

# 2025-2026 USABS Bobsled Selection Criteria

Updates from 2024-25 season are highlighted in **yellow**.

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## Goal and guiding principles of the athlete selection criteria for bobsled

It is the goal of these criteria to ensure USA Bobsled/Skeleton (USABS) fields the most competitive bobsled teams in the pursuit of Olympic Games, IBSF World Championships, and IBSF World Cup medals. In keeping with this goal, USABS will work to select the most competitive athletes to represent the U.S. at the 2026 Milan-Cortina Olympic Games as well as prepare for future Olympic Games. Therefore, an emphasis will be placed on both optimizing the success of the current teams and development for future Olympic Games, IBSF World Championship, and IBSF World Cup success.

The Bobsled Selection Committee and the coaching staff will use the following criteria and supporting documents for selecting athletes to represent USABS in International Bobsleigh and Skeleton Federation (IBSF) competitions.

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## 1. Athlete Participant Eligibility

To participate in a USABS program, an athlete must meet the following requirements:

- a) be a USABS Athlete Member in good standing at all times during the program.
- b) abide by the USADA, the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), and IBSF anti-doping requirements and not be declared ineligible by any of these organizations during the length of the program.
- c) meet all United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC), IBSF, and USABS eligibility requirements for representing the USA in international competition.
- d) complete, sign, and return the USABS physical/waiver, U.S. Center for SafeSport training, background check, and Athlete Handbook prior to participation in any USABS event.

## 2. World Cup Team Eligibility

In addition to the Athlete Participant Eligibility requirements (Section 1), an athlete must meet the following requirements to be considered for any IBSF World Cup or IBSF World Championships event.

- a) All returning athletes (push athletes & pilots) from the previous season or earlier are required to compete in the Push Championships unless excused pursuant to a medical or extreme circumstances waiver approved by the Waiver Committee. First-year athletes may be exempted from this requirement and be invited to participate in their first year. The location, date, and format of the competition will be announced at least 30 days prior to the event.
- b) Pilots must participate in Selection Races unless exempt by reason of a bye approved by the Bobsled Selection Committee and/or by reason of a medical or extreme circumstances

waiver approved by the Waiver Committee. Pilots who have not yet met the IBSF “5-3-2” rule (IBSF rule 4.5.3) prior to Selection Races but do become eligible after the start of the season may be considered for IBSF World Cup selection during the mid-season review or IBSF World Championships review by the Bobsled Selection Committee.

- c) All athletes must complete a 30-meter sprint and a vertical jump test prior to the completion of the Selection Races unless excused pursuant to a medical or extreme circumstances waiver approved by the Waiver Committee. These tests must be completed with a USABS coach or approved personnel present on pre-approved dates. At least one testing date/opportunity will be scheduled with Push Championships and one during the week of Selection Races. The 30-meter and vertical jump results will be considered as part of discretionary athlete selection.

### 3. World Cup Team Selection

The *USA World Cup Team* is defined as athletes officially named to the team by the Team Selection Committee to race in IBSF World Cup (WC) events. The number of pilots named to the World Cup Team will coincide with the number of quota spots earned by the team during the previous season as determined by the IBSF. The Team Selection Committee will then name the corresponding number of push athletes indicated on Table 1 and Table 2.

Men:

WC Quota Spots	Pilot(s)	Push Athletes	Total
1	1	4	5
2	2	8	10
3	3	11	14

Table 1

Women:

WC Quota Spots	Pilot(s)	Push Athletes	Total
1	1	2	3
2	2	4	6
3	3	5	8
4*	4	6	10

Table 2

#### a) Pilots

- i) Each USA World Cup race entry will be determined by the Bobsled Selection Committee with input and consultation from other USABS bobsled coaches and relevant personnel.

- ii) Pilots not named to the USA World Cup Team will not be eligible to compete in a IBSF World Cup race except in extreme circumstances as determined by the Bobsled Selection Committee.
- iii) A pilot can earn a bye to the first half IBSF World Cup Team in both disciplines and will be funded through Selection Races until the first review period. A pilot can earn a bye by achieving a top-four (4) finish at the previous season's IBSF World Championships or Olympic Games with a maximum of one bye per discipline. If more than one pilot achieves the above result, the highest-ranking pilot from the event earns the bye. If USA has more than two quota spots and two pilots meet the bye criteria, the second pilot will also receive a bye. Team competition results will not count toward a bye. No more than two total byes will be awarded.

In all cases, a pilot with a bye is still expected to compete in the Selection Races unless otherwise agreed upon by the Head Coach and Bobsled Selection Committee. The Head Coach will name the push athlete(s) to race at Selection Races with the pilot according to the discretionary selection criteria outlined in Section 3.b.. Those push athlete(s) are not given a bye to the USA World Cup Team and must be named to the team via Section 3.b. A pilot who has earned a bye must maintain their preparation and training commitment.

- iv) In accordance with IBSF Rule 4.5, if a female pilot misses one season due to maternity leave as defined by the IBSF Maternity Leave policy, this pilot will keep her quota spot in the respective race series when coming back after one season. Because this quota place is assigned to the single female pilot's name, it cannot be transferred to another pilot and will be in addition to the quota spot(s) assigned to the National Federation. If this additional quota spot increases to the total number of quota spots to 4 or more, one additional push athlete per additional pilot will be selected to the USA World Cup Team pool (not specific to the pilot). If, upon returning to competing, the pilot qualifies for the USA World Cup Team by 3.a.iv.a-e., the additional maternity leave quota spot will not be used for the season.
- v) IBSF World Cup Race Entries
  - a) If a bye has been awarded, the first race entry position will be filled with the pilot who has earned a bye.
  - b) If three quota spots are available and a second bye has been awarded, the second race entry position will be filled with the second pilot who has earned the bye.
  - ~~c) After the appropriate byes (if any) have been awarded, the next race entry position will be the top finisher from the 2025-2026 Selection Races.~~
  - c) If race entry positions remain, one position will be reserved for a pilot selected at the discretion of the Bobsled Selection Committee. The Bobsled Selection Committee will consider the following factors for the discretionary selection (in no

particular order).

- i. **Final rank Comparative results** from the 2025-26 Selection Races.
- ii. Development needs of USABS and development potential of pilots. For WC races, pilots must be in at least Development Phase 2 of the Bobsled Athlete Progression Pathway (Appendix 2) for consideration for discretionary selection. In extreme circumstances, Development Phase 1 pilots can be considered. **Development potential includes consideration of the following (in no particular order, and a candidate need not meet all of these requirements to be considered):**
  - (a) Individual pushing ability
  - (b) 30m and vertical jump
  - (c) Driving aptitude
  - (d) **Demonstrated potential to become a future Olympic or World Championship medal contender.**
- iii) Performance needs of the USABS program for pilots in Phase 1 or Phase 2 of the National Team of the USABS Bobsled Athlete Progression Pathway (Appendix 2). **Performance needs include the following (in no particular order):**
  - (a) **Points needed to secure World Championship or Olympic quota spots for USA**
  - (b) **Points needed for individual pilots not having a full season of 8 races due to unforeseen circumstances**
  - (c) **Race experience for pilots and/or push athletes**
- iv. Athletes that have been granted a Medical Waiver or Extreme Circumstances Waiver by the Waiver Committee and are eligible and able to compete.
- d) Any remaining race entry positions will then be filled with the next highest ranked pilot from the 2025-2026 Selection Races combined ranking. The Bobsled Selection Committee may determine that an exception could be made if a pilot finished higher in one discipline than the pilot that finished higher in the combined rankings at the Selection Races.
- e) **USABS is not obligated to fill quota spots vacated by a selected pilot with lower ranked pilots not initially selected to the World Cup Team.**
- f) If a female pilot is the highest-ranked four-man pilot from the Selection Races (after race entry one and two are filled), she will earn 4-man race entry three provided she has also qualified for the women's World Cup team.
- g) Athletes granted a Maternity Leave Clause according to IBSF rule 4.5 will be named to the specific race entry granted by the IBS only if they did not qualify for a race entry by 3.a.iv.a-e.

Number of Byes	ZERO			ONE			TWO		
	Earned Quota Spots	1	2	3	1	2	3	2	3
Selection 1	<i>Selection Races</i>	<i>Selection Races</i>	<i>Selection Races</i>	<i>Selection Races</i>	<i>Bye</i>	<i>Bye</i>	<i>Bye</i>	<i>Bye</i>	<i>Bye</i>
Selection 2	-	<i>Selection Committee Discretion</i>	<i>Selection Races</i>	-	<i>Selection Committee Discretion</i>	<i>Selection Races</i>	<i>Selection Committee Discretion</i>	<i>Bye</i>	<i>Bye</i>
Selection 3	-	-	<i>Selection Committee Discretion</i>	-	-	<i>Selection Committee Discretion</i>	-	<i>Selection Committee Discretion</i>	<i>Selection Committee Discretion</i>

Table 3

vi) Mid-Season and IBSF World Championships Review.

The dates for a mid-season review will be declared prior to the season as the most convenient time for changes to the USA World Cup Team. This review period will most likely coincide with IBSF travel breaks and continental changes in the IBSF World Cup circuit.

At the time of the mid-season review in the IBSF World Cup schedule, female pilots who have an overall top 4 ranking in the IBSF World Cup combined rankings and male pilots who have an overall top 6 ranking in the IBSF World Cup combined rankings guarantees their position on the USA World Cup Team for second half of the season. If an athlete is ranked below the standard, the Bobsled Selection Committee may replace the pilot from the USA World Cup Team with the highest ranked pilot from a development racing circuit provided that the development circuit pilot is in, at minimum, Phase 1 of Development in the Bobsled Athlete Progression Pathway (Appendix 2) at the time of the mid-season review using the discretionary points outline in Section 3.a.iv.d. Note that the number of IBSF World Cup races at the time of the mid-season review will determine the number of races used for ranking comparison in alignment with the posted IBSF rankings.

For IBSF World Championship pilot selection, one quota spot in each discipline will be reserved for selection by the Bobsled Selection Committee based on discretionary factors outlined in Section 3.a.iv.d. All other quota spots will be filled with the highest-ranking pilots from the IBSF ranking list in each discipline at the time of the IBSF earned quota spots announcement.

vii) **Due to safety concerns, USABS requires a coach, approved by the Director of Sport Performance and the Bobsled Head Coach, to be present anytime an athlete is training or racing on a track for an IBSF World Cup event. A coach has the authority to deny race entry if he or she feels an athlete has failed to demonstrate the ability to safely navigate the track.**

## b) Push Athletes

The Bobsled Selection Committee will name the number of push athletes to the USA World Cup Team according to Table 1 and Table 2 in Section 3. Subsequently, USABS coaches will determine the IBSF World Cup race pairings/teams of IBSF World Cup pilots and push athletes for each IBSF World Cup race. This includes pairings/teams for IBSF World Cup pilots racing in IBSF Europe Cup (EC) or IBSF North America Cup (NAC) races. Non-WC push athletes are eligible to compete in EC and NAC races with WC pilots. In addition to the points listed in 3.b.i-ii, coaches may use the following in-season data to determine push athlete entries and combinations (in no particular order):

- In-season testing with established protocol and a notice of not less than 1 week.
- Individual Ice House push testing.
- Combination Ice House push testing.

i) For the first half of the IBSF World Cup racing circuit, selection will be made with highest emphasis on:

- Push Championships combination results (time and velocity)
- Push Championships individual results (time and velocity)
- Team results at the most recent Selection Races with focus on both the start performance and finish results.

Second, the Bobsled Selection Committee will also consider:

- Pre-season 30-meter sprint and vertical jump results
- Size and weight of the push athlete with respect to other World Cup push athletes and pilots.

Other criteria to consider:

- Athlete input (Appendix 4, collected in written form by Bobsled Selection Committee athlete representatives prior to the Bobsled Selection Committee meeting)
- Proven international experience with history/results of team combinations emphasizing top 6 start times and finishes within the past 4 years
- Upward/downward trend of push times, start rank, and velocity at the start in IBSF and USABS sanctioned events

ii) For the mid-season review of the IBSF World Cup racing circuit and the IBSF World Championships/Olympic Games selection, selection will be made with highest emphasis on:

- Upward/downward trend of push times, start rank, and velocity at the start in IBSF and USABS sanctioned events
- Current season results

Second, the Team Selection Committee will also consider:

- Proven international experience with history/results of team combinations emphasizing top 6 start times and finishes within the past 4 years

- Push Championships combination results (time and velocity)
- Push Championships individual results (time and velocity)
- Team results at the most recent Selection Races with focus on both the start performance and finish results.
- Size and weight of the push athlete

Other criteria to consider:

- Pre-season 30-meter sprint and vertical jump results
- Athlete input (Appendix 4, collected in written form by Team Selection Committee athlete representatives prior to the Team Selection Committee meeting)

## 4. Other Selection Events

### a) 30-meter Sprint and Vertical Jump Tests

- i) The 30m sprint and a vertical jump test must be completed prior to the completion of the Selection Races to be used for discretionary athlete selection (Section 3.b) unless excused pursuant to a medical or extreme circumstances waiver approved by the Waiver Committee. These tests must be done with a USABS coach or approved personnel present on pre-approved dates.
- ii) At least one testing date/opportunity will be scheduled with Push Championships and one during the Selection Races. The 30m sprint will be conducted with a 1m start box from a static stance. The vertical jump will be measured using force plates or Vertec device.

### b) Push Championships

- i) Push Championships will include both individual and combination pushes. The dates and locations will be announced at least 30 days prior to the competition. Competition format including number of pushes, distance, and push positions will be determined by coaches prior to the competition. Both time and velocity will be collected whenever possible.
- ii) Athletes may *not* substitute the individual push at push championships with an individual push prior to the official Push Championships. Individual pushes at USABS Performance Camps or at any Ice House practice sessions are only potential opportunities to meet Push Standards set within the Bobsled Athlete Progression Pathway (Appendix 2).
- iii) The following athletes will be invited to Push Championships.
  - (a) All athletes named to the 2024-25 World Cup Team at anytime during the season.
  - (b) Athletes who raced in EC, NAC, or Jr. World Championships from the previous season who have pushed a 'C' Standard\*\* in the Ice House during the off-season after June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 and prior to the week of Push Championships.
  - (c) Additional athletes who have pushed a 'B' Standard\*\* in the Ice House during the off-season after June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 and prior to the week of Push Championships.



(d) The top performers selected by the coaching staff from 2025 Rookie Push Camps.

\*\* Push Standards are listed in the Bobsled Athlete Progression Pathway (Appendix 2). The push must have been witnessed by a USABS coach and meet all Push Championships protocols including sled weight and start block. At least one opportunity to meet these standards will be offered during the week preceding the Push Championships.

### c) Selection Races

#### i) Qualifying for Selection Races

Selection Races will be used to determine IBSF World Cup, IBSF Europe Cup, and IBSF North America Cup pilot selection.

The following pilots will be invited to participate in the Selection Races:

- (a) Pilots who competed in the previous season's Olympic Games or World Championships will be invited.
- (b) Up to the next six (6) highest ranked pilots on the previous season's IBSF overall ranking list that have raced in an IBSF World Cup, IBSF Europe Cup, or IBSF North America Cup race during the previous season will be invited.

If one of the qualified pilots from (a) or (b) retires following the previous season or declares they will not participate in Selection Races prior to official training for the race, the next highest ranked pilot on the previous season's IBSF overall ranking list will be invited provided that the athlete is in, at minimum, Recruitment Phase 2 of the Bobsled Athlete Progression Pathway (Appendix 2).

(c) The top-two finishing pilots from any discipline in the 2025 National Championships race will be invited. If the 2025 National Championships are held in simultaneously with part of the 2025-26 Selection Races, all participants' results will count toward the National Championships rankings including pilots entered in Selection Races.

If a pilot who is not racing in Selection Races places in the top two of National Championships in any discipline, the results of all their races will count retroactively for both qualification and points toward the Selection Race total. All other pilots' points and results in the Selection Races will be adjusted accordingly.

(d) Additional pilots, identified by the Bobsled Head Coach and the Director of Sport Performance, may be invited. These athletes must be, at minimum, in Phase 2 of Recruitment as described in the BAPP (Appendix 2) and must be able to safely complete runs down the track and meet all requirements outlined in Section 1.

(e) The Bobsled Head Coach and the Director of Sport Performance may disallow a pilot from competing if they are not able to safely complete runs down the track.

ii) Selection Race Format

Selection Races will be held prior to the start of the IBSF World Cup season if possible. These races will provide results for the pilot ranking for the IBSF World Cup, IBSF Europe Cup, and IBSF North America Cup Team selection. At the conclusion of the Selection Races, pilots will be ranked within USABS by combining points from all races in all disciplines using the IBSF scoring system (Appendix 1). Failure to finish with a time in at least one Selection Race will result in the pilot not being ranked.

- (a) The Selection Races will consist of a minimum of two races (combination of disciplines) with a maximum of four races.
- (b) The 2025-2026 Selection Races will take place in Lake Placid, New York and/or Park City, Utah.
- (c) The Selection Races will consist of both monobob and 2-woman races for women and 2-man and 4-man races for men. At least one race of each discipline will be held.
- (d) Women may also participate in the 4-man discipline, but points earned in the 4-man race(s) will not count toward the women's IBSF World Cup, IBSF Europe Cup, or IBSF North America Cup selection.
- (e) Proposed dates for the 2025-2026 Selection Races (1-3 races per discipline, 2-6 races total), subject to change:

Spring Selection Races

Location: Lake Placid, NY

March 17-19 – Official Training

March 20 & 21 - Selection Races (2 races)

Fall Selection Races

Location: TBD

TBD – Official Training

TBD - Selection Races (2 races)

iii) Selection Race Protocol

- (a) Pilot/athlete ranking prior to the Selection Races will be according to the following ordered criteria:
  - 1) Previous season IBSF World Championships or Olympic Games
  - 2) Previous season IBSF rank
  - 3) Current phase in the Bobsled Athlete Progression Pathway (Appendix 2)
  - 4) Results from individual Push Championships
  - 5) Any other pilots who have qualified or have been invited to compete in Selection Races but are not included in groups 1) – 4) above will be ranked after group 4)

according to a random draw.

- (b) The total number of races will be dependent on track time, weather, and other external factors, and the official race protocol will be announced as soon as reasonably possible prior to the races.
- (c) A race jury will be comprised of IBSF certified officials, when possible, and will conduct the race as an IBSF sanctioned event.
- (d) Up to 6 official training runs will be offered to each eligible pilot over 2-3 days on each track prior to the race(s). Pilots must safely complete at least two runs of each discipline on each track to be eligible for a race per IBSF rule 10.1.e as determined by the Bobsled Head Coach along with present USABS development coaches.
- (e) Each race will be two heats, but in extreme cases, a race may be reduced to one heat as determined by the jury per IBSF rule 10.6.1.

*Race Heats.* “A reduction in the number of heats is possible in cases of force majeure. At least one race heat must be conducted for the race to be officially valid.”

- (f) The Bobsled Head Coach, along with the Director of Sport Performance, may determine a third heat will be allowed in a race to a team/pilot that experiences an unforeseen irregular situation such as an athlete failing to load into the sled. There will be a maximum of one (1) third heat allowed per team/pilot per track. If the Selection Races take place on only one track, then each pilot is allowed a maximum of one (1) third heat. The third heat, if taken, will replace the heat in which the irregular circumstance took place, regardless of the third heat time. The race jury must verify the unforeseen circumstance prior to awarding a third heat.
- (g) In extreme circumstances a rerun of a heat may be granted by the race jury per IBSF rule 10.6.11.

*Repetition of a Heat.* “After a malfunction not caused by the athlete, the heat may be repeated for the athlete with the authorization of the jury. The run may be repeated as soon as the athlete is ready to start.”

- (h) Pilots will be ranked by combined points from all Selection Races utilizing the IBSF World Cup Point System in Appendix A. If a tie in points exists at the end of the Selection Races, ties will be broken by the best single finish by rank in a Selection Race in any discipline followed by a head-to-head comparison of the tied pilots of the most recent untied Selection Race, comparing the last heat of the most recently completed Selection race. If a tie still exists, the fastest time of the first heat of the most recent completed Selection race will determine the winner. If a tie continues to exist, a comparison of the most recent non-identical time heat of the Selection Races will determine the winner.
- (i) Only IBSF runners will be allowed in all Selection Races. Runner check may be enforced by the race jury.

- (j) Sled inspection may be conducted at the conclusion of each race as requested by the race jury.
- (k) Athletes racing in the Selection Races should be prepared for all weather and track conditions. The IBSF bobsled rule book will be used in cases of damaged runners, timing issues and any other issue that may arise. The Selection Races jury will be the deciding body for all issues and will abide by the IBSF rule book to manage decisions.
- (l) Clause for extreme circumstances. Every effort will be made to conduct a fair Selection Race series. If weather, track conditions, or other extreme unforeseen circumstances prohibit a complete Selection race series from taking place, World Cup Team athletes will be ranked based on previous season IBSF ranking.
- (m) The Bobsled Head Coach and medical personnel can limit an athlete's participation due to safety concerns and experience level.
- (n) Pilot/Push Athlete Combinations at the Selection Races.
  - 1) Prior to the Selection Races, the head coach will select push athletes for the pilots with a bye that are pre-selected to the World Cup Team prior to the Selection Races using the push athlete criteria (Section 3.b.). These push athletes will be named prior to official sliding.
  - 2) The remaining pilots will declare their teams/push athletes prior to the team captains' meeting of each Selection Race. All push athletes must be eligible to race in **World Cup IBSF** competitions for the U.S. unless approved by Director of Sport Performance and bobsled Head Coach.
- (o) Ties within a race will be broken with the single fastest heat. If a tie remains, the most recent single heat will break the tie. The men's bobsled pilots will be ranked by combining points earned in both two-man and four-man competitions. The women's 2-woman /monobob pilots will be ranked by combining points earned in both 2-woman/monobob competitions.
- (p) USABS owned equipment (i.e. sleds and runners) may be allocated or rented for Selection Races to pilots according to the BAPP. Equipment allocation priority will align with the Bobsled Athlete Progression Pathway (Appendix 2).

## 5. Development Team Selection

### IBSF Europe Cup and IBSF Jr. World Championships

All pilots must be, at minimum, Development Phase 1 in the Bobsled Athlete Progression Pathway (Appendix 2) to be eligible to compete in an IBSF Europe Cup (EC) event. Exceptions may be made with approval from the Bobsled Head Coach and Director of Sport Performance. **USABS is not obligated to fill all discretionary quota spots. Quota spots may remain vacant if the Bobsled Head Coach and Director of Sport Performance feel that a considered pilot would not safely perform on the Europe Cup circuit or if adequate coaching, sled maintenance, sports med, and other support cannot be provided.**

- a) Two of the 4 race entries will be designated to the next two highest ranked pilots from 2025-26 Selection Races who were not selected to the USA World Cup Team. These are the same pilots that will be designated to the IBSF North America Cup quota spots in 5.d. If, during the season, a change is made to the World Cup Team, the IBSF Europe Cup entries will adjust accordingly with the two highest ranked pilots from Selection Races not selected to the World Cup Team.
- b) Any unfilled race entries may be filled with pilots selected by the Bobsled Selection Committee with input from the Development Coaches. The Bobsled Selection Committee will consider the following factors for the discretionary selection:
- i. *Development needs* of the USABS and *development potential* of pilots. Pilots must be in, at minimum, Development Phase 1 in the USABS Bobsled Athlete Progression Pathway (Appendix 2) to be considered for discretionary selection. In extreme cases, Recruitment Phase 2 pilots may be considered.  
Development potential includes consideration of the following (in no particular order):
    - (1) Individual pushing ability
    - (2) 30m and vertical jump
    - (3) Driving aptitude
    - (4) Demonstrated potential to become a future Olympic or World Championship medal contender.
  - ii. *Performance needs* of the USABS program for pilots selected to the USA World Cup Team within the previous two seasons. If more than two pilots are considered for this discretionary selection, then the highest ranked World Cup pilot from Selection Races could fill one of the spots in 5.a.  
Performance needs include consideration of the following (in no particular order):
    - (1) Points needed to secure IBSF World Championship or Olympic quota spots for USA
    - (2) Points needed for individual pilots not having a full season of 8 races due to unforeseen circumstances
    - (3) Race experience for pilots and/or push athletes
  - iii. Athletes who have been granted a Medical Waiver or Extreme Circumstances Waiver.
- c) Push athletes and race combinations for Europe Cup races will be selected by the development coaching staff with input from the selected development pilot and other teammates. Push athletes must be in, at minimum, Recruitment Phase 2 in the Bobsled Athlete Progression Pathway (Appendix 2). Under extreme circumstances, push athletes from Phase 1 of Recruitment may be determined eligible. In addition to the points listed in 3.b.i.-ii, coaches may use the following in-season data to determine push athlete entries and combinations (in no particular order):
- In-season testing with established protocol and a notice of not less than 1 week.
  - Individual Ice House push testing.

- Combination Ice House push testing.

IBSF North America Cup, IBSF Pan American Championships, & IBSF Jr. Pan American Championships

All pilots must be, at minimum, Recruitment Phase 2 in the Bobsled Athlete Progression Pathway (Appendix 2) to be eligible to compete in any North America Cup (NAC) event. Exceptions may be made with approval from the Bobsled Head Coach and Director of Sport Performance. USABS is not obligated to fill all discretionary quota spots. Quota spots may remain vacant if the Bobsled Head Coach and Director of Sport Performance feel that a considered pilot would not safely perform on the North America Cup circuit or if adequate coaching, sled maintenance, sports med, and other support cannot be provided.

- d) Two of the 4 race entries will be designated to the two next highest ranked pilots from 2025-26 Selection Races who were not selected to the USA World Cup Team. These are the same pilots that will be designated the IBSF Europe Cup quota spots in 5.a. If, during the season, a change is made to the World Cup Team, the IBSF North America Cup entries will adjust accordingly with the two highest ranked pilots from Selection Races not selected to the World Cup Team.
- e) Any unfilled race entries may be filled with pilots selected by the Bobsled Selection Committee with input from the Development Coaches. The Bobsled Selection Committee will consider the following factors for the discretionary selection:
  - i. *Development needs* of the USABS and *development potential* of pilots. Pilots must be in, at minimum, Recruitment Phase 2 in the USABS Bobsled Athlete Progression Pathway (Appendix 2) to be considered for discretionary selection. Development potential includes consideration of the following (in no particular order):
    - (1) Individual pushing ability
    - (2) 30m and vertical jump
    - (3) Driving aptitude
    - (4) Demonstrated potential to become a future Olympic or World Championship medal contender.
  - ii. *Performance needs* of the USABS program for pilots selected to the World Cup within the previous two seasons. If more than two pilots are considered for this discretionary selection, then the highest ranked World Cup pilot could fill one of the spots in 5.d. Performance needs includes consideration of the following (in no particular order):
    - (1) Points needed to secure IBSF World Championship or Olympic quota spots for USA
    - (2) Points needed for individual pilots not having a full season of 8 races due to unforeseen circumstances
    - (3) Race experience for pilots and/or push athletes

iii. Athletes who have been granted a Medical Waiver or Extreme Circumstances Waiver.

- f) Push athletes and race combinations for North America Cup races will be selected by the development coaching staff with input from the selected development pilot and other teammates. Push athletes must be in, at minimum, Recruitment Phase 2 in the Bobsled Athlete Progression Pathway (Appendix 2). Under extreme circumstances, push athletes from Phase 1 of Recruitment may be determined eligible. In addition to the points listed in 3.b.i.-ii., coaches may use the following in-season data to determine push athlete entries and combinations (in no particular order):
- In-season testing with established protocol and a notice of not less than 1 week.
  - Individual Ice House push testing.
  - Combination Ice House push testing.

## 6. Participation, Removal, and Replacement

### a) Participation

Athletes are required to participate in events for which they are qualified, are named, and to which they commit. When an athlete does not attend a race and/or leaves a position vacant without prior and appropriate notice, they can negatively affect the chances for the USA to qualify the maximum number of spots in an IBSF competition. Thus, any athlete who does not attend a race for which they have been selected, may be assessed a fine of \$100.00 if it is determined that the athlete had an appropriate amount of time to contact the coaches or Director of Sport Performance. The fine must be paid before the next competition. The CEO, along with the Head Coach, will determine, on a case by-case basis, if that athlete's circumstances merit reinstatement to their race opportunities, or if some or all of their races are to be reallocated to other athletes.

Failure to participate in a mandatory event and/or to follow the waiver procedures may result in limitation of the athlete's participation in further events during the calendar year, or to the benefits the athlete receives from USABS and/or the USOPC, but in no way excludes rights guaranteed by USABS and the USOPC.

### b) Removal of Athletes

An athlete may be removed from any team for any of the following reasons:

- i) Voluntary withdrawal: Athlete must submit a written letter or email to the Head Coach. In the event of a disabling illness or injury to an athlete, the athlete must be examined by a USABS-approved physician or a USOPC/USABS-approved sports medicine provider. Should an athlete refuse injury/illness verification by a physician or a USOPC/USABS-approved sports medicine provider, then their injury or illness will be assumed to be disabling and they will be replaced. If an athlete misses two IBSF World Cup events in succession, related to the same condition, that athlete must be seen by a medical doctor designated by the Chief Medical Officer (CMO), which could be facilitated by the USOPC/USABS athletic trainers (ATCs). Medical

staff at any track at which an athlete is competing can, in the interest of safety, prevent an injured athlete from competing at that event, should they deem that athlete unsafe.

- ii) Code of Conduct or Team Policy violation: In the event of an excessive or serious violation of the Code of Conduct or Team Policies, an athlete could be removed from a race series according to the USABS Team Handbook. An athlete who may be removed from the team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per USABS Bylaws, or USOPC Bylaws, Section 9.1. The athlete also has the right to appeal to the USABS Judicial Committee.
- iii) Anti-Doping violation: An athlete may be removed from any team at any time for violation of IOC, WADA, IBSF, USADA, and/or USOPC anti-doping protocol, policies, and procedures. In such instances, the adjudication process will be managed through the United States Anti-Doping Agency.

#### c) Replacement of Athletes

If a vacancy occurs in an IBSF World Cup race entry prior to the event entry deadline, the Bobsled Selection Committee will determine, as quickly as possible, the pilot (if any) that will fill the vacancy using the discretionary selection criteria outline in Section 4.a.iv.d. If a vacancy occurs without sufficient time for the Bobsled Selection Committee to fill the vacancy, the Head Coach will determine the replacement pilot. USABS is not required to fill a vacated race entry with an athlete that has not qualified for the IBSF World Cup team. Additionally, USABS is not obligated to fill all discretionary quota spots on any IBSF racing circuit. Quota spots may remain vacant if the Bobsled Head Coach and Director of Sport Performance feel that a considered pilot would not safely perform on the IBSF World Cup, IBSF Europe Cup, or IBSF North America Cup circuit or if adequate coaching, sled maintenance, sports medicine, and other support cannot be provided.

If a vacancy occurs in the pool of push athletes selected to compete in IBSF World Cup races either due to injury or extreme circumstances during the season, the Bobsled Selection Committee will select a temporary replacement as soon as reasonably possible to add to the pool of eligible push athletes. If the athlete who vacated the spot is able to return during the season, the athlete will replace the temporarily selected athlete.

## 7. Waivers

A Waiver Committee will consider all waivers and seek input from relevant personnel. For medical waivers, relevant personnel include the USABS Chief Medical Officer (CMO) and all medical personnel involved with the athlete's injury, rehab/recovery, diagnosis, etc.

Waivers may only be *granted* by the waiver committee. A granted waiver does not ensure selection. If a waiver is granted, the Team Selection Committee will proceed with selection considering the granted waiver.

All waiver requests for USABS events must be submitted to the Director of Sport Performance via hard copy or email as soon as reasonable. The waiver fee of \$100.00 must be paid and



received prior to any meeting of the Waiver Committee. Following receipt, the Waiver Committee will review the request for approval or denial. The Waiver Committee will make a decision and provide a written copy or email of the approval or denial of the waiver to the athlete within seven (7) days. If granted, the waiver fee will be reimbursed to the athlete.

#### Medical Waiver

Athletes may apply for medical waivers based on having suffered an injury or illness and said injury/illness has been verified by the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) or his designee. The USABS CMO, or his/her designee, must examine injured/ill athletes wishing to receive a medical waiver for medical reasons. The injured athlete must follow rehabilitation guidelines set by the CMO and Bobsled Head Coach to be able to receive and keep the waiver. **Additional details are laid out in the USABS Waiver Policy.**

#### Extreme Circumstances waiver

An extreme circumstances waiver may be granted for any unforeseen circumstances that include but are not limited to personal or family situations or race situations that may include but are not limited to a crash, runner or sled damage, etc. during a competition or training. **Additional details are laid out in the USABS Waiver Policy.**

## 8. Committees

- a) The Waiver Committee will seek input from the USABS Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Eugene Byrne, in addition to relevant medical personnel involved with the athlete's injury, rehab/recovery, diagnosis, etc.

Waiver Committee:

- i. Curt Tomasevicz, Director of Sport Performance
  - ii. Chris Fogt, Bobsled Head Coach
  - iii. a) Brian Shimer, Bobsled Coach for an Extreme Circumstance Waiver  
b) **Ralph Reiff, Medical Professional for a Medical Waiver**
  - iv. Jill Bakken-Linder, Athlete Representative
  - v. Natalie DeRatt, Athlete Representative
  - vi. Dr. Eugene Byrne, Chief Medical Officer (non-voting member)
- b) The Bobsled Selection Committee will meet either in person or remotely prior to the USA World Cup Team selection at the beginning of the season, the mid-season review, and prior to the IBSF World Championships to determine athlete selection. For each team selection, the committee will seek input from all relevant USABS bobsled coaches and start coaches to ensure that these criteria are applied with fairness and transparency.

Bobsled Selection Committee:

- i. Curt Tomasevicz, Director of Sport Performance
  - ii. Brian Shimer, Bobsled Coach
  - iii. Chris Fogt, Bobsled Head Coach
  - iv. Jamie Greubel-Poser, Athlete Representative
  - v. Chris Kinney, Athlete Representative
- c) USABS Judicial Committee: A standing Judicial Committee oversees any grievances of these criteria. The USABS Board of Directors will appoint members of the committee. If an athlete has a reasonable and articulable concern regarding any grievance with the

criteria, an athlete is encouraged to notify the judicial committee. The contest must be made in writing and emailed to the Judicial Committee Chairperson at: [judicialcommitteechair@usabs.com](mailto:judicialcommitteechair@usabs.com).

- d) USABS Ethics Committee: A standing Ethics Committee oversees any ethical violations of these criteria. The USABS Board of Directors will appoint members of the committee. If an athlete believes there is any impartiality or potential conflict of interest, an athlete is encouraged to notify the ethics committee. Concerns must be sent via email to the Ethics Committee Chairperson at: [ethicscommitteechair@usabs.com](mailto:ethicscommitteechair@usabs.com).
- e) Any individuals, including athlete representatives, who have a possible conflict of interest must disclose it to the USABS's Ethics Committee for review. Additionally, any person (including any potentially impacted athlete or coach of a potentially impacted athlete) with good faith, believe that an individual involved in the selection process has a conflict of interest may report the alleged conflict of interest to USABS's Ethics Committee for review. Reports may be made anonymously. The Ethics Committee may take any measures necessary to create a fair process for athletes, including restrictions or removal of the conflicted individual.
- f) If an individual is recused and a vacancy on a committee exists, USABS shall use its best reasonable efforts to fill that vacancy as soon as possible. If an athlete representative is recused, another athlete representative who meets the qualifications for that committee shall be appointed by USABS and approved by an unaffected representative group of athletes as soon as possible.

## 9. Other

### Athletes' Right to Compete

An athlete's right to compete is defined and protected by USOPC Bylaws. Should an athlete feel his/her right to compete has been withheld, the USABS bylaws provides for a grievance procedure for him/her to seek a fair hearing and relief.

All questions regarding an athlete's opportunity to compete that are not answered by the USABS, may be directed to the USOPC Athlete Ombudsman by telephone at (888) ATHLETE, or by email [ombudsman@usathlete.org](mailto:ombudsman@usathlete.org).

### Saving Clause

The procedures above are based on IOC, IBSF and USOPC rules and regulations as presently published. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in IOC, IBSF or USOPC rules and regulations will be distributed to all athletes as soon as possible. The desire to field the most competitive teams for international competition presently and in the future are the guiding principles and will determine the administration of the selection criteria. The IBSF World Cup, IBS Europe Cup, and IBSF North America Cup Selection Criteria are based on the latest information available to the USABS. However, these criteria are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances (weather, budget, war, etc.) and no doubt have not accounted for every possible contingency. In

which case, the USABS staff will administer changes with the utmost reverence for fairness, respect of athletes, and for honor of the sport. If a scheduled event cannot be held or must be interrupted, USABS will first try to reschedule the event. Second, USABS will try to change the venue but will not guarantee funding for travel to the new venue. Finally, if a venue change is not feasible, ranking will be based first on the portion of that event completed (at least one race) or if no portion has been completed, then ranking will be based on the most recent IBSF ranking. These Selection Criteria come into force as of the date of their approval by the USABS coaching staff and Chief Executive Officer and supersede all previous criteria.

USABS reserves the right to change the selection criteria prior to the start of each competition season based on schedules, coaching, logistics, finances, and other limiting factors. The rules in these criteria will be interpreted by the USABS coaching staff along with the CEO and Director of Sport Performance in the way in which they were intended.

The terms and conditions of these written Selection Criteria shall take priority over any verbal explanation, clarification, or interpretation of the Selection Criteria, and an athlete or coach relies on a verbal explanation, clarification or interpretation of these Selection Criteria at his/her sole risk. Any request or question that would involve a formal clarification or interpretation of these Selection Criteria, or that would address an issue not otherwise covered in these Selection Criteria, should be submitted to the Director of Sport Performance in writing or email by no later than 30 days before the Push Championships and the response to such request by USABS must be provided in writing or email and, where appropriate, must be published promptly on the USABS website.

An athlete who is selected to compete in a World Cup, North America Cup or Europe Cup event by virtue of an error or oversight by USABS may be removed from the event at any time.

#### Criteria Distribution

This document shall be distributed and made available to all athletes via the USABS website at <https://www.usabs.com/criteria> and shall be e-mailed to all active USABS Athlete Members.

## Appendix 1 – IBSF Point System

The IBSF point system.

Rank	Points
1	225
2	210
3	200
4	192
5	184
6	176
7	168
8	160
9	152
10	144

*Table 4*



## Appendix 2 – USABS Bobsled Athlete Progression Pathway

### The USABS Bobsled Athlete Progression Pathway

## Appendix 3 – National Championships and Regional Races

### National Championships Race

- a) A National Championships race will be held, if possible, after the 2024-2025 IBSF season. The race is subject to weather, available track time, and unforeseen circumstances. While the structure of the race will encourage competition, participation in the National Championships races will also serve as an opportunity for an athlete to be observed by the USABS coaches as part of regular assessment and evaluation regarding the Bobsled Athlete Progression Pathway (Appendix 2).
- b) National Championships rankings will be comprised of two separate discipline races (monobob and 2-woman for women and 2-man and 4-man for men). Race location, schedule, and format will be announced at least 30 days prior to the event. The 2025 National Championships race may be held simultaneous with a portion of the 2025-2026 Selection Races.
- c) Pilots must be ~~in, at minimum, Phase 1 of Recruitment of the Bobsled Athlete Progression Pathway (Appendix 2) and be~~ able to start safely from the top of the track as determined by USABS coaches to be eligible to participate in the National Championships race. Pilots who do not meet the criteria to participate in Selection Races wanting to compete in National Championships must notify the Director of Sport Performance and Bobsled Head Coach at least 30 days prior to the National Championships first day of official training.
- d) USABS coaches and staff will have the authority to deny race entry to an athlete who has failed to demonstrate the ability to safely navigate the track.
- e) USABS is not obligated to provide equipment to participants including sleds, runners, speed suits, etc. to participants.

### Regional Races and local track sliding programs

Eastern (Lake Placid) and Western (Park City) Regional race(s) may be held and hosted by the local tracks throughout the season. The local track development coaches will work with the USABS coaches to identify up to 2 athletes not already in the Bobsled Athlete Progression Pathway (Appendix 2) that may be invited to National Championships to be observed and evaluated to be inserted appropriately into the Bobsled Athlete Progression Pathway (Appendix 2).

## Appendix 4 – Athlete Input Collection

**Athletes will be asked to complete the following table to provide input to the Selection Committee prior to the pre-season selection and the Olympic team selection. The table will be available up to one week prior to the completion of Selection Races and collected via online survey. Responses will remain confidential within the Selection Committee and will not be shared outside the committee. All eligible athletes will be required to complete the matrix and all boxes must be filled out. (There is an option to not answer if the athlete does not feel they know the athlete well enough to provide a fair assessment.)**

Please complete the table below by rating each listed athlete in each of the four categories including yourself. Each cell is rated 1 (poor) through 5 (excellent). If you do not feel you can provide a fair assessment of the athlete, please indicate this, but do not leave a cell blank. Please provide any relevant information in the Notes/Comments cell that help explain a low score.

Athlete	<u>Pushing Ability</u> 5=elite pushing ability 1=poor pushing ability	<u>Pushing Consistency</u> 5=consistent approach and results 1=inconsistent approach and results	<u>Dependability/Reliability</u> 5=always reliable and punctual 1=rarely reliable or on time	<u>Attitude</u> 5=attitude always positively affects the team 1=attitude always negatively affects the team	<u>Notes/Comments</u> Please provide comments and explanation especially for any low scores.
Yourself					
Athlete 2					
Athlete 3					
Athlete 4					
Athlete 5					
Athlete 6					
Athlete 7					
Athlete 8					
Athlete 9					
Athlete 10					

*Table 5. Example of Athlete Input Matrix*