



## **Junior National Team 2026**

The purpose of the Junior National Team is to foster effective training environments and coaching relationships that support the continued development of our top-performing Junior and Youth athletes.

Biathletes named to this team have demonstrated internationally competitive biathlon performances and/or nationally competitive ski speed. Athletes will qualify for this team based on the following criteria if they are in the U17, U19, or IBU Junior age class for the upcoming season.

### **Selection Criteria**

1. Top half of finish in any race (excluding relays) at YJWCH. This will be calculated from race finishers, not race starters, and will be rounded down when necessary. For example, if there are 81 finishers in a race, a top 40 result will qualify you for the Junior National Team.
2. Top third finish (excluding relays) at JOECH. This will be calculated as noted in point 1.
3. Top third finish (excluding relays) at any Jr. IBU Cup. This will be calculated as noted in point 1. For example, if there are 100 finishers in a race, a top 33 result will qualify you for the Junior National Team.
4. Any Y/Jr athlete who qualifies for any Sr. IBU Cup or World Cup

Additional athletes **may** be named to the Junior National Team via discretionary selection. When considering athletes for discretionary selection, the USBA principles of discretionary selection will apply, as well as these factors:

1. Internationally competitive ski speed in biathlon, such as top 20 course times at YJWCH.
2. Nationally competitive ski speed in cross country, such as top 15 distance results at Junior Nationals, while showing commitment to biathlon.
3. Junior or Youth athletes with exceptional results at the U.S. Biathlon National Championship.

If extra space is available at training camps, the Junior National Team coach and the Director of Athlete Development will recommend athletes to the ICC for consideration. When selecting

candidates for these openings, USBA staff will evaluate athletes based on their performance from the previous season, showings at USBA development camps, and ski speed, indicating potential for future medal success in international biathlon competitions.