



United States Biathlon
Association
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To Whom It May Concern:

I hope everyone is excited to hear that we will send a team to the Jr. IBU Cup in Estonia and Junior Open European Championships in Latvia. This was not originally in the plan, and I want to explain how we reached this decision and the criteria that will be used for team selection.

Our Junior/Youth program typically has two international race series opportunities every season. These two-week trips are usually the Jr. IBU Cup/JOECH trip and YJWCH. Because of the timing between the Jr. IBU CUP/JOECH competitions and the YJWCH trip this season, which essentially requires over five straight weeks in Europe, we initially decided to use the World University Games in place of the Jr. IBU/JOECH trip.

So, what changed? For starters, the start quota criteria for the Youth Olympic Games was just released, and if we are not in the top 10 of the World Cup Nations score, our quota will be determined from our Jr. IBU, JOECH, and YJWCH ranking.

Last season we ran into the all too common scenario where we had athletes barely missing out on qualifying for our international trips. This led to the issue where even though some athletes essentially had the same performance at our trials races, the athlete on the lower end of the points list got zero international starts. With this Jr. IBU/JOECH trip, we want to ensure that those athletes get a chance to race internationally.

With the above information in mind, we set out to create a criteria that would create more space for athletes to compete internationally while also leaving room for athletes that can fit multiple international trips into their schedules.

The bottom line is that we will have more Youth and Junior athletes getting international race starts this season than ever before. I hope you are as excited about that as I am.



Where Olympic Journeys Begin



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You can find the Jr. IBU/JOECH criteria here (insert link). As always, don't hesitate to reach out if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Tim Burke
Director of Athlete Development
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