



Selection Criteria
2024 NACAC Mountain & Trail Running Championships

2024 NACAC Mountain & Trail Running Championships
Cerro Gordo in Tepatitlán, Jalisco, Mexico
August 3-4, 2024
version 1.0

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2. Change History

3. Overview

- a. These Selection Criteria (“Criteria”) set out Athletics Canada’s selection processes for the 2024 NACAC Mountain & Trail Running Championships team along with the eligibility and qualification requirements that an athlete must satisfy in order to be considered for selection.
- b. Entries to 2024 NACAC Mountain & Trail Running Championships are limited by the bylaws, rules and regulations of the following Governing Bodies:
 - i. Athletics Canada (“AC”);
 - ii. North American, Central American and Caribbean Athletic Association (“NACAC”)
 - iii. Association of Canadian Ultramarathoners (ACU);
 - iv. Canadian Mountain Running Association (CMRA);
 - v. International Association of Ultrarunners (IAU);
 - vi. international Trail Running Association (ITRA);
 - vii. World Mountain Running Association (WMRA);
 - viii. The 2024 NACAC Mountain & Trail Running Championships Local Organizing Committee (“LOC”);
- c. If there are contradictions between any of the Governing Bodies’ bylaws, rules and/or regulations and these Criteria, then the more restrictive will take precedence. Note that this clause is notwithstanding any qualification standards set by a Governing Body, AC reserves its right to set standards that are stricter than those set by any Governing Body.
- d. The NACAC Mountain & Trail Running Championships Selection Panel (“Selection Panel”) is responsible for the contents of this Criteria and has the sole authority and discretion to make changes to its contents. The Selection Panel has the sole authority and discretion to make decisions relating to the selection of athletes based on these criteria. The Selection Panel is covered in Section 11, below.

4. Key Dates

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| a. Qualification Period starts | January 1, 2023 |
| b. 2023 World Mountain & Trail Running Championships | June 6-10, 2023 |
| c. 2023 Canadian Mountain & Trail Running Championships (50km & 50 Miles) | August 17-18, 2023 |
| d. 2023 NACAC Mountain & Trail Running Championships | Sept 16, 2023 |
| e. Qualification Period ends | May 26, 2024 |



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f. Declaration Deadline	May 26, 2024
g. Selection Meeting	Week of June 3, 2024
h. Team Travel Date	TBD
i. Competition Dates	August 3-4, 2024

Each date will be considered to start at midnight (00:00am) and end at 11:59pm in the athlete's local time zone, unless stated otherwise above.

5. Team Objectives

- a. This selection process is designed to align with AC's Strategic Plan 2028. As such, it seeks to prioritize the selection of athletes who have demonstrated an ability to contribute to the following performance targets at the 2024 NACAC Mountain & Trail Running Championships, presented in priority order:
 - i. Total number of medals;
 1. 2023: 3
 - ii. Total number of athletes finishing in the top half of their field;
 1. 2023: 4

6. Funding / Travel Expenses

- a. It is expected that this team will be primarily self-funded.
- b. In keeping with prior years, members of the Canadian team should have main meals provided by the Local Organizing Committee (LOC)
- c. In keeping with prior years, members of the Canadian team should have accommodations subsidized by the Local Organizing Committee (LOC).
- d. Athletics Canada will provide Competition Uniforms for official team members

7. 2024 NACAC Mountain & Trail Running Championship Events

a. Events

The Selection Panel may select athletes for the Events listed immediately below. Each Event is contested separately by men and by women, unless stated otherwise:

- i. **Trail Running:**
Short Trail 30-40km (TBD)
- ii. **Mountain Running:**
Classic Up & Down

b. Maximum Entries per Event

- i. **Trail Running:**
Short Trail 30-40km - up to four (4) athletes may be selected.



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- ii. **Mountain Running:**
Classic Up & Down (10km) - up to four (4) athletes may be selected.

- c. **Maximum Events per Athlete**
 - i. **Scheduling conflicts:** Based on the timetable for the 2024 NACAC Mountain & Trail Running Championships it is not possible to compete in both the Short Trail and Classic Up & Down Mountain Races.

8. Selection Process

- a. The Selection Panel (Section 11) will make decisions in person or electronically, guided by these Criteria, on the Selection Meeting Date[s] (Section 4.g).

- b. A Qualified Athlete is an Eligible Athlete (Section 13) who has achieved one or more Eligible Performances (Section 14).

- c. The Selection Panel will only consider Qualified Athletes (see above).
 - i. **Selection Process – Classic Up & Down Event**

The Selection Process for the Senior Teams for the Classic Up & Down race will involve four (4) steps. These steps will be followed until a maximum of four (4) athletes have been selected.

Step 1 – Automatic Selection (World Championships)

Athletes placing in the top 15 at the 2023 World Mountain & Trail Running Championships (in the Classic Up or Classic Up & Downhill events) will be selected.

Step 2 – Automatic Selection (NACAC Championships)

Athletes placing in the top 3 at the 2023 NACAC Mountain & Trail Running Championships (in the Classic Up & Downhill event) will be selected.

Step 3 – World Rankings

If any spots remain, they will be filled by those athletes ranked in the Top 50 of the [Mountain Running World Rankings](#) at the end of the Qualifying Period (see Section 4). Athletes will be selected based on descending order until the maximum team size of four (4) has been reached. A top 50 ranked athlete will be given the opportunity to declare for either/or both of the Classic Up & Down and Vertical Uphill events depending on the final schedule of the Championships.

Step 4 – At Large Qualifier



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If any spots remain, they will be filled by the Selection Panel based on performances at any mountain running, trail running, cross-country, road running or track (5000m, 10,000m and 3000m SC only) events in 2023 and 2024. Preference will be given to those eligible athletes who competed at the 2023 Canadian, NACAC, or World Mountain & Trail Running Championships. “At Large Qualifiers” will only be selected if the athlete(s) demonstrate ‘competitive readiness’ described in Section 9.

In making these decisions related to Individual Events the Selection Panel will take into account, but not be limited to, the following factors (the order of factors does not imply an order of priority for the Selection Panel):

- Best performance during the Qualifying Period;
- Head-to-head results during the Qualifying Period;
- Results at the National Championships in this event;
- Athlete Strengths (e.g., Ascending, descending)
- Health and fitness levels that indicate optimal competitive readiness;
- Competition evidence of the ability to performance on demand, preferably in the same event and at this level of competition;
- The impact of the likely competition schedule for athletes competing in one or more events.

ii. Selection Process - Short Trail Race

The Selection Process for the Short Trail Race will involve four (4) steps. These steps will be followed until a maximum of four (4) athletes have been selected.

Step 1 – Automatic Selection (Canadian Championships)

The top placing athletes at the 2023 Canadian Mountain & Trail Running Championships (50km Distance & 50 Miles Distance) on Saturday, August 17, 2023 will be selected.

Step 2 – Automatic Selection (World Championships)

Athletes placing in the top 15 at the 2023 World Mountain & Trail Running Championships (in the Short Trail or Long Trail events) will be selected.

Step 3 – Automatic Selection (NACAC Championships)

Athletes placing in the top 3 at the 2023 NACAC Mountain & Trail Running Championships (in the Trail event) will be selected.

Step 4 – At Large Qualifier

Remaining spots will be filled by the Selection Panel based on performances at any mountain running, trail running, and/or road running events in 2023 or 2024.



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Preference will be given to those eligible athletes who competed at the 2023 Canadian, NACAC, or World Mountain & Trail Running Championships. “At Large Qualifiers” will only be selected if the athlete(s) demonstrate ‘competitive readiness’ described in Section 9.

In making these decisions related to Individual Events the Selection Panel will take into account, but not be limited to, the following factors (the order of factors does not imply an order of priority for the Selection Panel):

- Best performance during the Qualifying Period;
- Head-to-head results during the Qualifying Period;
- Results at the National Championships in this event;
- Athlete Strengths (e.g., Ascending, descending)
- Health and fitness levels that indicate optimal competitive readiness;
- Competition evidence of the ability to performance on demand, preferably in the same event and at this level of competition;
- The impact of the likely competition schedule for athletes competing in one or more events.

9. Competitive Readiness

- a. Competitive readiness will be determined by the Selection Panel based on at least the following: distance behind the winner at the 2023 Canadian Mountain or Trail Running Championship Events, overall finishing times at the 2023 Canadian Mountain or Trail Running Championship Events or other event, and potential placing at the 2024 NACAC Mountain & Trail Running Championships. For the avoidance of doubt, the Selection Panel reserves the right not to name any athlete to the team if it believes that they are not capable of finishing within 25% of the winning time at 2024 NACAC Mountain & Trail Running Championships or could potentially interfere with race logistics.

10. Selection Meeting(s)

- a. The Selection Panel (Section 11) will make decisions on the date(s) as indicated in Section 4 to select the team according to these Criteria. It’s likely that in the event of injury, illness, or other reasons whereby an eligible athlete is not selected, that other selection meetings will be required to “fill the spot”. In the interest of speed and efficiency, these meetings may be held with a smaller sub-committee of the Selection Panel with final approval coming via email from the larger Selection Panel.
- b. The Chair of the Selection Panel will decide if the meeting will be held in person or electronically, for example by voice or video conferencing or by email.



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- c. AC will keep a written record of the proceedings of the Selection Meeting and its outcomes.
- d. Upon the Selection Panel confirming the list of selected athletes, the list will be forwarded to Athletics Canada's National Team Committee (NTC) for final approval.
- e. The outcome will be published via an Official Team Announcement (Section 12)

11. Selection Panel

The Selection Panel is comprised of the following:

Voting Members – Athletics Canada Technical Staff (one), Canadian Mountain Running Association Representative (one), Association of Canadian Ultramarathoners Representative (one), Athletics Canada Branch Representatives (two), and Athlete Representative (one). The Chair of the Selection Panel will only vote in the event of a tie.

Non-Voting Members – Can be asked to be present at parts of a Selection Meeting depending on expertise and input required but might include: Athletics Canada coaching and Integrated Support Team (“IST”) staff, statistician, legal advisor, technical specialists, as required.

- a. The 2024 NACAC Mountain & Trail Running Championships Selection Panel, with final approval coming from AC's National Team Committee, has the sole authority and discretion to make decisions relating to the selection of athletes for the 2024 NACAC Mountain & Trail Running Championships up until the Team Travel Date (Section 4.h).
- b. From the Team Travel Date (Section 4.h) forwards “On-site Decision Making Authority” will apply (Section 16).

12. Official Team Announcement

- a. The composition of the selected team will be announced by AC, on the AC website, as soon as practical after the Selection Meeting (Section 4.g).
- b. Athletes may be contacted directly by AC prior to the Official Team Announcement to confirm their selection or non-selection.

13. Eligible Athletes

To be considered for selection for this team:

- a. **Declaration:**
Athletes must declare their interest to compete by submitting the electronic declaration form, published on the AC website, by the Final Declaration Deadline (Section 4.f). Note that



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by declaring interest for this team, the athlete agrees to be bound by AC Bylaws and Technical Rules and obligations specific within this Selection Criteria which include Team Travel Obligations (Section 15) and the Appeals process (Section 17). Athletes selected to the trail event also agree to be bound by ACU rules published on their website.

b. Eligibility to Represent Canada:

- i. Athletes must hold Canadian Citizenship.
- ii. At the time of the Selection Meeting (Section 4f) athletes must have submitted a scan of a Canadian passport valid until at least 6-months after the end of the competition.

c. Membership Requirements:

- i. Athletes must be a registered “Athlete” member of an AC Provincial/Territorial Branch at the time of qualification and through the 2024 NACAC Mountain & Trail Running Championships
- ii. Athletes competing in the trail distance must also be a current member of the Association of Canadian Ultramarathoners through the 2024 NACAC Mountain & Trail Running Championships

d. Age Restrictions

- i. The lower age limit for the mountain races is 18 on December 31, 2024
- ii. The lower age limit for the trail races is 20 on December 31, 2024

e. Anti-doping Compliance

- i. Athletes must comply with the anti-doping rules of WA, AC, CCES, WADA and any other anti-doping organization with authority over the athlete.
- ii. Athletes must complete any anti-doping eLearning courses as required.

f. Good Standing

Athletes must be in good standing with AC, AC Branches, CMRA, ACU, CCES, WA and all other Governing Bodies listed in Section 3.b .

g. Forms and Agreements

Athletes must sign, submit, and comply with all required forms and agreements, including:

- i. Health Questionnaire (Electronic Pre-Participation Questionnaire)
- ii. Athlete Agreement

14. Eligible Performances

- a. An Eligible Performance will be a competition result that:
 - i. Was achieved within the Qualification Period (Section 4); and



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- ii. Was achieved by an Eligible Athlete (Section 13)

15. Team Travel Obligations

- a. Athletes who wish to participate on a National Team are required to comply with the National Team travel plans as they pertain to travel and accommodation schedules for the 2024 NACAC Mountain & Trail Running Championships.
- b. By declaring interest for consideration for this team, athletes agree to fully participate in both the final preparation camp (if relevant) and the full duration of the event specified in Section 4 of this Criteria.
- c. By accepting a position on this team, athletes also agree to travel on the official traveling dates.
- d. In extraordinary circumstances, exceptions to these Team Travel Obligations may be granted at AC's sole discretion. The request for an exemption must be made in writing to the Chair of the Selection Panel (i.e., the Athletics Canada representative) in advance of travel dates; requests must be made on or before the Final Declaration Deadline (Section 4.f).
- e. Failure to comply with these Team Travel Obligations may result in de-selection from this team and may affect current high performance support status (for example CAPP or AAP support) and/or future high performance support eligibility. Any additional costs incurred as a result of failure to comply with these Team Travel Obligations will be the sole responsibility of the athlete.

16. On-Site Decision Making Authority

- a. To ensure at-competition decisions may be made quickly and decisively in the best interest of performance, the following delegation of authority and processes for making final confirmation of entries onsite will apply. This includes, but is not limited to, decisions around removal of an athlete from the team, injuries and /or use of alternates, etc.
- b. Starting on the Team Travel Date (Section 4.h) all final Decision Making Authority ("DMA") will reside with the team's appointed Head Coach.
- c. As per competition regulations, the athletes entered to compete in individual events will be confirmed during the competition. The timing is to be confirmed by the LOC but typically confirmations will be made before noon two days before the first day of competition. Any final changes of the team will be made by the Head Coach (or whomever has the DMA).

17. Appeals



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a. **Who Can Appeal**

Athletes who are directly affected by a selection decision have the right to appeal.

b. **Filing a First Appeal**

- i. Athletes should refer to the Commissioner's Office – Terms of Reference for the full procedure for filing an appeal (see <http://athletics.ca/federation/governance/policies-rules-laws/>).
- ii. In the first instance, Appeals must be sent to the AC Commissioners' Office via e-mail (to commissioner@athleticscommissioner.ca) within the Appeals Period (Section 17.c below).
- iii. All appeals must be accompanied by a fee of \$250 (payable to Athletics Canada). This amount will be returned if the appeal is successful. Contact appeals@athletics.ca for payment options.

c. **Appeals Period**

The Appeals Period starts when the Official Team Announcement is made (see Section 12) and ends **five (5)** calendar days later. (So, if the Official Team Announcement is made on Monday the Appeals Period ends at midnight on the following Saturday.)

d. **Grounds for an Appeal**

The Commissioners' Office will determine whether an appeal will be considered, based on the following factors:

- i. The Selection Panel failed to follow the processes outlined in this Selection Criteria;
- ii. The selection decision was based on an error of fact; or
- iii. The selection decision was influenced by bias, bias being defined as a lack of neutrality to such an extent that the Selection Panel was unable to consider other views.

e. **Affected Parties**

If it is determined by the Commissioner that a first Appeal, if successful, would displace another athlete nominated to the team as per this Selection Criteria, then that athlete will be consulted as part of the Commissioner's deliberations, and will be bound by the Commissioner's decision.

f. **Injury or illness**

Where an Appeal relates to injury or illness, the athlete must supply documentation from a medical practitioner diagnosing the injury or illness. In deciding such appeals, AC's Commissioners' Office may obtain input from the AC Chief Medical Officer, or designate. Any decision by the Commissioner on an appeal relating to illness or injury must take into consideration the athlete's ability to fulfill the Competitive Readiness Requirements



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contained in this Selection Criteria.

g. Right to a Second Appeal

If an athlete is not satisfied with the decision of the Commissioner, a formal second appeal may be available, timelines permitting, pursuant to The Commissioner's Office – Terms of Reference (see <http://athletics.ca/federation/governance/policies-rules-laws/>) to the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada (SDRCC).

18. Amendments

The Selection Panel reserves the right to amend this Selection Criteria. If amendments are made, they will be communicated as soon as possible through the AC and ACU websites.

Situations may arise that do not allow these criteria to be modified or applied as written due to time constraints or other exceptional and unforeseen circumstances. In such situations, any decision, including selection decisions, will be made by the individual(s) with decision-making authority, as stated in these criteria in accordance with the stated performance objectives as stated herein. Should it be necessary to make any decision in this manner, Athletics Canada will communicate with all affected individuals as soon as possible.

In addition to the above, the Selection Panel may amend the Criteria under the following circumstances:

- 1) When additional (or altered) information that is deemed relevant by the Selection Panel to the Criteria is provided by external parties, such as (but not limited to) an event organizing committee, Sport Canada, the IAU, ITRA, WMRA, World Athletics, or any other relevant organization; and
- 2) To correct, clarify or amend any inconsistencies, errors or omissions in the Criteria.

Any amendments made by the Selection Panel are deemed to come into effect immediately upon publication on the AC website. The Selection Panel will publish the amended Criteria by whatever means and wherever the original Criteria were published.

19. Unforeseen Circumstances

- a. In situations where unforeseen circumstances do not allow the process for selection as contemplated in this Selection Criteria to be implemented, the Selection Panel reserves the right to determine an appropriate course of action. Depending on the circumstances, such course of action may involve implementation of an alternate process for selection.