US Biathlon Association
ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES

2019-20 World Cup (WC) & IBU Cup Teams

July, 2019

Overview

The following criteria specify how athletes qualify for competition teams in the 2019-2020 Season. The competitions covered in this document are World Cups, Open European Championships, IBU Cups, and associated training camps leading up to these competitions.

Pre-qualified athletes: Five athletes achieved personal top-25 results on the World Cup or at World Championships in the 2018-19 season, and are therefore prequalified for the on-snow preparation camp in Europe in November and World Cups 1-3. These athletes are: Joanne Reid, Clare Egan, Susan Dunklee, Sean Doherty, and Leif Nordgren.

For non-prequalified athletes: The qualifying process 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.

In December, the top athletes from World Cups 1-3 will continue to World Cup 4. The remaining athlete(s) must go to European WC/IBU Cup Selection Races and compete against qualified athletes from IBU Cup 2 and 3, as well as the winner of the domestic IBU Cups trials in December, and any other athletes named by ICC, if any. Results from these new European WC/IBU Cup Selection Races will be used to promote athletes to World Cup 4-6 and IBU Cup 4 and 5.

The World Championship team will be determined after World Cup 6 based on international racing results, especially from the World Cup. Athletes will continue to World Cups 7-9 primarily depending upon their previous results at World Cups 1-6 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 8.

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 17-18 and in Soldier Hollow, Utah on October 24, 26, and 27. 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 account. 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 filling out the online enrollment at http://www.teamusa.com/us-biathlon/rollerski. 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.

Domestic IBU Cup Trials:
On-snow races are planned for Craftsbury, Vermont on December 19-22. 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. Standardized wax procedures will be in place for these races.

European WC/IBU Cup Selection Races:
Two time trial races will be held in Europe at a mid-European location to be announced on two of the three days spanning Jan 6-8, 2020. Point lists will be calculated based on both races, using the USBA percent-back system. The point base will include only American athletes. Standardized wax procedures will be in place for these races. Athletes that qualify for European WC/IBU Cup Selection Races will have their expenses (travel, room, and board) funded by USBA for the duration of the trials, including training days and competition days.

Formats and dates for trials races:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Race Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sat. 8/17/2019</td>
<td>SPR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun. 8/18/2019</td>
<td>MASS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs. 10/24/2019</td>
<td>--SPR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat. 10/26/2019</td>
<td>MASS (short)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun. 10/27/2019</td>
<td>SPR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs. 12/19</td>
<td>SPR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat. 12/20</td>
<td>MASS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun. 12/22</td>
<td>SPR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M-W. 1/6-8/2020</td>
<td>SPR/SPR*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Two sprints will take place over the course of this three-day period. Exact race days and location will be announced by 12/22/19.

February Open-European Champ Team Trials:
A three-competition event, comprised of two sprints and a pursuit, will be held during NORAM 4 in Fort Kent, Maine, with races taking place on January 30 and February 1-2. January 30th will be a time trial held exclusively for athletes looking to qualify outside of weekend NORAM competitions. The results will be used to name the OECH team. The race formats will be the following:
- January 30: Timed Trial Sprint
- February 1: NORAM Sprint
- February 2: NORAM Pursuit*

*Pursuit results will be normalized to reflect actual competition time of each athlete and US Biathlon percent-back points will be calculated based only on those athletes eligible for EOCH Team qualification (e.g. Canadians will be omitted)

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 European preparation camp (place and exact dates TBD) and World Cups 1 - 3
World Cup 1 in Ostersund, SWE: November 30 - December 8, 2019
World Cup 2 in Hochfilzen, AUT: December 9-15, 2019
World Cup 3 in Annecy, FRA: December 16-22, 2019

Women
Start spots: 4
- All athletes with a personal top-25 result on the World Cup during the 2018/19 Season. (Susan Dunklee, Clare Egan and Joanne Reid met this qualifying standard.)
- Top ranked athlete (excluding pre-qualified athlete) 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 – could include an athlete qualified for IBU Cups 2 and 3.

Men
Start spots: 4
- All athletes with a personal top-25 result on the World Cup during the 2018/19 Season (Sean Doherty and Leif Nordgren met this qualifying standard.)
- Top ranked athlete (excluding prequalified athletes) 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.
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IBU Cups 2 and 3:
IBU Cup 2 in Ridnaun, ITA: Dec 9-15, 2019
IBU Cup 3 in Obertilliach, AUT: Dec 16-22, 2019

Women
Start spots: 4
Team Size: 3 or 4
• 3 athletes ranked highest on the roller ski trials points list (excluding those that qualify for WC 1-3) 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
Team Size: 3 or 4

• 3 athletes ranked highest on the roller ski trials points list (excluding those that qualify for WC 1) will be named to IBU Cups 2 and 3.
• 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 4-5**
World Cup 4 in Oberhof, GER: January 6-12, 2020
World Cup 5 in Ruhpolding, GER: January 13-19, 2020

**Women & Men**
Start spots: 4
Team Size: 4

• Up to 3 athletes can qualify by two (2) top-40 performances at WC 1-3. If 4 athletes meet these criteria, the 3 athletes with the highest cumulative WC points will qualify.
• If fewer than 3 athletes meet the above criteria, the 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 quota of 2 athletes is reached.
• The remaining start positions will be filled by the following criteria:
  • If one WC start quota remains – Winner of European IBU/WC Trials (SVK)
  • If two WC start quotas remain – Winner of European IBU/WC Trials and 1 additional athlete, named by the ICC in consultation with US Biathlon staff, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection
  • NOTE: Athletes who qualify for WC 4 from European IBU/WC Trials should expect to race WC 4 Relay. The WC Coaches will decide whether these athletes also start the WC 4 Sprint.

**IBU Cups 4 - 7**
IBU Cup 4 in Osrblie, SVK: January 6-12, 2020
IBU Cup 5 in Duzniki Zdroj, POL: January 13-19, 2020
IBU Cup 6 in Arber, GER: February 3-9, 2020
IBU Cup 7 in Martell-Val Martello, ITA: February 10-16, 2020

**Women & Men**
Start spots: 4 per gender
• Top 3 athletes (excluding those that qualify for WC 4) from European IBU/WC Trials
• 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 6**
World Cup 6 in Pokljuka, SLO: January 20-26, 2020

**Women & Men**
Start spots: 4
• Three athletes from World Cup 4 & 5 will qualify for WC 6, based on the following criteria:
  o 2x Top-25 WC 1-5
  o If fewer than 3 meet the above criteria, then highest single personal placing from WC 4-5
• One additional athlete will be named after completion of WC 5/IBU Cup 5 by the ICC in consultation with US Biathlon staff, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection. An athlete from the WC team can be sent to race at IBU Cup 6 and 7.

**World Championships**
Held in Antholz, ITA: February 13-23, 2020

**Women & Men**
Start spots: 4 per gender
Team size: 4-5 per gender
• From each gender, 3 athletes with the most World Cup points following World Cup 6 will be named. If fewer than three athletes 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.
• At the ICC’s discretion, following World Cup 6 or following IBU Cup 6\(^1\), 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.
• 1 additional athlete of each gender may be named by the ICC after the conclusion of IBU Cup 6, 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 1-6, Youth Junior World Championships, and IBU Cups 4-6

**World Cup 7**
WC 7 in Nove Mesto, CZE: March 2-8, 2020

**Women & Men**
Start spots: 4
Team Size: 3 or 4

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\(^1\) At the end of WC 6, the ICC will determine the competitiveness of the fourth-ranked athlete and determine whether they should be named to the WCH team at that point, or be required to go to IBU Cup 6 and vie for a WCH spot with the other IBU Cup 6 athletes.
● All athletes who are ranked in the top-50 overall World Cup following WCH’s will be named in rank order until the minimum team size of 3 per gender 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, until a maximum team size of 4 per gender is reached.

**World Cups 8-9**
WC 8 in Kontiolahti, FIN: March 9-15, 2020
WC 9 in Oslo, NOR: March 16-22, 2020

**Women & Men**
Start spots: 4
Team Size: 3 or 4
● All athletes who are ranked in the top-50 overall World Cup following WCH’s will be named in rank order until the minimum team size of 3 per gender 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.

**Open European Championships and IBU Cup 8**
Open European Championships in Otepää, EST: Feb 24-Mar 1, 2020
IBU Cup 8 in Minsk, BLR: Mar 2-8, 2020

**Women & Men for OECH**
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 4-6 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 8**
Start spots: 4 per gender
● All athletes with a Top 40 result at IBU Cups 2 – 7 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
Appendix: Policies & Rules

1. USBA Percent-Back System

An athlete’s percent-back in a race is calculated using the following formula:

\[
\text{Athlete’s Percent-Back} = 2 - \left( \frac{\text{Athlete’s time}}{\text{Average time of the top three finishers scored}} \right)
\]

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 athletes 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.
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 Aug. 30, 2019.

7. USBA International Competition Committee (ICC)

Chair: Jay T. Kearney
USOC Athletes’ Advisory Council Athlete Rep: Sara Studebaker-Hall
US Biathlon High Performance Director: Lowell Bailey
National Guard Biathlon Coach: Drew Galinas
US Biathlon National Team Head Coach Women: Armin Auchentaller (for WC/IBU Cup and WCHs/OECHs team naming)
US Biathlon Junior National Team Coach: Tim Burke (for Junior IBU Cup/YJWCHs team naming)