

Selection Criteria for Youth International Alpine Competitions Seasons 2026/27 to 2028/29

1. Definitions

NZ Alpine Youth Squad: New Zealand Youth athletes (U14, U16) selected and ranked per the criteria in this document

NZ Youth Reserve Athletes: New Zealand Youth athletes (U14, U16) that were not selected for the Youth Squad but still wish to compete in a FIS Children's race

FIS Children's races (FIS CHI): Sanctioned international alpine ski races (by International Ski and Snowboard Federation) for U14 (Festival races) and U16 athletes. Selection and entry for races can only be completed by the SSNZ.

Regional races (international): local, regional and country races that NZ athletes can enter through local coaching and/or independently of SSNZ.

Priority Event: NZ Alpine Youth Squad athletes will be asked to rank **two events** they would like to compete at. These events will be prioritised when allocating SSNZ quota positions.

World Cup Points: [Rules for the FIS Alpine Ski World Cup 10.1.](#)

2. General Principle

Selection for the NZ Alpine Youth Squad is a privilege and an opportunity for our young athletes to compete on the international stage at FIS Children's races, make new friends, see new places and help them prepare them for FIS racing.

Athletes training and racing in the Northern Hemisphere following New Zealand's domestic season are encouraged to attend international regional races if their training plan and support allows.

3. Process and Timing

A Snow Sports NZ Alpine Youth selection committee (nominated by the ATC and approved by the Alpine sub-committee of the Board) will select athletes for the NZ Alpine Youth Squad to represent New Zealand at FIS Youth International Alpine Competitions. The selection meeting will be completed within 5 working days of October each year, and selected athletes will be offered a place on the NZ Alpine Youth Squad by the second week of October each year. Athletes that are not selected to the NZ Alpine Youth Squad will have the opportunity to join the Youth Reserve List if they meet the eligibility requirements noted in Section 6 and/or have provided the documentation for exceptional circumstances required in Section 8.4.

Upon selection, athletes must then complete Expression of Interest (EOI) forms indicating which 2 events they will be targeting, on or before mid-November each year.

4. Age Limits

As per [ICR 608.3 and 607.3](#)

5. Quota Management

1. Quota regulations for events as per [ICR 608.4](#)
2. Athletes in each age group for both boys and girls, who meet selection criteria, will be ranked and given the opportunity to identify 2 FIS CHI events they would like to attend by ranking in an EOI, see definition: priority events.
3. Attendance at Youth International Alpine Competitions will be confirmed in accordance with the quota regulations above. If a higher ranked athlete is unable to attend an event, a place will be offered to the next available athlete from the ranked list.
 - Entry for FIS CHI events may be limited to 2 events per athlete regardless of quota availability.
4. Gender registration for the quota in each category will be managed per [ICR 608.4.1](#) where there is a shortfall in one gender. Otherwise, SSNZ will seek to apply a gender balance in each category where possible.

6. Eligibility

Athletes must:

- 6.1. be a current member of SSNZ in good standing
- 6.2. hold a current New Zealand passport
- 6.3. hold a current 26/27 season SSNZ National Points licence and have points under 300.
- 6.4. be an active member of a SSNZ affiliated club.
- 6.5. exhibit good behaviour in a sports team environment (abide by Peak Respect principles)

7. Criteria

Selectors will assess athletes based on:

- 7.1. Overriding criteria - Ability to compete with credibility on the international stage.
 - 7.1.1. Combined World Cup Points scored at the annual Coronet Peak, Mount Hutt and Cardrona Alpine National Points events, one of which will also be the SSNZ Alpine Youth Championships.
 - 7.1.2. For U16: Results from Slalom, Giant Slalom and Super G will be included in the combined total.
 - 7.1.3. For U14: results from Slalom, Giant Slalom will be included in the combined total.
 - 7.1.4. The two worst results (DNS, DSQ or result) will be dropped from the score regardless of discipline.
- 7.2. **Rankings** for the NZ Alpine Youth Squad for each age and gender category shall be determined by Total World Cup Points less drops.
- 7.3. At their discretion, Alpine Youth Selectors will select the overall **size** of the NZ Alpine Youth Squad considering both Criteria 7.1 and 7.2.

8. NZ Youth Reserve Athletes

The Youth Reserve List is included to encourage racing opportunities for our Youth athletes not selected to the NZ Alpine Youth Squad but meet eligibility requirements.

- 8.1. When the NZ Alpine Youth Squad is announced in October, an opportunity to join the Youth Reserve List will be provided.
- 8.2. Where quota is available following submission of EOI's (and review/confirmation by SSNZ) for the NZ Alpine Youth Squad, Youth Reserve athletes will then be invited by SSNZ to provide their request to attend **one** FIS Children's race.
- 8.3. Ranking of Youth Reserve athletes will be completed by SSNZ based on the athlete's World Cup Points. Athletes applying under Section 8.4 may be included at the end of the Youth Reserve List.
- 8.4. Exceptional Circumstances:
 - In circumstances where an athlete does not have results from the 26/27 NZ Domestic season, SSNZ *may* choose to include them as **Youth Reserve** athletes based on appropriate documentation provided to describe exceptional circumstances. This documentation must be submitted to Jono Howson (jono@snowsports.co.nz) on or before **the end of the first week of October each year** and must include:
 1. Athlete name and SSNZ affiliated club.
 2. Particulars of the exceptional circumstance
 3. Documentation to include but not limited to:
 - Letter from a doctor summarising injury and recovery.
 - Recommendation letter from the relevant Programme Director.
 - Evidence of their international ranking and results.
 - Approved athletes will be ranked by SSNZ based on the evidence provided.
 - If an athlete shows exceptional results (Podium from competitive 2025/26 FIS CHI race), Selectors may add them to the NZ Alpine Youth Squad

9. Requirements

Upon selection to the NZ Alpine Youth Squad:

- 9.1. Athletes are required to confirm their targeted events by mid-November each year.
- 9.2. Athletes will be invited to buy mid-layer jacket
- 9.3. Athletes are required to submit the following to SSNZ:
 - 9.3.1. a signed FIS Athlete's declaration
 - 9.3.2. a scanned copy of their passport ID page
 - 9.3.3. confirmation of competition insurance
 - 9.3.4. completed and signed SSNZ Alpine Event Agreement/Consent Form

10. Appeals Process

An athlete may lodge an appeal with the SSNZ Chief Executive within 5 days of the NZ Alpine Youth Squad announcement. All appeals must be submitted in written form.

- The SSNZ Chief Executive will attempt to respond to the athlete within one day (twenty-four (24) hours), but not later than five (5) days (120 hours) of lodgement of the appeal.
- The SSNZ Chief Executive will consult with the members of the relevant Selection Panel and any other person as may be deemed appropriate to properly respond to the athlete.
- An appeal by an athlete may only be made on one or more of the following grounds:
 - The applicable selection criteria have not properly been followed, applied and/or implemented.
 - The selection process was affected by actual bias.
 - There was no material on which the selection decision could reasonably be based.
- Determination of Appeal. Upon determination of the appeal the SSNZ Chief Executive shall communicate his or her decision together with an appropriate recommendation to both the ATC and the athlete.
 - If at the conclusion of the above process the athlete remains dissatisfied, the athlete may file an application for appeal with the Sports Tribunal of New Zealand ("Sports Tribunal"). Thereafter the appeal shall be determined in accordance with the Rules of the Sports Tribunal (see sportstribunal.org.nz).
 - The decision of the Sports Tribunal shall be binding on the parties and, subject to any right of review and/or appeal as set out in the Rules of the Sports Tribunal, no party to the appeal may institute or maintain proceedings in any Court or other Tribunal.