



US Biathlon Association ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES

2018 IBU Jun Cup and IBU Jun Open European Championships
2018 Youth & Junior World Championship Team

Overview

The following selection criteria specify how youth and junior class athletes qualify to represent the U.S. at the 2018 IBU JUN Cup in Duszynki, POL (Jan 18th – Jan 21st), the IBU JUN Open European Championships in Pokljuka, SLO (Jan 24th – Jan 28th) and the 2018 Youth & Junior World Championships held February 26 - March 7 in Otepae, EST.

There are three methods by which athletes qualify for this event: (1) “pre-qualifying” with excellent results in the 2016-17 Season, (2) qualifying for the senior class IBU Cup 4-5 team, and (3) competitive results at the trials races to be held Dec 28 - 31 in the U.S. This document focuses on the third method of qualification.

Note Regarding Pre-Qualification for 2019 Youth & Junior World Championship Team: Athletes who place in the top-6 at this season's Youth & Junior World Championships are automatically pre-qualified for next season's team in whichever class their age qualifies them for next season.

Pre-Qualification (Methods 1-2)

Prequalified Junior Woman: Chloe Levins

Any youth or junior athlete who qualifies for this season's senior class team competing at IBU Cups 4-5 will be automatically in turn qualified for this season's Youth & Junior World Championship Team (in their age class). Further explanation for how to qualify for IBU Cups 4-5 is detailed in the Athlete Selection Procedures for the senior class, available on the USBA website.

Team Trials Qualification (Method 3)

Trials Event Information

General: The Youth & Junior World Championships Team Trials will take place December 28-31 at Mt. Itasca, MN.

Standardized Waxing Procedures: All athletes in the youth and junior classes at the Team Trials must adhere to the US Biathlon Standardized Waxing Protocol, which is available on the US Biathlon website.

Formats: all junior and youth class competitors will race the same distances at the Team Trials:

	Sprint	Pursuit Format	Sprint
	<u>Dec 29</u>	<u>Dec 30</u>	<u>Dec 31</u>
<i>Junior & Youth Men</i>	10 km	10 km	7.5 km
<i>Junior & Youth Women</i>	7.5 km	10 km	6 km

Point lists will be calculated off of the best 2 of 3 results for each athlete using the USBA percent-back system. The point base will include only American athletes, and exclude athletes already prequalified.. Two lists will be created for each gender: the Primary List will include both youth and junior athletes scored together, while the Youth List will include only the scoring of youth athletes.

Selection Criteria

IBU JUN Cup in Duszniki, POL (Jan 18th – Jan 21st 2018)

IBU JUN Open European Champs in Pokljuka, SLO (Jan 24th – Jan 28th 2018)

Team size: up to 4 athletes per gender

- Any athlete who placed in the top-6 at the 2017 Youth & Junior World Championships will be pre-qualified for the 2018 event (in their age class). Chloe Levins is pre-qualified for JUN Women.
- Any athlete who is selected for the senior IBU Cup 4-5 team this season will be pre-qualified (in their age class).
- The top two athletes on the Primary List from the Team Trials will be selected for each gender, regardless of whether those athletes are youth or junior athletes. If the first and/or second athlete(s) on the Primary List is/are youth, then fewer junior athletes will be selected via this bullet point.
- Additional Junior or Youth athletes may be selected up to the maximum team size by the ICC in consultation with US Biathlon staff, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection, with particular attention paid to athletes demonstrating competitive ski speed.

IBU Youth and Junior WCHs 2018 in Otepae, EST (Feb 26th – March 7th 2018)

Juniors (born 1997 and 1998)

Team size: up to 4 athletes per gender

- Any athlete who placed in the top-6 at the 2017 Youth & Junior World Championships will be pre-qualified for the 2018 event (in their age class). Chloe Levins is pre-qualified for Junior WM.
- Any athlete who is selected for the senior IBU Cup 4-5 team this season will be pre-qualified (in their age class).
- The top two athletes on the Primary List from the Team Trials will be selected for each gender, regardless of whether those athletes are youth or junior athletes. If the first and/or second athlete(s) on the Primary List is/are youth, then fewer junior athletes will be selected via this bullet point.

- Additional junior athletes may be selected up to the maximum team size by the ICC in consultation with US Biathlon staff, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection, with particular attention paid to athletes demonstrating competitive ski speed.

Youth (born 1999 through 2002)

Team size: up to 4 athletes per gender

- Any athlete who placed in the top-6 at the 2017 Youth & Junior World Championships will be pre-qualified for the 2018 event (in their age class). (No athletes met this benchmark at the 2017 event.)
- Any athlete who is selected for the senior IBU Cup 4-5 team this season will be pre-qualified (in their age class).
- The top two athletes on the Youth List from the Team Trials will be selected for each gender. If either of those athletes are also among the top two athletes on the Primary List, then those youth athletes will count against both the junior and youth class allocation to qualification via this bullet point.
- Additional youth athletes may be selected up to the maximum team size by the ICC in consultation with US Biathlon staff, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection, with particular attention paid to athletes demonstrating competitive ski speed.

Appendix: 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%. In the case of pursuit races a part of the team selection procedure, net-times from the pursuit race only will be used for the calculation of percent-backs.

2. 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. USBA Chief of Sport Bernd Eisenbichler, Head Coach Development Jean Paquet, and Junior Coach Algis Shalna will develop recommendations to the ICC for discretionary selection of additional athletes 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.

3. 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 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.

4. Self-Pay Policy

US Biathlon will cover joint expenses of the event as well as the individual travel expenses of athletes as follows:

- 100% funding for athletes who are prequalified for the event either by way of their results at the 2017 Y&JWCH event or who are selected for the 2018 IBU Cups 4-5 team.

- 100% funding for the top athlete of each gender on the Primary List, regardless of whether those athletes are a youth or junior athlete.
- 100% funding for the top two athletes of each gender on the Youth List. If the top athlete on the Primary List for a gender is a youth athlete, then that athlete will count against the financial support allocation for both classes.
- Self-pay for all other athletes.

Participation grant money from the IBU will be used by US Biathlon to pay for joint expenses and organizational overhead, and not paid or shared with athletes. US Biathlon estimates that the self-pay expenses for affected athletes will total \$1600 each.

5. USBA International Competition Committee (ICC)

Chair: Jay T. Kearney

USOC Athletes' Advisory Council Athlete Rep: Sara Studebaker

USBA Chief of Sport: Bernd Eisenbichler

National Guard Biathlon Coach: Sarah Lehto

USBA Head Coach Women: Jonne Kaehkoenen