

2014 IFSA NORAM Qualifier Selection Process

As our organization grows, it becomes tougher, and at the same time, more important, to improve communications with our entire organization. As we move into the part of the season when we announce Championship Qualified Athletes, we have many new teams, coaches, athletes and families that have questions about how the qualification process works.

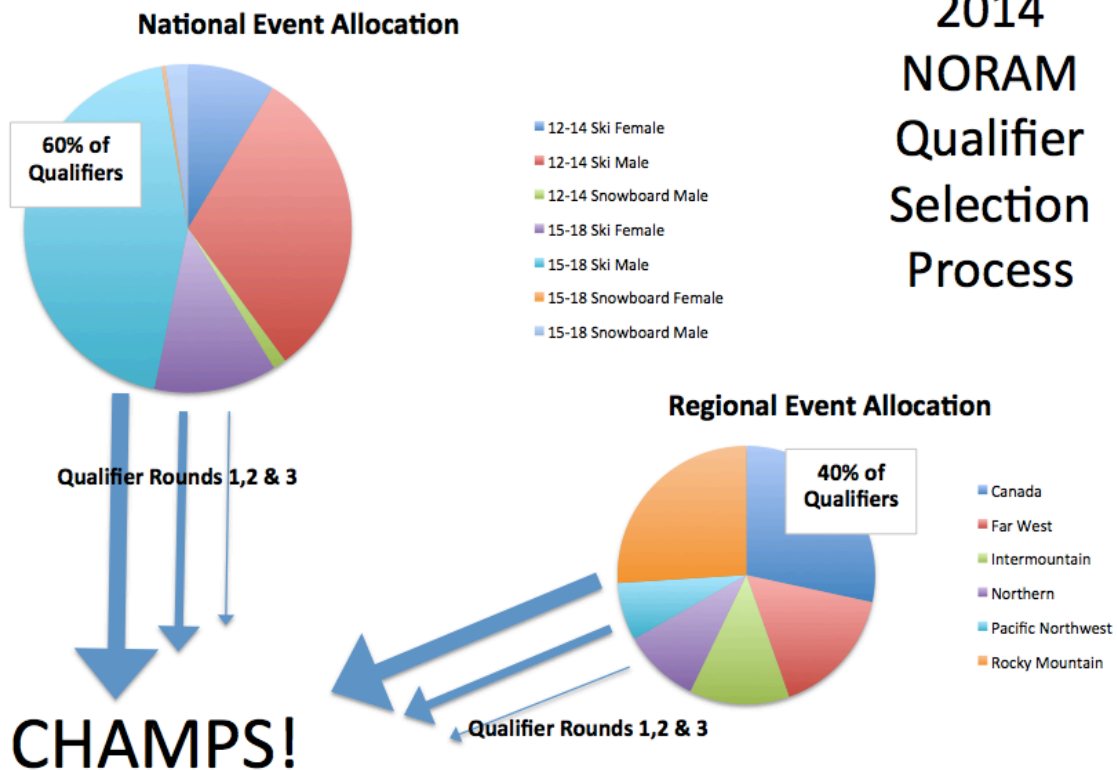
The IFSA NA Series document prepared and posted at www.freeskiers.org every September provides a general summary of the process and can be found here:

<http://www.freeskiers.org/images/stories/pdfs/2014/2014ifsanajunioreventseries.pdf>

In summary the Series document states:

Similar to 2013, an athlete can be admitted into the North American Championships based upon the athlete's National or Regional Ranking. Please note that an athlete's Overall Ranking is not used for this process. The National Ranking is determined by the best three finishes of four events. National-level athletes may also qualify for Championships based on their Regional Ranking if they don't qualify through their National Ranking. An athlete's Regional Ranking is determined by the best two finishes of an unlimited number of Regional events. Regional slot allocations will be based upon the number of participating IFSA athletes in a Region. The allocation percentage is TBD. Similar to 2013, beginning in March, the IFSA will begin announcing athlete qualifications in stages.

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FAQs:

Q: Why are National and Regional Standings used instead of the Overall?

A: We provide two paths for qualification, first the National path, which focuses primarily on pre-qualified and established athletes that competed in the previous season; and two, the Regional approach which is intended to identify new, but promising, athletes and give them chance to compete against National-level athletes. The Regional system was also designed to place comps closer to home so that athletes could build points at a lower cost and time commitment, but still allow the top performers to prove their mettle. A total of 60% of the athletes are selected based upon National Rankings and 40% from the Regional Rankings.

Q: Why does the Series document say the percentage of each division is TBD?

A: We wait until mid-March to see how many athletes compete in each division and then allocate Regional and National spots based on those numbers. For instance, this year, the 12-14 year old guys accounted for 32.5% of the athletes competing in National events as of March 10th, so IFSA allocated 32.5% of the National-ranked spots to that division. Similarly, for the Regional spot allocations, we looked at the IFSA membership rosters to determine how many top athletes from each division will be included. For instance, 9.25% of all registered athletes were 12-14 guys in the Canadian Region, so 9.25% of the spots from the Regional pool were allocated to the top 12-14 year old guys in Canada. If an athlete qualifies via Nationals, then they are pulled out of their Region's ranking, and so the athletes remaining in that Region's ranking move up accordingly.

Q: Well, what is the Overall Ranking, and why is it shown on the Qualified list?

A: Separately we have what we call an "Overall Standing." Here the athlete's top three National scores AND their top two Regional scores are combined with their North American Championship points to crown the overall champions of each season after the NorAmChamps.

Q: I wasn't on the first round of Qualifiers. Is there still a chance I will be invited, and why are there multiple rounds of invitations?

A: Yes. Consistent with last year, approximately 60% of the total spots were offered in round one to athletes who had enough points and results to qualify. At the time of the first announcement, there were still eleven series events that could substantially affect many athletes' positions in the mid-section of the National and Regional rankings. Multiple rounds are used to equitably allocate spots to athletes competing the late season events.

Q: Can you tell me exactly how many points I need to be Qualified for Champs?

A: Not really. While those athletes sitting at the top of their Division or Region usually qualify in the first round, ongoing results change weekly. Therefore 700 points might make the cut one day, but it may take 750 the next week. The staged qualification process allows us to work with the weekly change. Additionally, just because an athlete is qualified, that does not mean they will attend the event, and therefore additional athletes may be qualified to reach the targeted number of competitors.

Q: Can I or my coach email and ask what my chances are of making Champs on the next round?

A: Unfortunately we simply do not have enough volunteer hours to do that much math. Ski well, earn points, and have fun. You will have a good chance attending the Champs Event.

Q: I qualified for the Champs, what's next?

A: Make sure you confirm your spot by registering within six days of notification or your spot will be allocated to another athlete. You can register here:

<https://www.athletpath.com/ifsa-north-american-junior-championships/2014-04-09>

Q: I qualified for Champs. Why am I no longer on the National/Regional rankings?

A: Qualified athletes are still included on the Overall Ranking list but removed from National/Regional rankings as these were used to establish qualified athletes for the champs.