

CROSS COUNTRY SKI ASSOCIATION OF MANITOBA (CCSAM) SKI TEAM SELECTION POLICY

2027 CANADA WINTER GAMES

TEAM COMPOSITION

By January 15, 2027 (or an earlier date, if required by Sport Manitoba), a Selection Committee assigned by the CCSAM Board of Directors under direction by the Provincial Development Program Committee (PDPC) will select a team of the strongest CCSAM Cross Country Ski and Para Nordic athletes, using a points system described below.

The Cross Country Ski team may consist of 6 male and 6 female athletes who have proven to possess a very high level of fitness and mental preparedness necessary to compete in all 4 events at the Canada Winter Games. Additionally, up to 2 Alternate athletes may be selected and may be asked to join the team if replacements are necessary. The team may also consist of up to 4 Para Nordic athletes (2 Men, 2 Women).

The PDPC recognizes that competing at the Canada Games is challenging, not only because of the race schedule (4 races in one week) but also because of the demands of travel and communal living in the Athletes' Village. It is strongly recommended athletes do not compete in more than one CWG sport. This is in the best interests of both the athlete and the team.

ATHLETE EXPECTATIONS

Athlete maturity and ability to handle a physically and mentally demanding week of competition will be considered, and athletes are strongly encouraged to discuss their season priorities with their coaches.

To ensure the strongest teams of athletes from Manitoba, Sport Manitoba will not support high volume competition or camps in the 2 weeks prior to Games. If selection between two or more athletes is close, the selection committee may give priority to an athlete competing only in Cross Country Skiing.

ATHLETE AGREEMENT

Athletes (including Alternates) selected to the Cross Country Ski and Para Nordic team must sign an Athlete Agreement accepting their team position and agreeing to CCSAM policies governing athlete selection and conduct. Selected athletes will agree to adhere to a training and competition schedule developed in collaboration with the CWG Team Coaches.

2027 CANADA WINTER GAMES (CWG) EVENTS – QUEBEC

CROSS COUNTRY SKI WEEK 1 FEB 27 – MAR 6, 2027

7.5 km Free technique, interval start (2.5 km x 3)
1200-1400 m Sprints (free technique, top 30 to quarterfinal heats)
10 km Classic technique, mass start

4 x 5 km mixed team relay Classic technique. Three official teams permitted. Unofficial teams may be formed with extra skiers. Teams consist of 2 women + 2 men.

PARA NORDIC

Sitting events:

2.5 km Para Nordic, interval start, fastest first

600-800 m Sprints (to 8 to semi finals)

5 km Para Nordic, interval start

Standing events:

2.5 km Para Nordic free technique, interval start

900-1200 m Sprints (classic technique, top 8 to semi finals)

5 km Para Nordic classic technique, interval start

ELIGIBILITY

All athletes must:

- Be a member of a CCSAM club and be registered in the CCSAM Provincial Development Program.
- Be 20 years of age and under as of December 31, 2027. Born 2007 or later.
- Para Nordic athletes must be 30 years of age and under. Born 1997 or later*.
- Have a valid Nordiq Canada racing license.
- Not compete for a team position on a CWG team other than Manitoba.
- Senior National Team members and any athlete who has held a SR, SR1, or SR2 card at any time are ineligible. Full details on eligibility rules are found in the 2027 Technical Package for Cross Country Ski.

*Age exceptions for older Para athletes may be allowed.

MANITOBA TEAM SELECTION RACES

There are 4 selection races in total.

2025– 2026 selection races are worth 30% total athlete score

1. Provincial Championship Classic technique race – **February 7, 2026** – Turtle Mt Prov Park. Or pre-approved alternate race.
2. Provincial Championship Free technique race – **February 8, 2026** – Turtle Mt Prov Park. Or pre-approved alternate race.

2026 – 2027 races are worth 70% total athlete score

3. Selection Classic technique race – **late December, 2026** – Location TBD – likely during the school winter break in a location with skiable snow at that time. Format and distance to closely match CWG 2027 events where possible. Or pre-approved alternate race*.
4. Selection Free technique race – **late December, 2026** – Location TBD – likely during the school winter break in a location with skiable snow at that time. Format and distance to closely match CWG 2027 events where possible. Or pre-approved alternate race*.

Note: Selection race locations and or dates are subject to change due to weather or other unforeseen factors.

*Athlete's training and competing outside of the CCSAM division (e.g. NDC or University athletes attending school outside of Manitoba) will be allowed to substitute the first 2 selection races defined in this document with equivalent races upon approval, in advance, by the Selection Committee.

*Athletes must apply in writing to the CCSAM Provincial Development Program Committee to request consideration for team selection based on performances other than the 4 selection races defined in this document.

*The deadline to submit a request for alternate race result(s) is 2 weeks prior to each selection race listed above.

SELECTION PROCESS

Individual athlete results in the selection races defined above will be assigned a point value based on the winning time in each race.

2 selection races in 2025-2026 (see below) will be worth 30% of the athlete's total selection score.

2 selection races in December 2026 will be worth 70% of the athlete's total selection score.

SELECTION GUIDELINES

- If the selection race results do not allow the Selection Committee to select a full team to their satisfaction, or if weather or other factors prevent the hosting of any one or more selection race(s), the Selection Committee may use other criteria to select the final team. Other criteria may include but are not limited to:
 - NC or FIS sanctioned race results, particularly in the 2026-2027 competitive season. Especially in cases where potential athletes are unable to compete in selection events.
 - Recommendations made by CWG coaches &/or personal coaches.
- If selection between two or more athletes is close, the selection committee may give priority to the athlete(s) competing only in Cross Country Skiing.
- Once selected, all athletes are expected to continue at or above the performance level attained at the time of their selection.
- If an athlete's performance level is not maintained then the Provincial Development Program Committee, in consultation with the CWG coaches, will have the power to reevaluate the athlete's suitability and the athlete may be removed from the team.
- In the event of a tie after the selection criteria has been applied, the athletes will be ranked by the priorities in the following order:
 - Their single best race result within the qualification selection criteria.
 - If there is still a tie it will move to 2nd, 3rd, etc. best result.
 - If there is still a tie, the PDPC will make the final decision.
 - Depth of field will be required and considered for each event used to tie-break.
- **Force Majeure:** special consideration may be given to an athlete who is unable to compete in a selection race due to short term injury or illness or other circumstances beyond their control. The athlete must notify the Executive Director or the Provincial Development Program Committee to request consideration under this clause, within 24 hours after the affected selection race.

- In the event a selected athlete is ineligible or otherwise unable to compete in Games (due to illness, injury, or otherwise) the PDPC may choose to select the next qualifying athlete for that competition.

APPEAL PROCESS

Decisions made by the Selection Committee are final and not subject to appeal. Please refer to the CCSAM Alternative Dispute Resolution and Appeal Policy.