



2025 National Development Group Selection Criteria

The purpose of the National Development Group is to foster effective training environments and coaching relationships that support the continued development of talented biathletes who have not qualified for the National Team. Regional and club coaches will work closely with the National Team Head Coach to understand the National Team training plan and apply the principles to the National Development Group athletes they work with.

Team members will have the possibility to train alongside National Team athletes, on a case by case basis, as determined by National Team staff, as well as opportunities to train with the National X team from time to time.

Qualification Criteria:

- Any athlete who has raced in the World Cup during the 24/25 season that did not qualify for the National Team.
- Top half of finish in any non-team IBU Cup or OECH race. This will be calculated from race finishers, not race starters, and will be rounded down when necessary. For example, if there are 81 finishers in a race, a top 40 result will qualify.
- Any athlete with a top-30 course time on the IBU Cup, unless the field has lower than 60 finishers. If the field is lower than 60, then top half of the field course time will be the qualifying criterion.
- Recommendation of coaching staff with ICC consideration and approval based upon significant national and/or international results applying the USBA Principles of Discretion (see Appendix A below). Particular consideration given to athletes showing future potential of internationally competitive ski speed.
- Any athlete who has met the objective qualification for Junior National Team but is no longer eligible due to age.

Services and Benefits (subject to change pending review in Spring '25):

- Access to National Team training plan
- Opportunities to train in group sessions with National Team and X Team athletes
- 1-2 training camps per training season
- 2-3 training consultations with National Team coaches
- Team clothing if available
- Other benefits as available

Note: The Sr. Development Group roster may be filled with athletes over the course of the training year, not just at the beginning of it.

Appendix A:

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

1. History of performance in a specific competition type (e.g., Relay or Individual) over the current and previous two competitive seasons.
2. Recent improvements in results or performance parameters such as ski speed and shooting performance (both in training and competition), prioritizing ski speed over shooting performance.
3. Recent positive trend of competition results or performance parameters, such as ski speed and shooting, prioritizing ski speed over shooting performance, 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. Performance/participation in the qualification process affected by illness or injury as confirmed by USBA.
5. 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.