



Selection Guidelines and Criteria

2026-2027

For the Ontario 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. Also, Ontario ski team will employ skill assessments as further benchmarking to identify athletes tracking towards progression towards higher levels of international competition. Many graduation Ontario Ski Team athletes choose to pursue their athletic goals through National Collegiate Athletic Association or other elite university ski racing programs.

OST 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 the Ontario Ski Team (“OST”).
- 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 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 "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 "OST Alpine Staff" refers to the Head Coaches for the Men's and Women's teams 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 "World Age Rank" ("WAR") refers to an athlete's world ranking by age and younger by FIS points in a given discipline.
- 3.9 "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.
- 3.10 "OST Spring Training Camps" refers to fitness testing, physio assessments, and an on-snow training camp in April where OST Alpine Staff will work with Athletes before making final team selections. This may or may not take place at any given year and is at the discretion of the Head Coach.
- 3.11 "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.
- 3.12 The "Selection Committee" will be comprised of OST Alpine Staff as identified in 3.5. 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 OST Alpine Staff.
- 4.4 Eligibility to apply for OST: athletes must-have a WAR (World age rank) as follows – (DH is not included in rankings)
 - Men –
 - Yob (4th year FIS) - top 180 tech and or top 120 speed
 - Yob (3rd year FIS) - top 160 tech and or speed
 - Yob (2nd year FIS) - top 120 tech or top 100 speed
 - Women –
 - Yob (4th year FIS) – top 160 tech and or top 120 speed
 - Yob (3rd year FIS) – top 120 tech and or top 150 speed
 - Yob (2nd year FIS) – top 120 tech and or top 120 speed

5. Selection Process Overview

Selection Criteria will be applied to identified eligible athletes. OST 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, along with GMP evaluations. A minimum Bronze level as per ACA's Fitness Combine will be applied.

OST 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 OST

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

6.1 OST (U21):

Selection Criteria are minimum criteria for athletes to be evaluated for selection to the OST Programs. Exceptions to minimum criteria may be made in certain circumstances detailed in this document. In the event that more athletes qualify than the OST can accommodate, priority for nomination to the OST will be established following the order in 6.1 (i.e. athletes meeting 6.1 a, followed by 6.1 b, etc.). OST Alpine Staff and AOA reserve the right to employ additional criteria if required.

- a) YOB 2008-2006: Average WAR top 60 in 2 disciplines one being tech, or WAR top 25 in one speed discipline, or top 50 WAR in one technical discipline (excluding Alpine Combined).
- b) YOB 2008 – 2006: Average NAR top 7 in 2 disciplines (one must be technical), or NAR top 3 in one discipline.
- c) YOB 2005 and older: Senior athletes may be considered for selection on a case-by-case basis, at the sole discretion of the OST Alpine 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 2009: Athletes born 2009 may be considered for selection to the OST if they achieve an average World Rank of top 60 in 2 disciplines by YOB 2009 or



World Rank of top 30 in 1 discipline by YOB 2009 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 Alpine Staff, based on the athlete's general preparedness for the demands of the Ontario Ski Team program (e.g., mental, physical, technical, and social).

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 Selection Committee.

In this circumstance, OST Alpine Staff reserve the right to invite athletes to participate in the OST 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, 2026.

7. Selection Process and Timelines

- 7.1 OST Alpine Staff may reach out to prospective athletes and/or their coaches throughout the competitive season to discuss the OST programs.
- 7.2 A long list of athletes to be invited or considered for selection to the OST will be distributed following the Canadian Senior National Championships 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 final selections. (Given calendar situations AOA may chose to utilize List 22 to enable end of season races to be captured)
- 7.4 Qualifying Athletes will be invited to OST fitness testing and should it be necessary a Spring Training Camp.
- 7.5 OST Alpine Staff will name the OST 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. 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 OST 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. 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 OST.
- 8.3 Participation in all team training and activities as detailed in the IAPP or otherwise identified by OST Alpine 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 as defined in ACA's Fitness Combine materials, along with specific areas identified for improvement, are overseen by OST Alpine Staff, CSIO, or other appointed subject matter experts.
- 8.5 Standards of professionalism and behavior as detailed in the OST 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 OST constitutes a one-year contract/commitment. All athletes are required to requalify annually for the OST 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 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 Appeals Committee will meet as soon as is reasonably possible following 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 Alpine 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 Alpine 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.