

2021/22 USSMA National Team Selection Criteria & Guide



This is the official criteria for selection of the United States Ski Mountaineering Association National Team (USNT). Below is an overview, with supporting documentation in the following pages.

Term:

- December 2021 through April 2022

Qualification Races:

- Arapahoe Basin Ski Area, Summit County, CO
 - Vertical - Friday, Dec 10th, 2021
 - Individual - Sunday Dec 12th, 2021

Age Categories:

- Senior
- U23, U20, U18
- U16 - Not included in USNT. A separate Youth Program will be created.
- Masters - Not included in USNT. A separate Masters Program will be created.

Qualification Spots (Male and Female):

- Vertical
 - Senior - 5 USNT spots / 2 Euro Tour Spots
 - U23, U20, U18 - 3 USNT spots / 1 Euro Tour Spot
- Individual
 - Senior - 5 USNT spots / 3 Euro Tour Spots
 - U23, U20, U18 - 3 USNT spots / 1 Euro Tour Spot

European Training & Racing Tour

- The USSMA will be facilitating a race and training tour to Europe to participate in the following ISMF Races.
 - European Championships - Boi, Spain - February 9-13, 2022
- This is only available to a limited number of top qualifying USNT athletes, in the Senior, U23, U20, and U18 age categories.

Intention to participate in USSMA National Team Qualifying Races



I intend to participate in the 2021/22 USSMA National Team qualifying races(s), in an attempt to qualify for the 2021/22 USNT. The term of this USNT is from December 2021 through April 2022.

I have read and understand the following documents:

- 2021/22 USSMA National Team Selection Criteria
- 2021/22 USSMA National Team Agreement
- USSMA Member Code of Conduct (Completed when you register for your 2021-22 USSMA Membership.)
- 2022 USSMA European Racing and Training Tour (Only U18, U20, U23, Senior)
- 2022 USSMA European Racing and Training Tour Agreement (Only U18, U20, U23, Senior)

Acceptance to the USNT *does not* guarantee participation at the 2022 USSMA European Racing and Training Tour. Specific criteria for participation at the 2022 USSMA European Racing and Training Tour are detailed and included separately below in the “2022 USSMA European Racing and Training Tour Selection Criteria” document.

U18, U20, U23, Senior:

Should I qualify for the US national team, and I am additionally selected to represent the USSMA at the 2022 USSMA European Racing and Training Tour, I DO plan on traveling to Europe with the team to participate. Y/N

[PLEASE CLICK THIS LINK TO ELECTRONICALLY AGREE TO THIS DOCUMENT.](#)

***You must agree and electronically sign by November 28, 2022 to be included in the selection process.**

2021/22 USSMA National Team Qualifying Races



2021/22 USSMA National Championship - Vertical

Hosted at Arapahoe Basin, Summit County, CO on Friday December 10, 2021*

2021/22 USSMA National Championship - Individual

Hosted at Arapahoe Basin, Summit County, CO on Sunday December 12, 2021*

*Dates and locations are preliminary and subject to change and will be determined by mid-November based on snow conditions.

*In the event that a Qualifying Race is canceled due to insufficient snow or other reasons, contingency races will be identified and held within 2 weeks or as close as possible to the original race date.

2021/22 USSMA National Team Selection Criteria



The following are required criteria for selection to the United States Ski Mountaineering Association National Team (USNT):

- **USNT candidates are required to be a citizen of the United States of America during the selection races and the duration of the 2021/22 national team term.**
- **USNT candidates must be current 2021/22 USSMA members.**
- **USNT candidates must be in good standing with the USSMA.**

Final selections and invitations to the USNT will be made within 24 hours after all National Team Qualifying Races have been completed. Invitees will have 48 hours to accept their USNT invitation. Upon written acceptance from the athlete, placement on the USNT is complete.

The following selection criteria applies to both genders for the USNT:

- Vertical Qualifying Race
 - U18 - Top 3 finishers
 - U20 - Top 3 finishers
 - U23 - Top 3 finishers
 - Senior - Top 5 finishers
- Individual Qualifying Race
 - U18 - Top 3 finishers
 - U20 - Top 3 finishers
 - U23 - Top 3 finishers
 - Senior - Top 5 finishers

‘Coaches Choice’. Due to unmitigated circumstances, additional athlete(s) may be invited to participate on the 2021/22 USNT via a joint decision by the USSMA President, Vice President, Chair of the Race Committee, Chair of the USNT Committee, and National Team Head Coach.

If a qualifying athlete is not deemed by the USSMA to be fast enough to compete at the international level, the USSMA reserves the right to not award the spot. *Example: Only one U20 male athlete, who finishes far behind the U18 male athletes.*

The USSMA reserves the right to change the National Team Selection Criteria prior to the first Qualifying Race. In the event a change is made, this document will be redistributed and athletes will be informed.

Age Categories (21/22 Season)

U18 (17-18)	Born 2004-2005
U20 (19-20)	Born 2002-2003
U23 (21-22-23)	Born 1999-2000-2001
Senior (24+)	Born 1998 or earlier

For the 2021/2022 season, the age taken into account is the age on 31st December of 2022.

USNT athletes are eligible to race ISMF World Cup and LGC races during the season on their own. All ISMF licenses and race registrations must be requested, approved and obtained through the USSMA.

2021/22 USSMA National Team Agreement



This is the official agreement of the United States Ski Mountaineering Association National Team (USNT). The agreement is to be accepted by those members chosen for the USNT, based on the “2021/22 USSMA National Team Selection Criteria”. The term of this USNT is one year, from Dec 2021 to April 2022. Members of the USNT are eligible to represent the USSMA at 21-22 World Cup and LGT races.

2021/22 National Team Goals and Focus:

- Promote and participate in the sport of ski mountaineering racing!
- Promote the US Ski Mountaineering Association.
- Create a positive influence on the growth of the sport and development of the skimo community.
- Additional Goals and Focus as determined by the USNT members.

Privileges associated with being a USSMA National Team Member:

- Right to “National Team” designation
 - Designation to be used on personal and/or USSMA marketing
 - Designation to be used for personal social media/events
- Profile on “USSMA National Team” web page
- Access to sponsor provided or discounted “USA Skimo” uniforms, gear, and logo apparel
- USSMA provided USNT logoed patch / marker
- National Team educational opportunities and team meetings
 - Monthly/quarterly National Team meetings as scheduled
 - Meetings to be held by team manager, team captain, coach, USSMA representative, etc.
- Team Participation in the North American Championships in Canada, Kickinghorse
 - Subsidize part of the registration fee.
- Team Participation in the US National Championships
 - Subsidize part of the registration fee
- Team Gatherings at bigger races
 - National team dinners
 - Course and tactic discussion
- Coaching Support
 - Access to the National Team Head Coach or USSMA approved and designated coaching or training opportunities
 - Discounted coaching available upon request
- Discounts from National Team Sponsors

- Resources Access
 - Access to USSMA Medical Doctors
 - Nutrition information
 - Social Media best practices information
- Recognition
 - Regional & National Exposure / Public Relations
 - Social media and newsletters

Responsibilities and expectations associated with being a USSMA National Team Member:

- Maintain current USSMA membership for the 2021/22 season.
 - As a USSMA member you are bound by the [USSMA Code of Conduct](#).
- Compete in at least 2 regional, USSMA Sanctioned or International races during the 2021/22 season.
 - Compete in the National Team race suit for international races, including NA champs.
 - For domestic races, either wear the National Team race suit or wear the USSMA provided USNT logoed patch/marker at all races in which you participate
 - Encouraged to participate in National Cup Series races
 - Participate in at least one National Championship race
- Create and maintain a positive social media impact and community presence
 - USNT athletes are encouraged to participate in sharing their racing stories via social media. The goal of such engagement is to further promote the sport of skimo, its growth and overall positive impact on USA Skimo nationally and Internationally
 - Athletes are encouraged to engage alongside the USSMA Marketing Committee
 - Share photos with USSMA to be used on social media and website
 - Tag photos to USSMA
 - Partner with local news agencies/publications to promote the USNT and athletes where possible
- Be an Ambassador of USSMA
 - Community Volunteering
 - Be involved in at least one skimo/uphill related non-race event
 - Suggested involvement
 - Be a guest speaker or attendee
 - Volunteer your time on logistics
 - Be involved with at least one youth/beginner clinic OR create other new clinics
 - Suggested involvement
 - Volunteer your time on logistics
 - Volunteer coaching
 - Be a presenter or create video resource to be used
 - Fundraising / Sponsorship Assistance
 - Be involved in USSMA fundraising and sponsorship

- Suggested involvement
 - Guest speaker/attendee at event
 - Volunteer time
- Create and maintain relationships between the USSMA and industry sponsors and/or funders
 - Maintain current personal/athletic relationships that relate to the sport
 - Develop relationships with potential industry sponsors when possible

Your review and electronic consent will constitute your agreement to adhere to and accept the terms and spirit of this agreement.

2022 USSMA European Training and Racing Tour Selection Criteria



The USSMA will be facilitating a race and training tour to Europe to participate in the European Championships in Boi, Spain, February 9-13, 2022.

The team will travel, lodge, train, and race together. This is not a vacation and travel companions (family or friends) are not permitted. The USSMA will attempt to subsidize ISMF License and Registration costs if possible, but athletes should assume they will cover all for themselves (travel/lodging/meals/license/registrations/uniform). *The trip is subject to change or cancellation.

The following selection criteria applies to both genders:

- Vertical Qualifying Race
 - U18 - Top 1 finisher
 - U20 - Top 1 finisher
 - U23 - Top 1 finisher
 - Senior - Top 2 finishers
- Individual Qualifying Race
 - U18 - Top 1 finisher
 - U20 - Top 1 finisher
 - U23 - Top 1 finisher
 - Senior - Top 3 finishers

USSMA reserves the right to reallocate empty spots.

If a qualifying athlete is not deemed by the USSMA to be fast enough to compete at the international level, the USSMA reserves the right to not award the spot. *Example: Only one U20 male athlete, who finishes far behind the U18 male athletes.*

‘Coaches Choice’. Due to unmitigated circumstances, additional athlete(s) may be invited to participate via a joint decision by the USSMA President, Vice President, Chair of the Race Committee, Chair of the USNT Committee, and National Team Head Coach.

The USSMA reserves the right to change this Selection Criteria prior to the first qualifier race. In the event a change is made this document will be redistributed and athletes will be informed.

2022 USSMA European Training and Racing Tour Agreement



2022 Tour Goals and Focus:

- Competitive experience against the best in the world.
- Promote the sport and USSMA.

Privileges associated with attending the USSMA 2022 European Training and Racing Tour:

- ISMF License paid by USSMA
- ISMF Race registration paid by USSMA
- Discounted USSMA race uniforms
- Logistical support
- Equipment support
- Coaching support
- Specialty training programs during the tour

Responsibilities associated with attending the USSMA 2022 European Training and Racing Tour:

- Athletes are committed to race in each discipline in which they qualified and are strongly encouraged to race all other disciplines.
- Travel with USNT or meet up at approved time and location.
- Room with a teammate at the Team Lodging.
- Participate in all non-racing day training programs or team events.
- Attend all team meetings.
- Attend races and cheer for teammates on days when not racing.
- Eat meals as a team.
- Wear team uniform clothing at specified events.

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