



# WORLD JUNIOR SELECTION PROCEDURES

The World Junior Team is defined as those athletes selected to represent the United States in the World Junior Championships.

## 1. SELECTION SYSTEM

- 1.1. Provide the minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for nomination to the World Junior Team:
  - 1.1.1. Age:  
All athletes selected for the World Junior Team must be ISU junior 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:  
Athletes/teams must reach a minimum technical score in both segments (SP/RD, FS/FD) in an ISU recognized junior 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 World Junior Championships 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 World Junior Team members.

U.S. Figure Skating can qualify up to a maximum of three (3) women, three (3) men, three (3) pair teams and three (3) ice dance teams to the World Junior Team based on results of the previous season's World Junior Championships.

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 (women, men, ice dance, pairs) or at the conclusion of all of the Championships disciplines. The pair and dance discipline groups will meet to determine the respective nominees and selections to the World Junior Team and substitute athletes. The singles discipline group will meet to determine the pool of athletes to be invited to the World Junior Singles Camp and considered for the World Junior Championships. In the singles disciplines (women and men), the actual team will be selected at the conclusion of the World Junior Singles Camp. Selected athletes will be notified via text message immediately after the International Committee Discipline Groups approve the nominations and official selections for their respective discipline. At the same time the selected athletes are notified, the official list of the nominees/pool will be announced and posted at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships and on U.S. Figure Skating's website. A quorum of the International Committee Discipline Groups must vote in order for the selected members for the World Junior Team to be official. A quorum is defined as a 2/3 majority of the IC Discipline Group present either in person or via telephone conference call. A 2/3 majority vote of the IC Discipline Groups (present or via conference call) is needed to determine the selections and substitute athletes.

At the conclusion of the World Junior Singles Camp, the International Committee Singles Discipline Group will nominate the women and men to the World Junior Team and rank the substitute athletes. This selection meeting will occur within 24 hours of the conclusion of the World Junior Singles Camp.

Any member of the International Committee that has a conflict of interest (including, but not limited to, an athlete, coach or a family member of an athlete being considered for a nomination to the World Junior Team) must declare a conflict of interest, recuse themselves and not influence others regarding the discussions, meetings and voting concerning their specific discipline. In addition, and for clarification, any member of the International Committee that is a judge, technical official or referee of the current U.S. Figure Skating Championships and/or a member of the skating club of an athlete being considered must disclose this information, but they will remain eligible to participate in the selection process.

To field the most competitive team, 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 who will have the best chance for success at the World Junior Championships to win the maximum number of medals and future berths for the World Junior Team the following season. Additionally, in the men's and women's disciplines, a World Junior Singles Camp will be included to determine the most competitive women and men immediately prior to the entry deadline of the World Junior Championships.

- A. The athlete/team will submit a declaration form to U.S. Figure Skating Headquarters at least two weeks prior to the start of the U.S. Figure Skating Championships on the intent to compete at the World Junior Championships. If the plan to compete at the World Junior 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 World Junior Team members (depending on how many athletes/teams qualify for each discipline from the previous season's World Junior Championships) will be determined as follows:

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

1. Current U.S. Figure Skating Championships
2. Most recent Grand Prix Final or Junior Grand Prix Final
3. Most recent World Junior Singles Camp (singles only)
4. Most recent Grand Prix Series Competitions (six events)
5. Most recent Junior Grand Prix Series Competitions (seven events)
6. Most recent World Junior Figure Skating Championships
7. Challenger Series Senior International Competitions during the current season
8. Previous season's U.S. Figure Skating Championships
9. Other assigned ISU International Competitions during the current season
10. Most recent U.S. Junior Team Cup (singles only)
11. Most recent U.S. Novice & Junior Challenge Skate

Junior age eligible athletes being considered for the World Junior Team will be reviewed per the events above in priority order and adding other events due to extenuating circumstances as approved by the respective International Committee Discipline Group. Discussion on, and the selection of the pool of athletes identified by the International Committee Discipline Group, will be limited to the events listed above.

If any of the athletes selected to the World Junior 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 World Junior 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 World Junior Team.

Skaters meeting the mandatory requirements who qualified to compete but did not compete or complete both segments of the competition at any of the identified 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 World Junior 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 respective event.

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 World Junior Championships.

A schedule of the International Committee's selections meetings will be posted onsite at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships and on U.S. Figure Skating's website no later than 24 hours before the first event of the U.S. Figure Skating Championships. In addition, the dates and schedule for the World Junior Singles Camp and the International Committee Singles Discipline Group selection meeting for the World Junior Team will be posted at the U.S. Championships and on U.S. Figure Skating's website no later than 24 hours before the first event of the U.S. Figure Skating Championships.

- C. The purpose of the selection is to select the athletes who will have the best chance for success at the World Junior Championships to win the maximum number of medals and future berths for the World Junior Team the following season.

From the pool of athletes/teams established using the events listed above in priority order, including athletes/teams with extenuating circumstances and petition athletes/teams, the respective International Committee Discipline Group will select the World Junior Team plus up to three substitute athletes/teams, per ICR 3.07. The Singles Discipline Group will not name the team or rank the substitute athletes until the meeting at the conclusion of the World Junior Singles Camp.

The purpose for the World Junior Singles Camp as listed in section B is to field the most competitive women and men at the World Junior Championships by determining competition readiness, preparedness, and competitiveness. A panel of national and international officials, which include members of the International Committee Singles Discipline Group will determine the athlete's readiness, preparedness and competitiveness based on the programs performed at the camp.

The International Committee Singles Discipline Group will meet to review the programs performed at the World Junior Singles Camp and the criteria outlined in 1.2 to determine the selection of the athletes and ranked order substitutes.

The pool of athletes (men and women) identified by the singles discipline group at the U.S. Championships must attend the mandatory World Junior Team Camp, which will occur between the conclusion of the U.S. Championships and the entry deadline for the World Junior Championships. Any extenuating circumstances that would prevent an athlete from attending the World Junior Team Camp must be approved by the Chair of the International Committee, the Vice Chair of the Singles Discipline Group, the USFS Director, High Performance Development and the Senior Director, Athlete High Performance.

## **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 will have the best chance for success at the World Junior Championships to win the maximum number of medals and future berths for the World Junior Team the following season. In the singles disciplines, the World Junior Singles Camp included in 1.2, will also be used for the determination of the World Junior Team and substitutes in ranked order.

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 World Junior Championships. In addition, if there is an injury or illness that would prevent a dominant athlete from participating in one of the events listed in section 1.2, the petition process allows U.S. Figure Skating to consider for selection all the best representatives for the World Junior 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 events 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 World Junior Championships. The data will be a primary focus on discussing the ranking of the athletes/teams and determining which athletes will have the most performance impact at the World Junior 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 World Junior Figure Skating 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 World Junior 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 sign the U.S. Figure Skating Athlete Agreement and/or Competition Readiness Agreement.
  - 3.1.3. Athlete fails to attend the World Junior Singles Camp (women and men only) absent approved extenuating circumstances.
  - 3.1.4. Athlete fails to comply with U.S. Figure Skating's Code of Ethics and/or Code of Conduct (Part of U.S. Figure Skating's Athlete Agreement in Attachment A).
  - 3.1.5. An athlete loses an adjudicated violation of WADA, ISU, and/or USADA anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures, as applicable.
  - 3.1.6. If an athlete refuses verification of his/her illness or injury by an approved U.S. Figure Skating physician (or medical staff), his/her injury will be assumed to be disabling and he/she may be removed.
  - 3.1.7. A petition athlete is unable to meet the requirements outlined in section 1.2 B.
  - 3.1.8. Athlete/couple fails to obtain the minimum technical score requirements for the ISU World Junior Figure Skating Championships in both segments (SP/RD, FS/FD) at an ISU recognized junior international competition.
  - 3.1.9. Injury or illness as referenced below:  
Per U.S. Figure Skating's Competition Readiness Agreement, any athlete injured and/or ill to the extent that requires surgery and/or ongoing medical treatment and/or is otherwise unable to train consistently, effectively, and according to their seasonal plan, and which may therefore jeopardize the athlete's ability to compete for Team USA, the athlete agrees to communicate the situation to U.S. Figure Skating Senior Director, Athlete High Performance, with a copy to U.S. Figure Skating

Director, High Performance Medical and Performance Services and U.S. Figure Skating Manager, Team USA. Under such circumstances, the athlete authorizes U.S. Figure Skating to request a Return to Play Plan & Status Report. Upon receiving the Return to Play Plan & Status Report, U.S. Figure Skating may share the information with the International Committee Chair and the Chair of the Sports Science and Medicine Committee and/or the Vice Chair of Medical Services for the Sports Science and Medicine Committee. This information will be handled with the utmost discretion and will be used to enable U.S. Figure Skating to help facilitate access to services that may support the athlete's effort to recover.

In addition, any injury/illness occurring after selection of the 2023 World Junior 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 Chair will be notified by the Director, High Performance 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, High Performance 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:

- U. S. Figure Skating, Senior Director of Athlete High Performance
- U.S. Figure Skating Director, High Performance Development
- Director, High Performance Medical and Performance Services
- Medical representative for U.S. Figure Skating
- 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 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 2023 World Junior 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 USOPC AAC representative for U.S. Figure Skating will 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 World Junior Championships, the evaluation group will recommend to the International Committee Chair that the athlete is replaced by the next (substitute) athlete. The Chair of the International Committee will take the recommendation of the evaluation group to a vote by the appropriate Discipline Group 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 [HERE](#).

#### **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



Groups taking all of the criteria listed in section 1.2 into consideration and announced at the time of each discipline group's World Junior Team selections.

Men's and women's substitute athlete(s) will be named and placed in ranked order during the selection meeting at the conclusion of the World Junior Singles Camp. Pairs and dance substitute team(s) will be named and placed in ranked order during the selection meetings at the U.S. Championships.

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 World Junior Championships.

## **6. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**

The U.S. Figure Skating Athlete Agreement (Attachment A) and Competition Readiness Agreement (Attachment B) must be executed and adhered to as a condition of participation in the World Junior Championships. If the athlete was not provided the documents prior to the selection meeting, the athlete will have up to seven days to submit the required signed documents.

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

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

- 7.1. U.S. Figure Skating's Members Only website: [www.usfsaonline.org](http://www.usfsaonline.org)

## **8. ANNOUNCEMENT OF SELECTION**

The selection of pairs and ice dance athletes and substitutes in ranked order will be announced to all athletes via text message and followed by a post on U.S. Figure Skating's website and a post at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships immediately following the respective selections meeting. The selection of women and men athletes and substitutes in ranked order will be announced to all

athletes via text or email and followed by a post on U.S. Figure Skating's website after the respective selections meeting subsequent to the World Junior Singles Camp.

## **9. 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.

## **10. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES**

The following committee/group was responsible for creating these Selection Procedures:

The athlete selection procedures were created by U.S. Figure Skating's Executive Director, Ramsey Baker, Senior Director of Athlete High Performance, Mitch Moyer, Director, High Performance Development, Justin Dillon, International Committee Chair, Julia Rey, International Committee Management Subcommittee (ICMS), and Athletes Advisory Committee Chair, Colin McManus.

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

## **11. 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 [HERE](#).

## **12. 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.