



# FOUR CONTINENTS SELECTION PROCEDURES

The Four Continents Team is defined as those athletes selected to represent the United States in the ISU Four Continents Championships.

## 1. SELECTION SYSTEM

- 1.1. Provide the minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for nomination to the Four Continents Team:
  - 1.1.1. Age:  
All athletes selected for the Four Continents Team must be ISU senior age eligible
  - 1.1.2. Membership:  
Athletes must be current members in good standing of U.S. Figure Skating at the time of their selection.
  - 1.1.3. ISU Minimum Technical Score:  
If required by the ISU, athletes/teams must reach a minimum technical score in both segments (SP/RD, FS/FD) in an ISU recognized international competition during the ongoing competition season or immediately preceding season. The minimum technical scores can be reached in either the same or two different international competitions. The minimum technical score must be reached before the Four Continents entry deadline.
- 1.2. Provide a comprehensive, step-by-step description of the method that explains how athletes will go through the selection process to become Four Continents Team members.

Based on ISU Communication No. 2336, the Four Continents Championships has open entries, and each ISU Member is entitled to enter up to a maximum of three (3) entries for each event.

The International Committee Discipline Subcommittees will formally meet as soon as practical after the conclusion of the competition at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships for each respective discipline (ladies, men, ice dance, pairs) or at the conclusion of all of the Championships disciplines to determine the respective nominees and selections to the Four Continents Team and substitute athletes in ranked order. Such meeting will occur within 24 hours of the conclusion of each respective discipline. Selected athletes will be notified via text message immediately after the International Committee Discipline Subcommittees approve the nominations and official selections for their respective discipline. At the same time the selected athletes are notified, the official list of the selections will be announced on U.S. Figure Skating's website ([www.usfigureskating.org](http://www.usfigureskating.org)). A quorum of the International Committee Discipline Subcommittees must vote in order for the selected members for the Four Continents Team to be official. A quorum is defined as a 2/3 majority of the International Committee Discipline Subcommittees present either in person or via telephone conference call. A 2/3 majority vote of the International Committee Discipline Subcommittees (present or via conference call) is needed to determine the selections and substitute athletes.

Any member of the International Committee Discipline Subcommittee who has a conflict of interest (to include, but not limited to, an athlete or a coach or a family member of an athlete being considered for a nomination to the 2021 Four Continents Team) must declare a conflict of interest, recuse themselves, abstain from the vote, and not influence others regarding the discussions, meetings and voting concerning their specific discipline. In addition and for clarification, any member of International Committee Discipline Subcommittee who is a judge or a technical official at the 2021 Toyota U.S. Figure Skating Championships and/or a member of the skating club of an athlete being considered must disclose this information, but they may remain eligible to participate in the selection process. The judge or technical official remains in the selection process as they will have the most precise and accurate information regarding the performance quality of the skater(s) at the 2021 Toyota U.S. Figure Skating Championships.

Further, the committee member should not otherwise influence other members of the committee in the nomination process. However, a committee member who recused himself/herself, but who has relevant and necessary information with respect to athlete performance may provide such information to the committee as long as such information is provided in a fair and unbiased manner and the committee member who declared the conflict of interest abstains as their vote toward the final decision.

Additionally, any person (including any potentially impacted athlete or coach of a potentially impacted athlete) with a good faith belief that a committee member has a

conflict of interest may report the alleged conflict of interest to U.S. Figure Skating's Ethics Committee within at least 30 days prior to the selection meetings for the 2021 Four Continents Team. If a situation arises where there is an emergency conflict raised after the 30-day deadline, the issue will be addressed by the Ethics Committee Chair or designee within 24 hours of the reported conflict of interest. Reports may be made anonymously.

To field the most competitive team for the Four Continents Championships and provide the best strategy for the following season in regards to world standings points and season's best scores, U.S. Figure Skating's International Committee will take into consideration the performances and results from the events outlined below in priority order to determine the athletes for the Four Continents Team.

The purpose for priority for selection to the Four Continents Team is to provide the opportunity for currently selected World Team athletes/teams (who have demonstrated the ability to medal at the past two ISU World Figure Skating Championships) to enhance their preparation for the current ISU World Figure Skating Championships. The determination of athletes/teams that have the ability to medal at the current ISU World Figure Skating Championships is based on a top five finish at the 2019 ISU World Figure Skating Championships, 2020 ISU Four Continents Championships, 2019 ISU Grand Prix Final, and/or 2020 Grand Prix Final. Other criteria or opinion on an athlete/team's potential to medal at the ISU World Figure Skating Championships would be speculative in nature and will not be used for consideration. In addition, athletes/teams that will have the best chance for success at the Four Continents Championships to win the maximum number of medals and/or athletes/teams that will benefit by providing the opportunity to accumulate valuable world standings points and season's best scores needed to qualify them for the following season's Grand Prix Series will be considered for selection.

A. The athlete/team will submit a declaration form to U.S. Figure Skating Headquarters at least 30 days prior to the start of the International Committee selection meeting with their intent to compete at the Four Continents Championships. If the plan to compete at the Four Continents Championships changes after submitting the form, the athlete/team or their primary coach must notify the International Committee Chair and the Senior Director, Athlete High Performance (in writing) prior to the start of the International Committee selections meetings for the athlete/team's discipline.

B. The Four Continents Team members will be determined as follows:

To create a pool of athletes to be considered for selection to the Four Continents Team, the International Committee will take into consideration the performance (which can include performance data, placement, and competitive depth of field) at the events listed below in priority order:

1. 2021 U.S. Figure Skating Championships
2. 2020 ISU Grand Prix Final
3. 2020 Grand Prix Series Competitions
4. 2020 Four Continents Figure Skating Championships
5. 2020 World Junior Figure Skating Championships
6. 2020 Senior International Events
7. 2020 Senior ISP Points Challenge
8. 2020 U.S. Figure Skating Championships
9. 2020 Junior ISP Points Challenge

The names of the top five athletes/teams at the current U.S. Figure Skating Championships will be automatically placed into the pool of athletes/teams being considered for the Four Continents Team, if eligible. Consideration will be given to add additional athletes/teams to the pool by reviewing the events above in priority order and adding other athletes/teams due to extenuating circumstances as approved by the respective International Committee Discipline Subcommittee. Discussion on and the selection of the pool of athletes identified by the International Committee Discipline Subcommittee will be limited to the competitions listed above.

If any of the athletes selected to the Four Continents Championship Team do not obtain the ISU minimum technical score requirements for both segments (SP/RD, FS/FD) 21 days before the first day (first official practice day) of the Four Continents Championships (same as entry deadline), the next ranked athlete/couple who have achieved the minimum technical score in both segments (SP/RD, FS/FD) will be selected to the Four Continents Championship Team.

Athletes/teams meeting the above criteria who qualified to compete but did not compete or complete both segments of the competition at any of the events listed above due to injury or illness, verified by U.S. Figure Skating medical personnel, may still be considered for selection by petitioning to the International Committee for nomination to the Four Continents Team. A petition in writing for consideration must be submitted to the International Committee Chair prior to the International Committee meeting for the petitioner's prospective event.

A schedule of the International Committee's selections meetings will be posted on U.S. Figure Skating's website ([www.usfigureskating.org](http://www.usfigureskating.org)) no later than 24 hours before the first event of the U.S. Figure Skating Championships.

To be considered for selection by petition, the athlete must be able to prove competitive readiness by performing complete competition programs (SP/RD, FS/FD) with all planned program elements by a specified date, as approved and reviewed by a monitoring panel to be determined by the International Committee. In addition, U.S. Figure Skating medical personnel must verify that the athlete(s) will be physically ready to compete at the Four Continents Championships.

From the pool of eligible athletes/teams in the competitions listed above in priority order, athletes/teams with extenuating circumstances and petition athletes/teams, the respective International Committee Discipline Subcommittee will nominate the Four Continents Team plus up to four (alternate) substitute athletes/teams in a ranked order, per ICR 3.07.

## **2. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION (if applicable)**

### **2.1. Provide rationale for utilizing discretionary selection:**

To field the most competitive team, U.S. Figure Skating's International Committee will take into consideration the results and performances from the events named in section 1.2 to determine athletes who have demonstrated the ability to medal at the current ISU World Figure Skating Championships and have requested additional preparation for the current ISU World Figure Skating Championships, athletes/teams that will have the best chance for success at the Four Continents Championships to win the maximum number of medals, and athletes/teams that need valuable world standings points and season's best scores to qualify for the following season's Grand Prix Series.

It has been the experience of U.S. Figure Skating that the athletes who have had success at the international level are those who have demonstrated consistent performances as opposed to the athletes who have only a single great performance. Therefore, by not having the selection process based solely on one event, U.S. Figure Skating can select the best athletes to represent the United States at the Four Continents Championships. In addition, if there is an injury or illness that would prevent a dominant athlete from competing at one of the nine events listed in section 1.2, the petition process allows U.S. Figure Skating to consider for selection all the best representatives for the Four Continents Championships.

### **2.2. List the discretionary criteria and explain how they will be used:**

See section 1.2

The performance data provided to the International Committee to enhance their discussion for the nomination of the athletes/teams will include competition results and other reports/data relating to detailed results sheets of the competitions listed in priority order in section 1.2. The data derived from the detailed result sheets from the events as outlined in 1.2 will provide a body of work within a twelve-month period that will demonstrate the athlete's/team's consistency and ability to achieve medal potential scores at the 2021 Four Continents Championships. The data will be a primary focus on discussing the ranking of the athletes/teams and determining who will be the best athletes that will have the most performance impact at the 2021 Four Continents Championships.

- 2.3. Provide the purpose of the International Committee for making discretionary selections:

The purpose of U.S. Figure Skating's International Committee is to select the U.S. Figure Skating Team that wins the maximum number of international medals and berths possible by strategically providing experience to qualified members of the Four Continents Team, and by identifying and supporting the best qualified future prospects to develop and achieve the ultimate goal of Olympic and World podium results.

### **3. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES**

- 3.1. U.S. Figure Skating has jurisdiction over selected athletes. An athlete who is selected to the Four Continents Team by U.S. Figure Skating may be removed for any of the following reasons, as determined by U.S. Figure Skating:
  - 3.1.1. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written letter to U.S. Figure Skating Executive Director.
  - 3.1.2. Athlete fails to comply with U.S. Figure Skating's Code of Ethics and/or Code of Conduct.
  - 3.1.3. An athlete loses an adjudicated violation of WADA, ISU, and/or USADA anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures, as applicable.
  - 3.1.4. A petition athlete is unable to meet the requirements outlined in section 1.1.
  - 3.1.5. Athlete/couple fails to obtain the minimum technical score requirements for the ISU Four Continents Championships in both segments (SP/RD, FS/FD) at an ISU recognized international competition, if required by the ISU.
  - 3.1.6. Injury or illness as certified by a physician (or medical staff) approved by U.S. Figure Skating. If an athlete refuses verification of his/her illness or injury by a physician (or medical staff) approved by U.S. Figure Skating, his/her injury will be assumed to be disabling and he/she may be removed.

In addition, any injury/illness occurring after nomination of the 2021 Four Continents Team must be reported to [medical@usfigureskating.org](mailto:medical@usfigureskating.org) within 24 hours of occurrence and/or knowledge (whichever occurs first) of the injury/illness by the athlete and/or coach. The Senior Director, Athlete High Performance and the International Committee Chair will be notified by the Director, Medical and Performance Services regarding the injury/illness. Depending on the severity of the injury or illness, the athlete authorizes U.S. Figure Skating to request a Return to Play Plan & Status Report from the Director, Medical and Performance Services. After the review of the Return to Play & Status Report, U.S. Figure Skating

reserves the right to assemble an injury/illness evaluation group and meet via conference call.

The evaluation group shall include:

- Senior Director, Athlete High Performance
- Director, Medical and Performance Services
- Medical representative for U.S. Figure Skating
- International Committee Chair
- Athlete's physician diagnosing the injury or illness
- Primary coach of the athlete

The athlete or the parents of the athlete, if a minor, may also participate in the meeting to discuss the injury or illness. The athlete will also be provided with the option to have an athlete representative as part of the medical evaluation group; however, this is not mandatory as such evaluations concern protected health information.

The purpose of the evaluation group is to provide the athlete, in a confidential manner, a support mechanism to communicate factual information to aid in the recovery and allow the athlete to compete at the highest level at the 2021 Four Continents Championships. The athlete's support staff (medical team, coach, etc.) will develop a plan to provide:

- A timeline for recovery and training that will achieve the performance goal agreed upon by the evaluation group.
- A timeline for communication on the progress of the athlete.

The primary coach of the next replacement (alternate) athlete and/or the replacement athlete may be notified by the International Committee Chair that a replacement may be needed depending on the severity of the injury or illness with a timeline to be determined.

If the athlete is unable to progress in the timeline approved by the evaluation group, the coach and athlete must notify the Senior Director, Athlete High Performance and a follow-up conference call will be arranged to discuss the options for the athlete. The AAC Chair or representative for U.S. Figure Skating may be included in this meeting. At this point the athlete will decide whether to withdraw, or if the athlete decides that he/she is not ready to withdraw from the event, then the following will occur:

- 1) The evaluation group will work with the athlete and support staff to adjust the timeline, or

- 2) If it is determined by the evaluation group, in its sole discretion, that it is not in the best interest of the athlete and/or U.S. Figure Skating for the athlete to attend the 2021 Four Continents Championships, the evaluation group will recommend to the International Committee Chair that the athlete is replaced by the next replacement (alternate) athlete. The International Committee Chair will take the recommendation of the evaluation group to a vote by the appropriate International Committee Discipline Subcommittee to replace the athlete.

An athlete who is removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per U.S. Figure Skating's Constitution and Bylaws. The U.S. Figure Skating Bylaws and Grievance and Disciplinary Procedures (Article XXV) can be found on the U.S. Figure Skating website at <https://www.usfigureskating.org/about/rules>.

#### **4. SUBSTITUTION OF ATHLETES**

- 4.1. Describe the selection and approval process for determining substitute athlete(s) should a vacancy occur:

Using the criteria listed in section 1.2, substitute athletes will be determined via a ranking list put together by U.S. Figure Skating's International Committee Discipline Subcommittees taking all of the evaluative events listed in section 1.2 into consideration and announced at the time of each subcommittee's Four Continents Team selections.

A substitute athlete(s) will be submitted to the ISU by U.S. Figure Skating as determined by the ranking list per discipline provided by the International Committee – as described above and in section 1.2.

#### **5. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

U.S. Figure Skating will retain the approved Selection Procedures and all supporting documents, including evaluation forms, etc., and data from the selection process for six months past the date of the conclusion of the Four Continents Championships.

#### **6. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES**

U.S. Figure Skating's Four Continents Team selection procedures (complete and unaltered) will be posted/published by U.S. Figure Skating in the following locations:

- 6.1. U.S. Figure Skating's website: [www.usfigureskating.org](http://www.usfigureskating.org)

## **7. ANNOUNCEMENT OF SELECTION**

The selection of athletes and substitutes will be announced to all selected athletes via text message and posted on U.S. Figure Skating's website immediately following the respective selections meeting.

## **8. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS**

Athletes must adhere to all WADA, ISU, and USADA anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures, as applicable. This includes participation in Out-of-Competition Testing as required by WADA, ISU and USADA rules, as applicable.

## **9. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES**

The following committee/group (include names and titles) was responsible for creating these Selection Procedures:

The athlete selection procedures were created by U.S. Figure Skating's Executive Director, Senior Director of Athlete High Performance, International Committee Chair, International Committee Management Subcommittee, and Athletes Advisory Committee Chair.

The following committee/group was responsible for approving these Selection Procedures: These procedures were subsequently approved by U.S. Figure Skating's International Committee and Athletes Advisory Committee, with final approval from U.S. Figure Skating's Board of Directors.

## **10. U.S. FIGURE SKATING BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES**

The U.S. Figure Skating Bylaws and Grievance and Disciplinary Procedures (Article XXV) can be found on the U.S. Figure Skating web site at: <https://www.usfigureskating.org/about/rules>

## **11. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER**

These procedures are based on ISU rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in International Skating Union (ISU) rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes immediately. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to U.S. Figure Skating. However, the selections are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances, and realistically may not have accounted for every possible contingency.

If any force of nature, or force majeure, should cause the alteration or cancellation of any of the selection events listed in this document, these selection procedures will be revised.