

# USA Bobsled/Skeleton (USABS)

## Bobsled Athlete Selection Procedures

### 2026 Olympic Winter Games

- Publication Date: March 28, 2025

#### SECTION 1: OVERVIEW

These procedures outline the pathway for selection to the Milano-Cortina 2026 Olympic Winter Games (Games) for USA Bobsled/Skeleton (NGB). The maximum Bobsled Team size can be 12 men (3x 4-man teams) and 6 women (3x 2-woman teams); however final Team size will depend on earned International Bobsleigh and Skeleton Federation (IBSF) quota. IBSF quotas are awarded by quota place to the National Olympic Committee (NOC) and not by specific athlete name.

#### SECTION 2: SELECTION PROCESS DIAGRAM

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

##### Bobsled Push Athletes



Please see Appendix A for the Bobsled Pilot Athlete diagram.

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

#### SECTION 3: ATHLETE REQUIREMENTS

1. Nationality/Passports Requirements:
  - Have a valid United States passport on or before January 18, 2026 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 his or her nationality or acquired a new nationality, refer to

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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 Federation (IBSF) Requirements:
- Athletes must be a minimum of 15 years of age as of the date of the Opening Ceremony of the Olympic Games.
  - Athletes must possess a valid International IBSF license.
  - Selected pilots must have been participating and ranked in a minimum of eight (8) IBSF races on at least three (3) different tracks in the period of 1 October 2024 and 18 January 2026. In addition, the pilot must have been ranked in at least five (5) of the eight (8) above mentioned races on a minimum of two (2) different tracks during the 2025/26 season by 18 January 2026 (23:59 Lausanne time) and must have been ranked among the top 50 in the Men's Bobsleigh IBSF Combined Ranking List or Top 40 in the Women's Bobsleigh IBSF Combined Ranking List of the season 2025/26 by 18 January 2026 (23:59 Lausanne time).
  - Comply with all IBSF eligibility requirements found here: <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. NGB Requirements:
- Comply with the NGB Athlete Agreement.
  - Comply with the [NGB Code of Conduct](#)
  - Comply with the [NGB Athlete Safety Policy](#).
  - Athlete must have an active NGB 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.

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

- Agree to be bound by and adhere to all IOC, WADA, IBSF, 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, IBSF, 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, IBSF and/or the OCOG.

#### 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/LOCATION
March 3-16, 2025	2025 IBSF World Championships / Lake Placid, NY <i>*This event will only serve as an evaluation event for Pilots for the Medal Contender Waiver.</i>
March 20-21, 2025	National Selection Races / Lake Placid, NY
September 2025	National Push Championships / Lake Placid, NY
November 2025	National Selection Races <i>*Please note that this event is currently tentatively scheduled. This event will only occur if the IBSF International training period in Italy allows for these races to be held. It is anticipated that the training period in Italy may not be confirmed until June 2025.</i>
2025/26	IBSF World Cup (WC) races
2025/26	IBSF Europa Cup (EC) races
2025/26	IBSF North America Cup (NAC) races

#### SECTION 6: SELECTION PROCESS

Provide a step-by-step description of the selection process including an overview of the IBSF Qualification System.

##### 6.1 TOTAL QUOTA PLACES:

Up to three (3) 2-man teams, three (3) 4-man teams, three (3) 2-woman teams, and three (3) monobob pilots may qualify. Qualification is achieved by pilot results and pilots obtain a qualification slot for their NOC.

Rules surrounding the IBSF Ranking Lists are outlined in the [IBSF Qualification System](#) as well as in Rule 11 of the [IBSF International Bobsleigh Rules](#).

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The IBSF Ranking Lists are based on results from the 2025-26 IBSF International Race Circuits up until the end of the qualification period on January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026, and will be used to nominate some athletes to the U.S. Bobsled Olympic Team (see Section 6.2). The 2025-26 international calendar is expected to be published by IBSF in mid-July 2025 and made available at <https://www.ibsf.org/en/races-and-results>.

#### **6.2 EVALUATION EVENT QUALIFICATION PATHWAY:**

Athletes are selected to compete in the 2025-26 IBSF International Race Circuits based on results from the 2025-26 Selection Races and Push Championships. USABS Selection Race Criteria and Push Championship protocol can be found at <https://www.teamusa.org/usa-bobsled-skeleton-federation/resources/for-athletes/criteria>.

In addition, results from the following events are factored into the discretionary criteria as outlined in Section 7 below:

#### **2025-26 Selection Races:**

The 2025-26 Selection Races will be held on March 20-21, 2025 and, if possible, the fall of 2025. Pilots will qualify for selection races based on performances during the 2024/25 season and/or 2025 National Push Championships as outlined in the 2025-2026 Bobsled Selection Criteria, see [Section 4](#).

#### **2025 National Push Championships:**

September 2025, Lake Placid, NY. Specific protocols will be announced at least thirty (30) days in advance and will be posted at USABS website, <https://www.usabs.com/criteria>.

Athletes will qualify for the 2025 National Push Championships based on their performance during the 2025-26 Season and/or off-season performances in the Lake Placid Ice House as outlined in the 2025-2026 Bobsled Selection Criteria, see [Section 4.b](#).

Results from the 2025 National Push Championships will be used as part of the discretionary selection criteria in accordance with Section 7.

#### **6.3 PILOT MEDAL CONTENDER WAIVER:**

Pilot Medal Contender Waivers will be reviewed by the Pilot Medal Contender Waiver Committee for any athlete who:

1. Is a 2022 Olympic Games Medalist or a 2025 IBSF World Championships Medalist (top 3) as a pilot;

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2. Meets the minimum eligibility requirements outlined in Sections 3-4 above and the [IBSF Qualification System](#) for the 2026 Winter Olympic Games;
  3. Due to a verifiable illness, injury, or exceptional circumstance, is unable to compete in one (or all) of the 2025/26 Selection Races or in one (or all) of the 2025-26 IBSF events (World Cup, Europe Cup, and North America Cup) during the qualification period thereby negatively impacting his/her position on the IBSF Ranking List; and
  4. Submits the signed Waiver Request Form by January 18, 2026.
- A. The athlete must submit a written waiver to the USA Bobsled & Skeleton Director of Sport Performance ([curt.tomasevicz@usabs.com](mailto:curt.tomasevicz@usabs.com)) no later than the end of the IBSF qualification period, January 18, 2026. The Waiver Request Form can be found in the Athlete Handbook at this link on the USABS website (<https://www.usabs.com/athlete-resources>).
- B. If the waiver is for an illness or injury, the waiver must be accompanied by an examining physician's statement and any applicable medical records. The nature and extent of the illness or injury is subject to verification by a USA Bobsled & Skeleton approved physician.
- The athlete must provide a signed release and authorization statement to allow a qualified physician approved by USA Bobsled & Skeleton to review the medical records submitted along with the Waiver Request Form.
- C. If the waiver is for an exceptional circumstance, the same waiver process will apply except a medical release statement and medical records will not be required. An exceptional circumstance for this purpose is defined as an unpreventable event or situation that prohibits a pilot athlete from competing in the 2025/26 Selection Races or IBSF events listed above. The athlete must submit the Waiver Request Form along with written evidence to support their claim.
- D. All signed Waiver Request Forms will be reviewed by the Pilot Medal Contender Waiver Committee below. The Pilot Medal Contender Waiver Committee will determine whether the athlete may be considered for a discretionary position (see Section 7). The Pilot Medal Contender Waiver Committee will notify the athlete(s) who submitted a Waiver Request Form by January 18, 2026.

#### Pilot Medal Contender Waiver Committee

- USABS Director of Sport Performance
- USABS Head Coach
- USABS Assistant Coach for Extreme Circumstance Waiver OR Medical Professional for Injury/Illness Waiver
- USABS 10 Year Athlete Representative selected/approved by the AAC
- USABS 10 Year or 10+ Year Athlete Representative selected/approved by the AAC
- USABS Chief Medical Officer (non-voting advisor to the committee)

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#### 6.4 NOMINATION TO THE TEAM:

There are two (2) ways athletes will be nominated to the 2026 U.S. Olympic Team:

1. Based on IBSF Ranking Lists as of January 18, 2026 or the end of the IBSF qualification period as indicated below.
2. Discretionary criteria outlined in Section 7.

In the event of a tie between Pilot Athletes on the IBSF Ranking List, USABS will use the following tie-breaking mechanisms in order and will continue until the tie is broken (4<sup>th</sup> highest finish, 5<sup>th</sup> highest finish, and so on):

- a) Highest single finish in any discipline, by points, from the 2025/26 IBSF International Race Circuits as of January 18, 2026.
- b) Second highest single finish in any discipline, by points, from the 2025/26 IBSF International Race Circuits as of January 18, 2026.
- c) Third highest single finish in any discipline, by points, from the 2025/26 IBSF International Race Circuits as of January 18, 2026.

\*Please note that if there is a tie between Monobob Pilot Athletes, the tiebreaker above will be implemented. However, the highest single finish will be limited to Monobob events.

#### A) 2026 Olympic Team Pilot Selection: Men’s Bobsled (2-Man and 4-Man)

Gender	Max Quota Places per NOC
Men	Max 2 NOCs with 3 crews per event
	Max 7 NOCs with 2 crews per event
	8 NOCs with 1 crew per event

USABS will go through the process below to nominate pilots to the 2-man and 4-man sleds. The <https://www.ibsf.org/en/races-and-results> will be utilized in the nomination process outlined below.

If Team USA qualifies **one quota**:

- The highest ranked pilot on IBSF Combined Ranking List at the completion of the IBSF qualification period (January 18, 2026) will be nominated to the Team unless an athlete has an approved Pilot Medal Contender Waiver.
  - If an athlete has an approved Pilot Medal Contender Waiver, the Team Selection Committee (Section 7.3) will use the discretionary selection criteria outlined in Section 7 to nominate either the highest ranked athlete or a Medal Contender Waiver athlete to the Team.

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If Team USA qualifies **two quotas**:

- The highest ranked pilot on the IBSF Combined Ranking List at the completion of the IBSF qualification period (January 18, 2026) will be nominated to the Team.
- The second highest ranked pilot on IBSF Combined Ranking List at the completion of the IBSF qualification period (January 18, 2026) will be nominated to the Team unless an athlete has an approved Pilot Medal Contender Waiver.
  - If an athlete has an approved Pilot Medal Contender Waiver, the Team Selection Committee (Section 7.3) will use the discretionary selection criteria outlined in Section 7 to nominate either the second highest ranked athlete or a Medal Contender Waiver athlete as the second athlete to the Team.

If Team USA qualifies **three quotas**:

- The highest ranked pilot on the IBSF Combined Ranking List at the completion of the IBSF qualification period (January 18, 2026) will be nominated to the Team.
- The second highest ranked pilot on the IBSF Combined Ranking List at the completion of the IBSF qualification period (January 18, 2026) will be nominated to the Team unless multiple athletes have an approved Pilot Medal Contender Waiver.
  - If multiple athletes have an approved Pilot Medal Contender Waiver, the Team Selection Committee (Section 7.3) will use the discretionary selection criteria outlined in Section 7 to nominate either the second highest ranked athlete or a Medal Contender Waiver athlete as the second athlete to the Team.
- The next highest ranked pilot on IBSF Combined Ranking List at the completion of the IBSF qualification period (January 18, 2026) will be nominated to the Team unless an athlete has an approved Pilot Medal Contender Waiver.
  - If an athlete who has not been nominated to the Team has an approved Pilot Medal Contender Waiver, the Team Selection Committee (Section 7.3) will use the discretionary selection criteria outlined in Section 7 to nominate either the next highest ranked athlete or a Medal Contender Waiver athlete as the third athlete to the Team.

#### **B) 2026 Olympic Team Pilot Selection: 2-Woman Bobsleigh**

Event	Max Quota Places per NOC
2-Woman Bobsleigh	Max 3 NOCs with 3 crews
	Max 5 NOCs with 2 crews
	6 NOCs with 1 crew

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USABS will go through the process below to nominate pilots to the 2-woman. The 2-Woman and monobob [IBSF Combined Ranking list](#) will be utilized in the nomination process outlined below.

If Team USA qualifies **one quota**:

- The highest ranked pilot on IBSF Combined Ranking List at the completion of the IBSF qualification period (January 18, 2026) will be nominated to the Team unless an athlete has an approved Pilot Medal Contender Waiver.
  - If an athlete has an approved Pilot Medal Contender Waiver, the Team Selection Committee (Section 7.3) will use the discretionary selection criteria outlined in Section 7 to nominate either the highest ranked athlete or a Medal Contender Waiver athlete to the Team.

If Team USA qualifies **two quotas**:

- The highest ranked pilot on the IBSF Combined Ranking List at the completion of the IBSF qualification period (January 18, 2026) will be nominated to the Team.
- The second highest ranked pilot on IBSF Combined Ranking List at the completion of the IBSF qualification period (January 18, 2026) will be nominated to the Team unless an athlete has an approved Pilot Medal Contender Waiver.
  - If an athlete has an approved Pilot Medal Contender Waiver, the Team Selection Committee (Section 7.3) will use the discretionary selection criteria outlined in Section 7 to nominate either the next highest ranked athlete or a Medal Contender Waiver athlete as the second athlete to the Team.

If Team USA qualifies **three quotas**:

- The highest ranked pilot on the IBSF Combined Ranking List at the completion of the IBSF qualification period (January 18, 2026) will be nominated to the Team.
- The second highest ranked pilot on the IBSF Combined Ranking List at the completion of the IBSF qualification period (January 18, 2026) will be nominated to the Team unless multiple athletes have an approved Pilot Medal Contender Waiver.
  - If multiple athletes have an approved Pilot Medal Contender Waiver, the Team Selection Committee (Section 7.3) will use the discretionary selection criteria outlined in Section 7 to nominate either the second highest ranked athlete or a Medal Contender Waiver athlete as the second athlete to the Team.
- The next highest ranked pilot on IBSF Combined Ranking List at the completion of the IBSF qualification period (January 18, 2026) will be nominated to the Team unless an athlete has an approved Pilot Medal Contender Waiver.
  - If an athlete who has not been nominated to the Team has an approved Pilot Medal Contender Waiver, the Team Selection Committee (Section 7.3) will use the discretionary selection criteria outlined in Section 7 to nominate either the next highest ranked athlete or a Medal Contender Waiver athlete as the third athlete to the Team.



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**C) 2026 Olympic Team Pilot Selection: Women’s Monobob:**

Event	Max Quota Places per NOC
Women’s Monobob	Max 2 NOCs with 3 pilots
	Max 4 NOCs with 2 pilots
	11 NOCs with 1 pilot

1. An athlete must be nominated to the Team for 2-Woman Bobsleigh to be eligible to be nominated as a Women’s Monobob Pilot.
  - If Team USA has equal quota for 2-Woman Bobsleigh and Women’s Monobob, the same pilot athletes will be nominated to the Team for both disciplines.
  
2. If Team USA has fewer Women’s Monobob quota than 2-Woman quota, USABS will go through the process below to nominate pilots to the Monobob. The Women’s Monobob IBSF Ranking list will be utilized in the nomination process outlined below.

**If Team USA qualifies **one** quota:**

- The highest ranked eligible pilot on the Women’s Monobob IBSF Ranking List at the completion of the IBSF qualification period (January 18, 2026) will be nominated to the Team unless a Pilot Medal Contender was nominated to the 2-Woman.
  - If a Pilot Medal Contender was nominated to the 2-Woman, the Team Selection Committee (Section 7.3) will use the discretionary selection criteria outlined in Section 7 to nominate either the highest ranked athlete or a Medal Contender Waiver athlete as the first Monobob pilot.

**If Team USA qualifies **two** quotas:**

- The highest ranked eligible pilot on the Women’s Monobob IBSF Ranking List at the completion of the IBSF qualification period (January 18, 2026) will be nominated to the Team unless multiple Pilot Medal Contenders were nominated to the 2-Woman.
  - If multiple Pilot Medal Contenders were nominated to the 2-Woman, the Team Selection Committee (Section 7.3) will use the discretionary selection criteria outlined in Section 7 to nominate either the highest ranked athlete or a Medal Contender Waiver athlete as the first Monobob pilot.
  
- The next highest ranked eligible pilot on the Women’s Monobob IBSF Ranking List at the completion of the IBSF qualification period (January 18, 2026) will be nominated to the Team unless a Pilot Medal Contender was nominated to the 2-Woman.

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- If a Pilot Medal Contender was nominated to the 2-Woman, the Team Selection Committee (Section 7.3) will use the discretionary selection criteria outlined in Section 7 to nominate either the next highest ranked athlete or a Medal Contender Waiver athlete as the second Monobob pilot.

#### **D) 2026 Olympic Team Push Athlete Selection: Men and Women**

All push athletes who have been named to the 2025/2026 World Cup Pool may be considered for the Olympic Team. Additionally, any athlete recommended by the National Team Head Coach to the Team Selection Committee may be considered for the Team.

All push athletes will be nominated to the Team by the Team Selection Committee based on the discretionary selection criteria outlined in Section 7.

#### **E) Ap Alternate Athlete Nomination**

Ap Alternate Athletes are non-competing athletes and are not included within the athlete quota. Ap Alternate Athletes may be part of the crew as a substitute. However, in the event of injury or illness, the IOC Late Athlete Replacement Policy is applicable and will be implemented.

Ap Alternate Athletes will be nominated by the Team Selection Committee based on the discretionary selection criteria outlined in Section 7. However, athlete input will be evaluated as part of Tier 1 criteria instead of as part of Tier 3 criteria for Ap Alternate Athlete nomination only. The Team Selection Committee will nominate the maximum number of Ap Alternate Athletes that are allowed per the IBSF Qualification System.

Please note that the anticipated pathway to nominate Ap Alternate Athletes may be amended following the release of the IOC Late Athlete Replacement Detailed Annex which is expected to be published in October 2025.

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

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

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

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## SECTION 7: DISCRETIONARY CRITERIA TO NOMINATE ATHLETES FOR THE TEAM

### 7.1 RATIONALE FOR UTILIZING DISCRETIONARY SELECTION:

- 1) If there is an injury, illness or exceptional circumstance that would prevent an approved Medal Contender Pilot athlete from competing in the 2025 National Push Championships, in one (or all) of the 2025/26 Selection Races or in one (or all) of the 2025-26 IBSF events (World Cup, Europe Cup, and North America Cup) during the qualification period, discretionary selection will be used to allow the NGB to consider all of the best athletes for nomination to the Team.
  
- 2) In the nomination of push athletes who will compete together as a team, it is difficult to make nomination decisions based solely upon objective criteria. It is the belief of USABS that considering a mix of selection criteria, which includes subjective components as well as objective data to evaluate performance ability, will provide USABS with the best chance to win the maximum number of medals at the Games.”

### 7.2 DEFINE THE DISCRETIONARY CRITERIA TO BE USED:

Depending on the number of quotas that Team USA qualifies, discretion may be used in the following scenarios:

- to nominate the final quota spot pilot in each discipline (Section 7.2.1)
- to nominate push athletes and push athlete replacements (Section 7.2.2.)

#### **7.2.1. Pilot Nomination**

Discretionary selection criteria will only be used for pilot nomination if a pilot athlete has an approved Pilot Medal Contender Waiver (see Section 6.3). In that case, the criteria listed below will be used to nominate the pilot athlete for the final quota spot in the applicable discipline.

The Team Selection Committee will consider the criteria below in no particular order:

- IBSF ranking, as of January 18, 2026, both combined and discipline specific
- Top 6 finishes in international competition results from the 2025-2026 season
- Head-to-head 2025/26 U.S. Selection Race results
- 2025 National Push Championships results
- 2025 IBSF World Championships results (if applicable)
  - *Results from this event will only be considered for an athlete with an approved Pilot Medal Contender Waiver.*

\*For Monobob Pilots (see Section 6.4 C), the Team Selection Committee will only consider the Women’s Monobob IBSF Ranking List and discipline specific results.

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#### **Pilot Medal Contender Waiver Cap**

Only one (1) pilot athlete per gender with an approved Pilot Medal Contender Waiver may be nominated to the Team if Team USA qualifies two (2) or fewer quotas. A maximum of two (2) pilot athletes per gender with an approved Pilot Medal Contender Waiver may be nominated to the Team if Team USA qualifies three (3) quotas.

#### **7.2.2. Push Athlete Nomination**

Push athletes and push Ap Alternate Athletes will be nominated to the Team by the Team Selection Committee using the criteria below. The Team Selection Committee will nominate the number of push athletes and push Ap Alternate Athletes allowed by the IOC and the IBSF.

The following criteria listed in priority order by tier will be considered by the Team Selection Committee when determining discretionary selections for push athletes and push Ap Alternate Athletes\*.

Tier 1: The highest emphasis will be placed on:

- Upward/downward trend of push times, start rank, and velocity at the start in IBSF and USABS sanctioned events
- Results from the Evaluation Events listed in Section 5

Tier 2: The next highest emphasis will be placed on:

- Proven international experience with history/results of team combinations emphasizing top six (6) start times and finishes at the Evaluation Events listed in Section 5.
- 2025 Push Championships combination results (time and velocity)
- 2025 Push Championships individual results (time and velocity)
- Team results at the 2025/26 Selection Races with focus on both the start performance and finish results.
- Size and weight of the push athlete

Tier 3: Other criteria to consider:

- Pre-season 30-meter sprint and vertical jump results
- Athlete input requested from athletes via a Qualysis survey (collected by Team Selection Committee athlete representatives prior to the Team Selection Committee meeting)

\*Please note for push Ap Alternate Athlete nomination only, athlete input will be evaluated as part of Tier 1 criteria instead of as part of Tier 3 criteria.

- However, if a push Ap Alternate Athlete is needed to replace an athlete nominated to the Team (see Section 11), athlete input will be evaluated as part of Tier 3 criteria.

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Pilot/Push Athlete Combinations shall be assembled by the Team Selection Committee in consultation with the nominated Olympic Team Pilots and Push Athletes using the Push Athlete criteria above. Final Team combinations will be decided at the Olympic Games by the Team Selection Committee.

#### 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.

##### Team Selection Committee

- USABS Director of Sport Performance
- USABS Head Coach
- USABS Assistant Coach
- USABS 10 Year Athlete Representative selected/approved by the AAC
- USABS 10 Year or 10+ Year Athlete Representative selected/approved by the AAC

#### SECTION 8: MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION

Specify the location, schedule, and duration of all mandatory training and/or competition that will be considered in Team nomination.

NGB will mandate that Olympic Team nominees participate in the remaining events of the IBSF World Cup for which they have been selected and in USABS Training Camps up to the time of the Team USA Welcome Experience (TUWE) at the Games (time and place to be determined), unless an athlete has been granted a waiver by the National Team Head Coach, Director of Sport Performance, and athlete representative selected/approved by the USABS AAC. All waiver requests must be submitted using the USABS Waiver Request Form which can be found in the [Athlete Handbook](#) (see pages 48-49).

Information will be distributed to athletes as soon as dates and locations are determined, but no later than thirty (30) days prior to the actual events.

#### SECTION 9: DATE OF TEAM NOMINATION

- The Nomination of Athletes, including replacements, will be announced to all athletes and submitted to the USOPC on or before: **January 21, 2026**.
- If USABS receives additional quota through IBSF reallocation, those athletes will be nominated to the USOPC on or before **January 25, 2026**.

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## SECTION 10: REMOVAL OF ATHLETES FROM THE TEAM

### 10.1 NGB JURISDICTION

NGB has jurisdiction over athlete nominees until athlete entries have been submitted by the USOPC to the OCOG.

- a. An athlete who is nominated to the Team by NGB may be removed for any of the following reasons, as determined by NGB:
  - i. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete submits a written letter to the NGB Director of Sport Performance requesting to voluntarily withdraw from the Team.
  - ii. Injury or illness. A physician (or medical staff) approved by NGB 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 NGB Code of Conduct:  
<https://www.usabs.com/policies-bylaws>
  - v. Athlete Agreement. Athlete violates a term in their signed NGB Athlete 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, IBSF, USADA and/or USOPC anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures, the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code, the USOPC Athlete Safety Policy and NGB Athlete Safety Policy, as applicable.

### 10.2 USOPC JURISDICTION

- a. Once Athlete entries have been submitted by the USOPC to the OCOG, the USOPC has jurisdiction over the Team.
- b. USOPC's Delegation Conduct Requirements apply in addition to the NGB 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](http://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 OCOG, the NGB will nominate the replacement athlete following the process outlined below:

##### **Pilot Athletes**

- If an athlete in the same gender did not receive an approved Medal Contender Waiver, the next highest ranked pilot on the applicable IBSF Ranking List for the specific discipline (see Section 6.4 A-C) will be nominated to the Team.
- If an athlete in the same gender received an approved Medal Contender Waiver, but the nomination of a replacement athlete with an approved Medal Contender Waiver would exceed the Medal Contender Waiver Cap (Section 7.2.1), the next highest ranked pilot on the applicable IBSF Ranking List for the specific discipline (see Section 6.4 A-C) will be nominated to the Team.
- If an athlete in the same gender received an approved Medal Contender Waiver and the nomination of a replacement athlete with an approved Medal Contender Waiver would not exceed the Medal Contender Waiver Cap (Section 7.2.1), the replacement pilot athlete will be nominated by the Team Selection Committee based on the discretionary selection criteria in Section 7.2.1.

##### **Push Athletes**

- NGB will nominate one (1) of the Ap Alternate Athletes to fill the vacancy.
- The Team Selection Committee will determine which Ap Alternate Athlete to nominate to the Team based on the discretionary selection criteria in Section 7.2.2.

11.2 All replacement athletes must meet all requirements listed in Sections 3-4.

11.3 If a replacement athlete is necessary, whether a pilot or push athlete, the entire Olympic Team combinations for that gender will be reevaluated with any changes to athlete combinations decided by the Team Selection Committee.

#### **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 OCOG, the same process outlined in Section 11.1. will be used provided USABS is still authorized to add a replacement athlete to the Team, in accordance with the IBSF Qualification System, and any

# **USA Bobsled/Skeleton (USABS)**

## **Bobsled Athlete Selection Procedures**

### **2026 Olympic Winter Games**

applicable IOC and/or OCOG rules or policies.

12.2 All replacement athletes must meet all requirements listed in Sections 3-4.

12.3 If a replacement athlete is necessary, whether a pilot or push athlete, the entire Olympic Team combinations for that gender will be reevaluated with any changes to athlete combinations decided by the Team Selection Committee.

### **SECTION 13: RIGHT TO A HEARING**

An athlete who is removed from the Team has the right to a hearing per the NGB's complaint procedures <https://www.usabs.com/policies-bylaws> 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:

- NGB Code of Conduct: <https://www.usabs.com/policies-bylaws>
- NGB Athlete Agreement

### **SECTION 15: DISCLAIMERS**

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

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 Pilot Medal Contender Waiver Committee (Section 6.3), the Team Selection Committee (Section 7.3) and all individuals who developed these selection procedures (Section 21) must comply with the [NGB Conflict of Interest Policy](#), to include completing and submitting a disclosure form consistent with the NGB Conflict of Interest Policy before convening the committee.



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A conflict of interest exists when a personal, family, financial, professional, club, team or business relationship or interferes with, or maybe perceived to interfere with a committee member's ability to be impartial and participate in the selection process in a fair and impartial manner. Any member of the Selection Committee who has an actual, possible, or perceived conflict of interest must disclose it to the NGB Ethics Committee prior to the start of the selection process and may be required to recuse themselves from the Selection Committee discussions and/or voting.

If a conflict exists, the NGB Ethics Committee shall review the conflict and determine the committee member's level of involvement (e.g., whether that committee member must recuse themselves from participating in discussions and/or voting).

During its review, the NGB Ethics Committee may ask a Selection Committee member or an affected person for more information at its discretion. For example, if a Selection Committee member is required to recuse themselves from voting, the NGB Ethics Committee may still determine that a Selection Committee member who has relevant and necessary information related to athlete performance, such as a national team coach or high performance director, may, if requested by the Selection Committee, provide that information to the Selection Committee if the information is provided in a fair and unbiased manner and if the Selection Committee member with the conflict of interest does not vote toward the final decision.

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 NGB Ethics Committee ([ethicscommitteechair@usabs.com](mailto:ethicscommitteechair@usabs.com), (518) 241-6254). 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 NGB 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: Curt Tomasevicz

Position: USABS Director of Sport Performance

Email: [curt.tomasevicz@usabs.com](mailto:curt.tomasevicz@usabs.com)

Phone: (719) 271-5662

# USA Bobsled/Skeleton (USABS)

## Bobsled Athlete Selection Procedures

### 2026 Olympic Winter Games

Name: Chris Kinney

Position: Team USA Athletes' Commission Representative

Email: [stopher.kinney@gmail.com](mailto:stopher.kinney@gmail.com)

Phone: (678) 650-0023

#### 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](mailto:ombudsman@usathlete.org)

WEBSITE: [usathlete.org](http://usathlete.org)

#### SECTION 18: GRIEVANCES

The NGB Grievance Procedures can be found here: <https://www.usabs.com/policies-bylaws>.

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 NGB 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 NGB 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 the NGB by emailing [judicialcommitteechair@usabs.com](mailto:judicialcommitteechair@usabs.com) or through the NGB's reporting hotline (518) 241-6254.
- 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](#).

# USA Bobsled/Skeleton (USABS)

## Bobsled Athlete Selection Procedures

### 2026 Olympic Winter Games

#### SECTION 20: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

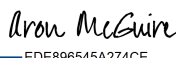
NGB will retain the approved Selection Procedures and all supporting documents, including scouting or evaluation forms, etc., and data from the selection process as required by the NGB's Records Retention Policy or for six months past the date of the Closing Ceremony of the Games, whichever is longer.

#### SECTION 21: DEVELOPMENT, APPROVAL & CERTIFICATION OF SELECTION PROCEDURES

The following committee of individuals developed these selection procedures.

NAME	ROLE
Curt Tomasevicz	USABS Director of Sport Performance
Chris Fogt	USABS Bobsled Head Coach
Chris Kinney	<10 year athlete, Team USA AC representative

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

POSITION	NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE
USABS Chief Executive Officer	Aron McGuire	DocuSigned by:  EDE896545A274CE...	3/28/25

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

POSITION	NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE
Team USA Athletes Commission Representative*	Chris Kinney	Signed by:  37EA186E16CC4EE...	3/28/25

\* If the Team USA Athletes' Commission Representative has delegated authority to the Alternate 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. 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 an athlete from that sport to review and sign the Selection Procedures.

# USA Bobsled/Skeleton (USABS)

## Bobsled Athlete Selection Procedures

### 2026 Olympic Winter Games

#### Revision History

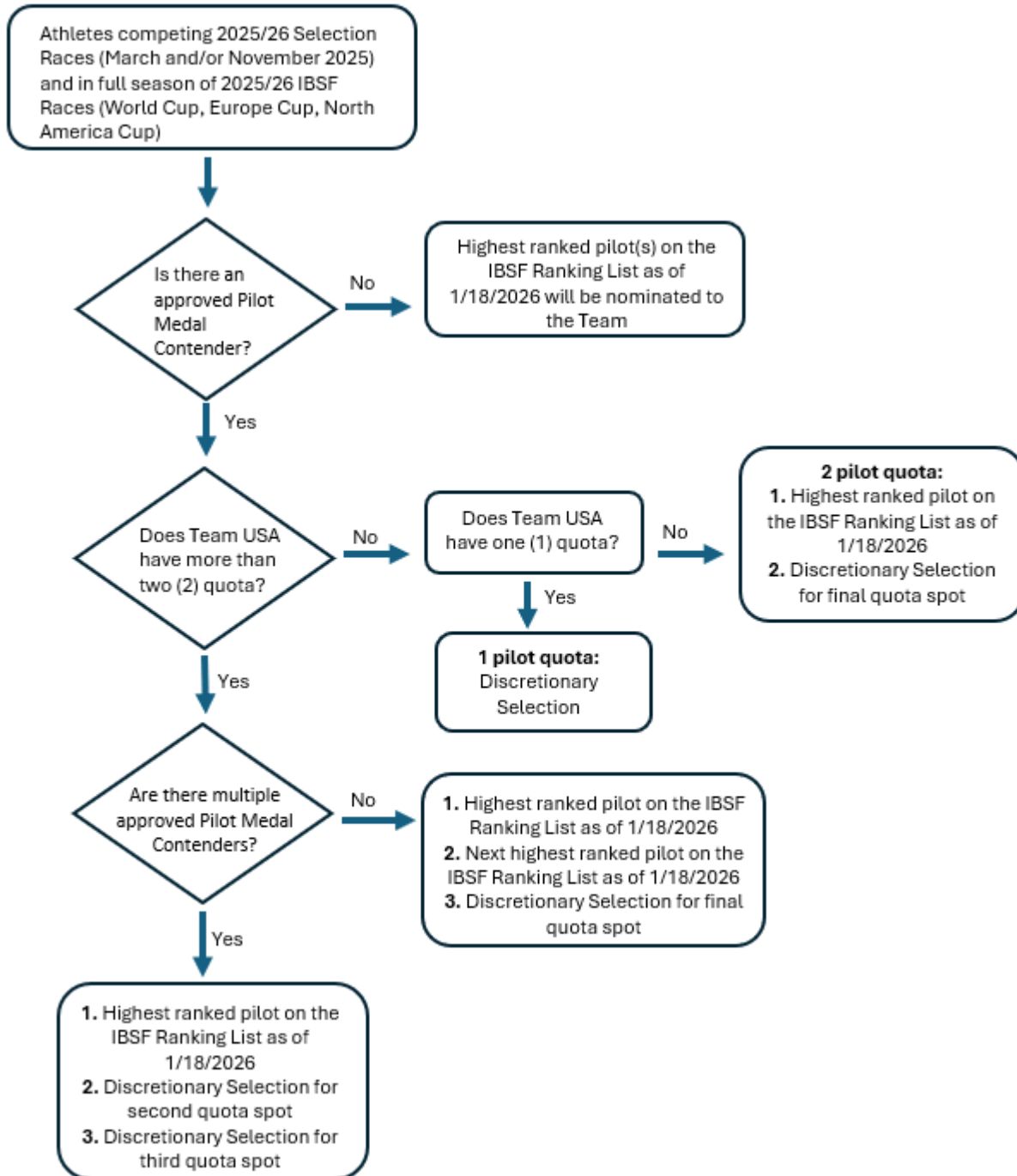
Date	Revisions
March 28, 2025	Original document published

# USA Bobsled/Skeleton (USABS)

## Bobsled Athlete Selection Procedures

### 2026 Olympic Winter Games

#### APPENDIX A – PILOT ATHLETE DIAGRAM



*\*Please note that the nomination pathway for Women’s Monobob will differ slightly from this flowchart if there are multiple approved Pilot Medal Contenders and only two (2) quota. Please see Section 6.4-C.*

# **USA Bobsled/Skeleton (USABS)**

## **Bobsled Athlete Selection Procedures**

### **2026 Olympic Winter Games**

#### **APPENDIX B – 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

**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

# USA Bobsled/Skeleton (USABS)

## Bobsled Athlete Selection Procedures

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#### APPENDIX C – 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:

- ii. **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.
- iii. **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.

# **USA Bobsled/Skeleton (USABS)**

## **Bobsled Athlete Selection Procedures**

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#### **APPENDIX D – 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](http://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](mailto:ombudsman@usathlete.org)

WEBSITE: [usathlete.org](http://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.safesporthehelpline.org](http://www.safesporthehelpline.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](http://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](http://www.usopc.org/athlete-benefits-and-resources)



# **USA Bobsled/Skeleton (USABS)**

## **Bobsled Athlete Selection Procedures**

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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](mailto: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 [www.usopc.org/mental-health](http://www.usopc.org/mental-health) for information about all available resources or complete our referral link at: [go.teamusa.org/referrals](http://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.