



# **Selection Guidelines and Criteria**

**2026-2027**

**Ontario Development Ski Team**



## 1. Program Objective

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.

*ODST Alpine 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 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 ODST shall include athletes competing in both FIS-designated sex categories
- 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 “ODST” means the Ontario Development Ski Team and is primarily a U18 team with certain exceptions detailed in article 6.1
- 3.4 “ODST Alpine Staff” refers to the Head Coach of the ODST and the AOA High Performance Director.
- 3.5 “FIS Rankings” means the rankings for each discipline based on the FIS Points



List(s) identified for selections.

- 3.6 "Club Program" or "Club" refers to any Alpine Ontario Member Club in good standing.
- 3.7 "National Age Rank" ("NAR") refers to an athlete's national ranking by age and younger by FIS points in a given discipline.
- 3.8 "Spring Training Camps" refers to fitness testing, physio assessments, and an on-snow training camp in April where OST Staff will work with athletes before making final team selections.
- 3.9 The "Selection Committee" will be comprised of ODST Alpine Staff as identified in 3.4. as well as the Executive Director of AOA.

## 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 ODST Alpine Staff.
- 4.4 Eligibility to apply for ODST: athletes must have a NAR (National age rank) and graduating U16 results as follows and accompanying recommendations from Club representatives.
  - a) First year - top 25 in Eastern Regional Championships or Provincial championships (OCUP Finals)
  - b) Second year – NAR top 20 in any discipline

## 5. Selection Process Overview

Selection Criteria will be applied to identified eligible athletes. ODST Alpine Staff will evaluate the athletes' performance including fitness testing and on-snow training and competitions during the season. Final selection will be based primarily on the criteria below and minimum fitness standards and Skill assessments.



ODST Alpine Staff may conduct at its discretion a Spring Try-out camp for the purpose of further evaluation of potential candidates.

## 6. Criteria for Invitation to ODST

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

### 6.1 ODST (U18):

ODST criteria will include a performance evaluation, skill assessment, a fitness assessment and aptitude assessment component. Skill assessment will be based on AOA Skill Combine (10 basic skills) A Score of 70 will be minimum standard. Also, an aptitude assessment based on an in-person interview will be conducted by the Head Coach. Graduating U16 Athletes must meet criteria as stated in 6.2c. Returning Athletes must meet criteria as stated in 6.2d or 6.2e as well as fitness and skill evaluations.

a) Skill Criteria (Skill assessment & Physical assessment)

Have achieved an acceptable skill assessment on AOA Skill Combine. 70/100 in skill assessment.

b) Fitness Criteria: Achieve minimum fitness standards in ACA Fitness Combine Test. (Bronze level). This test will be conducted by ODST staff each spring prior to final selection ratification.

c) YOB 2010 (Graduating U16):

Performance Criteria:

- U16 Whistler Cup: 1 x top 10 or 2 x top 20 finishes in SL, GS, or SG events.
- 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.
- 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.

d) YOB 2009 (1st year FIS): Average NAR top 15 in 2 disciplines (one must be technical, excluding DH), or top 10 NAR in one technical discipline. And have demonstrated progression in skill assessment ranking on AOA Skill Combine.



Skill assessment testing will be conducted throughout the season. Athletes must participate in at least one test.

e) YOB 2008-2007

Athletes born 2008 - Average NAR top 15 in 2 disciplines (one must be a technical event, excluding DH), or top 10 in one technical discipline.

Athletes born in 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 and demonstration of skill assessment indicators that support such consideration. (Participation in at least one AOA skill assessment test during the season)

Exceptions to minimum criteria for invitation to the ODST 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 ODST Alpine Staff.

In this circumstance, ODST Alpine Staff reserve the right to invite athletes to participate in the 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 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026.

## 7. Selection Process and Timelines

- 7.1 ODST Alpine Staff may reach out to prospective athletes and/or their coaches throughout the competitive season to discuss the ODST programs.
- 7.2 A long list of athletes to be invited or considered for selection to the ODST 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 9<sup>th</sup>) will be included for invitation to the ODST final selections. ( Given calendar situations AOA may chose to utilize List 22 to enable last races to be captured)
- 7.4 Qualifying athletes will be invited to ODST fitness testing and should it be necessary a Spring Training Camp.
- 7.5 ODST Alpine Staff will name ODST based on the Selection Criteria and evaluations from spring fitness testing and the spring training sessions or camp. (should such camp be held)
- 7.6 All Athletes attending the spring camps will be provided fitness testing results, and an evaluation along with the reasons for their selection or non-selection. This will come from the Head Coaches and Athletic Director in the form of written documentation.
- 7.7 All Athletes will be informed of their status with the team no later than May 7,2026

## 8. Commitment Criteria

- 8.1 Once Selected and prior to being named to the 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 Alpine Ontario commits to providing a draft schedule including staffing prior to April 31,2026. Families are given 7 days to accept or decline participation on ODST.
- 8.3 Participation in all team training and activities as detailed in the schedule or otherwise identified by ODST Staff is considered mandatory. Failure to attend will result in disciplinary action which may include but not limited to removal from the team.
- 8.4 Fitness standards, along with specific areas identified for improvement, are overseen by ODST Alpine Staff, or other appointed subject matter experts.



- 8.5 Standards of professionalism and behavior as detailed in the ODST Athlete Agreement.
- 8.6 Failure to adhere to Commitment Criteria or the Athlete Agreement may lead to dismissal from the team
- 8.7 Being named to the ODST constitutes a one-year contract/commitment. All athletes are required to requalify annually for the ODST programs

## 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 An appeal must be submitted in writing to the AOA HP Director. All appeals must be submitted one week prior to deadlines of selection for ODST.
- 9.3 The Appeals Committee will be appointed by the AOA Executive Director.
- 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.
  - a) The Appeals Committee will meet as soon as is reasonably possible following receipt of the notice of appeal.
  - b) Following the appeals meeting, the committee will advise the ODST 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 ODST status.
- 10.2 Injury Status allows current ODST 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 ODST Selection criteria, to be considered for selection.
- 10.3 ODST members on injury status may only resume training and/or competition with the approval of the athlete's medical professionals



and the ODST Alpine Staff.

- 10.4 ODST Staff will follow the testing protocols and guidelines of the AOA 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 ODST Staff will use the AOA 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](mailto:jlavigne@alpineontario.ca) with a copy to Patrick Biggs, AOA Executive Director, email to [pbiggs@alpineontario.ca](mailto:pbiggs@alpineontario.ca).