

JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT

JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Tony Drake, Chair

The committee unanimously voted to move forward with the changes to the National Junior Teams and the All Star Selection Criteria as presented in the documents sent out prior to the call. The changes in the age divisions for juniors in the 2019 rulebook necessitated changes in the Q&P for the National Junior Teams and the Regional All Star Teams. The Junior Development Committee has taken this opportunity to update these documents.

National Junior Team

The revised Q&P for the National Junior Team is attached.

Normalized Overall Performance Score (NOPS) points will be used for the calculations for team selection. Using NOPS points will be more transparent and understandable than the 1,000 point standard that has been used previously. The NOPS score for a skier's performance can be easily found on the ranking list website. Gender and age division distribution is already accounted for in the normalized NOPS points for each event, and across all junior divisions, resulting in a team with similar diversity without the need to specify a minimum number for each gender.

There is now only one National Junior Team, expanded to 25 members. We will no longer be selecting a 12 member National Junior Team and a 24 member National Junior Development Team. The total number of juniors on a team is being reduced from 36 to 25. One of the reasons for reducing the total number of juniors on a team is to allow the committee to be able to use its limited resources to do more for a smaller number of kids.

Members of the National Junior Team are now eligible to be selected for their region's All Star Team.

Regional All Star Teams

The updated Regional All Stars Criteria document is attached.

The committee will use the following criteria to continue a similar team composition of 6 members and 1 alternate as in the past despite the current, and potential future division changes: *The team may have no more than two team members from the same division. The gender distribution shall be either 3/3 or 4/2 for the 6 members of each Regional All Star Team. The alternate can be from any of the eligible divisions.*

The committee will no longer exclude anyone from the All Stars based on their selection for the National Junior Team or a U.S. team for an international event. The All Stars at Nationals will truly be the best skiers from each region

Proposed Changes

NATIONAL JUNIOR TEAM Qualifications & Procedures (Revised December 2019)

Qualifications:

To be eligible for the National Junior Ski Team, a skier must:

1. be a U.S. Citizen,
2. be a member of USA Water Ski in good standing,
3. competed in the Boys 2, Boys 3, Boys 4, Girls 2, Girls 3, or Girls 4 division in at least (3) separate Class "C" or higher tournaments in the Previous Ski Year, excluding those skiers who have aged up into M1/W1.

Selection Procedures:

1. A team of at least (25) individuals will be selected to be designated as the National Junior Team. This Team is chosen to recognize top performing juniors, and will not necessarily represent the U.S. at any time in international competition.
2. "Ranking List Score" shall be the average of the best three slalom, tricks and jump tournament performances (as calculated in the National Rankings List using one score per tournament) in the Previous Ski Year. "Event Score" shall be the Normalized Overall Performance Score (NOPS) for each event, relative to standards for that specific division and event, using a smooth curved mathematical fit to those standards, and as calculated for the National Ranking List for the previous ski year.
3. "Overall Score" shall be the sum of all 3 "Event Scores". "2 Event Score" shall be the sum of the skier's two highest "Event Scores". The top twenty skiers based on "Overall Score" will be selected first.
4. The 21st through 25th skiers will be selected on the basis of the "2 Event Score."
5. Any skier whose performance constitutes the highest "Event Score Standard" in any event (Boy or Girl) and is not already included in the 25 selected skiers will be selected as an additional Junior Team member.

Notes:

By using NOPS scores for the calculations for team selection, we simplify the selection process, make the process more transparent and understandable than the 1,000 point standard that has been used previously. The NOPS score for a skier's performance can be easily found on the ranking list website. Gender and age division distribution is already accounted for in the normalized NOPS scores, resulting in a team with similar diversity without the need to specify a minimum number for each gender.

American Water Ski Association

Regional All-Star Teams Criteria

All-Star Teams will be chosen and announced at each Region's Regional Tournament. The team will consist of 6 members and one alternate. To be eligible for the Regional All-Star Team, an athlete must:

- be a U.S. citizen
- be a member of USA Water Ski and in good standing
- be a current skier in Boys 2, Boys 3, Boys 4, Girls 2, Girls 3 or Girls 4
- be committed to attending and skiing in the Nationals

The skiers NOPS points will be used for the selection process. Skiers will be chosen based on their regional seeding as 60 percent and their regional performances as 40 percent. The strongest three-event athletes will be chosen first, followed by two-event athletes and then single event athletes. Each team will be comprised of Boys and Girls 2, 3 and 4.

The team may have no more than two team members from the same division. The gender distribution shall be either 3/3 or 4/2. The alternate can be from any of the eligible divisions.