



# Selection Policy for the Snow Sports New Zealand Alpine Junior FIS Squad 2023/2024

(Hereinafter referred to as 'Junior FIS Squad' and 'Athletes')

The Snow Sports New Zealand Alpine Junior FIS Squad is established with the aim of bridging a gap in the Alpine pathway between Youth and Senior FIS racing, and to support athlete progress into the New Zealand Alpine Ski Team.

The purpose of this selection policy is to identify New Zealand FIS athletes who qualify for the Junior FIS Squad based on performance criteria as set out in this document.

A Selection Committee will be assembled by the Alpine Sport Committee (ASC) and ratified by the Board of Snow Sports New Zealand (SSNZ) to evaluate athletes in the following areas:

- Results/Rankings
- Physical Fitness - for competition
- Commitment to Snow Sport
- Mental Disposition
- Athletic Ability
- Ability to operate in a team environment

The Selection Committee will be chosen from SSNZ stakeholders and will be a minimum of three in number, plus a convener.

The Selection Committee will advise the ASC of the athletes selected based on the above evaluation, for final ratification.

Disclaimer: The selection guidelines listed below are considered to be the minimum standard. Meeting the guidelines does not guarantee selection to the Junior FIS Squad but does provide an opportunity to be evaluated through the selection process. There shall be no appeals.

In exceptional cases an outstanding athlete who has not met selection criteria due to injury, illness, or force majeure may be selected for the Junior FIS Squad. The athlete's club or training provider is responsible for identifying any athlete to be considered for force majeure and must provide supporting written documentation.

The Selection Committee's responsibilities in the selection process are to:

- assemble the Selection Committee as and when necessary to meet timelines
- gather all relevant information to make informed selection decisions
- understand and follow the selection process as set out by SSNZ and the ASC
- ensure selected athletes have met all the selection criteria requirements
- review any cases of force majeure.
- represent the athletes fairly and objectively at the selection meeting.



## Criteria Rules (Applicable to all Athlete Selection Criteria)

### 1. Eligibility for Consideration

Alpine members must be in good standing with SSNZ and have a valid NZL FIS license.

An athlete is ineligible for consideration if previously suspended or removed from team membership without having first been reinstated by the ASC.

### 2. Physical Fitness

Athletes who meet the FIS Points (Internal Base list 2023) will be required to disclose whether they are fit for international competition and provide information on any significant injuries they are carrying at the time of selection. This may require supporting documentation from a recognised medical professional.

### 3. Athlete Injury Clause

An athlete injured prior to 1 May of the competition calendar season will be named to the respective team at the time of injury for one year. The athlete must meet the set performance criteria in any successive years (including those athletes who are repeatedly injured); additionally, to maintain team status, an athlete must follow a prescribed rehabilitation or medical programme as approved by SSNZ.

### 4. Drug Free Sport NZ (formerly the NZ Sports Drug Agency)

It is the responsibility of each athlete and their coach to be familiar with this Act. Under the Act, Drug Free Sport NZ has the power to conduct tests in and out of competition. It is the duty of all athletes on the Drug Free Sport NZ register competing overseas to inform Drug Free Sport NZ of their whereabouts. This can be done by completing a short form and emailing the information direct from the agency website: [www.drugfreesport.org.nz](http://www.drugfreesport.org.nz)

## Criteria specific to the Junior FIS Squad

### 5. FIS Points Criteria

5.1 Athletes must meet or better the FIS Points criteria labelled below in one or more disciplines.

	U18		U20	
	1st year	2nd year	3rd year	4th year
	2006	2005	2004	2003
Slalom	100	90	80	70
GS	100	90	80	70
Super G	115	105	95	85
Downhill	125	115	105	95
AC	135	125	115	105

### 6. Selection Timeline

6.1 SSNZ will collate FIS Point information for all athletes who meet the FIS Point qualification standards based on the year specific **INTERNAL BASE FIS LIST**, usually published in mid-April each year.

6.2 Athletes nominated to the team must contact SSNZ to accept or decline their nomination within ten (10) days of notification. All athletes accepting their nominations will be required to sign an athlete agreement to be named to the Junior FIS Squad. Selected athletes who accept their nomination will retain "Squad" status for the term 4<sup>th</sup> May until the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May of the following year unless terms of the athlete agreement have not been met.

6.3 Athletes would be named to the Junior FIS Squad on approximately 3<sup>rd</sup> May each year

6.4 Selections will be made twice yearly. The October selections will be made from the most current FIS List and will provide a means of including new athletes to the team based on southern hemisphere winter performances.

These second selections will be announced in October and team status will be valid until 3<sup>rd</sup> May of the following year.

6.5 An athlete who has been named to the Junior FIS Squad at the time of the pre-base list in the previous year but does not meet the FIS criteria in the current year may be given an extension of 1 year on the team in cases of force majeure. Athletes will be required to provide supporting written documentation.

## Squad Benefits

- Recognition of squad status and an athlete profile on the SSNZ website
- Option to purchase and race in Junior FIS Squad team kit
- Quota priority for entry to FIS competitions overseas
- SSNZ does not support the squad financially but will assist athletes in applications for charitable or commercial funding.