



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: 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.

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.

A quorum of the International Committee Discipline Subcommittee 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 IC Discipline Subcommittee present either in person or via ZOOM and/or telephone conference call. A 2/3 majority vote of the IC Discipline Subcommittees (present or via conference call) is needed to determine the selections and substitute athletes.

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 Four Continents 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.

No later than December 1, 2023, any interested athlete/team must submit a declaration form to U.S. Figure Skating Headquarters indicating 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. Due to the timing of the 2024 Four Continents Championships (the week immediately following U.S. Championships), the 2024 Four Continents Team will be selected prior to the 2024 U.S. Championships. As such, the International Committee selections meetings for Four Continents will take place on December 11 (Dance) and December 12 (Pairs and Singles), 2023. The Four Continents Team members will be determined as follows:

CREATE A POOL OF ATHLETES TO CONSIDER

To create a pool of athletes to be considered for selection to the Four Continents Team, the following criteria will be used:

- (A) The top five athletes/teams based on the "Calculation of Overall Athlete Performance Data" (which will use a factoring calculation of the scores achieved at the events listed below) who have submitted an intent to compete for Four Continents will be added to the pool:
1. Current Sectional Final (factor 4.0)
 - a. If not at Sectional Final due to bye, most recent international score will be used at the same factor.
 2. Most recent ISU Grand Prix Final (factor 3.0)
 3. Grand Prix Score: Highest & Average (factor 1.25)
 4. Challenger Score: Highest & Average (factor 1.0)
 5. Senior B Score: Highest & Average (factor 0.75)
 6. Previous Season's Total Score (see appendix) (factor 15)

* Note: Events must meet the criteria for Eligible Events as defined by the ISU in Communication #1629, page 4, paragraphs C.1.4 and C.2.3 to be used as part of the selection process.

- (B) In addition to the Calculation of Overall Athlete Performance Data, the names of the top five athletes/teams at the 2023 U.S. Figure Skating Championships, top ten at the immediately preceding World Championships, any competitor in the immediately preceding Olympic Games, and any athlete/team in the current season's Top 24 in World Rankings will be placed into the pool, if eligible, regardless of above score.
- (C) Additional athletes/teams may be added to the pool by reviewing the events above and adding other events due to extenuating circumstances if adding the athlete/team is unanimously approved by the respective International Committee Discipline Subcommittee.
- (D) **Petitioned Athletes.** Athletes/teams 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 no later than December 1, 2023.

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 Championships. If the petition is accepted, the athlete/team will be added to the pool.

SELECTION

From the pool of eligible athletes/teams established above, the respective International Committee Discipline Subcommittee will select the Four Continents Team plus up to four substitute athletes/teams in a ranked order. The purpose of the process is to select the athletes/teams that will have the best chance for success at the Four Continents Championships to win the maximum number of medals and/or select athletes/teams that will benefit from 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.

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 has achieved the minimum technical score in both segments (SP/RD, FS/FD) will be selected to the Four Continents Championship Team.

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 criteria above 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 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 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 2024 Four Continents Championships. The data derived from protocols from the list of events, looking at consistency, competitiveness, and trending scores, 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 2024 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 competition experience, 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 sign the U.S. Figure Skating Athlete Agreement and/or Competition Readiness Agreement.
 - 3.1.3. 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)
 - 3.1.4. An athlete loses an adjudicated violation of WADA, ISU, and/or USADA anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures, as applicable.
 - 3.1.5. 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.
 - 3.1.6. A petition athlete is unable to meet the requirements outlined in section 1.2 (B).
 - 3.1.7. 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.
 - 3.1.8. 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 2024 Four Continents Team must be reported to 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
- 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 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 2024 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 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 Four Continents Championships, the evaluation group will recommend to the International Committee Chair that the athlete is replaced by the next (substitute) 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 above, substitute athletes will be selected and ranked by U.S. Figure Skating's International Committee Discipline groups and announced at the time of the Four Continents Team selections. Substitute athletes/teams will be submitted to the ISU by U.S. Figure Skating along with the Four Continents Team Selections.

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. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

The following documents are required to be signed by an athlete prior to the selection meeting as a condition of participation on the Four Continents Team and are included as attachments: The U.S. Figure Skating Athlete Agreement (Attachment A) and Competition Readiness Agreement (Attachment B) are required to be adhered to as a condition of participation in the Four Continents Championships. If the athlete was not provided with the documents prior to the selection meeting, the athlete will have up to 48 hours to submit the required signed documents from the time of the announcement of selection to the Four Continents Team.

7. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES

U.S. Figure Skating's Four Continents Team selection procedures (complete and unaltered) will be posted/published on U.S. Figure Skating's website: www.usfigureskating.org

8. ANNOUNCEMENT OF SELECTION

The selection of athletes and substitutes in ranked order will be announced to all athletes in the International Selection Pool via email and followed by a press release on U.S. Figure Skating's website immediately following the respective selections meeting. Selected athletes will receive an assignment letter in the days following the nominations.

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 Chief Executive Officer, 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.

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.

APPENDIX

Appendix: Calculation of Overall Athlete Performance Data Point 6: Total 2022-2023 Competition Score (factor 15)	
2022 Olympics/ 2023 Worlds	Champion receives 12 points, 2-3 receives 10 points, 4-8 receives 5 points (better placement of the two)
2023 Four Continents	Top 3 receives 6 points, 4-5 receives 3 points
2023 World Juniors	Top 3 receives 8 points
2023 U.S. Championships	Champion receives 4 points, 2-3 receives 2 points
Previous Partner- Pairs/Ice Dance	Most recent partner within the current quad, only the listed competitions above with previous partner receive .25 points of their awarded points