US Biathlon Association
ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES

2026-27 World Cup (WC), IBU Cup (IBUC), and 2027 World Championships (WCH) Teams
ICC and USBA Board Approved - Sept. 2026

I. Selection Philosophy

The U.S. Biathlon High Performance Program is a performance-based program whose purpose is to achieve sustained international competitive excellence and ultimately win medals at the World Championship and Olympic levels.

Accordingly, selection to U.S. Biathlon international competition teams is not based on participation, opportunity, or an athlete's desire to compete internationally. Selection is based on demonstrated performance and, where discretion is authorized, an athlete's ability or potential to contribute to the competitive objectives of the High Performance Program.

This represents an intentional performance-first philosophy. U.S. Biathlon invests significant resources in international competition and athlete development with the expectation that those resources advance international competitiveness. Selection decisions must therefore prioritize athletes who are currently capable of producing world-class results or who demonstrate the performance characteristics, progression, and future potential necessary to do so.

Objective qualification remains the clearest and most important means of earning selection. However, where objective criteria do not fully resolve a selection decision, discretion may be used to distinguish between athletes based on factors relevant to international performance - including current competitive level, ski speed, performance trajectory, relay value, championship readiness, and future World Championship or Olympic medal potential.

A. World Cup & World Championships

The primary objective of World Cup and World Championship team selection is to field the strongest team capable of producing the highest possible international results.

In most circumstances, this means selecting the athletes demonstrating the highest level of current international competitiveness.

However, when the competitive depth of the available athlete pool is such that the final roster positions are unlikely to materially affect current team performance or international results, discretionary selections may consider the long-term competitive interests of the High Performance Program by favoring athletes demonstrating exceptional future performance potential, rapid performance progression, or a high likelihood of contributing to future World Championship and Olympic success.

B. IBU Cup & Open European Championships

The IBU Cup and Open European Championships are the primary international development pathway toward sustained World Cup, World Championship, and Olympic success.

Selection to these competitions is therefore also performance-based, but may place greater emphasis on the development of athletes with demonstrated potential to progress toward world-class performance. Discretionary selections may consider demonstrated progression, ski speed, future international competitiveness, performance trajectory, and long-term World Championship or Olympic medal potential.

Participation in the IBU Cup or Open European Championships is not, by itself, an objective of the High Performance Program. These competitions are intended to prepare and identify athletes capable of progressing toward successful World Cup and World Championship/Olympic competition.

C. Purpose of Objective Qualification

Whenever objective qualification standards are established for competition team selection, any athlete who achieves the published benchmark shall qualify regardless of age, experience, training environment, or pathway into the sport.

Objective qualification is the foundation of these Selection Criteria and provides athletes with a clear and transparent means of demonstrating the level of performance required for selection.

D. Purpose of Discretionary Qualification

Discretion exists for two purposes:

1. Advance the competitive and strategic objectives of the High Performance Program by considering factors relevant to current and future international success, including future medal potential, performance trajectory, ski speed, relay value, championship readiness, and long-term contribution to the program.
2. Preserve fairness when extraordinary circumstances beyond an athlete's control—including documented illness, injury, equipment failure, travel disruption, force majeure, or similar events—materially prevent achievement of objective standards. This restores a lost opportunity; it is not an alternate qualification pathway.

E. Guiding Principles

1. **Performance is the primary benchmark.** International team selection exists to advance U.S. Biathlon's competitive objectives, not simply to provide opportunities for international participation.

2. **Objective qualification rewards demonstrated performance.** Athletes who meet published objective standards earn selection as provided in these criteria.

3. **Discretion is performance-based, not participation-based.** When discretion is required, selection may distinguish among athletes based on the factors most relevant to current and future international competitive success.

4. **Development serves future performance.** Development opportunities should prioritize athletes demonstrating the potential and progression necessary to contribute to future World Cup, World Championship, and Olympic success.

5. **Discretion may also protect fairness.** Extraordinary circumstances may justify discretion when an athlete was materially prevented from demonstrating their true competitive ability, but such discretion restores a lost opportunity rather than creating an alternate pathway to qualification.

II. Overview

This document outlines the criteria and process by which U.S. Biathlon selects athletes to compete at the 2027 World Championships (WCH), World Cups (WC), IBU Cups (IBUC), and related international competitions.

Team selections are proposed by the US Biathlon High Performance Staff and approved by the International Competition Committee (ICC) through the following process:

> *1. US Biathlon High Performance Staff proposes team selections and justifications for any discretionary selections*
> *2. The ICC holds a committee meeting to discuss these proposals and to make any necessary revisions per the committee's input*
> *3. At the conclusion of the committee meeting, the ICC members vote on the final proposal and team selections are deemed final only when a majority of ICC members have voted in favor.*

Pre-Qualified Athletes (WC 1–3):
Any athlete who met the performance standards outlined in the Pre-Qualification Standard for World Cups 1-3 2026/27 Season Criteria (published Nov. '25 and found at https://assets.contentstack.io/v3/assets/blteb7d012fc7ebef7f/blt1e85f1e0ae2ae851/69d3cfc911fa1ed935b5664b/ICC_APPROVED_Pre-Qualification_Standards_for_World_Cups_1-3_2026_27_Season_vF.pdf will be pre-qualified for:

- World Cups 1–3, unless this results in greater than 50% of quota pre-qualified (see tie-breaking rules in the Pre-Qualification Standard for World Cups 1-3 2026/27 Season)

Pre-Qualified Athletes (Pre-Season Selection Camp):
Any athlete who met the performance standards outlined in the Pre-Qualification Standards for Pre-Season Selection Camp 2026/27 Season (published Nov. '25 and found at https://assets.contentstack.io/v3/assets/blteb7d012fc7ebef7f/bltad740911679f98e3/69d3cf87267d5e466a79fd83/ICC_APPROVED_Pre-Qualification_Standards_for_On-Snow_Pre-Season_Selection_Camp_2026_27_Season_vF.pdf will be pre-qualified for:

- Pre-Season Selection Camp (~Nov. 9–22, 2026)

For non-prequalified athletes: The qualifying process begins with two roller ski competitions held in Soldier Hollow, Utah. Following those competitions, the Pre-Season Selection Camp and the IBU Cup Preparation Camp rosters will be filled via the criteria found in Section IV. Utah

Trials rankings shall exclude any athletes pre-qualified for WC 1-3 *and* any athlete pre-qualified for Pre-Season Selection Camp. A roster of six athletes per gender will be named for the Pre-Season Selection Camp in Europe. A roster of four men and two women will be named for the IBU Cup Preparation Camp in Lake Placid. The total of both camp rosters equates to the total number of quota for the World Cup and IBU Cup tours. The final World Cup roster spots in each gender, and the entire IBU Cup rosters will be selected at the conclusion of both camps. For specific details on the qualification process, please see the "Training Camp and Competition Selection Criteria" Section IV below.

Movement of athletes between World Cup and IBU Cup: In addition to roster changes outlined in the Selection Criteria below, all athletes, including prequalified athletes, should expect exchanges, if warranted, between the World Cup and IBU Cup team rosters throughout the season in accordance with Sections 2 and 4 of the Appendix. Accordingly, the National Team coaches will review athlete performance on both the WC and IBUC tours throughout the season and *may* make roster exchange requests to the ICC when appropriate. The review process will follow in accordance with those policies outlined in Sections 2 and 4 of Appendix . This Movement Clause can govern all transitions between the World Cup and IBU Cup circuits throughout the season, including the roster transition points identified in Section IV. No athlete named to a World Cup-tier roster shall be left without a qualification pathway to the corresponding IBU Cup-tier roster solely because that athlete's most recent roster was on the World Cup rather than the IBU Cup unless the ICC, in consultation with US Biathlon High Performance Staff, determines the athlete should not continue competing internationally at that time.

Provision for Discretionary Athlete Replacement: In certain circumstances, in accordance with the policies outlined in Section 3 of Appendix , the ICC may approve the temporary replacement of the lowest-ranked athlete on the IBU Cup team with a top-level World Cup athlete to optimize their competitive readiness in preparation for World Championships or the Olympics. This provision can only be undertaken in circumstances where the top athlete has a significant chance at World Championship or Olympic medals, and when their chances at winning the aforementioned medals would be materially improved by participation in certain IBU Cup or Open European Championship events. For further explanation and specific details of this provision, please see Section 3 of the Appendix.

Practical Note: *USBA will send a team to IBU Cup 3 but will also conduct a December IBU Cup Trials during the same week. As such, some IBU Cup 2 team members will EITHER qualify for IBUC 3 through their IBUC 1 and 2 results OR will need to compete in December IBU Cup trials in order to qualify for IBUC 4. Details on IBU Cup 3 selection criteria can be found in Section IV of this document.*

III. Trials Event Information

Utah Trials:
Two roller ski races will be held at Soldier Hollow, in Midway, Utah in October. Points list rankings will be calculated using the USBA percent-back system counting both races. Although

the races are open to all competitors, the point base for each race will include only American athletes and exclude athletes pre-qualified for the early season World Cups and/or Pre-Season Selection Camp. Athletes participating in the roller ski races for trials purposes agree to ski on matched roller skis, which will be provided by US Biathlon prior to the race.

Domestic On-Snow Trials:
All athletes not qualified for World Cup 3 or IBU Cup 3, may qualify for World Cups 4-6, IBU Cups 4-5, and/or Open European Championships (OECH) by competing at the Domestic On-Snow Trials, hereby referred to as "Domestic On-Snow Trials". The race series will consist of three races held during the week of December 14, 2026. The results of those trials will determine the remaining spots on the roster for the World Cup 4-6, IBU Cup 4-5, and OECH's.

Formats and dates for Trials races:

Utah Trials:
-Location: Soldier Hollow, UT
- Formats: 2 Sprint format races
- Dates: October 10 & 11, 2026

Domestic On-Snow Trials:
- Location: Craftsbury, VT
- Formats TBD: 3 races, at least 2 of them being Sprint formats
- Dates: 3 races taking place on the week of Dec. 14, 2026

IV. Training Camp and Competition Selection Criteria

Eligibility: *An athlete who qualifies for an IBU event or series but does not yet meet the applicable IBU point eligibility requirements will automatically be assigned to the highest-level IBU competition for which they are eligible unless otherwise noted. The ICC will then, at its discretion, determine whether and when the athlete would move to the higher competition level upon qualification. NOTE: The IBU eligibility requirements can be found in Section 7 of the Appendix.*

Note: If any athlete declines their position on any team, the ICC reserves the ***option*** *to name a replacement athlete by discretion (see Point 4 of the Appendix -* ***USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection)****.*

Note: In the event that trials are postponed or canceled due to weather conditions or other issues, the ICC will follow the contingency planning process outlined in Point 5 of the Appendix – ***Contingency Procedures for Trials Events****.*

Note: IBU Event names, numbers and dates are those available as of the publication of this document. Any changes made by IBU could result in changes to these procedures as determined by the US Biathlon ICC.

Pre-Season Selection Camp: Europe

Dates: Approx. Nov. 9-22, 2026
Team Size: 6 per gender

- Any athlete(s) meeting the pre qualification standard outlined in Pre-Qualification Standard for World Cups 1-3 2026/27 Season Criteria (published Nov. '25 and found at https://assets.contentstack.io/v3/assets/blteb7d012fc7ebef7f/blt1e85f1e0ae2ae851/69d3cfc911fa1ed935b5664b/ICC_APPROVED_Pre-Qualification_Standards_for_World_Cups_1-3_2026_27_Season_vF.pdf Any athlete(s) meeting the pre qualification standard outlined in Pre-Qualification Standards for Pre-Season Selection Camp 2026/27 Season (See https://assets.contentstack.io/v3/assets/blteb7d012fc7ebef7f/bltad740911679f98e3/69d3cf87267d5e466a79fd83/ICC_APPROVED_Pre-Qualification_Standards_for_On-Snow_Pre-Season_Selection_Camp_2026_27_Season_vF.pdf)
- The top ranked athlete(s) on the Utah Trials points list, will be named until a team size of one less than the total team size per gender is reached.
- 1 additional athlete per gender will be named by the ICC in consultation with US Biathlon High Performance Staff, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection.

IBU Cup Preparation Camp: Lake Placid, NY
Dates: This camp duration will be 1-2 weeks, taking place in the lead up to the IBU Cup season start. Exact dates TBD at time of publication.
Team Size: 4 men/2 women.
*NOTE: The combined roster total of the Pre-Season Selection Camp and the IBU Cup Preparation Camp is equal to the combined IBU quota total for WC and IBUC. The IBU quota for WC is 5 men/4 women. The IBU quota for IBUC is 5 men/4 women. This results in a total combined quota of 10 men and 8 women. 6 athletes per gender will attend Pre-Season Selection Camp. Therefore, 4 men and 2 women will qualify for the IBU Cup Preparation Camp.

- The top ranked athlete(s) on the Utah Trials points list, excluding those who have qualified for Pre-Season Selection Camp, will be named until a team size of one less than the total team size per gender is reached.
- 1 additional athlete per gender will be named by the ICC in consultation with US Biathlon High Performance Staff, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection.

WC 1-3: Kontiolahti, FIN/Hochfilzen, AUT/Le Grand Bornand, FRA
Dates: Nov. 23-Dec. 13, 2026
Team Size: The team size will match the IBU quota, which is 5 men/4 women.

- Any athlete(s) meeting the pre qualification standard outlined in Pre-Qualification Standard for World Cups 1-3 2026/27 Season Criteria (published Nov. '25 and found at https://assets.contentstack.io/v3/assets/blteb7d012fc7ebef7f/blt1e85f1e0ae2ae851/69d3cfc911fa1ed935b5664b/ICC_APPROVED_Pre-Qualification_Standards_for_World_Cups_1-3_2026_27_Season_vF.pdf
- Additional athletes will be named based on the combined %-back ranking taken from the two time trials, taking place at the Pre-Season Selection Camp until a team size of one less than the total per gender is reached.

- 1 additional athlete per gender will be named from the Pre-Season Selection Camp roster, by the ICC in consultation with US Biathlon High Performance Staff, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection during or at the conclusion of the Pre-Season Selection Camp.

IBUC 1-2: Idre, SWE/Sjusjoen, NOR
Dates: Nov. 23 – Dec. 6, 2026
Team Size: The team size will match the IBU quota, which is 5 men/4 women.

- Any athlete participating in the Pre-Season Selection Camp who is not selected to WC 1-3 will be named to the team.
- All athletes named to the IBU Cup Preparation Camp will be named to the team.

IBUC 3: Obertilliach, AUT
Dates: Dec. 14-20, 2026
Team Size: A maximum of one less than the IBU team quota may be named. This results in a maximum team size of 4 men and 3 women. There is no minimum team size.

- Any athlete from the most recent WC roster who has not qualified for the next WC-tour stage will be named.
- Athletes can qualify by one (1) top 100-IBU Qualifying Point (IBUQP) race in IBUC 1 or 2.
    - If the above bullet point results in a team size *greater* than the maximum team size in a given gender, athletes with the single best IBUC 1-2 IBUQP result will be selected until the maximum team size in that given gender is reached.
- If the above criterion results in a team size of ***fewer*** than the maximum team size in a given gender, additional athletes ***may*** be named by the ICC in consultation with US Biathlon staff, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection (see Appendix), as long as the stated maximum team size is in that gender is not exceeded.
- NOTE: Any athlete(s) from the IBUC 2 roster who does not qualify for IBUC 3 will have the opportunity to participate in Domestic On-Snow Trials.

WC 4-6:
Dates:
Team Size: The team size will match the IBU quota, which is 5 men/4 women.

- Any athlete ranked in the top-50 Overall World Cup Ranking at the end of WC 3 will qualify until a maximum team size of one less than the quota is reached.
- If more than two spots in a given gender's quota remain, the team will be filled to 2 less than than a given gender's quota via single best non-team WC result.
- Any remaining spots will be named by the ICC in consultation with US Biathlon High Performance Staff, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection until the maximum team size per gender is reached.

IBUC 4-5: Arber, GER/Goms, SUI
Dates: Jan. 4-16, 2027
Team Size: The team size will match the IBU quota, which is 5 men/4 women.

- Any athlete from the most recent WC roster who has not qualified for the next WC-tour stage will be named.
- All athletes who qualified for IBUC 3 will qualify unless they have been nominated to WC 4-6.
- Athletes will be named, by rank from Domestic On-Snow Trials until a team size one less than the IBU quota.
- 1 additional athlete from each gender will be named by the ICC in consultation with US Biathlon High Performance Staff, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection.

WC 7: Nove Mesto, CZE
Dates: Jan. 18-24, 2027
Team Size: The team size will match the IBU quota, which is 5 men/4 women.

- Any athlete ranked in the top-50 Overall World Cup Ranking at the end of WC 6 will qualify until a maximum team size of one less than the quota is reached.
- If more than two spots in a given gender's quota remain, the team will be filled to 2 less than than a given gender's quota via single best non-team WC result.
- Any remaining spots will be named by the ICC in consultation with US Biathlon High Performance Staff, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection until the maximum team size per gender is reached.

Open European Championships (OECH): Pokljuka, SLO
Dates: Jan. 25-31, 2027
Team Size: The team size will match the IBU quota, which is 6 women/ 6 men.

- Any athlete from the most recent WC roster who has not qualified for the next WC-tour stage will be named.
- All athletes from the IBUC 5 roster will be named.
- The next-ranked athlete from Domestic On-Snow Trials will be named until a team size of 5 per gender is reached.
- 1 additional athlete from each gender will be named by the ICC in consultation with US Biathlon High Performance Staff, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection. These athletes will be named at the conclusion of On-Snow Domestic Trials.

IBUC 6: Pokljuka, SLO
Dates: Feb. 2-7, 2027
Team Size: The team size will match the IBU quota, which is 5 men/4 women.

- Any athlete from the most recent WC roster who has not qualified for the next WC-tour stage will be named.
- Athletes will be named by single best IBUQP rank earned at the OECH's until a team size of one less than the IBU quota is reached.
- 1 additional athlete from each gender will be named by the ICC in consultation with US Biathlon High Performance Staff, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection.

- NOTE: Due to IBU-defined team quota size differences between OECH and IBUC 6, one or more athletes from the OECH roster will not be named to the IBUC 6 roster and therefore could only get international race starts at OECH but not at IBUC 6.

World Championships (WCH): Otepaa, EST
Dates: Feb 6-21, 2027
Team Size: The team size will exceed the IBU quota, which is 4 men/women, by 1 per gender. The resulting team size will therefore be 5 men/5 women.

- 2 athletes with the highest overall WC ranking following WC 3 (Le Grand Bornand, FRA) will be named.
    - If fewer than 2 athletes meet the above criterion, then all athletes with WC points will qualify, and the single-best non-team WC placing in the current season will be used until a team size of 2 athletes per gender is reached. Ties will be resolved by second best personal WC placing, then third-best ranking, and so-on, until the tie is resolved.
- 1 athlete with the highest overall WC ranking following WC 7 (Nove Mesto, CZE) will be named.
- If no athletes meet the above criterion, the single-best non-team WC placing in the current season will be used until a team size of 3 athletes per gender is reached. Ties will be resolved by second best personal WC placing, then third-best ranking, and so-on, until the tie is resolved.
- 2 athletes of each gender will be named by the ICC at the conclusion of or during WC 7, in consultation with US Biathlon staff, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection. NOTE: As a reminder, discretionary selection is not necessarily limited to the current World Cup roster. Therefore, this selection could come from the IBU Cup or domestic athlete pool.
- NOTE: In the event that the team size exceeds the number of starts quotas for a given race, the head coaches will decide which athletes race by evaluating the performance capabilities of each athlete at that time.

WC 8-10: Oberhof, GER/Ostersund, SWE/Oslo, NOR
Dates: Mar. 1-21, 2027
Team Size: The team size will match the IBU quota, which is 5 men/4 women.

- Up to 2 athletes per gender can qualify by one (1) top-20 non-team result in WCH's.
    - If more than 2 athletes per gender meet the above criteria, athletes will be named by best WCH non-team result until a team size of 2 per gender is reached.
    - If less than 2 athletes per gender qualify, athletes will be named by highest non-team result ranking at WCH until a team size of 2 per gender is reached.
- The third athlete will be named by the highest WC ranking of athletes not yet selected for the 26/27 World Cup Season.
- Any remaining spots will be named by the ICC in consultation with US Biathlon High Performance Staff, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection until the maximum team size per gender is reached.

IBUC 7: Ridnaun, ITA

Dates: Mar. 1-7, 2027
Team Size: The team size will match the IBU quota, which is 5 men/4 women.

- Athletes with the best (lowest) combined average IBUQP from the Sprint at OECH, Individual at OECH, and Sprint at IBUC 6 will be named in rank order until a team size of 2 less than the quota in a given gender is named.
- 2 additional athletes from each gender will be named by the ICC in consultation with US Biathlon High Performance Staff, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection.

IBUC 8: Martell, ITA
Dates: Mar. 8-14, 2027
Team Size: The team size will match the IBU quota, which is 5 men/4 women.

- Athletes with the best (lowest) combined average IBU Qualifying points from the Sprint and Short Individual in Ridnaun will be named in rank order until a team size of 2 less than the quota in a given gender is named.
- 2 additional athletes from each gender will be named by the ICC in consultation with US Biathlon High Performance Staff, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection.
- NOTE: The discretionary nominations will prioritize junior athletes with outstanding results at JWCH and athletes with outstanding ski speed from Ridnaun IBU Cup
- NOTE: Any athletes qualified for IBUC 7 but not IBUC 8 have the option to travel home or stay and be an alternate for Martell.
- NOTE: The Martell roster may be named earlier than the final races in Ridnaun due to logistics considerations.

Appendix

Policies & Rules

1. USBA Percent-Back System

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

Athlete's Percent-Back = 2 – (Athlete's time / 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%.

2. 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. Athletes achieving top performances on the IBU Cup may be moved up to the World Cup provided there are open start positions
2. Athletes placing outside the top-40 in non-team starts on the World Cup in two or more consecutive World Cup weeks may be brought down to the IBU Cup at any time or released from the World Cup Team.
3. Athletes who have been injured or sick for lengthy periods of time may be released from the team or brought to a different competition level.

In addition, IBU Cup athletes will be considered to fill open World Cup start positions when 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;

a) fielding a complete relay team, or,
b) filling an open spot vacated for any reason, or,
c) gathering further performance comparisons between two athletes that would allow for a more informed future team nomination. In this instance, a team size exceeding the start quota may be named.

3. Provision for Discretionary Athlete Replacement

A. Discretionary Replacement Authority

US Biathlon reserves the right to replace an athlete on the IBU Cup team roster with a top-ranked athlete from the World Cup team roster for one or more IBU Cup or Open European Championships competitions. This is to provide the top athlete with additional and critical preparation opportunities for the World Championships or the Olympics.

B. Conditions for Replacement

The following conditions must be met for a replacement to occur:

- The athlete to be replaced must be designated through ICC majority vote at the time of his or her team nomination, and notified of the *possibility* that they may be replaced and of which specific competitions would qualify for a replacement scenario. *NOTE: This notification does not mean the replacement will happen; it just informs that the replacement may happen and for what specific competitions.*
- The replacement decision must be made with the intent to enhance the preparation of the top athlete for the World Championships or Olympics.
- The top athlete must be deemed capable of winning an individual medal or contributing to a team medal at the World Championships or Olympics.
- The athlete being added to the IBU Cup competition must be a qualified member of the current season's World Cup and/or World Championships and/or Olympic team roster.

C. Notification Process

- The affected athlete and coaching staff shall be notified of a replacement at least seven days in advance of the intended competition(s) unless the team nomination occurs fewer than seven days prior to the competition. In that case, the affected athlete shall be notified at the time of nomination.
- The notification will include the rationale for the replacement and the expected duration of the absence from competition.

D. Duration of Replacement

- The top athlete may use the start spot for one or more competitions as determined necessary by the ICC.
- The specific races where replacement will take place will be specified in the initial notification.

E. Reinstatement

- The affected athlete will be reinstated to the IBU Cup team roster following the conclusion of the replacement period, and/or during the replacement period, in the event that another athlete is unable to race, or the replacement athlete does not race in a given race.
- Where appropriate, and at the discretion of the ICC, US Biathlon may compensate the replaced athlete for some or all out-of-pocket expenses incurred during a given trip in which they were prevented from racing due to a roster replacement.

4. <u>USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection</u>

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.

Therefore, it may be the case, that in certain circumstances an athlete may be named without having participated in a recent qualifying event (e.g. Trials series)

Note: This list is not in any order of priority:

- History of performance in a specific competition type (e.g., Relay or Individual) over the current and previous two competitive seasons

- Recent demonstration of exceptional performance parameters such as ski speed and shooting performance (both in training and competition), prioritizing ski speed over shooting performance.

- Performance/participation in the qualification process affected by illness or injury as confirmed by USBA-approved medical providers and/or a licensed physician.

- 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 leave vacated spots unfilled.

5. 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, or in the planned format, 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 ICC may undertake contingencies in order to nominate a team.

6. Non-Endorsed Participation in International Events

If any athlete desires to race at an International IBU event which has not been officially represented in the criteria, the athlete must petition the ICC and gain approval before being allowed to compete there.

7. IBU Performance Standards for Starting at the OWG, World Championships and World Cup

Quoted from the current IBU Event & Competition Rules at time of approval:

1.5.3.1 Olympic Winter Games (OWG) As the minimum qualification requirement to compete in OWG events, a competitor must have 180 IBU qualifying points or less at the end of the last trimester before the OWG, or fulfill one of the following criteria during the current or previous season:

a. Compete in two competitions, earning 150 IBU qualifying points or less at IBU Cup, OECH, WCH and/or WC in the Sprint or Individual, or
b. Two finishes in the top half at the JWCH (not Youth), or
c. One result from each of the criteria a. and b. above.

All members of Relay teams must also have met this individual qualification requirement.

1.5.3.2 World Championships (WCH)As the minimum qualification requirement to compete in WCH events a competitor must have 180 IBU qualifying points or less at the end of the last trimester before the WCH, or fulfill one of the following criteria during the current or previous season:

a. Compete in at least one competition earning 150 IBU qualifying points or less at an IBU Cup, OECH, WC or OWG in the Sprint or Individual, or
b. One finish in the top half at the JWCH (not Youth).

All members of Relay teams must also have met this individual qualification requirement.

1.5.3.3 World Cup (WC)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. As the minimum qualification requirement to compete in WC events, a competitor must have 150 IBU qualifying points or less at the end of the last trimester, or fulfill one of the following criteria:

a. Compete in at least one competition earning 125 IBU qualifying points or less at an IBU Cup, OECH, WCH or OWG in the Sprint or Individual during the current or preceding trimester; or
b. One finish in the top half at the most recent JWCH (not Youth).

All members of Relay teams must also have met this individual qualification requirement.

Table: Summary chart of current IBUQP qualification thresholds:

Competition	Points Threshold
World Championships	180 at the end of the trimester preceding the event in question OR One Competition Under 150 during the current or previous season
World Cup	150 at the end of the trimester preceding the event in question OR One Competition Under 125 during the current or proceeding trimester
Open European Championships	300 or less at the end of the trimester preceding the event in question
IBU Cup	300 or less at the end of the trimester preceding the event in question
Junior Cup and Junior World Championships	400 or less at the end of the trimester preceding the event in question
Regional Events	Open to all

8. <u>Athlete Co-Pay Policy</u>

US Biathlon will cover joint expenses of events as well as the individual travel expenses of athletes except as noted in the selection criteria above or stated in other documents provided to athletes contending for the team. For athletes who are selected to teams on a co-pay basis, US Biathlon has the following policies depending upon the nature of the event:

- For athletes who are bearing their own individual travel expenses, athletes may be billed for their prorated share of lodging, food, and transportation. Where possible, athletes may pay their shares directly to the vendor, in which case athletes should keep copies of all receipts. In many cases, athletes may be expected to book and pay upfront for their own air transportation. Participation grant money from the IBU for competitions where athletes only bear their own expenses will be used by US Biathlon to pay for joint expenses and organizational overhead, and not paid or shared with athletes.
- For athletes who are also required to share in the joint costs of staffing the event, the travel expenses, material costs, and any prorated contract labor payments of coaching and service support will be aggregated as the total joint cost, and then divided equally among athletes attending to pay. For such trips, participation grant money from the IBU will be split evenly among athletes to help them offset these joint costs.
- A separate scholarship fund, the Need-Based Athlete Support Fund, will be available to athletes that incur co-pay expenses for USBA trips. Scholarship funds will be disbursed to athletes to help defer some or all travel and co-pay costs. Funds will be disbursed according to the ICC's recommendation. In order to qualify, each athlete will be required to apply for specific funding periods and satisfy a set of specific criteria.

US Biathlon will provide estimates of co-pay expenses in advance for the events described in this document to help athletes budget accordingly.

9. <u>USBA International Competition Committee (ICC)</u>

ICC Members are:
Chair: Jay T. Kearney
Athlete Representative: Maddie Phaneuf
Athlete Representative: Russell Currier
USBA Staff Rep: Lowell Bailey - High Performance Director
Group E Rep: Drew Gelinas - National Guard Head Coach
Group B Rep: Tim Burke - Dir. Athlete Development