



Selection Guidelines and Criteria

2025 – 2026

**For the Ontario Ski Team
and
Ontario Development Ski Team**



1. Program Objective

The Ontario Ski Team (“OST”) is a high-performance development program designed to prepare Ontario’s best FIS ski racers with the broad range of skills and characteristics needed to succeed at the highest levels of international competition. The primary athletic goals of the Ontario Ski Team are to help athletes maximize athletic potential, and advance to the Canadian Alpine Ski Team (CAST). The primary benchmark events for the Ontario Ski Team are Nor am Cup and the World Junior Championships. Many graduation Ontario Ski Team athletes choose to pursue their athletic goals through National Collegiate Athletic Association or other elite university ski racing programs.

The primary athletic goals of the Ontario Development Ski Team (“ODST”) are to help athletes maximize athletic potential and advance to the Ontario Ski Team. Primary benchmark events are regional, national, and international FIS competitions.

OST Staff and AOA reserve the right to adjust the timing, process, and considerations referenced in this document, at their sole discretion.

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”), and Ontario Development Ski Team (“ODST”)
- 2.2 The purpose of the Selection Guidelines is to select athletes most capable of achieving success relative to the Ontario Ski Team Program Objectives.
- 2.3 The OST and ODST shall consist of male and female athletes.
- 2.4 AOA reserves the right to limit team size based on available funding and resources.
- 2.5 AOA reserves the right to apply additional criteria should it become necessary to limit the number of eligible and qualifying athletes selected to the team.



3. Definitions

- 3.1 "Athlete" means a FIS carded athlete that meets the Eligibility requirements in subsection 4.
- 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 and is primarily a U21 team with certain exceptions detailed in articles 6.2.3 and 6.2.4.
- 3.4 "ODST" means the Ontario Development Ski Team and is primarily a U18 team with certain exceptions detailed in article 6.2.2.
- 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 "FIS Rankings" means the rankings for each discipline based on the FIS Points List(s) identified for selections.
- 3.7 "Club Program" or "Club" refers to any Alpine Ontario Member Club in good standing.
- 3.8 "National Age Rank" ("NAR") refers to an athlete's national ranking by age and younger by FIS points in a given discipline.
- 3.9 "World Age Rank" ("WAR") refers to an athlete's world ranking by age and younger by FIS points in a given discipline.
- 3.10 "Gold Medal Profile" ("GMP") refers to an evaluation of eligible athlete candidates which may include but not is limited to rankings along with technical, tactical, and physical fitness evaluations.
- 3.11 "OST Spring Training Camps" refers to fitness testing, physio assessments, and a 5-7 day on-snow training camp in April where OST Staff will work with athletes before making final team selections.
- 3.12 "Individual Athlete Performance Plan" ("IAPP") refers to the individual seasonal and multi-year plan for each athlete, which considers and addresses their goals and all contributing performance factors.
- 3.13 The "Selection Committee" will be comprised of OST Alpine Staff as identified in 3.5.

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 the previous season and possess a valid OHIP Card.
- 4.3. AOA will consider the eligibility of athletes who meet section 4.2 criteria but have not established full-time residency in the province of Ontario on a case-by-case basis. Exceptions to 4.2 are made at the sole discretion of AOA and OST staff.

5. Selection Process Overview

Selection Criteria will be applied to invite athletes to the OST Spring Training Camps. OST Staff will evaluate the athletes' performance at fitness testing and an on-snow training camp prior to OST/ODST selection. Final selection will be based primarily on the criteria below, along with GMP evaluations at the Spring Training Camps. Minimum fitness standards may be applied.

6. Criteria for Invitation to OST/ODST Spring Training Camps

- 6.1 Selection Criteria are minimum criteria for athletes to be invited to the OST/ODST Spring Training Camps. Exceptions to minimum criteria may be made in certain circumstances detailed in 6.2.3. In the event that more athletes qualify for than the OST can accommodate, priority for nomination to the OST will be established following the order in 6.2.1 (i.e. athletes meeting 6.2.1a, followed by 6.2.1 b, etc). OST Staff and AOA reserve the right to employ additional criteria if required.
- 6.2 Athletes will be considered for selection based on the following criteria:
 - 6.2.1 OST (U21):
 - a) YOB 2007-2005: Average WAR top 60 in 2 disciplines, or WAR top 25 in one speed discipline, or top 50 WAR in one technical discipline (excluding Alpine Combined).
 - b) YOB 2007 – 2005: Average NAR top 7 in 2 disciplines (one must be technical), or NAR top 3 in one discipline.
 - c) YOB 2004 and older: 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. Performance at Nor Am Cup, and progress toward meeting CAST criteria may be considered.

- d) YOB 2008: Athletes born 2008 may be considered for selection to the OST if they achieve an average World Rank of top 60 in 2 disciplines by YOB 2008 or World Rank of top 30 in 1 disciplines by YOB 2008 in one technical discipline, OR National Rank of top 7 in 2 disciplines, or NAR top 3 in 1 technical discipline, at the sole discretion of OST Staff, based on the athlete's general preparedness for the demands of the Ontario Ski Team program (e.g., mental, physical, technical, and social).

6.2.2 ODST (U18):

- a) YOB 2009 (Graduating U16):

- i. U16 Whistler Cup: 1 x top 10 or 2 x top 20 finishes in SL, GS, or SG events.
- ii. U16 OCUP Finals: Top 5 overall OCUP Finals ranking, 2 x top 3 at OCUP Finals or 1 x 1st place finish at OCUP Finals.
- iii. U16 Eastern Regional Finals: 1 x top 3 finish, or 2 top 7 finishes at U16 Eastern Regional finals in SL, GS, or SG events.

- b) YOB 2008 (1st year FIS): Average NAR top 15 in 2 disciplines (one must be technical, excluding DH), or top 7 NAR in one technical discipline.

- c) YOB 2007: Athletes born 2007 may be considered for selection to the ODST, at the sole discretion of OST Staff, if they meet or are close to OST criteria and would benefit from placement with the ODST based on general preparedness or other factors.

Exceptions to minimum criteria for invitation to the OST Spring Camps may be made in certain circumstances. These can include but are not limited to situations when an athlete is close to meeting minimum criteria, can demonstrate strong head-to-head performances at major competitions, or demonstrate progress toward meeting criteria relative to opportunity. Factors such as injury or illness may be considered. Exceptions may also be applied to maintain ideal team size or athlete cohort for one or both genders. Exceptions are made at the sole discretion of OST Staff.



In this circumstance, OST Staff reserve the right to invite athletes to participate in the OST or ODST program throughout the preparation period, and to apply additional criteria which must be satisfied before being named to the team no later than August 31st, 2024.

Qualifying athletes must attend OST Spring Training Camps in April or May 2024, to be selected to the OST and ODST. Exceptions are made at the sole discretion of OST Staff.

7. Selection Process and Timelines

- 7.1 AOA Alpine Staff may reach out to prospective athletes and/or their coaches throughout the competitive season to discuss the OST and ODST programs.
- 7.2 A long list of athletes to be invited to the OST Spring Training Sessions or Camps will be distributed following the Canadian Senior National Championships and U16 OCUP finals based on performance to date and according to the criteria.
- 7.3 Rankings from List 21 (results up to April 9th) will be included for invitation to the OST Spring Training Sessions or Camps in final selections.
- 7.4 Qualifying athletes will be invited to OST fitness testing and OST Spring Training Sessions or Camps.
- 7.5 OST Coaches will name the OST and ODST based on the Selection Criteria and GMP evaluations from spring fitness testing and the spring training sessions or camp.
- 7.6 All athletes attending the spring camps will be provided fitness testing results, and a GMP evaluation along with the reasons for their selection or non-selection.
- 7.7 All athletes will be informed of their status with the team no later than April 31st 2025.

8. Commitment Criteria

- 8.1 Once Selected and prior to being named to the OST/ODST athletes must sign an Athlete Agreement which details the mutual expectations between the athlete and AOA, and conditions for participation with the team. Athletes must also adhere to the following commitment criteria:
- 8.2 A signed Individual Athlete Performance Plan as part of the Athlete Agreement.



- 8.3 Participation in all team training and activities as detailed in the IAPP or otherwise identified by OST Staff.
- 8.4 Fitness standards, including identified areas to improve which are monitored by OST Staff, CSIO, or other designated subject matter experts.
- 8.5 Standards of professionalism and behaviour as detailed in the OST/ODST Athlete Agreement.
- 8.6 Failure to adhere to Commitment Criteria or the Athlete Agreement may lead to dismissal from the team.

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 16th to the AOA HP Director and Executive Director. The letter must document the reasoning as to why the decision should be overturned and accompanied by 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.

10. Injury Status

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.

- 10.1 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 Joey Lavigne, AOA interim High Performance Director, email to jlavigne@alpineontario.ca with a copy to Patrick Biggs, AOA Executive Director, email to pbiggs@alpineontario.ca.