



2024-2025 USABS Bobsled Selection Criteria

(Updated 1/29/2024)

It is the goal of this criteria to ensure USA Bobsled/Skeleton (USABS) fields the most competitive bobsled teams in the pursuit of Olympic Games, World Championships, and World Cup medals. In keeping with this goal, USABS will work to select the most competitive athletes to represent the U.S. at the most imminent Olympic Games as well as prepare for future Olympic Games. Therefore, an emphasis will be placed on both optimizing the success of the current teams and development for future Olympic Games, World Championship, and World Cup success.

The Team Selection Committee and the coaching staff will use the following criteria and supporting documents for selecting athletes to represent USABS in International Bobsleigh and Skeleton Federation (IBSF) competitions.

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1. Athlete Participant Eligibility

To participate in a USABS program, an athlete must meet the following requirements:

- a) be a USABS Athlete Member in good standing.
- b) abide by the USADA, the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), and IBSF anti-doping requirements.
- c) meet all United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC), IBSF, and USABS eligibility requirements for representing the USA in international competition.
- d) complete and return the USABS physical/waiver, U.S. Center for SafeSport training, background check, and Athlete Handbook prior to participation in any USABS event.

2. World Cup Team Eligibility

In addition to the Athlete Participant Eligibility requirements (Section 1), an athlete must meet the following requirements to be considered for any World Cup or World Championships event.

- a) All returning athletes (push athletes & pilots) from the previous season or earlier are required to compete in the National Push Championships. First-year athletes may be exempt from this requirement (but may be invited to participate) in their first year. The location, date, and format of the competition will be announced at least 30 days prior to the event.
- b) Pilots must participate in National Selection Races unless exempt by reason of a bye and/or approved by the Team Selection Committee or by reason of a medical or extreme circumstances waiver. Pilots that have not yet met the 5-3-2 rule prior to National Selection

Races but do become eligible after the start of the season may be considered for World Cup selection during the mid-season review or World Championships review.

- c) All athletes must complete a 30-meter sprint and a vertical jump test prior to the completion of the National Selection Races. These tests must be done with a USABS coach or approved personnel present on pre-approved dates. At least one testing date/opportunity will be scheduled with Push Championships and one during the week of National Selection Races. The 30-meter and vertical jump results will be considered as part of discretionary athlete selection.

3. World Cup Team Selection

The *USA World Cup Team* is defined as athletes officially named to the team by the Team Selection Committee to race in IBSF World Cup (WC) events. The number of pilots named to the World Cup Team will coincide with the number of quota spots earned by the team during the previous season as determined by the IBSF. The Team Selection Committee will then name the corresponding number of push athletes indicated on Table 1 and Table 2.

Men:

WC Quota Spots	Pilot(s)	Push Athletes	Total
1	1	4	5
2	2	8	10
3	3	11	14

Table 1

Women:

WC Quota Spots	Pilot(s)	Push Athletes	Total
1	1	2	3
2	2	4	6
3	3	5	8
4*	4	6	10

Table 2

a) Pilots

If a female pilot misses one season due to maternity leave, this pilot will keep her quota spot in the respective race series when coming back after one season. Because this quota place is assigned to the single female pilot's name, it cannot be transferred to another pilot and will be in addition to the quota spot(s) assigned to the National Federation. This is in accordance with IBSF rule 4.5. If this additional quota spot increases to the total number of quota spots to 4 or more, one additional push athlete per additional pilot will be selected

to the World Cup Team pool (not specific to the pilot). If, upon returning to competing, the pilot qualifies for the World Cup Team by 3.a.iv.a-e., the additional quota spot will not be used.

- i) Pilots not named to the World Cup Team will not be eligible to compete in a World Cup race except in extreme circumstances determined by the Team Selection Committee.
- ii) Each World Cup race entry will be determined by the Team Selection Committee with input and consultation from other USABS bobsled coaches and relevant personnel.
- iii) A pilot can earn a bye to the first half World Cup Team in both disciplines and will be funded through National Selection Races until the first review period. A pilot can earn a bye by achieving a top-four (4) finish at the previous season's World Championships or Olympic Games with a maximum of one bye per discipline. If more than one pilot achieves the above result, the highest-ranking pilot from the event earns the bye. If the U.S. has more than two quota spots and two pilots meet the bye criterion, the second pilot will also receive a bye. Team competition results will not count toward a bye. No more than two total byes will be awarded.

In all cases, a pilot with a bye is still expected to compete in the National Selection Races unless agreed upon by the Head Coach and Team Selection Committee. The Head Coach will name the push athlete(s) to race at National Selection Races with the pilot according to the discretionary selection criteria outlined in Section 3.b.. Those push athlete(s) are not given a bye to the World Cup team and must be named to the team via Section 3.b. A pilot that has earned a bye must maintain their preparation and training commitment.

iv) World Cup Race Entries

- a) If a bye has been awarded, the first race entry position will be filled with the pilot that has earned a bye.
- b) If three quote spots are available and a second bye has been awarded, the second race entry position will be filled with the second pilot who has earned the bye.
- c) After the appropriate byes (if any) have been awarded, the next race entry position will be the top finisher from the 2023-2024 National Selection Races.
- d) If race entry positions remain, one position will be reserved for a pilot selected on the discretion of the Team Selection Committee. The committee will consider the following factors for the discretionary selection (in no particular order).
 - Final rank from the National Selection Races.

- Development needs of USABS. For WC races, pilots must be in at least Development Phase 2 of the Bobsled Athlete Progression Pathway (Appendix 2) for consideration for discretionary selection. In extreme cases, Development Phase 1 pilots can be considered.
 - Performance needs of the USABS program for pilots in Phase 1 or Phase 2 of the National Team of the USABS Bobsled Athlete Progression Pathway (Appendix 2).
 - Athletes that have been granted a Medical Waiver or Extreme Circumstances Waiver.
- e) All remaining race entry positions will then be filled with the next highest ranked pilot from the 2024-2025 National Selection Races combined ranking. The Selection Committee may determine that an exception could be made if a pilot finished higher in one discipline than the pilot that finished higher in the combined rankings at the National Selection Races.
- f) If a female pilot is the highest-ranked four-man pilot from the National Selection Races (after race entry one and two are filled), she will earn 4-man race entry three provided she has also qualified for the women’s World Cup team.
- g) If any mother was granted a Maternity Leave Clause according to IBSF rule 4.5, the athlete will be named to her specific race entry granted by the IBS only if she did not qualify for a race entry by 3.a.iv.a-e.

Number of Byes	ZERO			ONE			TWO	
	1	2	3	1	2	3	2	3
Selection 1	<i>*Team Trials</i>	<i>*Team Trials</i>	<i>*Team Trials</i>	<i>Bye</i>	<i>Bye</i>	<i>Bye</i>	<i>Bye</i>	<i>Bye</i>
Selection 2	-	<i>Selection Committee Discretion</i>	<i>*Team Trials</i>	-	<i>*Team Trials</i>	<i>*Team Trials</i>	<i>*Team Trials</i>	<i>Bye</i>
Selection 3	-	-	<i>Selection Committee Discretion</i>	-	-	<i>Selection Committee Discretion</i>	-	<i>*Team Trials</i>

Table 3

- v) Mid-Season and World Championships Review.
 The dates for a mid-season review will be declared prior to the season as the most convenient time for changes to the World Cup Team. This review period will most likely coincide with IBSF travel breaks and continental changes in the IBSF World Cup

circuit.

At the time of the mid-season review in the World Cup schedule and just prior to the start of the World Championships, female pilots must have an overall top 4 ranking in the IBSF World Cup combined rankings and male pilots must have an overall top 6 ranking in the IBSF World Cup combined rankings to guarantee their position on the World Cup team for second half of the season. If an athlete is ranked below the standard, the Team Selection Committee may replace the pilot from the World Cup Team with the highest ranked pilot from a development racing circuit provided that the development circuit pilot is in, at minimum, Phase 1 of Development in the Bobsled Athlete Progression Pathway (Appendix 2) at the time of the mid-season or World Championships review. Note that the number of World Cup races at the time of the mid-season review will determine the number of races used for ranking comparison in alignment with the posted IBSF rankings.

- vi) Due to safety concerns, USABS requires a coach, approved by the Director of Sport Performance and the Bobsled Head Coach, be present anytime an athlete is training or racing on a track for a World Cup event. A coach has the authority to deny race entry if he or she feels an athlete has failed to demonstrate the ability to safely navigate the track.

b) Push Athletes

The Team Selection Committee will name the number of push athletes to the World Cup Team according to Table 1 and Table 2 in Section 3. Subsequently, USABS coaches will determine the World Cup race pairings/teams of World Cup pilots and push athletes for each race. This includes pairings/teams for World Cup pilots racing in EC or NAC races. However, non-WC push athletes are eli

- i) For the first half of the World Cup racing circuit, selection will be made with highest emphasis on:
 - Push Championships combination results (time and velocity)
 - Push Championships individual results (time and velocity)
 - Team results at the most recent National Selection Races with focus on both the start performance and finish results.

Second, the Team Selection Committee will also consider:

- Pre-season 30-meter sprint and vertical jump results
- Size and weight of the push athlete with respect to other World Cup push athletes and pilots.

Other criteria to consider:

- Athlete input (Appendix 4, collected in written form by Team Selection Committee athlete representatives prior to the Team Selection Committee meeting)
- Proven international experience with history/results of team combinations emphasizing top 6 start times and finishes within the past 4 years

- Upward/downward trend of push times, start rank, and velocity at the start in IBSF and USABS sanctioned events
- ii) For the mid-season review of the World Cup racing circuit and the World Championships/Olympic Games selection, selection will be made with highest emphasis on:
- Upward/downward trend of push times, start rank, and velocity at the start in IBSF and USABS sanctioned events
 - Current season results

Second, the Team Selection Committee will also consider:

- Proven international experience with history/results of team combinations emphasizing top 6 start times and finishes within the past 4 years
- Push Championships combination results (time and velocity)
- Push Championships individual results (time and velocity)
- Team results at the most recent National Team Trials with focus on both the start performance and finish results.
- Size and weight of the push athlete

Other criteria to consider:

- Pre-season 30-meter sprint and vertical jump results
- Athlete input (Appendix 4, collected in written form by Team Selection Committee athlete representatives prior to the Team Selection Committee meeting)

4. Selection Events

a) 30-meter Sprint and Vertical Jump Tests

- i) The 30m sprint and a vertical jump test must be completed prior to the completion of the National Selection Races to be used for discretionary athlete selection (Section 3.b). These tests must be done with a USABS coach or approved personnel present on pre-approved dates.
- ii) At least one testing date/opportunity will be scheduled with Push Championships and one during the National Selection Races. The 30m sprint will be conducted with a 1m start box from a static stance. The vertical jump will be measured using force plates or Vertec device.

b) National Push Championships

- i) National Push Championships will include both individual and combination pushes. The dates and locations will be announced at least 30 days prior to the competition. Competition format including number of pushes, distance, and push positions will be determined by coaches prior to competition. Both time and velocity will be collected whenever possible.
- ii) Athletes may *not* substitute the individual push at push championships with an individual push prior to the official National Push Championships. Individual pushes

at USABS Performance Camps or at any Ice House practice sessions are only potential opportunities to meet Push Standards set within the Bobsled Athlete Progression Pathway (Appendix 2).

iii) The following will be invited to National Push Championships:

- The top performers selected by the coaching staff from Rookie Push Camps.
- All World Cup Team athletes from the previous season.
- Athletes who raced in EC, NAC, or Jr. World Championships from the previous season.
- Additional athletes invited by the Head Coach and/or Director of Sport Performance.

c) National Selection Races

i) Qualifying for National Selection Races

National Selection Races will be used to determine World Cup, Europa Cup, and North America Cup pilot selection.

The following pilots will be invited to participate in the National Selection Races:

- (a) Pilots who competed in the previous season Olympic Games or World Championships will be invited.
- (b) Up to the next six (6) highest ranked pilots on the previous season's IBSF overall ranking list that have raced in a World Cup, Europa Cup, or North America Cup race during the previous season will be invited.

If one of the qualified pilots retires following the previous season or declares they will not participate in National Selection Races prior to official training for the race, the next highest ranked pilot on the previous season's IBSF overall ranking list will be invited provided that the athlete is in, at minimum, Recruitment Phase 2 of the Bobsled Athlete Progression Pathway (Appendix 2).

- (c) Additional athletes, identified by the Bobsled Head Coach and the Director of Sport Performance, may be invited. These athletes must be, at minimum, in Phase 2 of Recruitment as described in the BAPP (Appendix 2) and must be able to safely complete runs down the track.

ii) National Selection Race Format

National Selection Races will be held prior to the start of the IBSF World Cup season if possible. These races will provide results for the pilot ranking for the World Cup, Europa Cup, and North America Cup Team selection. At the conclusion of the National Selection Races, pilots will be ranked within USABS by combining points from all races in all disciplines using the IBSF scoring system (Appendix 1).

- (a) The National Selection Races will consist of a minimum of two races (combination of disciplines) with a maximum of four races.

- (b) The 2024-2025 Selection Races will take place in Lake Placid, New York and/or Park City, Utah.
- (c) The National Selection Races will consist of both monobob and 2-woman races for women and 2-man and 4-man races for men. At least one race of each discipline will be held.
- (d) Women may also participate in the 4-man discipline, but points earned in the 4-man race(s) will not count toward the women's World Cup, Europa Cup, or North America Cup selection.
- (e) Proposed dates for the 2024-2025 National Selection Races (1-3 races per discipline, 2-6 races total):

Lake Placid National Selection Races

March 25-27 – Official Training

March 28 & 29 - National Selection Races (2 races)

Fall National Selection Races

TBD

iii) National Selection Race Protocol

- (a) Pilot/athlete ranking prior to the National Selection Races will be according to the following ordered criteria:
 - 1) Previous season World Championships or Olympic Games
 - 2) Previous season IBSF rank
 - 3) Current phase in the Bobsled Athlete Progression Pathway (Appendix 2)
 - 4) Results from individual Push Championships
- (b) The total number of races will be dependent on track time, weather, and other external factors, and the official race protocol will be announced as soon as reasonably possible prior to the races.
- (c) A race jury will be comprised of IBSF certified officials, when possible, and will conduct the race as an IBSF sanctioned event.
- (d) Up to 6 official training runs will be offered to each eligible pilot over 2-3 days on each track prior to the race(s). Pilots must safely complete at least two runs of each discipline on each track to be eligible for a race per IBSF rule 10.1.e as determined by the Bobsled Head Coach along with present USABS development coaches.
- (e) Each race will be two heats, but in extreme cases, a race may be reduced to one heat as determined by the jury per IBSF rule 10.6.1.

Race Heats. “A reduction in the number of heats is possible in cases of force majeure. At least one race heat must be conducted for the race to be officially valid.”

- (f) The Bobsled Head Coach, along with the Director of Sport Performance, may determine a third heat will be allowed in a race to a team/pilot that experiences an unforeseen irregular situation such as an athlete failing to load into the sled. There will be a maximum of one (1) third heat allowed per team/pilot per track. If the National Selection Races take place on only one track, then each pilot is allowed a maximum of one (1) third heat. The third heat, if taken, will replace the slower of the first two (2) heats, regardless of the third heat time. The race jury must verify the unforeseen circumstance prior to awarding a third heat.
- (g) In extreme circumstances a rerun of a heat may be granted by the race jury per IBSF rule 10.6.11.

Repetition of a Heat. “After a malfunction not caused by the athlete, the heat may be repeated for the athlete with the authorization of the jury. The run may be repeated as soon as the athlete is ready to start.”

- (h) Pilots will be ranked by combined points from all National Selection Races utilizing the IBSF World Cup Point System in Appendix A. If a tie in points exists at the end of the National Selection Races, ties will be broken by comparing the last heat of the most recently completed National Selection race. If a tie still exists, the fastest time of the first heat of the most recent completed National Selection race will determine the winner. If a tie continues to exist, a comparison of the most recent non-identical time heat of the National Selection Races will determine the winner.
- (i) Only IBSF runners will be allowed in all National Selection Races. Runner check may be enforced by the race jury.
- (j) Sled inspection may be conducted at the conclusion of each race as requested by the race jury.
- (k) Athletes racing in the National Selection Races should be prepared for all weather and track conditions. The IBSF bobsled rule book will be used in cases of damaged runners, timing issues and any other issue that may arise. The National Selection Races jury will be the deciding body for all issues and will abide by the IBSF rule book to manage their decisions.
- (l) Clause for extreme circumstances. Every effort will be made to conduct a fair National Selection Race series. If weather, track conditions, or other extreme unforeseen circumstances prohibit a complete National Selection race series from taking place, World Cup Team athletes will be ranked based on previous season IBSF ranking.
- (m) The Bobsled Head Coach and medical personnel can limit an athlete’s participation due to safety concerns and experience level.

- (n) Pilot/Push Athlete Combinations at the National Selection Races.
- 1) Prior to the National Selection Races, the head coach will select push athletes for the pilots with a bye that are pre-selected to the World Cup Team prior to the National Selection Races using the push athlete criteria (Section 3.b.). These push athletes will be named prior to official sliding.
 - 2) The remaining pilots will declare their teams/push athletes prior to the team captains' meeting of each National Selection Race. All push athletes must be eligible to race in World Cup races unless approved by Director of Sport Performance and bobsled Head Coach.
- (o) Ties within a race will be broken with the single fastest heat. If a tie remains, the most recent single heat will break the tie. The men's bobsled pilots will be ranked by combining points earned in both two-man and four-man competitions. The women's 2-woman /monobob pilots will be ranked by combining points earned in both 2-woman/monobob competitions.
- (p) USABS owned equipment (i.e. sleds and runners) may be allocated or rented for Selection Races to pilots according to the BAPP. Equipment allocation priority will align with the Bobsled Athlete Progression Pathway (Appendix 2).

5. Development Team Selection

Europa Cup and Jr. World Championships

All pilots must be, at minimum, Development Phase 1 in the Bobsled Athlete Progression Pathway (Appendix 2) to be eligible to compete in any Europa Cup (EC) event. Exceptions may be made with approval from the Bobsled Head Coach and Director of Sport Performance.

- a) At least 2 of the 4 race entries will be filled with pilots selected based on the discretion of the Bobsled Head Coach, the Director of Sport Performance, and the development coaching staff. The staff will consider the following factors for the discretionary selection (in no particular order).
- Final rank from the National Selection Races.
 - Development needs of the USABS. Pilots must be in, at minimum, Development Phase 1 in the USABS Bobsled Athlete Progression Pathway (Appendix 2) to be considered for discretionary selection. In extreme cases, Recruitment Phase 2 pilots may be considered.
 - Performance needs of the USABS program for pilots in Phase 1 or Phase 2 of the National Team of the USABS Bobsled Athlete Progression Pathway (Appendix 2).
 - Athletes who have been granted a Medical Waiver or Extreme Circumstances Waiver.

- b) All other race entries will be filled with pilots by rank from National Selection Races.
- c) Push athletes will be selected by the development coaching staff with input from the selected development pilot and other teammates. Push athletes must be in, at minimum, Recruitment Phase 2 in the Bobsled Athlete Progression Pathway (Appendix 2). Under extreme circumstances, push athletes from Phase 1 of Recruitment may be determined eligible.

North America Cup

All pilots must be, at minimum, Recruitment Phase 2 in the Bobsled Athlete Progression Pathway (Appendix 2) to be eligible to compete in any North America Cup (NAC) event. Exceptions may be made with approval from the Bobsled Head Coach and Director of Sport Performance.

- d) At least 2 of the 4 race entries will be filled with pilots selected based on the discretion of the Bobsled Head Coach, the Director of Sport Performance, and the development coaching staff. The staff will consider the following factors for the discretionary selection (in no particular order).
 - Final rank from the National Selection Races.
 - Development needs of the USABS. Pilots must be in, at minimum, Recruitment Phase 2 in the USABS Bobsled Athlete Progression Pathway (Appendix 2) to be considered for discretionary selection.
 - Performance needs of the USABS program for pilots in Phase 1 or Phase 2 of the National Team of the USABS Bobsled Athlete Progression Pathway (Appendix 2).
 - Athletes who have been granted a Medical Waiver or Extreme Circumstances Waiver.
- e) All other race entries will be filled with pilots by rank from National Selection Races.
- f) Push athletes will be selected by the development coaching staff with input from the selected development pilot and other teammates. Push athletes must be in, at minimum, Recruitment Phase 2 in the Bobsled Athlete Progression Pathway (Appendix 2). Under extreme circumstances, push athletes from Phase 1 of Recruitment may be determined eligible.

6. Participation, Removal, and Replacement

a) Participation

Athletes are required to participate in events for which they are qualified, are named, and to which they commit. When an athlete does not attend a race and/or leaves a position vacant without prior and appropriate notice, they can negatively affect the chances for the USA to qualify the maximum number of spots in an IBSF competition. Thus, any athlete

who does not attend a race for which they have been selected, may be assessed a fine of \$100.00 if it is determined that the athlete had an appropriate amount of time to contact the coaches or Director of Sport Performance. The fine must be paid before the next competition. The CEO, along with the Head Coach, will determine, on a case by-case basis, if that athlete's circumstances merit reinstatement to their race opportunities, or if some or all of their races are to be reallocated to other athletes.

Failure to participate in a mandatory event and/or to follow the waiver procedures may result in limitation of the athlete's participation in further events during the calendar year, or to the benefits the athlete receives from USABS and/or the USOPC, but in no way excludes rights guaranteed by USABS and the USOPC.

b) Removal of Athletes

An athlete may be removed from any team for any of the following reasons:

- i) Voluntary withdrawal: Athlete must submit a written letter or email to the Head Coach. In the event of a disabling illness or injury to an athlete, the athlete must be examined by a USABS-approved physician or a USOPC/USABS care-giver. Should an athlete refuse injury/illness verification by a physician or a USOPC/USABS approved care-giver, then their injury or illness will be assumed to be disabling and they will be replaced. If an athlete misses two World Cup events in succession, related to the same condition, that athlete must be seen by a medical doctor designated by the CMO, which could be facilitated by the USOPC/USABS athletic trainers (ATCs). Medical staff at any track at which an athlete is competing can, in the interest of safety, prevent an injured athlete from competing at that event, should they deem that athlete unsafe.
- ii) Code of Conduct or Team Policy violation: In the event of an excessive or serious violation of the Code of Conduct or Team Policies, an athlete could be removed from a race series according to the USABS Team Handbook. An athlete who may be removed from the team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per USABS Bylaws, or USOPC Bylaws, Section 9.1. The athlete also has the right to appeal to the USABS Judicial Committee.
- iii) Anti-Doping violation: An athlete may be removed from any team at any time for violation of IOC, WADA, IBSF, USADA, and/or USOPC anti-doping protocol, policies, and procedures. In such instances, the adjudication process will be managed through the United States Anti-Doping Agency.

c) Replacement of Athletes

If a vacancy occurs in a World Cup race entry prior to the event entry deadline, the Selection Committee will determine, as quickly as possible, the pilot (if any) that will fill the vacancy using the discretionary selection criteria outline in Section 4.a.iv.d. If a vacancy occurs without sufficient time for the Selection Committee to fill the vacancy, the Head Coach will determine the replacement pilot. USABS is not required to fill a vacated race entry with an athlete that has not qualified for the World Cup team.

If a vacancy occurs in the pool of push athletes selected to compete in World Cup races

either due to injury or extreme circumstance during the season, the Selection Committee will select a temporary replacement as soon as reasonably possible to add to the pool of eligible push athletes. If the athlete that vacated the spot is able to return during the season, the athlete will replace the temporarily selected athlete.

7. Waivers

A Waiver Committee will consider all waivers and seek input from relevant personnel. For medical waivers, relevant personnel include the USABS Chief Medical Officer (CMO) and all medical personnel involved with the athlete's injury, rehab/recovery, diagnosis, etc.

Waivers may only be *granted* by the waiver committee. A granted waiver does not ensure selection. If a waiver is granted, the Team Selection Committee will proceed with selection considering the granted waiver.

All waiver requests for USABS events must be submitted to the Director of Sport Performance via hard copy or email as soon as reasonable. The waiver fee of \$100.00 must be paid and received prior to any meeting of the Waiver Committee. Following receipt, the Waiver Committee will review such request for approval or denial. The Waiver Committee will make a decision and provide a written copy of the approval or denial of the waiver to the athlete within seven (7) days. If granted, the waiver fee will be reimbursed to the athlete.

Medical Waiver

Athletes may apply for medical waivers based on having suffered an injury or illness and said injury/illness has been verified by the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) or his designee. The USABS CMO, or his/her designee, must examine injured/ill athletes wishing to receive a medical waiver for medical reasons. The injured athlete must follow rehabilitation guidelines set by the CMO and Bobsled Head Coach to be able to receive and keep the waiver.

Extreme Circumstances waiver

An extreme circumstances waiver may be granted for any unforeseen circumstances that include but are not limited to personal or family situations or race situations that may include but are not limited to a crash, runner or sled damage, etc. during a competition or training.

8. Committees

- a) The Waiver Committee will seek input from the USABS Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Eugene Byrne, in addition to relevant medical personnel involved with the athlete's injury, rehab/recovery, diagnosis, etc.

Waiver Committee:

- i. Curt Tomasevicz, Director of Sport Performance

- ii. Brian Shimer, Bobsled Head Coach
 - iii. Chris Fogt, Bobsled Start Coach
 - iv. Jill Bakken-Linder, Athlete Representative
 - v. Natalie DeRatt, Athlete Representative
 - vi. Dr. Eugene Byrne, Chief Medical Officer (non-voting member)
- b) The Team Selection Committee will meet either in person or remotely prior to the National Team selection at the beginning of the season, the mid-season review, and prior to the World Championships to determine athlete selection. For each team selection, the committee will seek input from all relevant USABS bobsled coaches and start coaches to ensure that these criteria are applied with fairness and transparency.
- Team Selection Committee:
- i. Curt Tomasevicz, Director of Sport Performance
 - ii. Brian Shimer, Bobsled Head Coach
 - iii. Chris Fogt, Bobsled Start Coach
 - iv. Jamie Greubel-Poser, Athlete Representative
 - v. Chris Kinney, Athlete Representative
- c) USABS Judicial Committee: There is a standing Judicial Committee to oversee any grievances of these criteria. The USABS Board of Directors will appoint members of the committee. If an athlete has a reasonable and articulable concern regarding any grievance with the criteria, an athlete is encouraged to notify the judicial committee. The contest must be made in writing and emailed to the Judicial Committee Chairperson at: judicialcommitteechair@usabs.com.
- d) USABS Ethics Committee: There is a standing Ethics Committee to oversee any ethical violations of these criteria. The USABS Board of Directors will appoint members of the committee. If an athlete believes there is any impartiality or potential conflict of interest, an athlete is encouraged to notify the ethics committee. Concerns must be sent via email to the Ethics Committee Chairperson at: ethicscommitteechair@usabs.com.
- e) Any individuals, including athlete representatives, who have a possible conflict of interest must disclose it to the USABS's Ethics Committee for review. Additionally, any person (including any potentially impacted athlete or coach of a potentially impacted athlete) with good faith, believe that an individual involved in the selection process has a conflict of interest may report the alleged conflict of interest to USABS's Ethics Committee for review. Reports may be made anonymously. The Ethics Committee may take any measures necessary to create a fair process for athletes, including restrictions or removal of the conflicted individual.
- f) If an individual is recused and a vacancy on a committee exists, USABS shall use its best reasonable efforts to fill that vacancy as soon as possible. If an athlete representative is recused, another athlete representative who meets the qualifications for that committee shall be appointed by USABS and approved by an unaffected representative group of athletes as soon as possible.

9. Other

Athletes' Right to Compete

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

All questions regarding an athlete's opportunity to compete that are not answered by the USABS, may be directed to the USOPC Athlete Ombudsman by telephone at (888) ATHLETE, or by email ombudsman@usathlete.org.

Saving Clause

The procedures above are based on IOC, IBSF and USOPC rules and regulations as presently published. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in IOC, IBSF or USOPC rules and regulations will be distributed to all athletes as soon as possible. The desire to field the most competitive teams for international competition presently and in the future are the guiding principles and will determine the administration of the selection criteria. The World Cup, Europa Cup, and North America Cup Selection Criteria are based on the latest information available to the USABS. However, these criteria are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances (weather, budget, war, etc.) and no doubt have not accounted for every possible contingency. In which case, the USABS staff will administer changes with the utmost reverence for fairness, respect of athletes, and for honor of the sport. If a scheduled event cannot be held or must be interrupted, USABS will first try to reschedule the event. Second, USABS will try to change the venue but will not guarantee funding for travel to the new venue. Finally, if a venue change is not feasible, ranking will be based first on the portion of that event completed (at least one race) or if no portion has been completed, then ranking will be based on the most recent IBSF ranking. These Selection Criteria come into force as of the date of their approval by the USABS coaching staff and Chief Executive Officer and supersede all previous criteria.

USABS reserves the right to change the selection criteria prior to the start of each competition season based on schedules, coaching, logistics, finances, and other limiting factors. The rules in these criteria will be interpreted by the USABS coaching staff along with the CEO and Director of Sport Performance in the way in which they were intended.

Criteria Distribution

This document shall be distributed and made available to all athletes via the USABS website at <https://www.usabs.com/criteria> and shall be e-mailed to all active USABS Athlete Members.

Appendix 1 – IBSF Point System

The IBSF point system.

Rank	Points
1	225
2	210
3	200
4	192
5	184
6	176
7	168
8	160
9	152
10	144

Table 4



Appendix 2 – USABS Bobsled Athlete Progression Pathway

The USABS Bobsled Athlete Progression Pathway

Appendix 3 – National Championships and Regional Races

National Championships Race

- a) A National Championships race will be held, if possible, after the 2024-2025 IBSF season. The race is subject to weather, available track time, and unforeseen circumstances. While the structure of the race will encourage competition, participation in the National Championships races will also serve as an opportunity for an athlete to be observed by the USABS coaches as part of regular assessment and evaluation regarding the Bobsled Athlete Progression Pathway (Appendix 2).
- b) Race location, schedule, and format will be announced at least 30 days prior to the event. The race will be conducted as a high-level competitive race. The National Championships race may be held simultaneous with a portion of the 2024/2025 Selection Races.
- c) Pilots must be in, at minimum, Phase 1 of Recruitment of the Bobsled Athlete Progression Pathway (Appendix 2) and be able to start safely from the top of the track as determined by USABS development coaches to be eligible to participate in the National Championships race.
- d) USABS coaches and staff will have the authority to deny race entry to an athlete that has failed to demonstrate the ability to safely navigate the track.

Regional Races and local track sliding programs

Eastern (Lake Placid) and Western (Park City) Regional race(s) may be held and hosted by the local tracks throughout the season. The local track development coaches will work with the USABS coaches to identify up to 2 athletes not already in the Bobsled Athlete Progression Pathway (Appendix 2) that may be invited to National Championships to be observed and evaluated to be inserted appropriately into the Bobsled Athlete Progression Pathway (Appendix 2).

Appendix 4 – Athlete Input Collection

Athletes will be asked to complete the following table to provide input to the Selection Committee prior to the pre-season selection and the Olympic team selection. The table will be available up to one week prior to the completion of Selection Races and collected via online survey. Responses will remain confidential within the Selection Committee and will not be shared outside the committee. All eligible athletes will be required to complete the matrix and all boxes must be filled out. (There is an option to not answer if the athlete does not feel they know the athlete well enough to provide a fair assessment.)

Please complete the table below by rating each listed athlete in each of the four categories including yourself. Each cell is rated 1 (poor) through 5 (excellent). If you do not feel you can provide a fair assessment of the athlete, please indicate this, but do not leave a cell blank. Please provide any relevant information in the Notes/Comments cell that help explain a low score.

Athlete	Pushing Ability 5=elite pushing ability 1=poor pushing ability	Pushing Consistency 5=consistent approach and results 1=inconsistent approach and results	Dependability/Reliability 5=always reliable and punctual 1=rarely reliable or on time	Attitude 5=attitude always positively affects the team 1=attitude always negatively affects the team	Notes/Comments Please provide comments and explanation especially for any low scores.
Yourself					
Athlete 2					
Athlete 3					
Athlete 4					
Athlete 5					
Athlete 6					
Athlete 7					
Athlete 8					
Athlete 9					
Athlete 10					

Table 5. Example of Athlete Input Matrix