



US Biathlon Association

ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES

2024 Youth Olympic Games

May 2023

Overview

The following selection criteria specify how athletes qualify to represent the U.S. at the 2024 Youth Olympic Games held January 14th-25th in Gangwon, South Korea.

Team selections are proposed by the US Biathlon High Performance Staff and approved by the International Competition Committee (ICC) through the following process (Also, see Appendix, Section 5):

- 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.*

Different methods for qualifying for this team include:

- (1) competitive results at the trials races to be held Dec 28 - 31 in Mt. Itasca, Minnesota*
- (2) discretionary selection*

Age Requirement- To be eligible to participate in the Winter Youth Olympic Games Gangwon 2024, athletes must have been born between 1 January 2006 and 31 December 2007.

YOG Team Trials Qualification

Trials Event Information

General: The Youth Olympic Games Trials will be held in coordination with the Youth and Junior World Championship Trials. These trials will take place from December 28-31 in Mt. Itasca, Minnesota.

Standardized Waxing Procedures: All athletes trying out for YOG must race in the Youth class and must adhere to the US Biathlon Standardized Waxing Protocol, which is available on the US Biathlon website.

Formats: all youth and junior class competitors will race the same distances at the Team Trials:

| Trials Competition Program | Sprint | Pursuit Format | Sprint |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| | | Dec 28 | Dec 29 |
| Junior & Youth Men | 10 km | 10 km | 7.5 km |
| Junior & Youth Women | 7.5 km | 10 km | 6 km |

Point lists will be calculated off of the best 2 of 3 results for each athlete using the USBA percent-back system. The point base will include only American athletes and only athletes trying out for the Youth Olympic Games.

YOG Selection Criteria

Youth Olympic Games 2024 - Gangwon, South Korea (January 14 – January 25, 2024)

Athletes must have been born between 1 January 2006 and 31 December 2007.

Team size: up to 3 athletes per gender

- The top two athletes, based on the best 2 of 3 races, on the YOG list from Team Trials will be selected for each gender.
- Additional athletes may be selected up to the maximum team size by the ICC in consultation with US Biathlon staff in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection.

- The YOG team will be announced within 24 hours of the last race at Trials unless the ICC needs additional time. Eligible athletes will be asked to confirm their intent to participate in the YOG before Team Trials.

Appendix: Policies & Rules

1. 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, net times will be used to calculate percent-back scores. Net time is the finish time minus the start time.

2. 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)
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. Performance/participation in the qualification process effected 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.

3. Contingency Procedures for Trials Events

In the event that weather conditions or other issues prevent a trials series or other races listed herein 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 or fewer 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.

4. Cost

- All Athletes will be provided with a \$2,500 travel stipend
- There will be **no** charge for lodging/meals
- Athletes **may** be asked to pay a **maximum** co-pay of \$700 to offset some team expenses such as a ski technician, wax, ammunition, coaching, etc.

5. USBA International Competition Committee (ICC)

Quoted from US Biathlon By-Laws; Sept. 2010:

Section 9. International Competition Committee

a) With approval by the Board of Directors, the International Competition Committee shall consist of five (5) members, selected as follows:

- i) one (1) individual who shall be appointed from the Board of Directors and will serve as Chair;
- ii) one (1) individual who meets the definition of “athlete representative” set forth in USOC By-law Section 8.8.2 selected by the three (3) athlete representatives on the USBA Board of Directors;
- iii) three (3) individuals appointed by the Chair, one each from among the Group “B” membership category, the Group “E” membership category, and the USBA Coaching Staff.

b) The International Competition Committee shall meet as required, in person or by telephone conference for specific issues, and shall be responsible for providing recommendations to the Board of Directors for approval of:

- i) team selection criteria for domestic and international events and activities, to include all levels of international participation;
- ii) confirmation of team selection criteria outcomes;
- iii) proposals on issues of USBA National Team selections and levels of individual support as provided by USBA budgetary actions;
- iv) guidance concerning potential disciplinary actions for noncompliance of team directives and/or violations of USBA Athlete Code of Conduct; and
- v) formulating the developmental and competitive strategies designed to meet the goals of the USBA High Performance Plan.

ICC Members are:

Chair: Jay T. Kearney

USOPC Athletes’ Advisory Council Athlete Rep: Kelly Kjorlien

USBA Athlete Representative: Max Durtschi

USBA Director of High Performance: Lowell Bailey

National Guard Biathlon Coach: Drew Gelinias

USBA Director of Athlete Development: Tim Burke