

US Biathlon Association (USBA)

Athlete Selection Procedures

2026 Olympic Winter Games

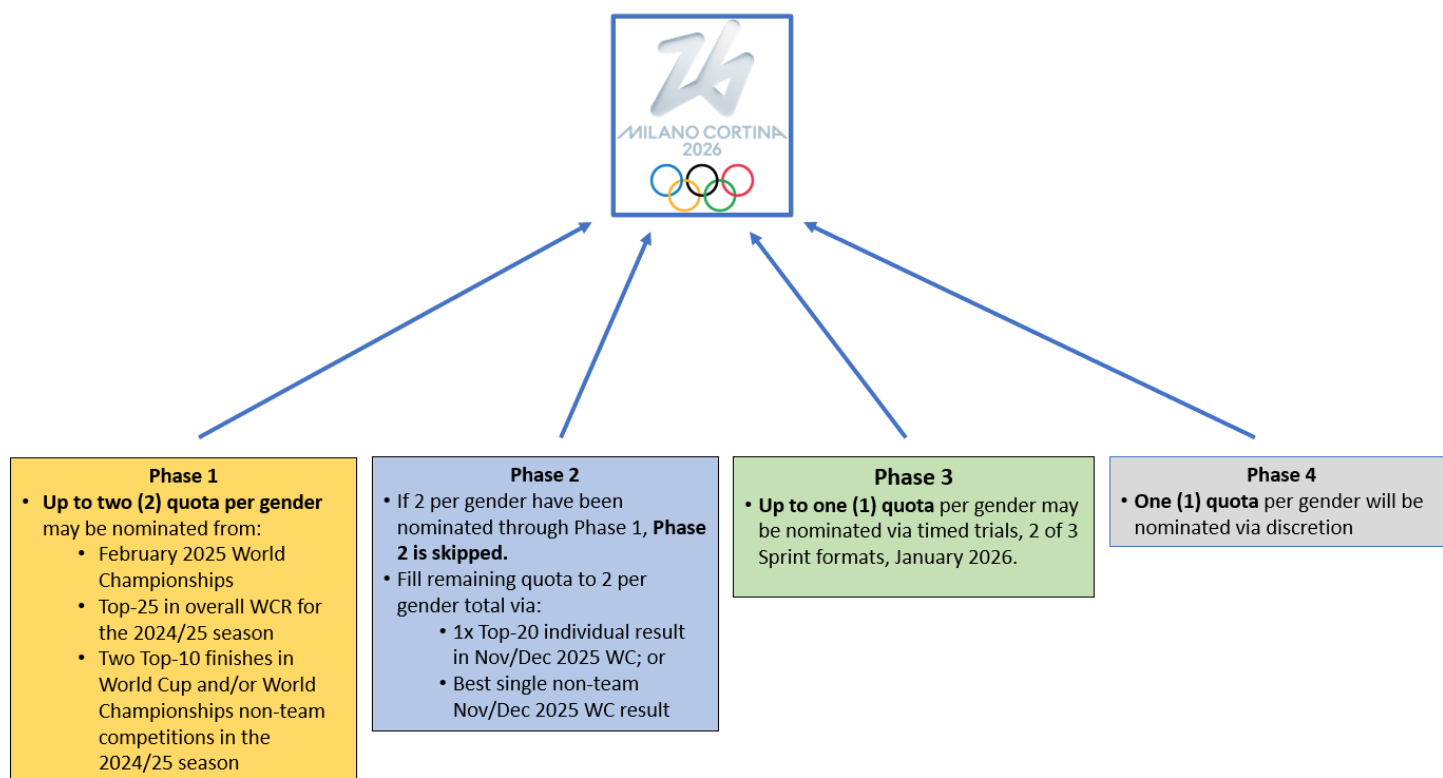
- Publication Date: August 29, 2025
- A Preliminary Notice to the athlete selection procedures was posted on December 2, 2024. The notice can be found [here](#).

SECTION 1: OVERVIEW

These procedures outline the nomination pathway for the US Biathlon Association Team for the 2026 Winter Olympic Games in Milano-Cortina. The maximum Team size can be twelve (12) athletes, six (6) per gender; however final Team size will depend on the number of International Biathlon Union (IBU) quota spots earned. IBU quotas are awarded to the National Olympic Committee (NOC).

SECTION 2: SELECTION PROCESS DIAGRAM

The following provides a high-level overview of how athletes will be nominated to the Team:



Note: This diagram is for informational purposes only. In the event of a conflict between the diagram and any written section herein, the written sections will take precedent.

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SECTION 3: ATHLETE REQUIREMENTS

1. Nationality/Passports Requirements:
 - Have a valid United States passport at the time of nomination that does not expire for six months after the conclusion of the 2026 Olympic Winter Games (Games).
2. Minimum International Olympic Committee (IOC) Requirements:
 - Abide by the rules in the Olympic Charter, including nationality/citizenship requirements.
 - For additional information regarding an athlete who is a national of two or more countries, has changed their nationality or acquired a new nationality, refer to the [Olympic Charter](#) (Rule 41).
 - Abide by the IOC Eligibility of Conditions Form/Conditions of Participation Form
3. Organizing Committee Olympic Games Requirements (OCOG) Requirements:
 - Comply with all rules and policies implemented by the OCOG for Milano-Cortina 2026.
4. International Biathlon Union (IBU) Requirements:
 - An athlete must have 180 IBU qualifying points or less at the end of the last trimester before the Games or fulfil 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, Open European Championships (OECH), World Championships (WCH) and/or World Cups (WC) in the Sprint or Individual, or
 - b. Obtain two finishes in the top half of the Junior World Championships (not Youth), or
 - c. One result from each of the criteria a and b above
 - Comply with all IBU eligibility requirements found here (see Qualification): <https://olympics.com/ioc/documents/olympic-games/milano-cortina-2026-olympic-winter-games>
5. USOPC Requirements:
 - Comply with all USOPC rules applicable to the Games (e.g., Demonstrations).
 - Complete all USOPC Games Registration requirements by the stated deadline.
 - Comply with the USOPC Delegation Terms, including the Conduct Requirements, which will be made available here: <https://www.usopc.org/games-and-qualification>
 - Comply with the [USOPC Athlete Safety Policy](#) and the [U.S. Center for SafeSport Code](#) Including education and training requirements.
 - Comply with the current [USOPC Background Check Policy](#).
6. US Biathlon Association (USBA) Requirements:
 - Comply with the USBA Team Handbook
 - Comply with the [USBA Code of Conduct](#)

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- Comply with the USBA [SafeSport Policy](#).
- Athlete must have an active USBA membership.
- Athlete does not have an active suspension from the U.S. Center for SafeSport that would make the Athlete ineligible to participate in the Games.
- Athlete does not have an active sanction for an anti-doping rule/policy violation that would make the Athlete ineligible to participate in the Games.
- Athlete must sign the [USBA Team Member Participation Agreement](#)

SECTION 4: OTHER MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE TEAM

- Agree to be bound by and adhere to all IOC, WADA, IBU, USADA and USOPC anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures, as applicable. This includes participation in Out-of-Competition Testing and an agreement to be bound to the results management authority of the IOC, WADA, IBU, USADA, or other Anti-Doping Organization as applicable.
- Meet all health and safety protocols, to include vaccine requirements and/or testing requirements set forth by the government, local laws, USOPC, IBU, and/or the OCOG of Milano-Cortina 2026.

SECTION 5: EVALUATIVE EVENTS

Event names, dates and locations of all trials, competitions, and camps to be used as part of the selection process:

DATE(S)	DESCRIPTION/EVENT NAME
2024-2025	2024/2025 World Cups
Fall 2025	Utah Trials*
Fall 2025	Pre-Season On-Snow Selection Races*
2025-26	2025/26 World Cups
Nov 29-Dec 7, 2025	IBU Biathlon World Cup: Östersund, Sweden
Dec 12-14, 2025	IBU Biathlon World Cup: Hochfilzen, Austria
Dec 18-21, 2025	IBU Biathlon World Cup: Annecy–Le Grand-Bornand, France
December 2025	Domestic On-Snow Trials, USA*
Jan 2-5, 2026	European Time-Trial Races, Central Europe*

* The exact competition dates, locations and competition types will be posted on the USBA website as soon as they are confirmed.

SECTION 6: SELECTION PROCESS

Provide a step-by-step description of the selection process including an overview of the IBU Qualification

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System.

6.1 TOTAL QUOTA PLACES

USBA will nominate the maximum number of athletes allowed for the 2026 Olympic Winter Games, based on the number of quotas earned through the IBU Qualification System. USBA has earned four (4) quotas per gender based on the IBU's Qualification System.

6.2 RELAYS

- Each NOC may have one (1) relay team per gender composed of four (4) male and four (4) female athletes already qualified.
- Each NOC may have one (1) mixed relay team composed of two (2) male and two (2) female athletes already qualified.
- Each member of a relay team must also meet the IBU's individual qualification requirements for the Games.

6.3 TEAM NOMINATION

Eligible athletes (see Sections 3-4) will be nominated to the Team following the procedures outlined below.

6.3.1 Phase 1 – Early Qualification from the 2024/2025 Season:

Up to two (2) athletes per gender will be nominated to the Team through Phase 1. A Preliminary Notice to Phase 1 of the athlete selection procedures was approved and posted on December 2, 2024. See Appendix D or procedures can be found here: <https://www.usbiathlon.org/athlete-resources>

6.3.2 Phase 2 – Qualification from the November/December 2025 World Cup Races:

Selection procedures for the November/December 2025 World Cups will be published on the USBA website. Those procedures can be found here: <https://www.teamusa.org/us-biathlon/resources/team-selection-procedures>

If two (2) athletes per gender are nominated to the Team through Phase 1, then Phase 2 is not applicable for that gender. By the end of Phase 2, two (2) athletes per gender will be nominated to the Team through the following procedures:

- a. Eligible athletes who have not been nominated for the Team through Phase 1 may be nominated for the Team by achieving the Phase 2 performance standard of having at least one (1) top-twenty (20) finish in the November/December 2025 World Cups,

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excluding all relay format competitions. Tie-breaking, if needed, will follow the procedure listed below.

If quota spots remain, the remaining positions will be filled through the following procedures:

- a. The eligible athlete(s) with the single best World Cup competition placing from November/December 2025 will be nominated to the Team in rank order, excluding all athletes already qualified. Tie-breaking, if needed, will follow the procedure listed below.

Phase 2 Tiebreaker:

If more than the maximum number of eligible athletes within a gender achieve a given performance standard in Phase 2, the following tie breaking mechanisms will be employed in the order below:

1. Most overall World Cup points following the final December 2025 World Cup.
2. The best single percent back (see Section 6.4.1) result from the November/December 2025 World Cup competitions will be nominated.
 - a. Percent back calculations will include foreign athletes in the points-base.
 - b. If a tie still exists, none of the tied athletes will be nominated to the Team. These athletes may still qualify for Team nomination through the Phase 3 qualification procedures below.

6.3.3 Phase 3 – Qualification Through Phase 3 Timed Trial Races:

Eligible athletes who did not qualify for Team nomination through Phases 1-2 may be nominated to the Team through Phase 3. The Phase 3 schedule will include three timed trials, two of three will be Sprint formats. The timed trial races will be conducted by USBA staff in Central Europe between January 2-5, 2026. Additional information will be available via email or on the USBA website a minimum of 30 days in advance of the races.

Athletes will be invited to participate in the Phase 3 timed trial races through either of the two methods listed below:

1. Athletes who do not qualify for World Cup 3 or IBU Cup 3 may qualify for Phase 3 races by participating in the Domestic On-Snow Trials in December 2025. These competitions are open to all eligible USBA members. Registration information for the On-Snow Trials will be available via email or on the USBA website a minimum of 30 days in advance of the competition.
2. Athletes who participate in World Cup 3 and IBU Cup 3 (December 15-21, 2025) but are not nominated to the 2026 U.S. Olympic Team through Phase 1 and/or Phase 2 will be

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qualified to compete in the Phase 3 timed trials races.

The top-ranked eligible athlete in each gender will be nominated to the Team through the Phase 3 timed trial races utilizing the USBA percent back scoring method (see Section 6.4.1), scoring any Pursuit competitions based on net times.

Rankings will be calculated in the following way:

- Three (3) races, with best of two (2) races counted.
 - a. If a tie exists, the following tie-breaking mechanisms will be used which are listed in order of priority:
 1. Single best result in the timed trial races
 2. Single best percent back in the timed trial races
 3. If a tie remains, the ICC will use the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection (see Section 7) to decide which athlete will be nominated to the Team

6.3.4 Phase 4 – Qualification Through Discretionary Selection

The ICC will nominate one (1) athlete per gender to fill the final quota spot in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection (see Section 7).

6.4 SCORING AND CONTINGENCIES

6.4.1 Percent Back Scoring Method:

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

Athlete's Percent-Back = $2 - (\text{Athlete's time} / \text{Average time of the top three American finishers not already nominated to the Team})$

- If there are only two (2) finishers who can be scored, the average of their times shall be used as the denominator in the formula above. If only one (1) finisher can be scored, that athlete shall receive a percent-back of 100%.

6.4.2 Contingencies:

In the event one or more of the Phase 3 timed trial races are cancelled, the following will apply as applicable:

- a. If only two (2) races are held, the single best result will be scored.
- b. If only one (1) race is held, that result will be scored.

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- c. If no races are held due to unforeseen or unfair conditions, the ICC will nominate athletes to fill any remaining quota via USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection (Section 7).

In the event of a conflict between this overview and the IBU Qualification System, the IBU Qualification System will take precedent.

For more details, please refer to the IBU Qualification System directly here (see Qualification):

<https://olympics.com/ioc/documents/olympic-games/milano-cortina-2026-olympic-winter-games>

SECTION 7: DISCRETIONARY CRITERIA TO NOMINATE ATHLETES FOR THE TEAM

7.1 RATIONALE FOR UTILIZING DISCRETIONARY SELECTION:

The rationale for utilizing discretionary selection is to allow USBA the ability to nominate athletes based on their overall capabilities and performance, rather than on a single competition result in order to nominate the most competitive Team to the 2026 Olympic Winter Games.

One (1) athlete per gender will be nominated by the Discretionary Selection Committee (see Section 7.3) following the discretionary criteria outlined below.

Additionally, if tie-breaking procedures described above (see Section 6) do not resolve a tie between two (2) or more athletes, the Discretionary Selection Committee will determine which athlete(s) will be nominated to the Team in accordance with the discretionary criteria outlined below.

7.2 DEFINE THE DISCRETIONARY CRITERIA TO BE USED:

The USBA ICC may consider the following discretionary selection criteria (which are not in priority order) to nominate athletes to the Team:

- History of performance in a specific competition type (e.g., Relay or Individual) in Evaluative Events (see Section 5).
- Recent improvements in results or performance parameters such as ski speed and shooting performance in Evaluative Events (see Section 5).
- Performance/participation in the Evaluative Events (see Section 5) affected by illness or injury as confirmed by USBA-approved medical providers and/or a licensed physician.
- Ability to effectively contribute to a relay.

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7.3 SELECTION COMMITTEE

The committee that will be responsible for making discretionary selections or other decisions and recommendations directly impacting athletes in the selection process.

Note: If an individual is unavailable to serve on the committee for any reason, they will be replaced by a similarly qualified individual named by the Chairman of the USBA Board of Directors. If an Athlete Representative is unavailable, the position will be filled by an eligible athlete nominated by the USBA Athletes' Advisory Council.

The USBA ICC is comprised of the following members:

- (1) Committee Chair
- (1) USBA High Performance Director
- (1) National Guard Biathlon Coach
- (1) USBA National Team Head Coach
- (1) USBA 10-Year Athlete Representative
- (1) USBA 10-Year or 10-Year+ Athlete Representative

SECTION 8: MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION

Specify the location, schedule, and duration of all mandatory training and/or competition for athletes who are nominated to the Team.

During the period from January 6, 2026 (or from the date of their nomination, if later) through February 6, 2026, in preparation for the Olympic Winter Games, athletes nominated to the Team must participate in the World Cup competitions for which they are assigned by USBA, as well as the pre-Olympic training camp, unless otherwise authorized by the High Performance Director. Location of the training camp will be posted on the USBA website at least 30 days prior to the start of camp.

While waivers for mandatory training will not be unreasonably withheld, all athletes nominated to the Team should arrange for appropriate time off from school, work or other obligations in advance of the pre-Games Camp. Waivers will primarily be granted for injury or other similar incapacity or for a personal/family emergency. Requests for a waiver must be submitted in writing to the High Performance Director as far in advance as possible. All waivers will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by national team staff and must be approved by the USBA International Competition Committee.

SECTION 9: DATE OF TEAM NOMINATION

USBA will nominate the Team, including any replacements/alternates to the USOPC on or before January 8, 2026.

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SECTION 10: REMOVAL OF ATHLETES FROM THE TEAM

10.1 USBA JURISDICTION

USBA has jurisdiction over athlete nominees until athlete entries have been submitted by the USOPC to the Organizing Committee of the Olympic Games.

- a. An athlete who is nominated to the Team by USBA may be removed for any of the following reasons, as determined by USBA:
 - i. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete submits a written letter to the USBA High Performance Director requesting to voluntarily withdraw from the Team.
 - ii. Injury or illness. A physician (or medical staff) approved by USBA provides certification that the Athlete has a debilitating condition. If Athlete refuses to provide verification of their illness or injury by a physician (or medical staff), their injury will be assumed to be debilitating and they may be removed from the Team.
 - iii. Failure to participate. Athlete does not participate in all Mandatory Training and/or Competition as defined in these procedures.
 - iv. Code of Conduct Violation. Athlete violates the USBA Code of Conduct: <https://www.usbiathlon.org/code-of-conduct>
 - v. Athlete Agreement. Athlete violates a term in their signed USBA Team Member Participation Agreement.
 - vi. Non-compliance. Athlete does not meet the athlete eligibility requirements listed in Section 3 and Section 4 of these selection procedures.
- b. An Athlete may be removed as a nominee to the Team or from the Team if found to have violated IOC, WADA, IBU, USADA and/or USOPC anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures, the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code, the USOPC Athlete Safety Policy and USBA SafeSport policies, as applicable.

10.2 USOPC JURISDICTION

- a. Once Athlete entries have been submitted by the USOPC to the Organizing Committee of the Olympic Games, the USOPC has jurisdiction over the Team.
- b. USOPC's Delegation Conduct Requirements apply in addition to the USBA Code of Conduct. The Delegation Conduct Requirements in the USOPC Games Delegation Terms are specific to each Games and are made available during the Games registration process.
- c. The USOPC's Grievance Procedures and Hearing Process are found within the USOPC Dispute Resolution Policy and Hearing Procedures.
 - i. See www.usopc.org/governance/dispute-resolution for more information.

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SECTION 11: SELECTION PROCESS IF ATHLETE VACANCY OCCURS PRIOR TO SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES BY NAME TO THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE OF THE OLYMPIC GAMES

- 11.1 Should a vacancy occur prior to submission of Entries by Name by the USOPC to the Organizing Committee of the Olympic Games, USBA will follow the process outlined in Section 6.3.3 (Phase 3) to nominate a replacement athlete.
- 11.2 All replacement athletes must meet all requirements listed in Sections 3-4.

SECTION 12: SELECTION PROCESS IF ATHLETE VACANCY OCCURS AFTER SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES BY NAME TO THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE OF THE OLYMPIC GAMES

- 12.1 Should a vacancy occur after submission of Entries by Name by the USOPC to the Organizing Committee of the Olympic Games, if allowed, the same process outlined in Section 11.1 will be used provided USBA is still authorized to add a replacement athlete to the Team, in accordance with the IBU Qualification System, and any applicable IOC and/or OCOG rules.
- 12.2 All replacement athletes must meet all requirements listed in Sections 3-4.

SECTION 13: RIGHT TO A HEARING

An athlete who is removed from the Team has the right to a hearing per the USBA's complaint procedures (<https://www.usbiathlon.org/policies-forms>) and the USOPC Bylaws, Section 9 (<https://www.usopc.org/governance/dispute-resolution>).

SECTION 14: REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

In addition to the USOPC Delegation Conduct Requirements, the following documents are required to be signed by an athlete as a condition of nomination to the Olympic Games:

- USBA Code of Conduct: <https://www.usbiathlon.org/code-of-conduct>
- US Biathlon [Team Member Participation Agreement](#)

SECTION 15: DISCLAIMERS

These procedures are based on IOC and IBU rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in IOC and/or IBU rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes immediately. The selection criteria are based on the latest

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information available to USBA.

However, the selection criteria are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances, and realistically may not have accounted for every possible contingency. If any force of nature, pandemic, or force majeure, should cause the alteration or cancellation of any of the selection events listed in this document, these selection procedures may require revisions, pursuant to their resubmission to the USOPC.

SECTION 16: CONFLICT OF INTEREST

All members of the Selection Committee (Section 7.3) and all individuals who developed these selection procedures (Section 21) must comply with the USBA's Conflict of Interest Policy, to include completing and submitting a disclosure form consistent with the USBA's [Conflict of Interest Policy](#) before convening the committee.

Additionally, any person with a good faith belief that a committee member has a conflict of interest may report the alleged conflict of interest to the USBA Ethics Committee. Reports may also be made anonymously through the [USOPC's Integrity Portal](#). No committee member shall retaliate in any way against a person who, in good faith, reports an alleged conflict of interest. In addition, the USOPC maintains a strict no retaliation policy that prohibits any employee, contractor, agent, volunteer, or member of the USOPC to take or threaten to take any action against an athlete for reporting information to or seeking assistance from the Office of the Athlete Ombuds.

Any recused individual shall be replaced in accordance with the USBA Selection Committee appointment process.

SECTION 17: QUESTIONS REGARDING ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES

Athletes may contact the individuals listed below for information about these selection procedures.

Name: Lowell Bailey
Position: Director of High Performance, US Biathlon Team
Email: lbailey@usbiathlon.org
Phone: 518.637.6005

Name: Maddie Phaneuf
Position: USBA 10-Year Athlete Representative
Email: madphaneuf@gmail.com

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ATHLETE OMBUDS

The Team USA Athlete Ombuds serves as a safe, independent, confidential place for Team USA Athletes to seek advice about any sport-related rule, policy, or process; how to navigate raising or responding to concerns; or access legal and mental health resources.

Team USA Athletes may contact the Athlete Ombuds:

PHONE: (719) 866-5000

EMAIL: ombudsman@usathlete.org

WEBSITE: usathlete.org

SECTION 18: GRIEVANCES

The USBA Complaint and Grievance Policy can be found here: <https://www.usbiathlon.org/policies-forms>

Section 9 of the USOPC Bylaws provides a process for an athlete to file a complaint with the USOPC against an NGB alleging that he or she has been denied, or threatened to be denied, with the opportunity to participate in a Protected Competition, as defined in the USOPC bylaws. Additional information on how to file a complaint can be found here: <https://www.usopc.org/governance/dispute-resolution>

SECTION 19: NON-RETALIATION

The USOPC and USBA have zero tolerance for retaliation against people who make good faith reports of potential ethical, policy, or legal violations, or who cooperate with investigations of those reports. That means no USOPC or USBA staff, Board or Committee member, or volunteer may threaten, harass, discriminate against, or take any negative employment or related action (e.g., discharge, demotion, suspension, negative review) on that basis.

- Individuals may report concerns to USBA by following the USBA Whistleblower Policy located [here](#).
- Individuals may report concerns to the USOPC confidentially, or anonymously, online using the [USOPC Integrity Portal](#) or individuals may call the USOPC Integrity Hotline at 1-877-404-9935.
- Additional information can be found in the USOPC's [Speak Up Policy](#).

SECTION 20: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

USBA will retain the approved Selection Procedures and all supporting documents, including scouting or evaluation forms, etc., and data from the selection process per the USBA Records Retention Policy or for six months past the date of the Closing Ceremony of the Games, whichever is longer.

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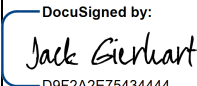
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SECTION 21: DEVELOPMENT, APPROVAL & CERTIFICATION OF SELECTION PROCEDURES

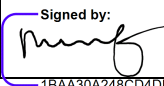
The following committee of individuals developed these selection procedures.

NAME	ROLE
Lowell Bailey	Director of High Performance, US Biathlon Team
Maddie Phaneuf	USBA 10-Year Athlete Representative
Russell Currier	Athlete Representative
Jay T. Kearney	Chair
Andrew Gelinas	National Guard Biathlon Coach
Armin Auchentaller	USBA National Team Head Coach W/M

The following individual approved these selection procedures and through their signature, certifies that the procedures comply with the standards and criteria set by the IBU. The following individual further certifies that the information provided herein regarding Athlete Selection Procedures represents the method approved by USBA and that these selection procedures will be posted on the USBA website.

POSITION	NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE
US Biathlon President and Chief Executive Officer	Jack Gierhart	<div>DocuSigned by:  D9F2A2E75434444...</div>	August 29, 2025 1:58:07 PM PDT

The following individual affirms that they read and understand the selection procedures.

POSITION	NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE
USBA 10-Year Athlete Representative*	Maddie Phaneuf	<div>Signed by:  1BAA30A248CD4DD...</div>	August 29, 2025 4:04:10 PM MDT

* If the Team USA Athletes’ Commission Representatives have delegated authority to another 10 Year Athlete Representative to sign the Selection Procedures, attach a letter from the Team USA AC Representative indicating the reason they have delegated authority.

* Signature by the Athlete Representative constitutes that they have read and understand the Selection Procedures.

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If the Athlete Representative reads and does not agree with the Athlete Selection Procedures being submitted by the NGB, they may submit those reasons in writing to their USOPC Sport Performance Team.

* If, for some reason, a sport does not have an elected Team USA AC Representative, the NGB must designate a 10 Year Athlete from that sport to review and sign the Selection Procedures.

Revision History

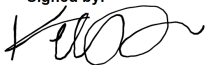
Date	Revisions
August 29, 2025	Original document published

**Delegation of Authority to sign the Selection Procedures
for the 2026 Olympic Winter Games**

August 28, 2025

Delegation of Selection Procedure Authority

We, Kelsey Dickinson and Chloe Levins, the Team USA AC Representatives for US Biathlon Association hereby delegate our authority to sign the 2026 Olympic Winter Games Selection Procedures to Maddie Phaneuf (USBA 10 Year Athlete Representative). As currently competing athletes participating in evaluation events which will be used to nominate the 2026 Olympic Team, we have a conflict of interest with regard to these selection procedures.

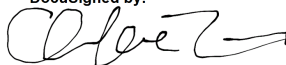
Signed by:

45E97017F7ED04E2...

Signature

Kelsey Dickinson
Team USA AC Representative

August 28, 2025 | 10:48:33 AM MDT

Date

DocuSigned by:

7CAA8AB7F188460

Signature

Chloe Levins
Team USA AC Representative

August 29, 2025 | 10:43:23 AM MDT

Date

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APPENDIX A – COMMONLY USED ACRONYMS

AAC – Athletes' Advisory Council

AC – Athletes' Commission

Act or TSOASA – Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act

APC – Americas Paralympic Committee

CAS – Court of Arbitration for Sport

Center or CSS – U.S. Center for SafeSport

CF – Continental Federation

IMS – Internally Managed Sport (sport managed by the USOPC)

IOC – International Olympic Committee

IPC – International Paralympic Committee

IF – International Federation

LOC – Local Organizing Committee

NGB – National Governing Body

NOC – National Olympic Committee

NPC – National Paralympic Committee

OCOG – Organizing Committee of the Olympic Games. The OCOG refers to the Organizing Committee of the Paralympic Games as well.

PAG – Pan American Games

Panam Sports or PASO – Pan American Sports Organization

PPAG – Parapan American Games

PSO – Paralympic Sport Organization

TEAM USA AC – Team USA Athletes' Commission (formerly USOPC AAC)

USADA – United States Anti-Doping Agency

WADA – World Anti-Doping Agency

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APPENDIX B – GLOSSARY

Contingency means a future event or circumstance which is possible but cannot be predicted with certainty.

Delegation Event means the Olympic Games, the Olympic Winter Games, the Paralympic Games, the Paralympic Winter Games, the Pan American Games, and the Parapan American Games.

Force Majeure means an event or effect that cannot be reasonably anticipated or controlled (e.g., hurricane, tornado, etc.).

Grievance Procedures means the process that enables an athlete to file a complaint with the NGB or USOPC.

Jurisdiction means the power or authority to make decisions and judgments.

Nominated means an athlete, coach or staff member whose name has been submitted to the USOPC by an NGB for participation in a Delegation Event.

Protected Competition means a Delegation Event or a Qualifying Competition.

Qualifying Competition means either of the following:

- i. **NGB Qualifying Competition:** Any competition or activity organized or approved by the NGB where the athlete's performance or results are considered in the published selection criteria to represent the United States in a Delegation Event.
- ii. **International Qualifying Competition:** Any international sport competition where (i) athletes represent the United States against athletes representing other nations, (ii) the NGB officially designates entrants, as required by the competition organizers, and (iii) athlete results or performance are included in the published criteria to qualify, or be selected, to represent the United States in a Delegation Event.

Selected means an athlete, coach or staff member whose name has been submitted by the USOPC to the OCOG at the final submission date, as determined by the OCOG.

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APPENDIX C – ATHLETE RESOURCES

ATHLETE LEGAL AID

The purpose of the Athlete Legal Aid Program is to assist elite athletes without sufficient financial means to seek aid for fees and costs associated with legal representation or the proceeding itself with respect to claims before an anti-doping organization, NGB, IF, the U.S. Center for SafeSport, USOPC, IOC/IPC, Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), or other sport-related tribunal within the Olympic and Paralympic Movement.

WEBSITE: www.usopc.org/ombuds/athlete-legal-aid-program

ATHLETE OMBUDS

The Team USA Athlete Ombuds serves as a safe, independent, confidential place for Team USA Athletes to seek advice about any sport-related rule, policy, or process; how to navigate raising or responding to concerns; or access legal and mental health resources.

Team USA Athletes may contact the Athlete Ombuds:

PHONE: (719) 866-5000

EMAIL: ombudsman@usathlete.org

WEBSITE: usathlete.org

SAFESPORT HELPLINE

The SafeSport Helpline provides crisis intervention, referrals, and emotional support specifically designed for athletes, staff, and other SafeSport participants affected by sexual violence. Through this service, support specialists provide live, confidential, one-on-one support that is available 24/7. Individuals can call the Helpline at 866-200-0796 or visit www.safesporthelpline.org.

TEAM USA ATHLETES' COMMISSION (Team USA AC) *(Formerly Athletes' Advisory Council)*

The Team USA AC is responsible for broadening communication between the USOPC and active athletes and serves as a source of input and advice to the USOPC Board of Directors.

WEBSITE: www.usopc.org/teamusa-athletes-commission

TEAM USA ATHLETE SERVICES

The USOPC helps support Team USA athletes from the start of their career to their retirement and beyond through direct funds, programs and services that help athletes excel in their day-to-day lives, on and off the field of play.

WEBSITE: www.usopc.org/athlete-benefits-and-resources

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TEAM USA MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

For those in need of mental health support, USOPC Psychological Services is available at psychservices@usopc.org, or you can connect with a licensed mental health provider 24/7 through the USOPC Psychological Services Support Line at 719-866-2255. You can also visit TeamUSA.org/psychservices for information about all available resources or complete our referral link at: go.teamusa.org/referrals to get connected.

USOPC DISPUTE RESOLUTION UNIT (DRU)

For Protected Competitions, USOPC's DRU oversees the administration of dispute resolution services to athletes and other members of NGBs for grievances under the USOPC's jurisdiction to ensure the complaints are heard in a timely and fair manner. For more information about this process, please visit the [dispute resolution website](#).

USOPC ETHICS AND COMPLIANCE

USOPC's Ethics and Compliance team is responsible for ensuring the USOPC and NGBs comply with the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act, their own bylaws and policies, and any other applicable laws or regulations. Any individual may report concerns confidentially, or anonymously, online using the [USOPC Integrity Portal](#) or individuals may call the USOPC Integrity Hotline at 1-877-404-9935 to report their concern over the phone.

USOPC SECURITY AND ATHLETE SAFETY REPORTING PORTAL

Athletes can report an incident of emotional, physical, or sexual misconduct, a violation of the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (MAAPP) or a general security incident or concern through the [Safety Reporting Portal](#). Athletes may also report to the USOPC over the phone at 719-866-3869.

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APPENDIX D – PRELIMINARY NOTICE TO THE ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES

US Biathlon

PRELIMINARY NOTICE TO THE ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES

2026 Olympic Winter Games

Dec. 2, 2024

USOPC & USBA ICC and USBA Board approved

TO: Members of US Biathlon

FROM: US Biathlon

RE: Preliminary Notice to the Athlete Selection Procedures for the 2026 Olympic Winter Games

To provide as much information in a timely manner, US Biathlon is releasing this Preliminary Notice to the Athlete Selection Procedures for the 2026 Olympic Winter Games. This document is being written as a complement, and not a substitute to the 2026 Olympic Winter Games Athlete Selection Procedures. Additional communication will be released by US Biathlon once the Athlete Selection Procedures have been approved by the USOPC.

The complete qualification pathway for the 2026 Winter Olympic Games (Games) is anticipated to be released by June 2025. However, the opportunity exists for up to 50% of the start quota per gender to be pre-qualified for the Games through Phase 1 Early qualification (rounding down for all fractions).

I. Phase 1 Early Qualification for 2026 Olympic Winter Games from the 2024/25 Season:

- 1) Eligible athletes who place in the top six (6) in any Sprint, Individual, Pursuit, or Mass Start race at the 2025 World Championship (February 2025) will pre-qualify for the Games.
 - If the maximum allowable percentage of pre-qualified start spots is exceeded via top six (6) performances, the following tie-breaking mechanisms will be employed in the order below:
 - Single best World Championships non-team result.
 - If two or more athletes have the same single best result, each athlete's second-best result will be used as the tiebreaker. This tie-break process will continue until the tie is broken (e.g., third-best, fourth-best, etc.).
- 2) If the maximum allowable percentage of pre-qualified start spots have not been filled via step 1, additional athletes may pre-qualify for the Games by meeting the standards outlined below.
 - A. Top-25 in the overall World Cup Final Ranking for the 2024/25 season; or
 - B. Two Top Ten (10) finishes in World Cup (WC) and/or World Championships (WCH) non-team competitions in the 2024/25 season.

If the maximum allowable percentage of pre-qualified start spots is exceeded, the following tie-breaking mechanisms will be employed in the order below, until the maximum allowable percentage of pre-qualified start spots is reached:

- Single best non-team result during the 2024/25 WC (including WCHs 2025) season
- If two or more athletes have the same single best result, each athlete's second-best result will be used as the tiebreaker. This tie-break process will continue until the tie is broken (e.g., third-best, fourth-best, etc.)

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II. Performance Requirements for Early Qualification:

The USBA coaching staff, in consultation with each Pre-Qualified Athlete, will develop a Training Agreement which will outline the continued training and competition requirements for each Pre-Qualified Athlete in the 2025/26 season. Each Training Agreement will be individualized and specific to each Pre-Qualified Athlete and is intended to enable the Pre-Qualified Athlete to best prepare for their training and participation in the Olympic Games, with the focus of the program on peak performance.

The Training Agreement must be signed by the USBA and Pre-Qualified Athlete within one month (or another period mutually agreed upon) after the athlete's Pre-Qualification for the Olympic Team. By signing, both parties agree to fulfill the terms and conditions in the Training Agreement. The signed Training Agreement must be submitted and approved by the International Competition Committee (ICC) prior to execution.

Failure to fulfill the terms and conditions in the Training Agreement may result in the ICC removing the Pre-Qualified Athlete from early qualification status at which time the Pre-Qualified Athlete would need to follow the remaining selection procedures to qualify for the Olympic Team.

III. Phase 2 Qualification/2025 Olympic Team Selection Pathway:

It is intended that athletes who do not pre-qualify for the 2026 Olympic Winter Games via Phase 1 Early Qualification will be evaluated on their performance at any of the below listed events. More information including eligibility and registration information for the events below will be provided in the full athlete selection procedures.

EVENT NAME	DATE/LOCATION
Roller Ski Trials	Fall 2025, (exact dates, to be determined) <i>*This competition will be open to all eligible USBA members.</i>
Pre-Season On-Snow Selection Races	Fall 2025 (exact dates, to be determined)
World Cups	2025/26 Season
IBU Cup Tour	2025/26 Season
2025 US Biathlon On-Snow IBUC/WC Trials	December 2025 (exact dates, to be determined) <i>*This competition will be open to all eligible USBA members.</i>

Pre-Qualified Athletes may be evaluated by some of the 2025-26 events listed above but will not be subject to the same evaluation standards set forth in the full athlete selection procedures. Any standards of evaluation for Pre-Qualified Athletes will be outlined in their Training Agreement.

IV. Disclaimer:

This preliminary notice is based on the International Biathlon Union (IBU) rules and regulations as presently known and understood for the 2026 Olympic Winter Games. The information in this notice is provided to assist athletes with their training and competition planning and is subject to change upon approval of the US Biathlon Athlete Selection Procedures for the 2026 Olympic Winter Games. Once complete, the approved Athlete Selection Procedures will be posted on the [US Biathlon selection procedures website](#). Additionally, the IBU Qualification System and athlete eligibility information for the 2026 Olympic Winter Games can be found [here](#).

For questions about the Games selection process, please contact Lowell Bailey, Director of High Performance, lbailey@usbiathlon.org.