.
2. **Qualifier #2 (Sunlight Mountain):** Individual and Sprint Races on January 5-6, 2019
 - a. Races are planned for Sunlight Mountain Ski Resort in Glenwood Springs, Colorado.
 - b. Final location will be determined by mid-December 2018 based on snow conditions.
 - c. This qualifying event is aimed at selecting the best Team and Sprint event racers. This qualifying event will most closely depict the courses of a Team and Sprint event at the World Championships.

Final selections will be made after the Qualifier #2 races after which formal 2019 World Team invitations will be sent out to those racers who have qualified. Selected racers will have 1 week to accept their invitation. If the racer does not acknowledge and confirm their selection they will forfeit their spot. **In the event of forfeiture, the berth will move to the next position in the event for which the forfeiture occurred.** *For example, if the fourth place finisher in the Vertical event cannot travel to the world championships, the fifth place finisher will be offered the spot.*

There exists overlap in the qualifying process in order to allow athletes to only attend one qualifying event and still have the opportunity to qualifying in multiple events AND to allow racers multiple opportunities to qualify in the event of unplanned and unforeseen circumstances. The combination of these things not only provides additional opportunities to racers, but also ensures the fastest racers are selected.

World Championship Individual Race Selection Criteria

Four athletes per gender for the Senior, (three for Espoir), Junior, and Cadet age divisions will be selected to compete in the individual race at the World Championships.

- The **top 2 male and female finishers** (1 for Espoir) at the Qualifier #1 Individual Race will be awarded a spot for the Individual race.
- The third spot for the individual race will be awarded to the **top 1 male and female finisher** at the Qualifier #2 Individual Race.
- NEW: The fourth spot for the individual race is reserved for **Coach's Choice**. The second finisher of the Qualifier #2 Individual Race, who hasn't already qualified, will gain the fourth and final spot, unless the USSMA determines there is an unequivocally faster athlete who could fill the spot. In this case the Coach's Choice is invoked and a different athlete can be given the spot. The coach's choice spot will be the joint decision of the USSMA President, Vice President, Chair of the Race Committee, Worlds Team Manager, and National Team Coach.

This qualification method accommodates a variety of potential issues that could interfere with the top racers qualifying and provides a back-up event to qualify the final athlete.

World Championship Teams Race Selection Criteria

Eight athletes per gender for the Senior age division will be selected to compete in the team race at the World Championships. Espoirs may compete with Seniors and win spots. Other age divisions do not compete in the Team race.

- The **top 2 male and female finishers** at the Qualifier #1 Individual Race will qualify for the team event.

- The **top 6 male and female finishers** at the Qualifier #2 Individual Race will qualify for the team event. If any of the top 6 racers qualified for the Teams Race at Qualifier #1 then the spot will go to the next finisher.

USSMA Coaches and staff will create the team pairings based on previous results and racer input, though final team composition is the right of the USSMA.

World Championship Vertical Race Selection Criteria

Four athletes per gender for the Senior, (three for Espoir), Junior, and Cadet age divisions will be selected to compete in the Vertical race at the World Championships.

- The **top 3 male and female finishers** (2 for Espoir) at the Qualifier #1 Vertical Race will be awarded a spot for the vertical race.
- **NEW:** The fourth spot for the Vertical race is reserved for **Coach's Choice**. The fourth place finisher of the Qualifier #1 Vertical race will gain the fourth and final spot, unless the USSMA determines there is an unequivocally faster athlete who could fill the spot. In this case the Coach's Choice is invoked and a different athlete can be given the spot. The coach's choice spot will be the joint decision of the USSMA President, Vice President, Chair of the Race Committee, Worlds Team Manager, and National Team Coach.

World Championship Sprint Selection Criteria

Four athletes per gender for the Senior, (three for Espoir), Junior, and Cadet age divisions will be selected to compete in the Sprint race at the World Championships.

- The **top 3 male and female finishers** (2 for Espoir) at the Qualifier #2 Sprint Race will be awarded a spot for the sprint race.
- **NEW:** The fourth spot for the Sprint race is reserved for Coach's Choice. The fourth place finisher of the Qualifier #2 Sprint race will gain the fourth and final spot, unless the USSMA determines there is an unequivocally faster athlete who could fill the spot. In this case the Coach's Choice is invoked and a different athlete can be given the spot. The coach's choice spot will be the joint decision of the USSMA President, Vice President, Chair of the Race Committee, Worlds Team Manager, and National Team Coach.

World Championship Relay Selection Criteria

Four Senior male athletes (men's team), Three Senior female athletes (women's team), a mix of Four Junior and Cadet athletes (that must include at least one female) (youth team), will be selected to compete in the Relay race at the World Championships. If an Espoir athlete places higher than the top 2 Senior finishers in the Sprint and Vertical they will be awarded a spot instead of the Senior(s) they beat.

- Senior Male Team (4 member team): The **top 2 finishers in the Sprint and the Vertical races** will qualify for the relay race.
- Senior Female (3 member team): The **top 2 finishers in the Sprint race and the top finisher in the Vertical race** will qualify for the relay race.
- Youth Mixed Team (3 member team): USSMA will determine and select the fastest combination of four youth chosen from male and female Juniors and Cadets (a minimum of one female must be on the team).

In the event that any earned spots decide against racing the Relay, the spot will move to the next athlete who qualified.

If a qualifying athlete is not deemed by the USSMA to be fast enough to compete at the international level, the USSMA reserves the right to not award the spot . *Example: If there if there are only two boys who qualify for cadet and the second place finisher is an hour behind the first place finisher.*

The USSMA reserves the right to change this Selection Criteria prior to the first qualifier event. In the event a change is made this document will be redistributed and athletes will be informed.

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