



**MILANO CORTINA 2026 OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES
NOMINATION CRITERIA FOR SNOW SPORTS EVENTS**

Snow Sports New Zealand Inc

1. Application of this Nomination Criteria

1.1 **Status:** This Nomination Criteria is issued by the Board and shall take effect from 20 March 2024. This Nomination Criteria supersedes any previous correspondence, discussions and representations (whether written or oral) by Snow Sports New Zealand regarding nomination and selection for the Games.

1.2 **Scope:** This Nomination Criteria applies to:

- (a) all Athletes wishing to be considered for nomination to the Games Team to compete in the Games in a Snow Sports Event; and
- (b) Snow Sports New Zealand, including its Selectors, that wish to nominate Athletes to the NZOC to be considered for selection to the Games Team for the Games.

1.3 **Process:** Selection to the Games Team in a Snow Sports Event is a three step process:

- (a) each Athlete must be eligible in accordance with clause 3 of this Nomination Criteria;
- (b) Snow Sports New Zealand nominates Athletes to the NZOC in accordance with this Nomination Criteria and the NZOC Nomination and Selection Regulation; and
- (c) the NZOC selects Athletes to the Games Team in accordance with the NZOC Selection Policy and the NZOC Nomination and Selection Regulation.

2. Selectors

2.1 **Composition:** The Selectors have been appointed by The Board of Snow Sports NZ. The Selectors who will consider nomination of Athletes to the NZOC to be considered for selection in the Games Team are:

The Selectors will be published on the Snow Sports NZ website www.snowsports.co.nz by 30 September 2024.

2.2 **Change of Selectors:** The Board reserves the right to change a Selector at any time in its absolute discretion prior to the Nomination Date. In such case, it will publish the change of Selector on the Snow Sports New Zealand website.

3. Eligibility

3.1 **Athlete Eligibility:** To be eligible to be nominated to the NZOC by Snow Sports NZ, an Athlete must:

- (a) be on the Snow Sports New Zealand long list for the Games; and
- (b) have returned a completed Athlete Application to the NZOC, in the form prescribed by the NZOC, by the following dates (“Application Date”):
 - i. no later than 5.00pm, 4 April 2025; or
 - ii. in exceptional circumstances, before 5.00pm, 6 August 2025 (or such extended date as agreed by the NZOC Board) where Snow Sports New Zealand provides the NZOC with evidence that demonstrates that Athlete could not have been reasonably in contemplation on 4 April 2025; and
- (c) have returned a completed Athlete Agreement in the manner prescribed by the NZOC to the NZOC prior to the Nomination Date; and
- (d) be a member of Snow Sports New Zealand or one of its affiliates; and
- (e) be a New Zealand citizen and have a New Zealand passport; and
- (f) be born before 1 January 2010 for Freestyle Ski Cross and Alpine Events. For all other Snow Sports Events an Athlete must be born before 1 January 2011; and
- (g) have met the minimum FIS Points as specified in the relevant FIS Qualification System for Milano Cortina 2026 Olympic Winter Games (“FIS Qualification System”); and
- (h) have met the medical requirements as specified in the relevant FIS Qualification System; and
- (i) have demonstrated to the satisfaction of Snow Sports New Zealand that they are not suffering any physical or psychological impairment that would prevent them from competing in the Games to the highest possible standard; and
- (j) have acted in such a manner so as not to bring the Athlete, the sport, Snow Sports New Zealand or the NZOC into public disrepute; and
- (k) not be under investigation for any breach of any part of the Snow Sports New Zealand and/or FIS’s anti-doping regulations, the Sports Anti-Doping Rules and/or the NZOC Integrity Regulation; and
- (l) no later than 6 August 2025 (or such extended date as agreed by the NZOC Board), have provided their name and contact address details to the NZOC for the purpose of locating them for drug testing with Drug Free Sport New Zealand.

3.2 **Qualification:** New Zealand must qualify for places in a Snow Sport Event(s) in accordance with the relevant FIS Qualification System and/or FIS requirements for the Games.

Qualification for a place in any Snow Spot Event(s) by an Athlete (or group of Athletes) does not guarantee that Athlete (or group of Athletes) will be nominated or selected to compete in the Snow Sports Event(s) at the Games.

3.3 **Nomination if Nomination Criteria Met:** Provided the requirements set out in clauses 3.1 and 3.2 are met, the Selectors shall nominate to the NZOC for consideration of selection, those Athletes it considers meet the Nomination Criteria set out below.

3.4 **Reserve Athletes:** The Selectors may nominate Reserve Athletes to the NZOC for any Snow Sports Event.

4. Nomination Criteria

4.1 **Nomination Criteria:** In considering any Athlete for nomination to the NZOC, the Selectors shall consider:

- (a) the Over-riding Nomination Criteria specified in clause 5.1; or
- (b) the Secondary Nomination Criteria specified in clause 5.2; and
- (c) the Specific Over-riding Nomination Factors specified in clause 5.3; and
- (d) the Specific Secondary Nomination Factors specified in clause 5.4; and
- (e) any Extenuating Circumstances in accordance with clause 4.6 and 6.

4.2 **Relevance and Weighting:** The Selectors may determine the relevance and weight that they wish to place on any Specific Nomination Factor(s) and any Extenuating Circumstances(s) as they consider appropriate. No Specific Nomination Factor shall be weighed more or less significantly based on the order in which it appears in this Nomination Criteria unless expressly specified.

4.3 **Permission to Start:** At the sole discretion of the NZOC, Nominated Athletes may, on Snow Sports NZ's request to the NZOC, if selected to the Games Team by the NZOC, request permission to start in another Snow Sports Event where competing in this Snow Sports Event will not have any detrimental effect on the Snow Sports Event the Nomination Athlete has already been selected to the Games Team for.

4.4 **Own Enquiries:** In considering the Specific Nomination Factors, the Selectors may make such enquiries of the Athlete, or other persons, as they set.

4.5 **Conditions:** In considering any results and performances of an Athlete at any Key Events and Trials, the Selectors may, but are not obliged to, take into account the conditions in which the results and performances were obtained such as, but not limited to, weather conditions and the strength of the field of competitors.

4.6 **Extenuating Circumstances:** In any decision regarding the nomination of Athletes to the Games Team, the Selectors may, in their sole discretion, take into account any Extenuating Circumstances in accordance with clause 6 below.

5. **Over-riding Nomination Criteria, Secondary Nomination Criteria and Specific Nomination Factors**

5.1 **Over-riding Nomination Criteria:** In determining whether or not to nominate an Athlete (or group of Athletes) to Snow Sports Event, the Selectors must be satisfied overall that the Athlete (or group of Athletes):

- (a) is or are competing in a Snow Sports Event where a quota place at the Games has been qualified in accordance with the FIS Qualification System; and
- (b) is or are capable of achieving a top 16 placing in the Games in that Snow Sports Event, with the potential to win an Olympic Diploma (top 8 placing); and
- (c) has or have a track record of sufficient quality and depth that the Selectors believe demonstrates the nominated athlete(s) will be competitive at the Games in that Snow Sports Event.

5.2 **Secondary Nomination Criteria:** Where a quota place has been qualified at the Games in accordance with the FIS Qualification System, but where no athlete has met the over-riding criteria in clause 5.1(b) and 5.1(c), then the Selectors may consider nominating an Athlete (or group of Athletes) to a Snow Sports Event provided that the Selectors are satisfied overall that the Athlete has demonstrated they are capable of achieving an Olympic Diploma (top 8 placing) in Snow Sports Event at the 2030 Olympic Winter Games, provided they have a strong record of international competition of such quality and depth that the Selectors believe demonstrates the Nominated Athlete(s) will be competitive in the Snow Sports Event at the Games.

5.3 **Specific Over-riding Nomination Factors:** When considering the Over-riding Nomination Criteria above, the Selectors may also take into account any one or more of the following factors about an Athlete within the Qualification Period:

- (a) **Specific Over-riding Nomination Criteria for Alpine Skiing Events (Individual)**
 - i. be ranked in the World Top 40 in the Discipline they are seeking nomination, according to at least one of the Discipline FIS Points Lists at www.fis-ski.com published between 1 July 2024 and 8 January 2026; **and**
 - ii. have achieved a top 16 placing (in an Olympic Context) in the Alpine Skiing event they are seeking nomination, in at least two Key Events during the Qualification Period;
- (b) **Specific Over-riding Nomination Criteria for Alpine Skiing Events (Mens Team Event and Women's Team Event)**
 - i. Each athlete has met the Individual over-riding nomination criteria 5.3(s) or secondary nomination criteria 5.4(a).

(c) **Specific Over-riding Nomination Criteria for Cross Country Skiing Events**

- i. be ranked in the World Top 40 in the Discipline they are seeking nomination, according to at least one of the FIS points lists at www.fis-ski.com published between 1 July 2024 and 8 January 2026; **and**
- ii. have achieved a top 16 placing (in an Olympic Context) in the Cross Country Skiing event they are seeking nomination, in at least two Key Events during the Qualification Period.

(d) **Specific Over-riding Nomination Criteria for Freestyle Skiing Events**

- i. for Halfpipe or Big Air or Slopestyle events, achieved a top 16 placing (in an Olympic Context) in the Freestyle Skiing event they are seeking nomination, in at least two Key Events during the Qualification Period, except where the start list in the Key Event is less than thirty (30), the Athlete must achieve a result that places them in the top half of the field.
- ii. for Ski Cross events, achieved a top 16 placing (in an Olympic Context) in the Ski Cross event, they are seeking nomination, in at least two Key Events during the Qualification Period.

(e) **Specific Over-riding Nomination Criteria for Snowboard Events**

- i. for Halfpipe, Big Air or Slopestyle events, achieved a top 16 placing (in an Olympic Context) in the Snowboard event they are seeking nomination, in at least two Key Events during the Qualification Period, except where the start list in the Key Event is less than thirty (30), the Athlete must achieve a result that places them in the top half of the field.
- ii. for Cross events, achieved a top 16 placing (in an Olympic Context) in at least two Key Events during the Qualification Period.

5.4 **Specific Secondary Nomination Factors:** When considering the Secondary Nomination Criteria above, the Selectors may also take into account any one or more of the following factors about an Athlete within the Qualification Period:

(a) **Specific Secondary Nomination Criteria for Alpine Skiing Events (Individual)**

- i. A FIS U21 athlete who is tracking positively and has demonstrated capability of achieving an Olympic Diploma (Top 8 placing) at the 2030 Winter Olympic Games as evidenced by two top 10 placings at European Cups, or Two Podium placings at Nor-Am Cup events, or a combination of both.

5.5 **Other Nomination Factors:** When considering the Over-Riding Nomination Criteria and Secondary Criteria above, the Selectors may also take into account any one or more of the following factors about an Athlete within the Qualification Period:

- (a) adequate fitness and a commitment to maintain a fitness and training programme as agreed with the applicable coach(es);

- (b) demonstrated good behaviour, including a commitment to training and attendance at training camps;
- (c) demonstrated compatibility with others in a team environment;
- (d) demonstrated compliance with the rules of events and competitions;
- (e) understanding and respect for the obligations that accompany being a member of a New Zealand team when competing at the Games, including respect for Games Team members;
- (f) willingness to promote Snow Sports New Zealand in a positive manner;
- (g) demonstrated ability to take personal responsibility for self and their results;
- (h) proven ability to be reliable; and/or
- (i) any other factor(s) which the Selectors reasonably considers to be relevant.

6. Extenuating Circumstances

- 6.1 **Extenuating Circumstances:** In considering the nomination of Athletes in accordance with this Nomination Criteria, the Selectors may, in their sole discretion, give weight to any Extenuating Circumstances which may include, but are not limited to, the following:
- (a) injury or illness;
 - (b) travel delays;
 - (c) equipment failure;
 - (d) bereavement or personal misfortune; and/or
 - (e) any other factors reasonably considered by the Selectors to constitute extenuating circumstances.
- 6.2 **Athlete to Advise:** Athletes unable to compete at Key Events or other attendances required under this Nomination Criteria, must advise the CEO of the Extenuating Circumstances and reasons, in writing, with as much advance notice as possible and, ideally, at least seven (7) days prior to the commencement of the Key Event or other attendance. If the CEO is not notified of any Extenuating Circumstances in accordance with this Nomination Criteria, then the Selectors have no obligation to rely on such circumstances.
- 6.3 **Medical Certificate:** In the case of injury or illness, Athletes may be required by the CEO to provide a medical certificate and/or to undergo an examination by a health practitioner/s nominated by the CEO, and to provide that opinion and/or report to the Selectors. Any failure to agree to such a request may result in the Selectors being unable to consider the injury or illness as an Extenuating Circumstance.

- 6.4 **Case-by-Case:** In the case of any Extenuating Circumstance/s, the Selectors will make a decision on a case-by-case basis.

7. Nomination and Selection

- 7.1 **Nomination to NZOC:** Snow Sports New Zealand will nominate Athletes (“Nominated Athletes”) and any Reserve Athletes to the NZOC by the Nomination Date.
- 7.2 **Nomination with Conditions:** Snow Sports New Zealand may nominate an Athlete with any conditions, for example, conditions relating to recovery from injury or continuing to meet specified performance levels. If the conditions are not met to the satisfaction of the Selectors, they will not be eligible for selection, unless the NZOC decides to select the Nominated Athlete subject to those or other conditions.
- 7.3 **Selection by NZOC:** Selection to the Games Team by the NZOC will be made in accordance with the NZOC Nomination and Selection Regulation.

8. Appeal Procedure

- 8.1 **Non-Nomination Appeals:** An Athlete may appeal to Snow Sports New Zealand against their non-nomination to the NZOC by the Snow Sports New Zealand provided that the Athlete:
- (a) is on the Snow Sports New Zealand long list for the Games; and
 - (b) meets the eligibility criteria under clause 3 of this Nomination Criteria.
- 8.2 **Procedures for Non-Nomination Appeals:** Any appeal under clause 8.1 of this Criteria must be made in accordance with clause 13 of the NZOC Nomination and Selection Regulation.
- 8.3 **Procedures for Non-Selection Appeals:** If a Nominated Athlete is not selected by the NZOC, the Nominated Athlete may appeal the non-selection in accordance with clause 14 of the NZOC Nomination and Selection Regulation provided that the Nominated Athlete:
- (a) is on the Snow Sports New Zealand long list for the Games; and
 - (b) meets the eligibility criteria under clause 3 of this Nomination Criteria.

9. Inconsistencies

- 9.1 **NZOC Nomination and Selection Regulation:** In the event there is any inconsistency between this Nomination Criteria and the NZOC Nomination and Selection Regulation, the NZOC Nomination and Selection Regulation shall prevail.
- 9.2 **FIS Qualification System:** If this Nomination Criteria imposes a higher qualification standard or a lesser number of participants than stated by the FIS Qualification System, this shall not be regarded as an inconsistency.

10. Amendments to this Nomination Criteria

- 10.1 **Prior to Nomination Date:** This Nomination Criteria may be amended or supplemented from time to time by the Board, before the Nomination Date, provided the NZOC has approved the amendment/s and supplement/s.
- 10.2 **Notice:** The Board will give as much notice as possible of any amendment/s or supplement/s made under clause 10.1 to this Nomination Criteria, to persons it considers may be affected by any such amendment/s or supplement/s.

11. Definitions

- 11.1 **Application Date** means the dates set out in clause 3.1(b) of this Criteria, by which Athletes must submit to the NZOC a completed Athlete Application in accordance with clause 8.3 of the NZOC Nomination and Selection Regulation.
- 11.2 **Athlete** means a person who wishes to be considered for nomination to the Games Team.
- 11.3 **Athlete Agreement** means the agreement that must be completed by any Athlete wishing to be considered for nomination and selection to the Games Team in accordance with clause 8.4 of the NZOC Nomination and Selection Regulation.
- 11.4 **Athlete Application** means the form set by the NZOC that must be completed by any Athlete applying to be nominated and selected to the Games Team.
- 11.5 **Board** means the Board of Snow Sports New Zealand as constituted under the Constitution.
- 11.6 **CEO** means the Chief Executive Officer of Snow Sports New Zealand and includes their nominee.
- 11.7 **Constitution** means the Constitution of Snow Sports NZ.
- 11.8 **Discipline** means one of the following disciplines at the Games, as appropriate
- Alpine Skiing
 - Cross country Skiing
 - Freestyle Skiing
 - Snowboard
- 11.9 **Extenuating Circumstances** means the inability to perform at an optimum level arising from one or more of the reasons set out in clause 6.1.
- 11.10 **FIS** means the International Ski and Snowboard Federation.
- 11.11 **FIS Points List** means the Discipline specific FIS points and not the Olympic FIS Points at www.fis.com.
- 11.12 **Games** means the Games of the XXV Winter Olympiad to be held in Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy from 6 to 22 February 2026.

- 11.13 **Games Team** means the New Zealand Team at the Games selected in accordance with the NZOC Selection Policy for the Games.
- 11.14 **Key Events** means the FIS World Championships and FIS World Cups for each Discipline as listed on the FIS World Cup Calendar www.fis-ski.com.
- 11.15 **Nominated Athlete** means an Athlete who has been nominated by Snow Sports New Zealand to the NZOC for consideration of selection to the Games Team.
- 11.16 **Nomination Criteria** means the criteria made up of the Over-riding Nomination Criteria or Secondary Nomination Criteria and the Specific Nomination Factors and is also referred to as “**this Criteria**”.
- 11.17 **Nomination Date** means on or before 8 January 2026 (and includes any alternative date as agreed between the NZOC and Snow Sports NZ), by which Snow Sports New Zealand must submit any Nominated Athletes to the NZOC.
- 11.18 **NZOC** means the New Zealand Olympic Committee Incorporated.
- 11.19 **NZOC Integrity Regulation** means the NZOC Integrity Regulation available at <http://www.olympic.org.nz/about-the-nzoc/governance-documents/>.
- 11.20 **NZOC Nomination and Selection Regulation** means the regulation of the NZOC relating to the nomination and selection process for all Olympic and Commonwealth games, including the Games, available at <http://www.olympic.org.nz/about-the-nzoc/governance-documents/>.
- 11.21 **NZOC Selection Policy** means the NZOC Selection Policy for the Games, available at <https://www.olympic.org.nz/games/milan-cortina-2026/selection/>
- 11.22 **Olympic Context** for the purposes of this criteria, means the Key Event has a quality and depth of field which has an equivalent field of competitors to that which is likely to occur at the Games, taking into account the maximum number of eligible entries at the Games per country in each Snow Sports Event.
- 11.23 **Over-riding Nomination Criteria** means the criteria set out in clause 5.1.
- 11.24 **Qualification Period** means the period between 1 July 2024 to 8 January 2026.
- 11.25 **Reserve Athlete** means a travelling and/or non-travelling reserve, as designated by the Selectors and in accordance with the FIS Qualification System and the Milano Cortina 2026 Sport Entry Manual.
- 11.26 **Secondary Nomination Criteria** means the criteria set out in clause 5.2.
- 11.27 **Specific Nomination Factors** means the factors listed in clause 5.4 which the Selectors may take into account when applying the Over-riding Nomination Criteria or Secondary Nomination Criteria.

11.28 **Selectors** means the selectors appointed by Snow Sports New Zealand in accordance with clause 2 of this Nomination Criteria.

11.29 **Snow Sports Events** means one of the following events at the Games in which an Athlete competes either alone or in which Athletes compete together in a race, heat or event:

Discipline	Event	Male	Female
Alpine Skiing	Downhill	x	x
	Super G	x	x
	Giant Slalom	x	x
	Slalom	x	x
	Team Combined	x	x
Cross Country Skiing	10km+10km Skiathlon	x	x
	Sprint Classic	x	x
	Team Sprint Free	x	x
	4 x 7.5km Relay	x	x
	10km Free	x	x
	50km Mass Start Classic	x	x
Freestyle skiing	Halfpipe	x	x
	Slopestyle	x	x
	Big Air	x	x
	Ski Cross	x	x
Snowboard	Halfpipe	x	x
	Slopestyle	x	x
	Big Air	x	x
	Cross	x	x
	Parallel Giant Slalom	x	x

11.30 **Snow Sports New Zealand** means Snow Sports New Zealand Incorporated.

11.31 **World Top 40** means ranked between 1-40 (inclusive) according to a FIS Points List at www.fis.com in the relevant Discipline the athlete is seeking nomination.