

Alberta Ski Team Policies

Policies and Procedures

2021



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Nordiq Alberta Ski Team Policy (AST)

The Alberta Ski Team (AST) supports excellence in competitive cross-country skiing for Alberta athletes in the Long-Term Athlete Development (LTAD) stages of Learn to Compete and Train to Compete. These LTAD stages are the Nordiq Canada competition categories of U20, Junior Men/Women and Junior Boy/Girl. Development opportunities are provided for periodization training, competition and recovery plans, nutrition, and technique support to help them attain success at major national and international events. *Approved at the May 14, 2016 CCA Board Meeting.*

AST OBJECTIVES:

1. To advance technical skills of the highest performing athletes in Alberta.
2. To advance psychological skill sets of the highest performing athletes in Alberta.
3. To augment athlete learning and physical training from that which is gained in their club programs
4. To develop coaching knowledge, skills, and attitudes amongst clubs and coaches from around the province.
5. To align the AST program with best practice literature and policy from sources including Nordiq Canada and LTAD.
6. To offer a program that works within the funding framework of Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation (SPAR) funding and Canada Winter Games funding. Nordiq Alberta aims to keep the cost of participating in the Alberta Ski Team program as low as possible for athletes.
7. To recognize ski clubs whose skiers are selected to the AST.
8. To promote and encourage long-term involvement in competitive cross-country skiing.
9. To ensure the provision of appropriate social development within the team and sport of cross-country skiing.
10. The AST program will be consistent with the LTAD framework of the Canada Winter Games and SPAR.

DIRECTIVES

Nordiq Alberta is committed to providing a sustainable program with the following features:

1. Consistency of selection criteria, program content and operational support.

2. Consultation with Alberta clubs, coaches, athletes, parents, Nordiq Canada, sport science and high -performance experts in the design of the AST program. Consultation will include training camp number, program and leadership, and competitive opportunities.
3. Strive to provide opportunities to align club programs, national program opportunities and the AST program during the development of the quadrennial and annual AST program.
4. Strategic Planning of the AST program will take place on a quadrennial cycle. The cycle for the AST will culminate with the Canada Winter Games which is held every four years.
5. Annual evaluation of the AST program will involve measuring definable outcomes combined with feedback from athletes, coaches, club representatives and parents. This will enable the program to respond to the dynamic nature of our sport and the changing needs of developing athletes in the province.
6. Nordiq Alberta will annually allocate resources to facilitate a quality program that provides for the competitive development needs of the AST athletes.
7. Nordiq Alberta will annually approve the Selection Criteria for the AST.
8. Team Composition will be comprised of Learn to Compete and Train to Compete LTAD categories.
9. Achieving gender balance will be priority during the team selection process.

PROCEDURE:

1. The AST Committee, through ongoing consultation with the Ski community, and Nordiq Canada coaches, and Nordiq Alberta staff, will publish the AST program framework by March 1 annually.
2. The Provincial Coach/Senior Staff Person, through consultation with the Technical Committee, all member clubs and coaches, sport science and high- performance experts, will develop the quadrennial and annual AST programs. The program will be approved annually by Nordiq Alberta.
3. The AST program budget will optimize the funding and resources available from SPAR and Canada Winter Games.

Nordiq Alberta Ski Team Selection Policy (AST)

All Alberta athletes are entitled to a fair selection process and an equal opportunity to be selected to the Alberta Ski Team. All members of Nordiq Alberta will have the opportunity to be aware of the selection process by November 15 annually. Athletes are selected to the AST based on the selection criteria which may change each year to reflect both the budget available and the changing needs of the ski community.

CRITERIA:

1. All competitors must be in good standing with Nordiq Alberta, be a registered member of a Nordiq Alberta Member Club and be registered as such on the Nordiq Alberta database system.
2. Selection criteria will be developed by the Technical Committee for consultation with Club Coaches, each year by October 15.
3. All AST athletes must hold a current Nordiq Canada Racing License to be eligible for selection.
4. All athletes must be residents of Alberta as of August 1st of the competitive season and must hold a valid Alberta Health Card.
5. All AST athletes must sign a contract with Nordiq Alberta as a condition of accepting their selection.
6. Team and trip selection, team size, team benefits, and coaching selections are subject to limitations of available funding and may change at the discretion of the Nordiq Alberta Board of Directors.
7. Acceptance or non-acceptance to AST does not preclude participation in Canada Winter Games.
8. Should an athlete choose not to accept their AST nomination, the athlete automatically forfeits any benefits, financial or otherwise, associated with being a member of the AST.

Nordiq Alberta AST Appeals Policy

Any person affected by a selection decision has the right to appeal the decision. Any person also has the right to a fair appeal process.

PROCEDURE:

1. AST selection appeals in accordance with **Nordiq Alberta Conflict Resolution Policy** and can be made where a person or group has a direct interest in a decision made on selection. That person or group may within seven days of the written or e-mail notification of the decision, seek a review of the decision by the Nordiq Alberta Board.
2. Appeals must be made in writing to the Nordiq Alberta Chairperson or in the absence of the Chair, a designate. A request for review must contain the following:
 - a. The name, address, phone number, e-mail address of the person or group submitting the appeal.
 - b. Identify the decision or issue that is to be reviewed.
 - c. Set out reasons as to why the decision or issue should be reviewed.
3. The Chairperson will select three members of the ski community (Review Committee, Chair included) to hear the appeal. Where any member of the Board was involved in the matter to be reviewed, that person is not eligible to conduct a review of that decision or matter. The hearing may take place in person or via conference call. Should the Nordiq Alberta Board Chairperson be the object of the protest, the Nordiq Alberta Board will appoint a designate in place of the Chair.
4. The Review Committee
 - a. Must receive the representation from the individual (or designated rep) or group on the decision.
 - b. May confirm, vary, or reverse any decision made in respect to the claim.
5. The Review Committee will present its decision in writing to the Nordiq Alberta Board.
6. The Chairperson of the Board or the Chairperson's designate may extend the seven day period referred to in (1.) if he/she considers there is justifiable reason for extending the time period.