

# 2024 Ontario Winter Games Selection Criteria

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Thunder Bay ON

February 16 to 18, 2024



**Cross Country  
Ski Ontario**

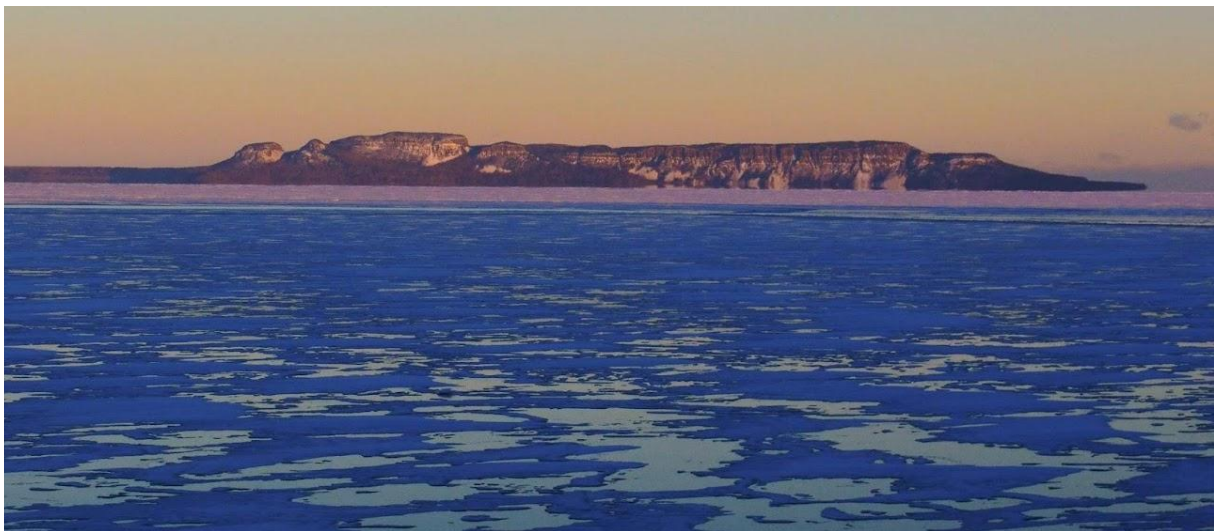
## Land Acknowledgement

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Cross Country Ski Ontario respectfully acknowledges that the lands on which we will host the 2024 Ontario Winter Games are the traditional lands of the Anishinabek Nation and the traditional territory of Fort William First Nation, signatory to the Robinson-Superior Treaty of 1850.

We are incredibly fortunate to share the surrounding natural beauty of Gitche Gumee, Nanabijou and [Anemkii Wajiw](#) with First Nations communities, the Métis Nation of Ontario, and other Indigenous peoples. We share a common respect for our natural environment that provides us the privilege of utilizing the topography of mother earth and the snow that falls from the sky to enjoy our chosen activity of cross country skiing.

The Sleeping Giant peacefully at rest on a cold winter's day.



### Ontario Winter Games Competition

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The 2024 Ontario Winter Games is a multisport event to be held in Thunder Bay Ontario in February 2024. Cross Country Skiing including Para Nordic categories will be held at the Lappe Ski Center.

**Host Organization:** Cross Country Ski Ontario supported by Lakehead Superior Nordic Association (a joint venture between Big Thunder Nordic and Lappe Nordic Ski Clubs)

**Officials Mentorship:** Ontario Winter Games is the perfect opportunity to gain experience as a race official and/or volunteer. Please contact Katja Mathys [cd@xcskiontario.ca](mailto:cd@xcskiontario.ca) to sign up for this exciting opportunity.

**NEW Factory Wax:** Cross Country Ski Ontario will support a common non-fluoro wax Skate Technique Qualifier race at the 2024 Ontario Winter Games to be held February 17th in Thunder Bay, Ontario. The aim of introducing common wax for everyone is to help make cross-country skiing more fair and equitable. This concept has been trialed successfully on the World Cup circuit in Tallin, 2023. [See Appendix A for details.](#)

**External Travel Policy:** TBD

# 2024 Ontario Winter Games - Selection Criteria

All updates from the original publication date in October are highlighted in yellow.

## Important Dates

2023 Dec. 1	Race License application deadline for District Allocation
2023 Dec. 31	Deadline to submit team ranking lists
2023 Jan. 5	OWG registration deadline
2023 Jan. 31	Zone4 registration deadline

## Tentative Schedule

2024 Feb. 16	Travel to Thunder Bay Training Day
2024 Feb. 17	Sprint Qualifier and Mixed gender District Distance Relay - Free Technique
2024 Feb. 18	Interval Start Classic Travel home

## Ontario Winter Games Selection

### Olympic Stream Athletes:

Each District will select a minimum of 20 athletes (10 males and 10 females); the remaining 40 spots will be allocated based proportionately on Nordiq Canada license holders while maintaining gender equity.

If using selection races, races must be completed by December 31, 2023 which will allow for Games registration deadline of January 7, 2023. Exceptions to this will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

1. Each District is guaranteed a team size of up to 20 athletes (10 males and 10 females) for a total of 80 athletes.
2. Districts may choose to nominate less than their allocated positions. Remaining positions will be re-assigned equally amongst the remaining Districts.

3. The remaining positions shall be divided amongst the 4 Districts: LSSD, SOD, NCD and NOD as per the following:
  - a. Districts shall be allocated a number of positions based on the proportion of the number of Nordiq Canada race licenses held by YOB 2008 to YOB 2010 athletes (both male & female) registered with an ON club (within that district) divided by the total number of licenses in the identified YOBs (male and female) in the province.
  - b. Gender equality must be maintained. Any issues of gender inequality within a District allocation will be dealt with on a case by case basis
4. All Districts must submit a ranking list of 10 or more per gender to [admin@xcskiontario.ca](mailto:admin@xcskiontario.ca) at the very latest by December 31, 2023. Early submissions are strongly encouraged to facilitate the registration process. Exceptions to this will be evaluated on a case by case basis.
  - a. The first 10 males and 10 females will be named to the OWG Games Team (4 x 20 per District = 80 total).
  - b. The next 40 athletes will be selected by proportionate Nordiq Canada license holders as of December 1, 2023.

## District Allocation

### RACE LICENSE HOLDERS - ALLOCATION AS of 2023 Dec 1

District	# of license holders on 20231201	% of total	Allocation per District Athlete	Allocation per District Coach
NCD	79	41%	20 + 16 = 36	4 + 3 = 7
SOD	47	24%	20 + 10 = 30	4 + 2 = 6
LSSD	33	17%	20 + 7 = 27	4 + 1 = 5
NOD	36	18%	20 + 7 = 27	4 + 2 = 6
Total	177	100%	80 + 40 = 120	16 + 8 = 24

Please note: Districts must submit a ranking list with more than 10 males and 10 females so that District allocation can be facilitated by XCSO. XCSO will go down the ranking list according

to Nordiq Canada license holder's allocations while maintaining equal genders.

## Paralympic Stream Athletes:

The selection race will be at the Candy Cane Cup at Nakkertok on Sunday, December 17, 2023.

The top 5 para nordic athletes by gender will be selected for the team. Selection will endeavor to have equal representation from both sitting and standing athletes, and by gender. A maximum of 10 athletes will be selected to attend the Ontario Winter Games.

If an athlete is unable to attend the qualifying race due to conflict or illness, they may be eligible for a spot on the team, if additional spots are available. These athletes must apply with justification by sending an expression of interest along with their intended race schedule for the 2023-2024 season by email to [para@xcskiontario.ca](mailto:para@xcskiontario.ca) **no later than December 17, 2023.**

## **Athlete Eligibility**

All athletes must be Nordiq Canada licensed with a registered Ontario club. It is recommended that athletes obtain their license early in the season in order to gain full benefit including CPL for seeding purposes and Ontario points for ON team selection.

A Nordiq Canada guide license must be purchased for VI athletes. Pay the registration fee which includes race registration, accommodations, food, and some OWG related ground transportation as per OWG policy (See appendix A).

All athletes and guides 14 and older must complete the Coaches Association of Canada SafeSport and Rule of Two training modules as required by the [XCSO's SafeSport Policies \(Screening Policy\)](#).

It is the responsibility of each OWG District Team Manager to confirm that all screening requirements are met.

## **Registration Fee**

The registration fee is TBD from Ministry.

## Coach Eligibility

All coaches must be a minimum Learn to Train or Level 2. There is no fee for coaches/team managers, however, registration is required. All coaches/team managers/support personnel must complete the CAC Safe Sport Module and the Rule of Two Module

All coaches must be in compliance with [XCSO's SafeSport Policies \(Screening Policy\)](#).

It is the responsibility of each OWG District Team Manager to confirm that all screening requirements are met.

## Force Majeure

Subject to the appeal process below, athlete selection to the OWG's will consider "Force Majeure" appeals, as follows:

Injury, illness, family misfortune, exceptional circumstances and equipment breakage will be considered valid grounds for appeal. Appeals must be in writing and include supporting documentation to support the appeal – including Doctor's notes. Appeals will be evaluated by the HPC taking into consideration the reason for the appeal.

All appeals should be sent by e-mail to Stephanie Marler, XCSO Executive Director at [admin@xcskiontario.ca](mailto:admin@xcskiontario.ca) and HPC Chair [jackxcgolf@gmail.com](mailto:jackxcgolf@gmail.com) immediately following the event. Force majeure appeals will not be allowed beyond the registration deadline of Jan 7, 2023.

Any force majeure appeal selections approved by a subcommittee of HPC will be included within the identified quota of athletes by category and gender.

## Funding

130 athletes (120 Olympic stream & 10 Paralympic stream) and 32 coaches/wax techs/managers (22 Olympic stream & 8 Paralympic stream) will be eligible for travel funding as per OWG Travel Subsidy.

Accommodation will be provided for all games participants on Friday, February 16 and Saturday, February 17 only.

Transportation will be provided to/from race venue for games participants only.

Meals may be provided for games participants only

Ontario Winter Games Travel subsidy is available to participants who live more than 300 km from the host community of Thunder Bay.

Flights must be booked using the Games' travel agent. Details TBD. All flights regardless of origin will cost no more than \$800 per participant. Ontario Winter Games will subsidize \$250 per flight per participant.

### Funding for club coaches/managers (32)

Each District will have funding for a minimum of 4 coaches/managers with a minimum of 1 male and 1 female coach/manager for a total of 16 coaches/managers named.

The remaining coaches (8) will be named according to the number of athletes per club at a 5:1 ratio selected to attend the OWG as per allocation of Nordiq Canada license holders (see table above)

8 coaches/managers for the Paralympic stream athletes.

### Ontario Cup and Ontario Leader Incentive

For Olympic Stream athletes, Ontario Winter Games races count towards the 7 OCUP starts required for Ontario Junior Ski Team (OJST) eligibility, and contribute to the Ontario Leader Incentive Program as outlined in the [Ontario Excellence Programs document](#).



## Appendix A - Common Wax Protocol and Ski Preparation Process

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Skate Technique Qualifier Race  
2024 Ontario Winter Games- Thunder Bay, Ontario  
February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Cross Country Ski Ontario will support a common non-fluoro wax Skate Technique Qualifier race at the 2024 Ontario Winter Games to be held February 17<sup>th</sup> in Thunder Bay, Ontario. The aim of introducing common wax for everyone is to help make cross-country skiing more fair and equitable. This concept has been trialed successfully on the World Cup circuit in Tallin, 2023.

### **XCSO Responsibilities**

- Provide the wax of the day
- Provide base cleaner
- Provide shop towels, sharpies, stickers

### **District Coach Responsibilities**

Each district coach will be responsible for:

- Assuming a position in the wax room production line
- Sharing wax room equipment (wax bench, nylon brush, ski racks, cleaning brush)
- Attend pre-games meeting to review protocol and assign roles

### **Athlete Responsibilities**

- Athletes will be responsible for delivering one pair of race skis to the wax preparation trailer 60 min prior to their qualifier start time. Only one pair of skis per athlete will be waxed for racing.
- Skiers must present with their bib number

Athlete's Start Time – 60 min = Athlete's Arrival Time (with race skis) at the designated Wax Room

- Athletes will receive race skis at the start area 30 min prior to qualifier start and may warm up using their race skis.

- Athletes are still responsible for allowing ample time to pick up timing chips (if they are used)

Athletes retain control of their skis after qualifier. XCSO respectfully requests that no re-waxing of skis occurs for the relay competition.

### Appendix B - External Travel Policy

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Flights must be booked using the Games' travel agent. Details TBD. All flights regardless of origin will cost no more than \$800 per participant. Ontario Winter Games will subsidize \$250 per flight per participant.

Additional details TBD on provided by Ministry