



US Biathlon Association ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES

2018-19 World Cup (WC) & IBU Cup Teams

June, 2018

Overview

The following criteria specify how athletes qualify for competition teams in the 2018-19 Season. The competitions this document covers are World Cups, Open European Championships, and IBU Cups.

Several athletes achieved personal top-25 results on the World Cup or at World Championships in the 2017-18 season and are therefore prequalified for the on-snow camp in Europe in November and World Cups 1-3.

For non-prequalified athletes, qualifying begins with two sets of roller ski competitions held in Jericho, Vermont and Soldier Hollow, Utah. Results from these races in August and October will be used to select additional athletes for the WCs 1 – 3 and IBU Cups 2 and 3 in December.

The top athletes from World Cups 1-3 will continue to World Cup 4, the worst athlete from WC 1 – 3 will have to go back to IBU Cup 4 and be joined there by the best two athletes per gender from IBU cup 2 and 3, as well as the winner of the IBU Cups trials at X-Mas. Results from IBU Cup 4 will be used to promote athletes to World Cup 5-6.

The World Championship team will be decided after World Cup 8 based on results at the international level, especially the World Cup. Athletes will continue to World Cup 9 primarily depending upon their results on the World Cup and at World Championships. Performance data from the North American Cup and international races will be used to select a team to represent the U.S. at Open European Championships and IBU Cup 7.

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.*

Trials Event Information

Rollerski Trials: Roller ski races will be held in Jericho, Vermont at the Ethan Allen Firing Range on August 11-12 and in Soldier Hollow, Utah October 30 – Nov 2. Point lists will be calculated off of the best 3 of 5 results for each athlete using the USBA percent-back system. Only one race from Jericho can be brought into the count. The point base will include only American athletes, and exclude athletes prequalified for the early season World Cups. Athletes must notify the USBA of their intent to participate three weeks prior to the races by emailing Danika Frisbie at danika.usbiathlon@gmail.com. Athletes participating in the roller ski races for trials purposes must note that they agree to ski on matched roller skis, which will be provided by US Biathlon prior to the race.

December Trials: Races will be held December 28 - 31. 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 any pre-qualified athletes. The standardized wax procedures will be in place for these races.

Formats and dates for trials races:

Aug 11	Aug 12	Oct 30	Oct 31	Nov 2	Dec 28	Dec 30	Dec 31
SPR	MASS	SPR	SPR	MASS short	SPR	MASS	SPR

February Trials: A three-competition event will be held in early February at a site TBD (likely Jericho). The results will be used to name the OECH team

Selection Criteria

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

Note: bullet points are hierarchical,

On snow camp in mid Europe (place and exact time TBD) and World Cups 1 - 3

World Cup 1 in Pokljuka, SLO: November 30 - December 9, 2018

World Cup 2 in Hochfilzen, AUT: December 10-16, 2018

World Cup 3 in Nove Mesto, CZE: December 17-23, 2018

Women

Start spots: 3

- All athletes with a personal top-25 result on the World Cup during the 2017-2018 season or at OWGs 2018. (Susan Dunklee, Clare Egan and Joanne Reid met this benchmark.)
- Top ranked athlete on the roller ski trials points list will be named.
Decision who starts at what event will be made on the ground

Men

Start spots: 4

- All athletes with a personal top-25 result on the World Cup during the 2017-2018 season or at OWGs 2018 (Sean Doherty and Leif Nordgren met this benchmark.)
- Top ranked athlete on the roller ski trials points list will be named
- 1 additional athlete will be named by the ICC in consultation with US Biathlon staff, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection

IBU Cups 2 and 3:

IBU Cup 2 in Ridnaun, ITA: Dec 10 - 16

IBU Cup 3 in Obertilliach, AUT: Dec 17 - 22

Women

Start spots: 4

- 1 athlete from WC 1 will be sent to IBU Cup 2
- 2 Athletes ranked 2nd and 3rd on the roller ski trials points list 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

Men

Start spots: 4

- The next three athletes on the roller ski trials points list 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

World Cup 4

World Cup 4 in Oberhof, GER: January 7 - 13, 2019

Women

Start spots: 3

Team Size: 2

- 2 athletes with the most World Cup points following World Cup 3 will be named. If fewer than two athletes have points, the athlete with points will qualify, and the single best personal World Cup placing in the current season will be used until the limit of 2 athletes is reached.

Men

Start spots: 4

Team Size: 3

- 2 athletes with the most World Cup points following World Cup 3 will be named. If fewer than two athletes have points, the single best personal World Cup placing in the current season will be used until the limit of 2 athletes is reached.
- 1 additional athlete will 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 Duszniki, POL: January 7 - 13, 2019

IBU Cup 5 in Langdorf, GER: January 14 - 20, 2019

IBU Cup 6 in Lenzerheide, SUI: Jan 21 – 26, 2019

Women & Men

Start spots: 4 per gender

- 1 athlete from the December World Cup team, who did not qualify for World Cup 4 will be named.
- 2 best athletes from IBU Cup 2 and 3. Single best placing used for ranking.
- Top ranked athlete on the December Trials points lists will be named for each gender.

World Cups 5 - 6

World Cup 5 in Ruhpolding, GER January 14-20, 2019

World Cup 6 in Antholz, ITA: January 21-27, 2019

Women

Start spots: 3, 4 in relay for WC 5

- All athletes qualified for World Cup 4 will be named.
- Athlete with the best single placing at IBU Cup 4 will be named
- One additional athlete(s) will be named after completion of IBU Cup 4 by the ICC in consultation with US Biathlon staff, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection to be able to race the women relay at the WC in Ruhpolding. An athlete from the team can be sent back to race at IBU Cup 5 and 6.

Men

Start spots: 4

- All athletes qualified for World Cup 4 will be named.
- Athlete with the best single placing at IBU Cup 4 will be named
- One additional athlete may be named after completion of IBU Cup 4 by the ICC in consultation with US Biathlon staff, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection. The evaluation will be made off of the athlete(s)'s ability to contribute to relay races, with a focus on races results from IBU Cup 4.

World Cups 7 - 8

WC 7 in Canmore, CAN: Feb 4 - 10, 2019

WC 8 in Soldier Hollow, USA: Feb 11 - 17, 2019

Women

Start spots: 3

Team Size: 4

- Athletes will be named in rank order as follows until the team is full:
 - Athletes who are ranked in the top-60 overall WC ranking
 - Athletes with a Top 30 result at WC
- Additional athletes will be named by the ICC in consultation with US Biathlon staff, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection till the max number of 4 female athletes. Focus will be to look at single best finishes at IBU Cups/ WCs to make these decisions.

Men

Start spots: 4

Team Size: 5

- Athletes will be named in rank order as follows until the team is full:
 - Athletes who are ranked in the top-60 overall WC ranking
 - Athletes with a Top 30 result at WC
- Additional athletes will be named by the ICC in consultation with US Biathlon staff, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection till the max number of 5 male athletes. Focus will be to look at single best finishes at IBU Cups/ WCs to make these decisions.

Open European Championships and IBU Cup 7

Open European Championships in Raubitschi, BLR: Feb 18 - 24, 2019

IBU Cup 7 in Otepaa, EST: Feb 25 – March 3, 2019

Women & Men for OECHs

Start spots: 6 per gender

- Athletes with a Top 40 result at IBU Cups 2 – 6 will be named in rank order up to 5
- Top ranked athlete on the February Trials points list from Jericho, Feb 1-3, 2019 (2 out of 3 races counting) will be named for each gender.
- Athlete with the single best personal placing at IBU Cups 4-5 may be named for each gender.

- Additional athletes may be named by the ICC in consultation with US Biathlon staff, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection, with a holistic view of athlete performances at North American Cups held in January and IBU Cups 4-6. These athlete(s) will attend the competitions on a self-pay basis. See self-pay policy in appendix.

Women & Men for IBU Cup 7

Start spots: 4 per gender

- All athletes with a Top 40 result at IBU Cups 2 – 6 will be named up to 3
- Athlete with the single best placing at OECHs will be named
- Additional athletes will be named by the ICC in consultation with US Biathlon staff, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection till the team is full

World Championships

Held in Ostersund, SWE: March 7 - 17, 2019

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 three athletes do not have points, then all athletes with points will qualify, and the single best personal World Cup placing in the current season will be used until the limit of 3 athletes 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, with a holistic view of athlete performances at World Cups 1-8, Youth Junior World Championships, Open European Championships, and IBU Cups 4-6

World Cups 9

WC 9 in Oslo, Norway: March 18-24, 2019

Women

Start spots: 3

- All athletes who are ranked in the top-50 overall World Cup following World Cup 8 will be named in rank order until the maximum team size is reached.
- Additional athletes may be named by the ICC in consultation with US Biathlon staff, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection.

Men

Start spots: 4

- All athletes who are ranked in the top-50 overall World Cup following World Cup 8 will be named in rank order until the maximum team size is reached.
- Additional athletes may be named by the ICC in consultation with US Biathlon staff, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection.

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 *held at a trials*

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 a personal top-20 placing at IBU Cup may be moved up to the World Cup provided there are open start positions.
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.

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:

1.4.3.2

World Championships

To gain the right to participate 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.

1.4.3.3

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 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.

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.

6. Self-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. For athletes who are selected to teams on a self-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.

US Biathlon will provide estimates of self-pay expenses for the events described in this document to help athletes budget for the upcoming season by middle of July.

7. USBA International Competition Committee (ICC)

Chair: Jay T. Kearney

USOC Athletes' Advisory Council Athlete Rep: Sara Studebaker-Hall

US Biathlon Chief of Sport: Bernd Eisenbichler

National Guard Biathlon Coach: Sarah Lehto

US Biathlon National Team Head Coach Women: Armin Auchentaller