



United States Biathlon  
49 Pineland Drive, Suite 301A  
New Gloucester, Maine 04260

## US Biathlon Association ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES

2015 World Championship Team  
2014-15 World Cup (WC) & IBU Cup Teams  
2015 IBU Open European Championships (OECH) Team (U26 Class)

### Update on December 11, 2014:

With the U.S. not participating in men's or women's relays in World Cups 1-4, the ICC has approved changes to the criteria for World Cup 5 to allow for team sizes large enough to field relays. With these changes, a fourth athlete may be named for each gender following IBU Cup 4. These athlete(s) would also be qualified for World Cups 6. To allow for the possibility of the expanded teams, the cap on team size for World Cups 6 has been expanded to 5 athletes per gender to ensure that the top athlete per gender from IBU Cups 4-5 will be named.

Results from relays contribute to our Nations' Cup totals, which are used to determine World Cup start allocations for next season. The U.S. Biathlon staff and ICC will evaluate the potential for relay success and how this influences Nations' Cup scores when determining whether to exercise the above optional discretionary changes.

The ICC has also updated the criteria to reflect the IBU's decision to add another race to IBU Cup 4. Now, 3 out of 5 races will be used for the points list qualifying athletes to WC 6 and the Open Championships.

### Overview

*The following criteria specify how athletes qualify for competition teams in the 2014-15 season. The competitions these criteria cover are World Championships, World Cups, IBU Cups, and the IBU Open European Championships (U26 Class).*

*Several athletes have pre-qualified for the early season World Cup team based on their performances during the 2013-14 competition season. Qualifying continues with two sets of rollerski competitions held in Jericho, Vermont. Results from the races in mid-August and late October will be used to add more athletes to the early season World Cup team.*

*Trials races held in mid-December at Mount Itasca, Minnesota, will be used to select athletes for the IBU Cups held January in Poland and Germany. They will be joined by athletes from the World Cup team who do not reach benchmarks described in this document. The IBU Cup race results will then be used to determine additional members for World Cups 6-8 in January and February.*

*Teams for the IBU Open European Championships (U26 Class), IBU Cups 7-8, World Championships, and World Cup 9 will be selected based upon a combination of World Cup, IBU Cup, and domestic race results, as specified below in this document.*

**Note:** Performances in all biathlon trials races, North American Cups, and IBU events, taking into consideration the relative strength of the competitive fields at those races, may be used in the discretionary process to name athletes to teams.

**Note:** Performances in all biathlon trials races, IBU events, and international rankings in the 2014-15 season may be used to select athletes to teams for training and competition in the 2015-16 season.

## **Trials Event Information**

Rollerski races will be held in Jericho, Vermont, at the Ethan Allen Firing Range on August 16-17 and October 25-26. Points lists will be calculated off of the best 3 of 4 results for each athlete using the USBA percent-back system. The points base will include only American athletes, and exclude athletes pre-qualified for the early season World Cups. Athletes must notify the USBA of their intent to participate three weeks prior to the races. Athletes participating in the rollerski races for trials purposes must note that they agree to ski on matched rollerskis, which will be provided by US Biathlon prior to the race. See <http://www.eabiathlon.org/> for more information about the facility hosting these races.

The Team Trials will be held at Mount Itasca in Coleraine, Minnesota December 13-17. Points lists will be calculated off of the best 3 of 4 results for each athlete using the USBA percent-back system. The points base will include only American athletes. Athletes should register directly with the Organizing Committee. See <http://minnesotabiathlon.com/> for more information.

*Race formats and dates for Trials series:*

<b>Aug 16</b>	<b>Aug 17</b>	<b>Oct 25</b>	<b>Oct 26</b>	<b>Dec 13</b>	<b>Dec 14</b>	<b>Dec 16</b>	<b>Dec 17</b>
SPR	MASS	SPR	SPR	SPR	SPR	MASS	SPR

## **Selection Criteria**

### **1. World Cups 1-3**

Training Camp in Sjusjoen, Norway  
WC 1 in Ostersund, Sweden: December 1-7  
WC 2 in Hochfilzen, Austria: December 8-14  
WC 3 in Pokljuka, Slovenia: December 15-21

#### **Women**

Start spots: 4

- All women who scored World Cup points during the 2013-14 season are prequalified (Hannah Dreissigacker and Susan Dunklee).
- Top ranked athlete from the August and October rollerski races will be named.
- 1 additional athlete may be named by the U.S. Biathlon staff and ICC, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection.

#### **Men**

Start spots: 4

- All men who scored World Cup points during the 2013-14 season are prequalified (Lowell Bailey, Tim Burke, and Leif Nordgren).

- Top ranked athlete from the August and October rollerski races will be named.

#### **Pre-World Cup Camp in Sjusjoen, Norway**

- All prequalified athletes are eligible to attend the camp starting November 15.
- Other qualified athletes are eligible to attend the camp starting November 22.

### **2A. World Cup 4**

Held in Oberhof, Germany: January 5-11

#### **Women & Men**

Start spots: 4 per gender

- 2 athletes per gender with the most World Cup points following World Cup 3 will be named. If no one has points, then the two athletes with the best single World Cup placings count. If only one athlete has points, then the second athlete is chosen by best single World Cup placing.
- 1 additional athlete per gender may be named by the U.S. Biathlon staff and ICC, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection.

### **2B. World Cup 5**

Held in Ruhpolding, Germany: January 12-18

#### **Women & Men**

Start spots: 4 per gender

- All athletes qualified for World Cup 4 will be named.
- An additional athlete of each gender may be named by the U.S. Biathlon staff and ICC, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection, following IBU Cup 4.

### **3. IBU Cups 4-5**

IBU Cup 4 in Duszniki, Poland: January 7-11

IBU Cup 5 in Langdorf, Germany: January 13-17

#### **Women & Men**

Start spots: 4 per gender

- All athletes from the December World Cup who did not qualify for World Cups 4-5 will be named.
- Top ranked athlete of each gender from the December trials races will be named.
- 1 additional athlete of each gender from the December trials will be named by the U.S. Biathlon staff and ICC, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection.
- An additional athlete of each gender from the December trials may be named by the U.S. Biathlon staff and ICC, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection.

### **4A. World Cup 6**

Held in Antholz, Italy: January 19-25

#### **Women & Men**

Start spots: 4 per gender

- All athletes qualified for World Cup 5 will be named.

- Top ranked athlete of each gender from IBU Cups 4-5 will be named. Points lists will be calculated off of the **best 3 of 5 results** for each athlete using the USBA percent-back system. The points base will include only American athletes, **and only those non-discretionarily selected for WC 5.**
- 1 additional athlete of each gender may be named by the U.S. Biathlon staff and ICC, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection. **The cap on team size is expanded from 4 athletes per gender to 5 athletes per gender.**

#### **4B. World Cups 7-8**

World Cup 7 in Nove Mesto, Czech Republic: February 2-8

World Cup 8 in Oslo, Norway: February 9-15

##### **Women & Men**

Start spots: 4 per gender

- From each gender, 3 athletes with the most World Cup points following World Cup 6 will be named. If no one has points, then the best single World Cup placings count until the limit of 3 is reached.
- 1 additional athlete of each gender may be named by the U.S. Biathlon staff and ICC following World Cup 6, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection.

#### **5. IBU Open European Championships (Seniors and U26 Age - Born 1989 and Younger)**

Held in Otepaa, Estonia: January 25 – February 1

##### **Women & Men**

Start spots: 4 per gender

- Top ranked athlete of each gender (regardless of age) from IBU Cups 4 and 5, who are not named to the World Cup 6-8 Team, will be named to the OECH Team. The ranking will be calculated from on the **best 3 of 5 results** for each athlete using the USBA percent-back system. The points-base will include only American athletes, **and only those non-discretionarily selected for WC 5.**
- All U26 athletes qualified for World Cups 4-5. Due to these athletes' eligibility to compete at World Cup 6, this schedule conflict may limit their starts at the OECH.
- Top ranked U26 athlete of each gender from IBU Cups 4-5 will be named. The ranking will be calculated from the **best 3 of 5 results** for each athlete using the USBA percent-back system. The points base will include only American athletes.
- Additional athletes (regardless of age) may be named by the U.S. Biathlon staff and ICC, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection.

#### **6. IBU Cups 7-8**

IBU Cup 7 in Canmore, Canada: February 27 – March 1

IBU Cup 8 in Canmore, Canada: March 4-8

##### **Women & Men**

Start spots: 4 per gender

- All athletes with a Top 40 result at IBU Cups 4-5 will be named.
- U26 Members of the IBU Open European Championships Team will be named.

- Additional athletes may be named by the U.S. Biathlon staff and ICC, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection.

## **7. World Championships**

Held in Kontiolahti, Finland: March 2-15

### **Women & Men**

Start spots: 4 per gender

- From each gender, 3 athletes with the most World Cup points following World Cup 8 will be named. If no one has points, then the best single World Cup placings count until the limit of 3 is reached.
- 1 additional athlete of each gender will be named by the U.S. Biathlon staff and ICC following World Cup 8, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection.
- 1 additional athlete of each gender may be named by the U.S. Biathlon staff and ICC following IBU Cup 7, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection.

## **8. World Cup 9**

Held in Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia: March 16-22

### **Women & Men**

Start spots: 4 per gender

- All athletes who are ranked in the top 50 overall World Cup following either World Cup 6 and/or World Cup 8 will be named.
- Additional athletes may be named by the U.S. Biathlon staff and ICC, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection.
- The ICC reserves the option to discretionarily send youth/junior athletes to World Cup 9 if there are available start spots in the interests of developing young talent.

## **Policies & Rules**

### **1. Movement between World Cup & IBU Cup**

The National Team coaching staff may use the following guidelines to recommend to the ICC that athletes from the IBU Cup move to the World Cup, and vice versa:

1. In case of excellent performance on the IBU Cup and availability of an open start position on the World Cup, an athlete maybe moved up to the World Cup.
2. Athletes not placing in the top 60 on the World Cup may be brought down to the IBU Cup at any time or dismissed from the WC Team.
3. Athletes achieving a top 15 and a top 20 at IBU Cup may be moved up to the World Cup provided there are open start positions.
4. Athletes who have been injured or sick for lengthy periods of time may be brought down to the IBU Cup, or dismissed from the WC Team.

In addition, IBU Cup athletes will be considered to fill World Cup relay teams when there are not enough World Cup athletes to fill the team, the logistics of getting an athlete to the event can be managed

without excessive costs, and the coaching staff sees the need and/or benefit of having a relay team compete.

## **2. USBA Percent-Back System**

An athlete's percent-back in a race is calculated using the following formula:

$$\text{Athlete's Percent-Back} = 2 - ( \text{Athlete's time} / \text{Average time of the top three finishers scored} )$$

If there are only two finishers that can be scored, the average of their times shall be used as the denominator in the formula above. If only one finisher can be scored, that athlete shall receive a percent-back of 100%. In the case of pursuit races *held at a trials series or as part of the IBU Cup trials races*, athletes' actual time on course will be used in the scoring base for these selection criteria.

## **3. USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection**

The purpose of a discretionary choice is to ensure selection of the most competitive team. Creating watertight, finite criteria for discretionary choices is impossible, since by their very nature they are meant to account for the unanticipated circumstances, which inevitably elude the principles of objective criteria. Based on the context of the situation, the ICC will select the athlete(s) that has the best chance of producing the best result based on the following factors:

1. History of performance in a specific competition type over the current and previous competitive seasons.
2. Recent improvements in results or performance parameters such as ski speed and shooting performance (both in training and competition).
3. Recent positive trend of competition results or performance parameters, such as ski speed and shooting, indicating a potential for Olympic success. This includes indication of medal potential in future Olympic or World Championship competition that would be materially enhanced by selection to the Team.
4. Recent decline in results or performance parameters such as ski speed and shooting performance (both in training and competition).
5. Performance/participation in the qualification process affected by illness or injury as certified by USBA.
6. Ability to effectively contribute to a relay.

If an athlete declines or is unable to attend the competition(s) for which (s)he has qualified, the ICC will rely upon the above Principles of Discretionary Selection to fill the spot. The ICC also reserves the right to not fill the vacated spot.

## **4. Contingency Procedures for Trials Events**

In the event that weather conditions or other issues prevent a trials series from being held at the planned time and place, the ICC reserves the right to change the location, date, and/or format of the trials series. In the event that one or more events are canceled, cannot be held, or are in the view of the ICC held under grossly unfair conditions and not rescheduled by the ICC, the following contingencies may be applied by the ICC:

1. If more than three races are used in the selection process the following may be applied by the ICC:
  - a) If four races are held the best three of four will be scored
  - b) If three races are held the best two of three will be scored.
2. If only two races of a three race series are held and at least two athletes are being selected the following may be used:
  - a) If one race of a three race series is canceled or in the view of the ICC held under grossly unfair conditions and not rescheduled, the winners of each of the races held shall be named to the team and any additional athletes may be named discretionarily by the ICC using the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection.
  - b) If one or no races are held the ICC reserves the right to name the team by discretion and/or to create a new trials process for team selection.
3. If only one athlete is being selected from a three race series and one or more of the races are canceled or in the view of the ICC held under grossly unfair conditions and not rescheduled by the ICC, the ICC may name the athlete at its discretion using the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection.

## **5. IBU Performance Standards for Starting at the World Cup**

Quoted from the IBU Event & Competition Rules:

1.4.3.3 World Cup: The World Cup season consists of three trimesters generally made up of three WC events each, usually WC 1-3, WC 4-6 and WC 7-9. To gain the right to participate in WC events, a competitor must fulfill one of the following criteria during the current or preceding trimester:

- a. One result at an IBU Cup, OECH, WCH or OWG in the Sprint or Individual that is a maximum of 15% behind the average time of the top three competitors, or
- b. One placing in the top half at the JWCH (not Youth). All members of Relay teams must also have met this individual qualification requirement.

The qualification criteria achieved at the IBU Cup/OECH, WCH or OWG for the WC are valid only for the trimester in which the competitor begins competing in the WC. To retain the right to participate in the next WC trimester in which a competitor chooses to start, the competitor must achieve one result that is max. 15% behind the average time of the top three competitors, in the current WC trimester in a Sprint or Individual competition.

## **6. USBA International Competition Committee (ICC)**

Chair: Jay T. Kearney

Athlete Advisory Council Athlete Rep: Brian Olsen

Chief of Sport: Bernd Eisenbichler

National Guard Biathlon Coach: Sarah Lehto

USBA National Team Coach: Per Nilsson