



UNITED STATES BIATHLON

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**ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES**  
**2016 World Championship Team**  
**2015-16 World Cup (WC) & IBU Cup Teams**  
**[Updated October 14, 2015 by ICC]**

## Overview

*The following criteria specify how athletes qualify for competition teams in the 2015-16 Season. The competitions this criteria covers are World Championships, World Cups, and IBU Cups.*

*Several athletes have pre-qualified for the early season World Cup Team based on their performances during the 2014-15 competition season. Qualifying continues with two sets of rollerski competitions held in Jericho, Vermont. Results from these races in mid-August and mid-October will be used to add more athletes to a camp in [Midway, Utah](#) at the end of October, with the possibility for these athletes in turn to qualify for the December World Cups.*

*Trials races held in mid-December at Mount Itasca, Minnesota, will be used to select athletes for the IBU Cups held in January in the Czech Republic, Poland, and Germany. They will be joined by athletes from the World Cup team who do not reach benchmarks described in this document. The IBU Cup race results will then be used to determine possible additional members for World Cups 7-8 in February in North America.*

*Teams for late-season IBU Cups and World Championships will be selected based upon a combination of World Cup, IBU Cup, and domestic race results, as specified below in this document.*

**Note:** *Performances in all biathlon trials races, North American Cups, and IBU events, taking into consideration the relative strength of the competitive fields at those races, may be used in the discretionary process to name athletes to teams.*

**Note:** *Performances in all biathlon trials races, IBU events, and international rankings in the 2015-16 Season may be used to select athletes to teams for training and competition in the 2016-17 Season.*

## Trials Event Information

Rollerski races will be held in Jericho, Vermont at the Ethan Allen Firing Range on August 15-16 and October 10-11. Point lists will be calculated off of the best 3 of 4 results for each athlete using the USBA percent-back system. The point base 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. Athletes participating in the rollerski races for trials purposes must note that they agree to ski on matched rollerskis, which will be provided by US Biathlon prior to the race. See <http://www.eabiathlon.org/> for more information about the facility hosting these races.

The Team Trials will be held at Mount Itasca in Coleraine, Minnesota December 16-20. Point lists will be calculated off of the best 3 of 4 results for each athlete using the USBA percent-back system. The point base will include only American athletes, and exclude any pre-qualified athletes. Athletes should register directly with the Organizing Committee. See <http://minnesotabiathlon.com/> for more information.

*Race formats and dates for Trials series:*

Aug 15	Aug 16	Oct 10	Oct 11	Dec 16	Dec 17	Dec 19	Dec 20
SPR	MASS	SPR	SPR	SPR	SPR	MASS	SPR

## Selection Criteria

### [Soldier Hollow Rollerski Camp, Midway, Utah\\*](#)

- All prequalified athletes for the December World Cups are eligible to attend
- Winner of the roller ski trials from both genders are eligible to attend
- Up to 1 more athlete per gender may be named by the ICC in consultation with US Biathlon staff, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection. These athlete(s) would be required to pay for the costs of their flights.

*\* Due to insufficient snow in Canmore this camp has been relocated to Utah.*

### [Pre-World Cup Camp in Sjusjoen, Norway](#)

- All prequalified athletes for the December World Cups are eligible to attend starting November 15.
- Athletes who qualify for the December World Cups via roller ski trials results and/or discretionary selection after the on-snow camp in Canmore will be eligible to attend starting November 22.

### [World Cups 1 - 3](#)

World Cup 1 in Östersund, SWE: November 28 – December 6, 2015

World Cup 2 in Hochfilzen, AUT: December 9 – 13, 2015

World Cup 3 in Pokljuka, SLO: December 17 – 20, 2015

### **Women**

Start spots: 4

- All women with a top-20 result during the 2014-2015 season are prequalified (Hannah Dreissigacker and Susan Dunklee)
- Top ranked athlete from the August and October rollerski races will be named.
- 1 additional athlete may be named by the ICC in consultation with US Biathlon staff, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection after completion of the [camp in Utah](#).

### **Men**

Start spots: 4

- All men with a top-20 result during the 2014-15 Season are prequalified (Lowell Bailey, Tim Burke, and Leif Nordgren).
- 1 additional athlete will be named by the ICC in consultation with US Biathlon staff, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection after the completion of the [camp in Utah](#).

## **World Cup 4**

World Cup 4 in Oberhof, Germany: January 5 - 10

### **Women & Men**

Start spots: 4 per gender

- 2 athletes per gender with the most World Cup points following World Cup 3 will be named. If no one has points, then the two athletes with the best single World Cup placings count. If only one athlete has points, then the second athlete is chosen by best single World Cup placing.
- 1 additional athlete per gender may be named by the ICC in consultation with US Biathlon staff, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection.

## **IBU Cups 4 - 6**

IBU Cup 4 in Nove Mesto, Czech Republic: January 8 – 10 [Races: Individual and Sprint](#)

IBU Cup 5 in Duszniki, Poland: January 14 – 17 [Races: Sprint and Pursuit](#)

IBU Cup 6 in Langdorf, Germany: January 21 – 23 [Races: Sprint and Pursuit](#)

### **Women & Men**

Start spots: 4 per gender

- All athletes from the December World Cup team who did not qualify for World Cup 4 will be named.
- Top ranked athlete of each gender from the December IBU Cup trials races will be named.
- 1 additional athlete of each gender from the December trials will be named by the ICC in consultation with US Biathlon staff, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection. These athlete(s) will attend the competitions on a self-pay basis.
- An additional athlete of each gender from the December trials may be named by the ICC in consultation with US Biathlon staff, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection. These athlete(s) will attend the competitions on a self-pay basis.

## **World Cups 5 - 6**

World Cup 5 in Ruhpolding, Germany: January 12 - 17

World Cup 6 in Antholz, Italy: January 19 - 24

### **Women & Men**

Start spots: 4 per gender

- All athletes qualified for World Cups 4 will be named.
- 1 additional athlete of each gender may be named after completion of IBU Cup 4 by the ICC in consultation with US Biathlon staff. The evaluation will be made off of the athlete(s)'s ability to contribute to relay races at these World Cups, with a focus on races results from IBU Cup 4.

## **World Cups 7 - 8**

World Cup 7 in Canmore, Canada: February 2 - 7

World Cup 8 in Presque Isle, USA: February 10 - 14

### **Women & Men**

Start spots: 4 per gender

- From each gender, 3 athletes with the most World Cup points following World Cup 6 will be named. If no one has points, then the best single World Cup placing count until the limit of 3 is reached.
- Additional athletes will be named by the ICC in consultation with US Biathlon staff, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection based on all IBU Cup races and WC performances. Special consideration will be given to any athlete with a top 20 in IBU Cup competition; [results from the IBU Cup 5-6 Pursuit competitions will be considered](#).

## **Alpen Cup and IBU Cup 8**

Alpen Cup (or similar international event, place TBD): March 4 - 6

IBU Cup 8 in Martell, Italy: March 9 - 13

### **Women & Men**

Start spots: 4 per gender

- The top-performing athlete from IBU Cups 4-6 for each gender will be named. Ranking will be calculated from the percent back of the American competitors, [scoring the best 3 of 4 races from the Individual and Sprint competitions](#).
- All athletes with at least one top-30 result in a race at IBU Cups 4-6 will be named
- Additional athletes may be named by the ICC in consultation with US Biathlon staff, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection; [results from the IBU Cup 5-6 Pursuit competitions will be considered](#).
- Athletes will be responsible for their own travel and living costs related to the events attended on this trip.

## **World Championships**

Held in Oslo, Norway: March 2-13

### **Women & Men**

Start spots: 4 per gender

- From each gender, 3 athletes with the most World Cup points following World Cup 8 will be named. If 3 athletes do not have points, then those without points will be ranked by their the best single World Cup placings and named until the limit of 3 is reached.
- 1 additional athlete of each gender will be named by the ICC in consultation with US Biathlon staff, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection, following World Cup 8.
- 1 additional athlete of each gender may be named by the ICC in consultation with US Biathlon staff, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection, following North American Cup races in February but taking into account the entire season of races.

## **World Cup 9**

Held in Khanty-Mansysk, Russia: March 16 - 20

### **Women & Men**

Start spots: 4 per gender

- All athletes who are ranked in the top-50 overall World Cup following either World Cup 6 and/or World Cup 8 will be named.
- Additional athletes may be named by the ICC in consultation with US Biathlon staff, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection.
- The ICC reserves the option to discretionarily send youth/junior athletes to World Cup 9, if there are available start spots, in the interests of developing potential future talent.

## **Policies & Rules**

### **1. 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. In case of excellent performance (for example a top-15 finish) on the IBU Cup and availability of an open start position on the World Cup, an athlete may be moved up to the World Cup.
2. Athletes not placing in the top-60 on the World Cup may be brought down to the IBU Cup at any time or dismissed from the World Cup Team.
3. Athletes who have been injured or sick for lengthy periods of time may be brought down to the IBU Cup, or dismissed from the WC Team.

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.

### **2. 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%. In the case of pursuit races *held at a trials series or as part of the IBU Cup trials races*, athletes' actual time on course will be used in the scoring base for these selection criteria.

### **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:

1. History of performance in a specific competition type over the current and previous competitive seasons.
2. Recent improvements in results or performance parameters such as ski speed and shooting performance (both in training and competition).
3. 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.
4. Recent decline in results or performance parameters such as ski speed and shooting performance (both in training and competition).
5. Performance/participation in the qualification process affected by illness or injury as certified by USBA.
6. 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. IBU Performance Standards for Starting at the World Cup**

Quoted from the IBU Event & Competition Rules:

#### 1.4.3.3 World Cup

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. To gain the right to participate in WC events, a competitor must have 150 IBU qualifying points at the end of the last trimester, or fulfill one of the following criteria during the current or preceding trimester:

- 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 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.

To retain the right to participate in the next WC trimester in which a competitor chooses to start, the competitor must maintain 150 IBU qualifying points or less in the current trimester.

Further information can be found on pages 15-17 of the IBU Event and Competition Rules which can be downloaded here.

[http://www5.biathlonworld.com/media/files/rules\\_2014/IBU\\_Rules\\_2014\\_e\\_cap3.pdf](http://www5.biathlonworld.com/media/files/rules_2014/IBU_Rules_2014_e_cap3.pdf)

## **6. USBA International Competition Committee (ICC)**

Chair: Jay T. Kearney

USOC Athlete Advisory Council Athlete Rep: Brian Olsen

US Biathlon Chief of Sport: Bernd Eisenbichler

National Guard Biathlon Coach: Sarah Lehto

US Biathlon National Team Women's Coach: Jonne Kähkönen