

United States Luge Association (USLA)
ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES
Gangwon, Korea Youth Olympic Games (YOG) 2024
(Update 10/12/23)

Subject to National Team Committee and Board of Directors approval.

The goal of these selection procedures is to select the most competitive athletes, in pursuit of Youth Olympic medals, for nomination to the 2024 Youth Olympic Team.

1. Eligibility

- 1.1. Athletes must be a national of the United States at the time of selection (the first event of this process).
- 1.2. Athletes must hold a valid U.S. passport that will not expire for six months after the conclusion of the Games.
- 1.3. Athletes must be a member in good standing with the USLA at the time of nomination (December 11, 2023)
- 1.4. Athletes must, at all times, meet the requirements set forth in the International Federation(IF) rulebook (commonly referred to as the IRO), a copy of which can be accessed on the International Luge Federation's website at this address: <http://www.fil-luge.org/en/rules/rules-artificial-track>
- 1.5. Athletes must have been born between January 1, 2006, and December 31, 2009.
- 1.6. Please see the International Luge Federation's (FIL) Qualification System – Winter Youth Olympic Games Gangwon 2024 Attachment 1 at the end of this document for additional International Federation standards for participation.
- 1.7. Athletes must successfully complete all Games Registration requirements by the stated deadline.
- 1.8. Any athlete age 18 or older will be required to undergo a background screen in accordance with the current [USOPC Background Check Policy](#).
- 1.9. Any athlete age 18 or older as of the Closing Ceremony will be required to remain current with the U.S. Center for SafeSport's education and training requirements in accordance with the [USOPC Athlete Safety Policy](#).
- 1.10. Any USLA coach present at the events in these procedures has the authority to deny race entry if they feel the athlete has failed to demonstrate the ability to safely navigate the track.
- 1.11. The Youth Olympic Games involve an age range of athletes whose skills are not fully developed in the sport of Luge. In addition, the overall population of athletes in the required age range is small, meaning that wide ranges in ability and experience may exist between athletes that are close in ordinal ranking. As such, a great deal of discretion must be applied as to which athletes and/or doubles teams are entered into the youth races. For both safety and developmental reasons, first year Junior C Team athletes, in the 2023-2024 season, are not qualified for these procedures.

- 1.12. Athletes must comply with the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA), the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), and FIL anti-doping requirements.

2. Selection Procedures

- 2.1. Compete in the Winterberg and Oberhof Youth World Cups.

- 2.1.1. From the athletes' participation in the four Youth World Cups, the FIL will create a ranked list according to the FIL Qualification System for YOG 2024. Using this ranked list, the YOG Athlete Selection Committee will nominate the best performing athletes to the USOPC for the quota spots the USA is awarded.

- 2.1.1.1. Potential USA quota spots for participation in YOG:

- 2.1.1.1.1. Women's Singles – up to 2 athletes

- 2.1.1.1.2. Men's Singles – up to 2 athletes

- 2.1.1.1.3. Women's Doubles – up to 4 athletes (2 teams)

- 2.1.1.1.4. Men's Doubles – up to 4 athletes (2 teams)

3. YOG Athlete Selection Committee

- 3.1. Mark Grimmette, USLA Sport Program Director

- 3.2. Jayson Terdiman, USLA Junior C Team/Youth Team Coach

- 3.3. TBD, Athlete Representative

4. **Athlete Participation** – athletes are expected to participate in all the races outlined in these procedures.

5. **Removal of Athletes:** An athlete who is nominated to the Team by the USLA may be removed for any of the following reasons, as determined by the USLA:

- 5.1. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written and signed letter to the USLA CEO.

- 5.2. Injury or illness as certified by a physician (or medical staff) approved by USLA. If an athlete refuses verification of his/her illness or injury by a physician (or medical staff) approved by USLA, his/her injury will be assumed to be debilitating and he/she may be removed.

- 5.3. Violation of the USLA Code of Conduct (<https://www.usaluge.org/athlete-resources>).

- 5.4. Non-compliance with the eligibility requirements listed in Section 1 of these selection procedures.

- 5.5. An athlete who is removed from the Team pursuant to either of points 5.2, 5.3, or 5.4 has the right to a hearing per USLA Bylaws and the USOPC Bylaws, Section 9. The USA Luge Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found at:

- <http://www.teamusa.org/USA-Luge/Rules-and-Policies>

6. **Replacement of Athletes:** If an athlete is removed from participation in this policy for any of the reasons outlined above, the YOG Athlete Selection Committee will determine a replacement athlete as soon as possible.

7. **Athletes' Right to Compete:** An athlete's right to compete is defined and protected by the USOPC Bylaws. Should an athlete feel their right to compete has been withheld, the USOPC Bylaws provides for a grievance procedure for them to seek a fair hearing and relief.
8. **International Waiver:** These procedures are based on IOC and FIL rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in IOC or FIL rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes immediately. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to USA Luge. However, the selections are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances (weather, budget, war, pandemics, etc.), and realistically may not have accounted for every possible contingency.

If any force of nature, or force majeure, should cause the alteration or cancellation of any of the selection events listed in this document, the USLA Staff will affect changes in the fairest manner possible.

9. **Athletes' Right to Compete and Athlete Ombuds**

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

All questions regarding an athlete's opportunity to compete that are not answered by the USLA, may be directed to the USOPC Athlete Ombudsman.

The Athlete Ombuds Office provides cost-free, independent, and confidential advice regarding athlete rights, grievance procedures and any other related guidance pertaining to selection procedures and can assist in mediating disputes between athletes and their NGB.

To contact the Athlete Ombuds Office:

PHONE: (719) 866-5000

EMAIL: ombudsman@usathlete.org

WEBSITE: www.usathlete.org

10. **Selection Procedure Distribution** – These procedures will be distributed through the USLA website for all athletes. <https://www.usaluge.org/selection-processes>