

The SMCC Committee and National Team Selection for 2019



Objectives

This document describes the guidelines and policies employed in the selection of the **Canadian National Ski Mountaineering Team**. The system is reviewed annually, following the selection of the National Team for the current year, and the following policies are amended, approved, and published prior to the competition season for which they will apply. We believe clarity and foreknowledge will provide advantages both to the SMCC as an organization and to athletes wishing to compete for Canada, thus helping to produce better Canadian results at international events.

1. GOALS

The main goals of this TEAM SELECTION criteria framework are to:

- 1.1 Build a stronger future for the sport of Ski Mountaineering in Canada;
- 1.2 Have the best and strongest Canadian athletes at international races;
- 1.3 Encourage athletes to train hard to be within the reach of the top athletes in international fields;
- 1.4 Encourage athletes to attend all Canadian calendar races , travel to international competitions, and generally show dedication to the sport;
- 1.5 Provide clear and well-articulated selection criteria for athletes, such that athletes know exactly what is required to be named to the National Team or the World Championships Team;
- 1.6 Improve the credibility and popularity of Ski Mountaineering as an organized sport in Canada;

2. MEMBER ROLES

Ski Mountaineering Competition Canada (SMCC)

A sub-committee of the SMCC is formed annually to assist in the organization of National Ski Mountaineering Team for Canada. The goals of the committee are to:

- Offer a system of support for Elite Athletes;
- Help promote and grow Ski Mountaineering in Canada;
- Offer opportunities for more people to become involved in Ski Mountaineering in Canada; and
- To ensure progression and succession within Ski Mountaineering events and programs.

For the current season, the following team-related administrative roles are filled by designated persons. These positions may be filled by others at the time selection for the 2018/19 Teams are actually made:

SMCC Chair, Team Director – *Dave Dornian*

Assistant Team Director – *Brent Harris*

National Team Coach – *Travis Brown*

Youth Team Coach – *Steve Sellers*

Athlete Representative – *Kylee Ohler* (National representative position to be elected by SMCC athletes during 2018 race season, nominations open)

Training Camp Coordinators – *Travis Brown, Kylee Ohler, Steve Sellers*

Events and Sponsorship – *Brent Harris, Dave Hurd*

Ranking and Points Coordinator – *Nick Elson, Dave Dornian, Brent Harris*

Website and Team Apparel and Equipment – *ACC National Office, Lori Anne Donald*

For a full description of the responsibilities of each of the committee members, contact SMCC.

2.2 Athletes

SMCC expects that its Athletes will contribute to the development of Ski Mountaineering in Canada, including:

- Promoting the sport within their communities;
- Supporting and assisting other athletes to improve and compete successfully;
- Representing Canada in a positive manner when attending all events;
- Becoming actively involved in the team and group tasks relating to sponsorship, uniforms, and relationships with support industries;
- Communicating issues to the Team Management;
- Maintaining a positive and respectful approach with all team members, managers, and directors; and
- Maintaining active membership in the Alpine Club of Canada.

3. SELECTION CRITERIA

Prior to each competition season, the SMCC Committee will publish a list of races that will form the **Canadian Cup** Race Calendar, which may include any races within Canada's borders, including national and continental championships. *In Addition*, the SMCC Committee will maintain an **Athlete Ranking** based on the best 4 performances of a SMCC skier at any approved format ski mountaineering competitions, anywhere, over the 365 day period immediately previous.

National Team

The Team Selection Committee will select athletes for the National Team based on their place the previous season in the **Athlete Ranking** compiled by the Ranking and Points Coordinator, applied according to the criteria below. The National Team will be announced prior to the competition season of each year.

In order to be selected to the National Team, candidate athletes must:

- Accept specifically, following invitation, for naming to the Team.
- Train specifically for the sport of Ski Mountaineering;
- Be a member of the Alpine Club of Canada
- Be willing to sign the Athlete Agreement at Annex A
- Attendance:
 - 60% attendance at the Canadian Race Calendar the previous season, or 4 calendar races, whichever is lesser; or
 - with the permission of the Team Director, fulfilling race attendance requirements with International race attendance the previous season; or
 - in the case of calendar variances or cancellations, an equivalent level of race attendance in combined jurisdictions.
- At the time of application, have a comparative place within the top 4 applicants, based on the above criteria. (selection races may be declared if needed to resolve uncertainties and/or race assignment requests for events where quotas may limit entry)

National Team Members may be selected and registered as such for international races. Typically, SMCC is able to provide administrative and coordination assistance for mutually negotiated goals. Financial assistance for international competition is limited to ISMF licensing and registration fees at this time. Members of the National Team will receive the following forms of support from SMCC:

- the cost of ISMF International License fees
- the cost of ISMF World Cup and World Championships race registration fees
- access to National Team sponsorship arrangements and pro-deals as they might be arranged by the SMCC annually
- 50% of the cost of team uniforms
- access to coaching and training opportunities

- admin support and endorsement for individual fund raising

National Development Team

The Team Selection Committee will select athletes for the National Development Team based on their place the previous season in the Athlete Rankings compiled by the Ranking and Points Coordinator, applied according to the criteria below. The Development Team will be announced prior to the competition season of each year.

Up to 5 men and 5 women may be selected to the Development Team. In order to be selected to the Development Team, athletes must:

- Apply specifically, in writing, for naming to the National Team.
- Train generally for racing;
- Attendance:
 - 40% attendance at the Canadian Race Calendar in the season previous to application, or 4 calendar races, whichever is lesser; or
 - with the permission of the Team Director, fulfilling race attendance requirements with International race attendance the previous season; or
 - in the case of calendar variances or cancellations, an equivalent level of race attendance in combined jurisdictions.

Development Team members are sanctioned to attend international events at their own expense unless arranged specifically with the SMCC. Development Team members will receive the following forms of support from SMCC:

- the cost of ISMF International License fees if selected to represent Canada at international events
- the cost of ISMF World Cup and World Championships race registration fees
- potential access to National Team sponsorship arrangements and pro-deals as they might be arranged by the SMCC annually
- 50% of the cost of team uniforms
- access to coaching and training opportunities
- admin support and endorsement for individual fund raising

National Youth Team

Canada's National Youth Ski Mountaineering Team is for those athletes who will be aged 19 or younger during the 2018 year of competition, i.e. born on or after 01 January 1999.

NB: Current ISMF age categories operate as follows (these will apply to licensing for international competition, at the time of that competition) Cadet: 15 – 16 – 17 years, Junior: 18 – 19 – 20 years, Senior: 21 years and above; - Espoir ranking: 21 - 23 years. Cadets and Juniors may run in a Senior relay. For the sports season N-1/N, the age taken into account is the age on 31st

December of year N. There cannot be subdivisions in Cadet and Junior categories. Rules for Team Event competitions: - Men's team = team composed of 2 men - Women 's team = team composed of 2 women - Composition Senior Team = any athlete 18 years old (during the year of the race) or over, (the team is automatically ranked in the senior category, no matter the age of the 2 teammates) - Composition Junior Team = Junior athletes only - Composition Cadet Team = Cadets athletes only - Long Distance Races may be composed of more than 2 members - A racer holding a valid ISMF licence who teams up with a racer who does not have an ISMF licence for the current year, is not eligible to receive classification points. - The 2 members of the team must have the same nationality and belong to the same federation. All other team composition will be rejected.

The Team Selection Committee will select athletes for the National Youth Team based on their place the previous season in the **Athlete Ranking** compiled by the Ranking and Points Coordinator, applied according to the criteria below. Up to 4 males and 4 females may be selected to the Youth Team, Two for each age category. The Team makeup will be announced prior to the competition season of each year.

In order to be selected to the Youth Team, athletes must:

- Apply specifically, in writing, for naming to the Team, and have their application endorsed by a parent or guardian.
- Train generally for racing;
- Attendance:
 - attendance at the Canadian Race Calendar in the season previous to application;
 - attendance at the National Championships in the season previous to application;
 - with the permission of the Team Directors, International race attendance;or
 - in the case of calendar variances or cancellations, an equivalent level of race attendance
- At the time of application, have a comparative place within the top 4 applicants, based on the above criteria. (selection races may be declared if needed to resolve uncertainties and/or race assignment requests for events where quotas may limit entry)

Youth Team members are sanctioned to attend international events at their own expense. Youth Team members will receive the following forms of support from SMCC:

- the cost of ISMF International License fees if selected to represent Canada at international events
- the cost of ISMF World Cup and World Championships race registration fees
- access to National Team sponsorship arrangements and pro-deals as they might be arranged by the SMCC annually
- 50% of the cost of team uniforms

- access to coaching and training opportunities
- admin support and endorsement for individual fund raising

3.1 National Teams Selection Schedule

(For a given season, any SMCC sanctioned, USSMA sanctioned, or ISMF calendar race occurring prior to selection can be taken into consideration determining the Athlete Ranking that is used in selection. Alternative selection races may be named or planned in case of need, cancellation of previously declared events, etc. The Selection Committee will invite each of the athletes selected to a position on the Teams in the order of their Athlete Ranking, before the end of April. Athletes will be expected to notify the SMCC of their acceptance, in writing, before 15 May, such that the Teams may be announced by 01 June.

3.2 World Championship Team Selection

World Championship Teams will only be selected for World Championship competitions - typically every 2nd year (2019 is an ISMF World Ski Mountaineering Championships year) - in time for organization and training directly for the events at the World Championships.

It is to be expected that a Canadian World Championships Team will be made up of athletes who are presently on the National Teams, but this need not necessarily be the case. Present ranking at the time of WCH registration, athlete availability, specialization, eligibility rules and race quotas, time and resources – all may play a part in WCH Team makeup and event assignment.

3.3 World Championship Team Selection Criteria

Selection to the World Championship Team will be made by a Selection Committee comprised of the Team Director, the Assistant Team Director, and the Team Coach. Where a member of the Selection Committee has a close relationship with an athlete being considered for the World Championship Team, that member will abstain from any discussions or decisions related to that athlete.

The Selection Committee will take the following criteria into consideration on a weighted basis:

30% - Current Results at specified ranking races prior to the WCH dates.

50% - Previous Season's National Ranking

20% - Special Considerations (such as factors based on health, resources, team objectives, etc.) as approved by the selection committee.

Current Results

Performance in the specified Selection Races prior to the WCHP will account for the athlete's Current Results.

Previous Season's National Ranking

The Results & Points Coordinator will compile an "Athlete Rankings list" according to the SMCC's annual national ranking policies for the previous season of racing considering his or her best 4 race results from the previous season's Canadian Race Calendar or ISMF sanctioned events.

Where an athlete races internationally in the season prior to a World Championship season, their results should be taken into account in such a way that they are not penalized for racing internationally.

(Ranking methodology and formulae are available in a supporting document.)

Special Consideration

After the Current Results and the Previous Season National Ranking results have been compiled, the Selection Committee will review the team selection and may select **additional** athletes who:

1. Have shown great improvement and would greatly benefit from attending the World Championships; or
2. May have been sick, injured, or had circumstances which made them unable to attend Selection Races.

In making a selection under Special Consideration 2, the Selection Committee must consider the athlete's results from the previous year and evaluate the athlete's ability to perform at a World Championships level following the injury or illness.

3.4.2 Selection Schedule

In the October prior to a World Championship season, two or more races will be announced as selection races for the World Championships Team (the "Selection Races").

(For a given season, any SMCC sanctioned, USSMA sanctioned, or ISMF calendar race occurring prior to the WCH can be taken into consideration as a selection race. Alternative selection races may be named or planned in case of need, cancellation of previously declared events, etc. For the 2019 World Championships, the Selection Races will likely be the relay/enduro races near Calgary in late November or early December, and the Castle Mountain Resort Ski Mountaineering Competition in January.)

The Selection Committee will announce the athletes selected to the World Championship Team and their ranking one week following the last Selection Race, and no later than one month prior to World Championships.

3.4 Event & Category Selection for World Championships

Within one week following the WCH Team announcement, the top four male athletes and the top four female athletes will submit to the Team Director the event(s) they would like to race at World Championships.

Registration quotas may then be filled via assignment of remaining athletes based on their preference and according to their ranking.

4. Olympic Team Selection

Ski Mountaineering Competition is now a sport recognized by the International Olympic Committee, and is available for selection to future Winter Games. The first time ski mountaineering competition will appear at the Olympics will be in Lausanne, Switzerland, in January 2020 at the Youth Olympic Games.

<https://www.lausanne2020.com/news/climbing-the-olympic-summit-everything-you-need-to-know-about-ski-mountaineering>

Current information suggests that selection to the Canadian Youth Team for these games will proceed as outlined above, with the caveat that only 2 males and 2 females can be registered by any single nation for the games. YOG athletes must be between 17 or 18 years old on 31 December in the year of the YOG. If you were born between 01 January 2002 and 31 December 2003, and wish to qualify for the YOG, you must do so with an ISMF license and Canadian passport. The last chance to be ranked on this continent before Lausanne 2020 will be at the Pan American Championships at Lake Louise 23, 24, 25 March 2018. Thereafter, obtaining an ISMF ranking will likely require travel for international competition.

[APPENDIX A]

How the Athlete Rankings are Determined:

1. Rankings
 - a. All Canada Cup, ISMF and USSMA sanctioned races will be included in the rankings.
 - b. All Canadian athletes competing in races eligible under section 1(a) will be included in the rankings.
 - c. The rankings will be published on January 31, February 31 and March 31 of each year.
 - d. Athletes may appeal a ranking within 15 days of publication by providing notice to the Ranking and Points Coordinator. Subject to such appeals, rankings may be revised within 30 days of publication.
2. Calculation of Points
 - a. An athlete's points will be averaged over his or her 4 best races in the past 365 days.
 - b. Athletes with fewer than 4 races will have their points adjusted as follows:
 - i. 3 races x .975
 - ii. 2 races x .95
 - iii. 1 race x .925
 - c. For every race, the points of the highest ranked athlete on the previously published ranking will serve as the reference points.
 - d. For every race, the finishing time of the highest ranked athlete on the previously published ranking will serve as the reference time.
 - e. The points for each eligible athlete will be calculated by dividing the reference time by that athlete's time, and multiplying the result by the reference points.
 - f. The SMCC National Committee may designate races where points will be adjusted according to a formula.

N.B. The points from the 2018 North American Championships held in Lake Louise will be multiplied by 1.05



[APPENDIX B]

Example Mutual Agreement between National Ski Mountaineering Team member(s) and The Alpine Club of Canada.

Athlete/ACC Agreement

AGREEMENT made this _____ day of _____, 201__

BETWEEN **THE ALPINE CLUB OF CANADA**, having its national office at **Canmore, Alberta, CANADA** (hereinafter referred to as "the ACC")

AND

***** residing at

_____ (hereinafter referred to as "the Athlete").

WHEREAS the Athlete wishes to be an active competitor in ACC-sanctioned events with his or her rights and obligations clearly defined;

WHEREAS the ACC is recognized by the INTERNATIONAL SKI MOUNTAINEERING FEDERATION (Ski Mountaineering Competition's International Federation) as the sole National Federation governing the sport of Climbing in Canada;

WHEREAS the ACC and ***** recognize the need to clarify the relationship between the ACC and the Athlete by establishing their respective rights and obligations;

AND WHEREAS the Alpine Club of Canada requires these rights and obligations to be stated in a written agreement to be signed by the ACC and the Athlete who applies for endorsement as a member of a national team;

AND WHEREAS the International Federation requires that the ACC certify the eligibility of the Athlete to compete as a member in good standing;

NOW THEREFORE the parties agree to the following:

ACC's Obligations

1. The ACC shall:

- a. organize, select and operate teams of athletes, coaches and other necessary support staff (a National Team) to represent Canada in the sport of Ski Mountaineering Competition throughout the world;

- b. communicate with athletes both orally and in writing in the language of their choice (French or English);
- c. publish selection criteria for all national teams at least three (3) months before the selection for any particular team and at least eight (8) months before the selection of major games teams (where the notice, scheduling, and registration for these games allows) and World Championship Teams;
- d. conduct selection of members to all national teams in a manner that is in conformity with the generally accepted principles of natural justice and procedural fairness;
- e. publish criteria for the selection of athletes ten (10) months before the start of the ACC eligibility cycle for the particular season;
- f. nominate all athletes who meet ACC criteria;
- g. organize programs and provide funding for the development and provision of coaching expertise, officials and event training centres in Canada in the sport of ski mountaineering competition in accordance with the budget of the ACC;
- h. assist the Athlete in obtaining quality medical care and advice;
- i. provide the Athlete selected to be a member of the National Team with the National Team uniform;
- j. regularly provide National Team program information (training and competition) to the Athlete in the form of emailed correspondence;
- k. provide a formal review of the Athlete's annual training program;
- l. provide funding for the Athlete for training camps and competitions in accordance with the budget of the ACC;
- m. provide for a representative elected by the athletes to sit as a voting member of the relevant decision-making body of the ACC (for example, the Board of Directors of the SMCC or National Team Committee); and
- n. Provide an appeal procedure that is in conformity with the principles of natural justice and procedural fairness, which shall include access to independent arbitration through the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada (SDRCC) with respect to any dispute the Athlete may have with the ACC, and publish the details of this procedure in a prominent manner so that it is freely available to all athletes or any person requesting this information by or on behalf of the Athlete.

Athlete's Obligations

2. The Athlete shall:

- a. recognizing the responsibilities of the coaches in coaching-related decisions, follow the training and competitive program mutually agreed to by the following:
 - o the ACC representative responsible for developing and monitoring National Team training and competitive programs (the National Coach or High Performance Director, for example);
 - o the Athlete's personal coach; and
 - o the Athlete;
- b. avoid living in an environment not conducive to high-performance achievements or taking any deliberate action that puts his or her ability to perform at risk or limits performance;
- c. provide the National Coach or his or her designate, by email sent to the National Office, with an annual training chart and monthly updates of changes to the chart or any other appropriate information that the ACC may request;
- d. subject to paragraph 2(e), participate in all mandatory training camps and competitions as described in Appendix A of this Agreement (Appendix A is sport specific and is not included in this document);

- e. notify the ACC immediately in writing of any injury or other legitimate reason that will prevent the Athlete from participating in an upcoming event referred to in Appendix A of this Agreement (Appendix A is seasonally specific) and ensure in the case of an injury that a certificate from a medical doctor setting out the specific nature of the injury is forwarded to the ACC within three weeks of the injury;
- f. dress in the National Team uniform and other official clothing, if applicable, while travelling or participating as part of the National Team;
- g. avoid any action or conduct that would reasonably be expected to significantly disrupt or interfere with a competition or the preparation of any Athlete for a competition;
- h. during or at National Team training camps and competitions, avoid alcoholic consumption to a level that would reasonably be expected to impair the Athlete's ability to speak, walk or drive, or cause the Athlete to behave in a disruptive manner;
- i. avoid the use of banned substances that contravene the rules of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the rules of the International Federation and the Canadian Policy on Doping in Sport;
- j. submit, without prior warning, to unannounced doping-control tests in addition to other prior-notice tests and submit at other times to doping-control testing when requested by the ACC, the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport (CCES) or other authorities designated to do so;
- k. avoid the possession of anabolic drugs and neither supply such drugs to others directly or indirectly nor encourage or condone their use by knowingly aiding in any effort to avoid detection of the use of banned substances or banned performance enhancing practices;
- l. participate, if asked by the ACC to do so, in any Doping Control/Education Program developed by the ACC in co-operation with Sport Canada and the CCES;
- m. avoid participating in any competitions where federal government sport policy has determined that such participation is not permitted;
- n. participate in sport-related, non-commercial promotional activities on behalf of the ACC. Unless supplementary compensation is arranged, these activities do not normally involve more than one working day per athlete per year; and
- o. adhere to and comply with the ACC's appeal procedure.

3. Default of Agreement

- a. Where one of the parties to this agreement is of the opinion that the other party has failed to conform with its obligations under this agreement, it the following shall occur shall forthwith:
 - 1. The one part shall notify the other party in writing of the particulars of the alleged default.
 - 2. If there exists a reasonable opportunity to correct the default and the default is not so fundamental as to amount to a repudiation of this agreement, the notifying party shall indicate in the notice the steps to be taken to remedy the default and a reasonable period of time to complete the remedial steps.
 - 3. The parties agree that the giving of the above referred-to notice by a party will not prevent that party from later asserting that the default was so fundamental as to amount to a repudiation of this agreement.
- b. If the party receiving the notice remedies the breach within the specified time, the dispute shall be considered resolved and neither party shall have any recourse against the other concerning the matter alleged to comprise the default. If the party receiving the notice fails to remedy the breach within the specified time and either party wishes recourse against the other concerning the matters alleged to comprise the default, that party shall use the dispute settlement mechanism of this agreement to resolve the differences between the parties.

Duration of Agreement

This AGREEMENT comes into force on the 1st day of January 2018, and terminates on the 30th day of June 2019.

Athlete Declaration

I hereby declare that in return for any financial and administrative assistance provided by the Alpine Club of Canada, I undertake to fulfill all commitments and responsibilities outlined in my Athlete/ACC Agreement. I agree to relinquish any assistance provided to me, payable to the Alpine Club of Canada, should my eligibility status change or be withdrawn, effective the withdrawal/change of status date.

Witness Date Athlete

The ALPINE CLUB OF CANADA (the ACC)

Witness Date ACC Representative

Annex A: International Competitions pertaining to this agreement

Annex B: Competitions applied for pending Team selection