

2026-2027 Luge Stipend Criteria

Luge Stipend Policy

(This policy funded by the USOPC and is subject to annual USOPC approval and modifications. Stipends and Elite Athlete Health Insurance (EAHI) are reviewed annually by the US Olympic & Paralympic Committee. The amounts reflected in these criteria are what will be requested from the USOPC based on each level of performance achievement. If the funding allocation is not what is requested, USA Luge will re-allocate the available funds in a way that is proportional to the guidelines provided below (for example, if USA Luge receives 25% less funding than what was requested, all stipends will be reduced by 25%).)

This policy is in effect from July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027.

1. **Intent:** The intent of this policy is to define criteria by which an athlete can earn a stipend through achieving a certain international race result standard.
2. **Athlete Stipend Description:**
 - 2.1. The Athlete Stipend amount is based only on the highest criteria achieved by the most recent season's conclusion or, in the case of Olympic Medalists, the most recent Olympic Games. Athletes may only receive one level of stipend, either one Olympic medalist level stipend or one National Team level stipend or one Junior World Championships medalist level stipend.
 - 2.1.1. Olympic Medalist level stipend = \$3000 a month
 - 2.1.2. National Team level stipend
 - 2.1.2.1. "A" level stipend = \$2266 a month
 - 2.1.2.2. "B" level stipend = \$1100 a month
 - 2.1.3. Junior World Championships medalist level stipend
 - 2.1.3.1. Junior World Championships medalist level stipend = one-time payment of \$2000 for the year. Only the disciplines of junior men's singles, junior women's singles, junior men's doubles and junior women's doubles are eligible for this award.
 - 2.2. Stipend allocations are determined each spring at the end of the luge competitive season for the next stipend payment cycle. Each year, the stipend payment cycle begins July 1 and continues for one year.
 - 2.3. In an Olympic year, the total of monthly stipends awarded to each athlete for twelve months will be prorated so that the stipend is completely paid to the athlete by the end of February of the Olympic season. This point is true for all athletes earning a stipend; it is not dependent on the athlete's selection to the Olympic team.

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3. ***Athlete Stipend***

- 3.1. The athlete must be committed to a program of preparation with the intent of qualifying for and competing for the USA in the next Olympic Games.
- 3.2. An athlete winning an Olympic medal in the most recent Olympic games qualifies for a stipend at the amount previously noted for the medal won.
- 3.3. Olympic medalists will continue to receive an Olympic medalist level stipend throughout the four years of the quad provided they maintain status as a Team USA athlete.
- 3.4. Athletes that have qualified for a stipend will continue to receive the stipend only if they remain on the national team through the determined stipend payment cycle.
- 3.5. If an athlete's team status is revoked, then the athlete will stop receiving the Stipend and EAHF benefits.

4. ***"A" Status Stipend*** – Athletes achieve the criteria for a "A" level stipend, if:

- 4.1. Team Relay Criteria: In the previous season, the athlete(s) earned a World Championship Team Relay medal or two World Cup Team Relay medals.
- 4.2. Singles and Doubles Discipline Criteria: In the previous two seasons, the athlete(s) earned a World Cup or World Championship medal.

5. ***"B" Status Stipend*** – Athletes achieve the criteria for a "B" level stipend, if, in the previous year, they:

- 5.1. Competed on the Olympic Team in the most recent season.
- 5.2. Or they in their discipline (not including Team Relay) achieved two results that are 50% of the field or better in World Cup competition contested before the World Championships or Olympic Games. The World Cup field is defined as all athletes that qualified to compete in the World Cup competition; it does not include Nation's Cup athletes that did not qualify for the World Cup.

6. ***Junior World Championship Medalist One-time Stipend*** – Athletes/doubles teams achieve the criteria for a Junior World Championship Medalist stipend, if they:

- 6.1. Won an individual discipline (Jr Men's Singles, Jr Women's Singles, Jr Men's Doubles, and Jr Women's Doubles) Junior World Championships medal in the previous season.

7. ***Exceptional Circumstance Clause*** – An athlete may be eligible, subject to USOPC approval, to continue a certain stipend level from the previous season in an Exceptional Circumstance, if, in the current year, they will lose this benefit and if they are a potential medal winning athlete in the next or future Olympic games.