



## **Championship Event Selection Procedures**

1. Selection Requirements for Championship Events (World Championships, World Junior Championships, Four Continents Championships)
  - a. Athletes must be age eligible for the Championship Event for which they are being selected.
  - b. Athletes must be current members in good standing of U.S. Figure Skating at the time of their selection.
  - c. 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 is established by the ISU and must be reached before the respective event entry deadline.
2. Method of Selection
  - a. 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 to determine the respective selections to the World Team, World Junior Team, and Four Continents Team as well as substitute athletes.
  - b. A quorum of the International Committee Discipline Subcommittee must vote in order for the selections to be official. A quorum is defined as 2/3 of the International Committee Discipline Subcommittee present either in person or via ZOOM and/or telephone conference call. A 2/3 majority vote of the International Committee Discipline Subcommittee (present or via conference call) is needed to determine the selections and substitute athletes.

### **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

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 selection to the respective Championship Event) 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.

### **CREATE A POOL OF ATHLETES TO CONSIDER**

(A) The top five athletes/teams based on the “Calculation of Overall Athlete Performance Data” will be added to the pool. This calculation will use a factoring of the scores achieved at the events listed in the Appendix.

(B) In addition to the Calculation of Overall Athlete Performance Data, the top five athletes/teams at the current U.S. Figure Skating Championships, top ten at the immediately preceding World/World Junior Championships and any athlete/team in the current season’s Top 24 in World/World Junior Rankings will be placed into the pool, if eligible, regardless of above score.

(C) Additional athletes/teams may be added to the pool if adding the athlete/team is approved by a 2/3 majority of the respective International Committee Discipline Subcommittee.

(D) Athletes/teams who qualified to compete but did not compete or complete both segments of the competition at any of the events listed in the Appendix may still be considered for selection by petitioning to the International Committee for nomination. 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. If the petition was due to injury or illness, U.S. Figure Skating medical personnel must verify that the athlete(s) will be physically ready to compete at the event they are petitioning to be nominated to. 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 athletes for each Championship Event plus up to three substitute athletes/teams. The purpose of the process is to select the athletes who will have the best chance for success at the event(s) to win the maximum number of medals and future berths for U.S. Figure Skating the following season 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 do not obtain the ISU minimum technical score requirements for both segments (SP/RD, FS/FD) 28 days before the first day (first official practice day) of the event(s)

(same as entry deadline), the respective discipline group will nominate one of the listed alternates who has achieved the minimum technical score in both segments (SP/RD, FS/FD) will be selected to the event(s).

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

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 ISU Championship Events. In addition, if there is an injury, illness or other circumstance that would prevent a dominant athlete from competing at one of the events listed in the Appendix, the petition process allows U.S. Figure Skating to consider for selection all the best representatives for the events in consideration.

The performance data provided to the International Committee to enhance their discussion for the selection of the athletes/teams will include competition results and other reports/data from competitions listed in the Appendix. The results from the events in the Appendix including consistency, competitiveness, and trending scores, will be utilized to determine the athletes who will have the most performance impact at the respective event(s).

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 most qualified prospects to develop and achieve the ultimate goal of Olympic and World podium results.

### **REMOVAL OF ATHLETES**

U.S. Figure Skating has jurisdiction over selected athletes. An athlete who is selected to any of the Championship Events by U.S. Figure Skating may be removed for any of the following reasons, as determined by U.S. Figure Skating:

- Voluntary withdrawal: Athlete must submit a written letter to Chief of High Performance.
- An athlete loses an adjudicated violation of WADA, ISU, and/or USADA anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures, as applicable.
- 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.
- A petition athlete is unable to meet the requirements set forth above.
- The athlete/couple fails to obtain the minimum technical score requirements for the ISU World Figure Skating Championships in both segments (SP/RD, FS/FD) at an ISU recognized international competition.
- Injury or illness as referenced below:

- Per U.S. Figure Skating's Competition Compliance Agreement, any athlete injured and/or ill to the extent that it 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 Chief, High Performance, with a copy to U.S. Figure Skating Director, High Performance Medical and Performance Services. 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 Championship Events 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 Chief, 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, Chief, 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 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 event(s) in which they were nominated to attend. 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 substitute athlete and / or the substitute 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 event(s) they were nominated to attend, the evaluation group will recommend to the International Committee Chair that the athlete be replaced by a 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](#).

## **SUBSTITUTION OF ATHLETES**

Using the criteria listed above, substitute athletes will be selected by U.S. Figure Skating's International Committee Discipline groups and announced at the time of the Championship Event selections.

## **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 each Championship Event.

## **PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES**

U.S. Figure Skating's Championship Event Selection Procedures (complete and unaltered) will be posted/published on the U.S. Figure Skating website: [www.usfigureskating.org](http://www.usfigureskating.org)

## **ANNOUNCEMENT OF SELECTION**

The selection of athletes and substitutes 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.

#### **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.

#### **DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES**

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

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: U.S. Figure Skating's International Committee and Athletes Advisory Committee, with final approval from U.S. Figure Skating's Board of Directors.

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

#### **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

<b>Appendix: Calculation of Overall Athlete Performance Data</b> <b>Current Competition Season</b>	
<b>Current U.S. Championships</b>	Athlete/Team score with a factor of 4
<b>Current Season JGP/GP Final</b>	Athlete/Team score with a factor of 3
<b>JGP/GP Highest Score</b>	Highest score with a factor of 1.25
<b>JGP/GP Average Score</b>	Average score with a factor of 1.25 (if athlete/team has only one event in this category 80% of their first event score will be added to the second event column to determine an average)
<b>Challenger Series/Senior B/Junior International Highest*</b>	Highest score with a factor of 1
<b>Challenger Series/Senior B/Junior International Average*</b>	Average score with a factor of .75 (if athlete/team has only one event in this category 80% of their first event score will be added to the second event column to determine an average)
<b>Sectional Finals (Top 2 in each Section NOV/JR/SR)</b>	Score with a factor of 0.5
<b>NQS Score (NOV/JR/SR)</b>	Score with a factor of 0.25
<b>Previous Events</b>	
<b>Any Previous Olympics or the most recent World Championships</b>	Champion receives 12 points, 2-3 placements receive 10 points, 4-8 placements receive 5 points (better placement of the two)
<b>Most Recent Four Continents Championships</b>	Top 3 receives 6 points, 4-5 receives 3 points
<b>Most Recent World Junior Championships</b>	Top 3 receives 8 points
<b>Prior year's U.S. Championships</b>	Champion receives 4 points, 2-3 receives 2 points
<b>Previous Partner - Pairs/Ice Dance</b>	Most recent partner within the current quad, only the listed competitions above with previous partner receive .25 points of their awarded points
<b>Final Calculation Number for previous events</b>	Total points awarded from the above will be multiplied by a factor of 15 and added to the final calculation

If an athlete/team does not have a score for a JGP/GP/Challenger Series/Senior B/Junior International, 80% of an average score will be added to the column without data. Example:

- If an athlete/team competes at a JGP/GP, but not at a Challenger Series/Senior B/Junior International, 80% of the average score of the JGP/GP will be entered into the highest and average score for the Challenger Series/Senior B/Junior International columns.

If an athlete/team did not compete at a JGP/GP/Challenger Series/Senior B/Junior International, no scores will be added to those columns.

Note: For an event to count towards the overall calculation of data, U.S. Figure Skating must fund the entry and the event must be on the approved international competition calendar.

Example calculation for data sheet can be found here: [Championship Event Data Proposal.xlsx](#)