



US Biathlon Association ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES

2023-24 World Cup (WC) & IBU Cup Teams

June, 2023

Overview

The following criteria specify how athletes qualify for competition teams in the 2023-24 Season. The competitions covered in this document are World Championships (WCH's) World Cups (WC's), Open European Championships (OECH's), IBU Cups (IBUC), and associated training camps leading up to these competitions. Team selections are proposed by the US Biathlon High Performance Staff and approved by International Competition Committee (ICC) through the following process (Also, see Appendix, Section 7):

- 1. US Biathlon High Performance Staff proposes team selections and justifications for any discretionary selections*
- 2. The ICC holds a committee meeting to discuss these proposals and to make any necessary revisions per the committee's input*
- 3. At the conclusion of the committee meeting, the ICC members vote on the final proposal and team selections are deemed final only when a majority of ICC members have voted in favor.*

Pre-qualified athletes: The standard of one (1) top-20 WC or WCH's result in a non-team discipline during the 2022-23 competition season will be used to pre-qualify an athlete for the European Pre-Season Camp *and* World Cups 1-3 unless this standard results in more than 50% of the team quota size prequalifying. USBA also must adhere to the general rule that no more than 50% of a team can be prequalified for a given trip. In cases where the number of athletes meeting the prequalification standard exceeds 50% of the team size, the team will be filled to the maximum percentage of start spots without exceeding 50% via single best WC or WCH result, in a non-team event, from the 2022/23 season.

For non-prequalified athletes: The qualifying process begins with two roller ski competitions held in Soldier Hollow, Utah. Following those competitions, the World Cup team quotas will be filled to two athletes per gender based on the pre-qualification standards and filling additional spots via trials rankings. Trials rankings shall exclude any pre-qualified athletes. In addition, a pool of seven (7) athletes per gender, hereby referred to as the International Selection Pool, will be selected to attend the European Pre-Season Camp in Europe in November following the Utah Trials. The final two spots, and the entire IBU Cup rosters will be selected at this camp.

Movement of athletes between World Cup and IBU Cup: In addition to roster changes outlined in the Selection Criteria below, athletes should expect exchanges, if warranted, between the World Cup and IBU Cup team rosters throughout the season in accordance with Sections 2 and 3 of the Appendix. Accordingly, the National Team coaches will review athlete performance on both the WC and IBUC tours throughout the season and may make roster exchange requests to the ICC when appropriate. The review process will follow in accordance with those policies outlined in Sections 2 and 3 of the Appendix. The US Biathlon High Performance Staff and the ICC may undertake additional athlete exchanges at any point in the season if warranted by athlete performances and in accordance with those policies outlines in Section 2 and 3 of the Appendix.

World Championships:

The prequalification spots for the World Championship team will be determined at the conclusion of World Cup 6 (Antholz, ITA). Those WC athletes not prequalified will travel to OECH's and compete. At the conclusion of those races, the rest of the World Championships team roster will be filled. Those athletes who do not qualify for WCH's through OECH's will compete at IBU Cup 6 (Arber, GER).

Practical Note:

USBA will send a team to IBU Cup 3 in Sjusjoen, NOR but will also conduct a December IBU Cup Trials during the same week. As such, some IBU Cup 2 team members will EITHER qualify for IBU Cup 3 through their IBUC 1 and 2 results OR will need to compete in December IBU Cup trials in order to qualify for IBU Cups 4-5.

Trials Event Information

October World Cup & Selection Pool Trials:

Two roller ski races will be held at Soldier Hollow, in Midway, Utah in October. Point lists rankings will be calculated using the USBA percent-back system counting both races. The point base for each race will include only American athletes and exclude athletes pre-qualified for the early season World Cups. Athletes must notify the USBA of their intent to participate three weeks prior to the races by filling out the online enrollment at www.usbiathlon.com/rollerski. Athletes participating in the roller ski races for trials purposes agree to ski on matched roller skis, which will be provided by US Biathlon prior to the race.

December IBU Cup Trials:

All athletes not qualified for World Cup 3 or IBU Cup 3, may qualify for subsequent IBU Cups and OECH by competing at the December IBU Cup trials. The race series will consist of three races spanning the

four-day period between Dec. 14-17, 2023. The results of those trials will determine the remaining spots on the roster for the IBU Cups 4 and 5 and OECH's.

Formats and dates for trials races:

October World Cup & IBU Cup Trials:

-Location: Soldier Hollow, UT

- Formats:

- Oct. 13, 2023 – Men's and Women's Sprint

- Oct. 14, 2023 – Men's and Women's Mass Start

December IBU Cup Trials:

- Location: Craftsbury, VT

- Formats TBD: 2-3 races held within the following 4 day period

- Dates: Dec. 14-17, 2023

Selection Criteria

Note: If any athlete declines their position on any team the ICC reserves the option to name a replacement athlete by discretion (see Point 3 of the Appendix - **USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection**).

Note: In the event that trials are postponed or cancelled due to weather conditions or other issues, the ICC will follow the contingency planning process outlined in Point 4 of the Appendix – **Contingency Procedures for Trials Events**.

NOTE: IBU Event names, numbers and dates are those available as of the publication of this document. Any changes made by IBU could result in changes to these procedures as determined by the US Biathlon ICC.

On-snow European Pre-Season Camp:

Dates: ~Nov. 6 to 22nd for WC qualifiers and ~Nov. 6-27 for IBUC qualifiers.

Women & Men

Team Size: 9 per gender

- All athletes meeting the prequalification standard for WC 1-3 as described in "Pre-qualified athletes" section above.
- The top ranked athlete(s) (excluding pre-qualified athletes) on the Utah Trials points list will be named until a team size of 7 per gender is reached.
- 2 additional athlete per gender will be named by the ICC in consultation with US Biathlon High Performance Staff, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection.

World Cups 1-3:

World Cup 1 in Oestersund, SWE Nov. 22-Dec. 3, 2023

World Cup 2 in Hochfilzen, AUT: Dec. 4-10, 2023

World Cup 3 in Lenzerheide, SUI: Dec 11-17, 2023

Women & Men

Team Size: 4 per gender

- All athletes meeting the pre-qualification standard for WC 1-3 as described in “Pre-qualified athletes” section above.
- If less than a team size of 2 is reached through the above criteria, the top ranked athlete(s) on the Utah Trials points list will be named until a team size of 2 per gender is reached. Pre-qualified athletes are excluded from the trials rankings.
- 2 additional athletes per gender will be named by the ICC in consultation with US Biathlon High Performance Staff, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection at the end of the On-snow European Pre-Season Camp. Discretionary decisions will incorporate an assessment of general performance *throughout* the Pre-Season Camp and not limited to only time trial(s).

IBU Cups 1 and 2:

IBU Cup 1 in Kontiolahti, FIN: Nov.27-Dec. 3, 2023

IBU Cup 2 in Idre, SWE: Dec. 4-10, 2023

Men & Women

Team Size: 5 per gender

- Any athlete participating in the On-Snow Pre-season Camp who is not selected to WC 1-3 will be named to the team.

IBU Cup 3

IBU Cup 3 in Sjusjoen, NOR: Dec. 11-17, 2023

Women & Men

Team Size: Up to 4 per gender

- Up to 4 athletes per gender can qualify by one (1) top-30 result in IBUC 1 or 2.
 - If more than 4 athletes per gender meet the above criteria, athletes will be named by single best IBUC 1-2 non-team result until a team size of 4 per gender is reached.
 - If less than 4 athletes per gender qualify through the first criterion, all athletes who achieve a top-30 result in IBUC 1 and 2 will be named.
- If the above criteria results in a team size of less than 3;
 - Additional athletes will be named by the ICC in consultation with US Biathlon staff, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection, until a team size of 3 is reached.
- If the above criteria results in a team size of 3, 1 athlete per gender may be named by the ICC in consultation with US Biathlon staff, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection.

World Cups 4-6

World Cup 4 in Oberhof, GER: Jan. 1-7, 2024

World Cup 5 in Ruhpolding, GER: Jan. 8-14, 2024

World Cup 6 in Antholz, ITA: Jan. 15-21, 2024

Women & Men

Team Size: 4 per gender

- Up to 2 athletes per gender can qualify by 2 top-40 performances at WC 1-3.
 - If more than 2 athletes meet this criteria, the 2 athletes with the highest cumulative WC points will qualify. If a tie exists, the tie break will be resolved by best single non-team result from WC 1-3 and if still tied, ranked by their second best non-team result from WC 1-3.
 - If fewer than 2 athletes meet the above criteria, the remaining start spots will be filled by single best personal World Cup placing following World Cup 3 until a team size of 2 is reached.
- 2 additional athletes will be named by the ICC in consultation with US Biathlon High Performance Staff, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection

IBU Cups 4 - 5

IBU Cup 4 in Martell, ITA: Jan. 1-7, 2024

IBU Cup 5 in Ridnaun, ITA: Jan. 8-14, 2024

Women & Men

Team Size: Up to 5 per gender

- Any athletes from the WC 3 team who have not been named to the WC 4-6 Team.
- Any athletes from the IBUC 3 team.
- The winner by trials ranking of December IBU Cup Trials will be named.
- If the above criteria results in a team size of less than 4, athletes will be named by the ICC in consultation with US Biathlon staff, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection until a team size of 4 is reached.
- A 5th athlete may be named by the ICC in consultation with US Biathlon staff, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection.

Open European Championships

Held in Osrblie, SVK: Jan. 22-28, 2024

Women & Men

Team Size: Up to 6 per gender

- One athlete per gender from WC 6 (Antholz) team who has not pre-qualified for WCH's following the WC 6 will be named.
- The 3 athletes with the highest single best non-team result from IBU Cups 4-5 will qualify.
- 1 athlete per gender will be named by ICC in consultation with US Biathlon High Performance Staff, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection.
- 1 athlete per gender may be named by ICC in consultation with US Biathlon High Performance Staff, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection.

IBU Cup 6

Held in Arber, GER: Jan. 29-Feb. 4, 2024

Women & Men

Team Size: Up to 5 per gender

- 4 athletes from each gender, excluding those that qualify for WCH's, in rank order, based on IBU Cup points earned at the OECH's, will be named.
- One additional athlete from each gender may be named by the ICC in consultation with US Biathlon High Performance Staff, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection.

World Championships (and Pre-WCH Camp)

Pre-WCH Camp (location TBD): ~Jan. 26-Feb. 4, 2024

Held in Nove Mesto, CZE: Feb. 5-18, 2024

Women & Men

Team Size: 5 per gender

- 3 athletes with the highest overall WC ranking following WC 6 (Antholz) will be named. If fewer than three athletes have points, then all athletes with points will qualify, and the single best personal WC placing in the current season will be used until a team size of 3 athletes per gender is reached. Ties will be resolved by second best personal WC placing.
- The fourth spot in each gender will be awarded to the athlete with the most IBU Cup points earned at the OECH.
- 1 additional athlete of each gender will be named by the ICC after the conclusion of OECH, in consultation with US Biathlon staff, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection.
- NOTE: In the event that the team size exceeds the number of starts quotas, the head coaches will decide which athletes race by evaluating the performance capabilities of each athlete at that time.

World Cups 7 -9

WC 7 in Oslo, NOR: Feb. 26 – Mar. 3, 2024

WC 8 in Soldier Hollow, USA: Mar. 4-10, 2024

WC 9 in Canmore, CAN: Mar. 11-17, 2024

Women & Men

Team Size: 4 per gender

- Up to 2 athletes per gender can qualify by one (1) top-20 result in WCH.
 - If more than 2 athletes per gender meet the above criteria, athletes will be named by best WCH non-team result until a team size of 2 per gender is reached.
 - If less than 2 athletes per gender qualify, athletes will be named by highest WC overall ranking until a team size of 2 per gender is reached.
 - The third athlete will be named by overall WC ranking.
 - A fourth athlete will be named by the ICC in consultation with US Biathlon staff, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection.

IBU Cups 7-8

IBU Cups 7 and 8, Obertilliach, AUT: Feb. 26 – Mar. 11, 2024

Women & Men

Team Size: Up to 5 per gender

- One athlete that attended World Championships but is not qualified for World Cups 7-9.
- Up to 2 athletes will be named by achieving 1 top-30 result at either OECH or IBUC 6 until a team size of 3 per gender is reached.
 - If more than 2 athletes meet this criterion, tiebreaks shall be determined by single best top result from OECH or IBUC 6.
 - If less than 2 athletes meet the above criteria, athletes will be named by single best result from OECH and IBUC 6 until a team size of 3 per gender is reached.
- A fourth athlete will be named by the ICC in consultation with US Biathlon staff, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection.
- A fifth athlete may be named by the ICC in consultation with US Biathlon staff, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection.

Appendix A: Policies & Rules

1. USBA Percent-Back System

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

$$\text{Athlete's Percent-Back} = 2 - (\text{Athlete's time} / \text{Average time of the top three finishers scored})$$

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

2. Movement between World Cup & IBU Cup

The National Team coaching staff may use the following guidelines to recommend to the ICC that athletes from the IBU Cup move to the World Cup, and vice versa:

1. Athletes achieving top results on the IBU Cup may be moved up to the World Cup provided there are open start positions.
2. Athletes placing outside the top-40 in individual starts on the World Cup may be brought down to the IBU Cup at any time or released from the World Cup Team.
3. Athletes who have been injured or sick for lengthy periods of time may be released from the team or brought to a different competition level.

In addition, IBU Cup athletes will be considered to fill World Cup relay teams when: there are not enough World Cup athletes to fill the team, the logistics of getting an athlete to the event can be managed without excessive costs, and the coaching staff sees the need and/or benefit of having a relay team compete.

3. USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection

The purpose of a discretionary choice is to ensure selection of the most competitive team. Creating watertight, finite criteria for discretionary choices is impossible, since by their very nature they are meant to account for the unanticipated circumstances, which inevitably elude the principles of objective criteria. Based on the context of the situation, the ICC will select the athlete(s) that has the best chance of producing the best result based on the following factors. Note: This list is not in any order of priority:

- History of performance in a specific competition type (e.g., Relay or Individual) over the current and previous two competitive seasons
- Recent improvements in results or performance parameters such as ski speed and shooting performance (both in training and competition)
- Recent positive trend of competition results or performance parameters, such as ski speed and shooting, indicating a potential for

Olympic success. This includes indication of medal potential in future Olympic or World Championship competition that would be materially enhanced by selection to the Team.

- Performance/participation in the qualification process effected by illness or injury as confirmed by USBA

- Ability to effectively contribute to a relay

If an athlete declines or is unable to attend the competition(s) for which (s)he has qualified, the ICC will rely upon the above Principles of Discretionary Selection to fill the spot. The ICC also reserves the right to not fill the vacated spot.

4. Contingency Procedures for Trials Events

In the event that weather conditions or other issues prevent a trials series from being held at the planned time and place, the ICC reserves the right to change the location, date, and/or format of the trials series. In the event that one or more events are canceled, cannot be held, or are in the view of the ICC held under grossly unfair conditions and not rescheduled by the ICC, the following contingencies may be applied by the ICC:

1. If more than three races are used in the selection process the following may be applied by the ICC:
 - a) If four races are held the best three of four will be scored
 - b) If three races are held the best two of three will be scored.
2. If only two races of a three race series are held and at least two athletes are being selected the following may be used:
 - a) If one race of a three race series is canceled or in the view of the ICC held under grossly unfair conditions and not rescheduled, the winners of each of the races held shall be named to the team and any additional athletes may be named discretionarily by the ICC using the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection.
 - b) If one or no races are held the ICC reserves the right to name the team by discretion and/or to create a new trials process for team selection.
3. If only one athlete is being selected from a three race series and one or more of the races are canceled or in the view of the ICC held under grossly unfair conditions and not rescheduled by the ICC, the ICC may name the athlete at its discretion using the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection.

5. Non-Endorsed Participation in International Events

If any athlete desires to race at an International IBU event which has not been officially represented in the criteria, the athlete must petition the ICC and gain approval before allowed to compete there.

6. IBU Performance Standards for Starting at the World Championships and World Cup

Quoted from the current IBU Event & Competition Rules at time of approval:

1.5.3.2 World Championships (WCH) As the minimum qualification requirement to compete in WCH events a competitor must have 180 IBU qualifying points or less at the end of the last trimester before the WCH, or fulfill one of the following criteria during the current or previous season:

- a. Compete in at least one competition earning 150 IBU qualifying points or less at an IBU Cup, OECH, WC or OWG in the Sprint or Individual, or
- b. One finish in the top half at the JWCH (not Youth).

All members of Relay teams must also have met this individual qualification requirement.

1.5.3.3 World Cup (WC) The World Cup season consists of three trimesters generally made up of three WC events each, usually WC 1-3, WC 4-6 and WC 7-9. As the minimum qualification requirement to compete in WC events, a competitor must have 150 IBU qualifying points or less at the end of the last trimester, or fulfill one of the following criteria:

- a. Compete in at least one competition earning 125 IBU qualifying points or less at an IBU Cup, OECH, WCH or OWG in the Sprint or Individual during the current or preceding trimester; or
- b. One finish in the top half at the most recent JWCH (not Youth).

All members of Relay teams must also have met this individual qualification requirement.

7. Athlete Co-Pay Policy

US Biathlon will cover joint expenses of events as well as the individual travel expenses of athletes except as noted in the selection criteria above or stated in other documents provided to athlete contending for the team. For athletes who are selected to teams on a co-pay basis, US Biathlon has the following policies depending upon the nature of the event:

- For athletes who are bearing their own individual travel expenses, athletes may be billed for their prorated share of lodging, food, and transportation. Where possible, athletes may pay their shares directly to the vendor, in which case athletes should keep copies of all receipts. In many cases, athletes may be expected to book and pay upfront for their own air transportation. Participation grant money from the IBU for competitions where athletes only bear their own expenses will be used by US Biathlon to pay for joint expenses and organizational overhead, and not paid or shared with athletes.
- For athletes who are also required to share in the joint costs of staffing the event, the travel expenses, material costs, and any prorated contract labor payments of coaching and service support will be aggregated as the total joint cost, and then divided equally among athletes attending to pay. For such trips, participation grant money from the IBU will be split evenly among athletes to help them offset these joint costs.
- A separate scholarship fund, the Need-Based Athlete Support Fund, will be available to athletes that incur co-pay expenses for USBA trips. Scholarship funds will be disbursed to athletes to help defer some or all travel and co-pay costs. ICC will review scholarship applications and funds will be dispersed according to the ICC's recommendation. In order to qualify, each athlete will be required to apply for specific funding periods and satisfy a set of specific criteria.

US Biathlon will provide estimates of co-pay expenses in advance for the events described in this document to help athletes budget accordingly.

8. USBA International Competition Committee (ICC)

ICC Members are:

Chair: Jay T. Kearney

USOPC Athletes' Advisory Council Athlete Representative: Kelly Kjollien

Athlete's Representative: Max Durtschi

US Biathlon High Performance Director: Lowell Bailey

National Guard Biathlon Coach: Drew Gelinis

US Biathlon National Team Head Coach Women: Armin Auchentaller (for WC/IBU Cup and OWGs/WCHs/OECHs team naming)

US Biathlon Junior National Team Coach: Tim Burke (for Junior IBU Cup/YJWCHs team naming)