

2022 – 2023 USABS Bobsled Selection Criteria

(Updated 9/20/2022)

It is the goal of this criteria to ensure USA Bobsled/Skeleton (USABS) fields the most competitive bobsled teams in the pursuit of Olympic Games, World Championships, and World Cup medals. In keeping with this goal, USABS will work to select the most competitive athletes to represent the U.S. at the most imminent Olympic Games as well as prepare for future Olympic Games. Therefore, an emphasis will be placed on both optimizing the success of the current teams and development for future Olympic Games, World Championship, and World Cup success.

The Team Selection Committee and the coaching staff will use the following criteria and supporting documents for selecting athletes to represent USABS in International Bobsleigh and Skeleton Federation (IBSF) competitions.

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1. Athlete Participant Eligibility

To participate in a USABS program, an athlete must meet the following requirements:

- a) be a USABS Athlete Member in good standing.
- b) abide by the USADA, the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), and IBSF anti-doping requirements.
- c) meet all United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC), IBSF, and USABS eligibility requirements for representing the USA in international competition.
- d) complete and return the USABS physical/waiver, U.S. Center for SafeSport training, background check, and Athlete Handbook prior to participation in any USABS event.

2. National Team Eligibility

In addition to the Athlete Participant Eligibility requirements (Section 1), an athlete must meet the following requirements to be considered for the National Team.

- a) All returning athletes (push athletes & pilots) from the previous season or earlier are required to compete in the National Push Championships. First-year athletes may be exempt from this requirement (but may be invited to participate) in their first year. The location, date, and format of the competition will be announced at least 30 days prior to the event.
- b) Pilots must participate in National Team Trials unless exempt by reason of a bye and approved by the Team Selection Committee or by reason of a medical or extreme circumstances waiver. Pilots that do not race in National Team Trials because they have not yet met the 5-3-2 rule prior to NTT but do become eligible after the start of the season

may be considered for National Team selection during the mid-season review or World Championships review.

- c) Athletes must perform an official USABS 8-item combine test prior to team trials. Announcements regarding combine test events and dates will be published on the USABS website at least 30 days prior to the event. Note that *recruiting combines* do not count as an USABS official combine. Athletes in their first year may be exempt from the official combine requirement. The standards listed in Appendix 5 are used in the Bobsled Athlete Progression Pathway (BAPP) (Appendix 2) to determine athlete support and funding. Combine results are also considered in discretionary athlete selection.
- d) All athletes who have not met the “B” Standard (700+ points) in the combine within the quad must take a USABS scheduled combine before the start of the season. However, those athletes who competed in the most recent Olympics or were selected as credentialed Olympic alternates are exempt from the combine requirement and will be considered to have met the “A” Standard.

Additionally, bobsled pilots who are ranked in the top 10 (men) or top six (women) in the IBSF overall ranking in any discipline from the previous season do not have to complete an official USABS combine before the start of the season. These pilots will be considered to have met the “A” Standard.

- e) All athletes are required to complete the pre-season 30-meter sprint and vertical jump.

3. National Team Selection

The *USA National Bobsled Team* is defined as athletes officially named to the National Team by the Team Selection Committee to race in IBSF World Cup (WC) events. The number of pilots named to the National Team will coincide with the number of quota spots earned by the team during the previous season as determined by the IBSF. The Team Selection Committee will then name the corresponding number of push athletes indicated on Table 1 and Table 2.

Men:

WC Quota Spots	Pilot(s)	Push Athletes	Total
1	1	4	5
2	2	8	10
3	3	11	14

Table 1

Women:

WC Quota Spots	Pilot(s)	Push Athletes	Total
1	1	2	3
2	2	4	6
3	3	5	8

Table 2

a) Pilots

- i) Only pilots named to the National Team are eligible to race in World Cup events. Pilots not named to the National Team will not be eligible to race in a World Cup race except in extreme circumstances determined by the Team Selection Committee
- ii) Each race entry selection for the World Cup series will be determined by the Team Selection Committee with input and consultation from other USABS bobsled coaches and relevant personnel.
- iii) A pilot can earn a bye to the first half National Team and will be funded through team trials until the first review period. A pilot can earn a bye by achieving a top-four (4) finish at the previous season's World Championships or Olympic Games with a maximum of one bye per discipline. If more than one pilot achieves the above result, the highest-ranking pilot from the event earns the bye. If the US has three quota spots and two pilots meet the bye criterion, the second pilot will also receive a bye. Team competition results will not count toward a bye. In all cases, a pilot with a bye is still expected to compete in the National Team Trials unless agreed upon by the Head Coach and Team Selection Committee. The Head Coach will name the push athlete(s) to race at National Team Trials with the pilot (no push athletes will be named for a bye earned via monobob). A pilot that has earned a bye must maintain their preparation and training commitment.
- iv) World Cup Race Entries
 - a) If a bye has been awarded, the first race entry position will be filled with the pilot that has earned a bye.
 - b) If three quote spots are available and a second bye has been awarded, the second race entry position will be filled with the second pilot who has earned the bye.
 - c) After the appropriate byes (if any) have been awarded, the next race entry position will be the top finisher from the 2022-2023 National Team Trials.

d) If race entry positions remain, one position will be reserved for a pilot selected on the discretion of the Team Selection Committee. The committee will consider the following factors for the discretionary selection (in no particular order).

(1) Final rank from the National Team Trials

(2) Development needs of the USABS. For NAC and EC races, pilots must be in Phase 2 of the Development Program in the USABS Bobsled Athlete Progression Pathway.

(3) Performance needs of the USABS program for pilots in Phase 1 or Phase 2 of the Performance Program of the USABS Bobsled Athlete Progression Pathway.

(4) Athletes that have been granted a Medical Waiver or Extreme Circumstances Waiver.

e) All remaining race entry positions will then be filled with the next highest ranked pilot from the 2022-2023 National Team Trials.

f) If a female pilot is the highest-ranked four-man pilot from the National Team Trials (after race entry one and two are filled), she will earn 4-man race entry three provided she has also qualified for the women’s National team.

Number of Byes	ZERO			ONE			TWO	
	1	2	3	1	2	3	2	3
Earned Quota Spots	1	2	3	1	2	3	2	3
Selection 1	<i>*Team Trials</i>	<i>*Team Trials</i>	<i>*Team Trials</i>	<i>Bye</i>	<i>Bye</i>	<i>Bye</i>	<i>Bye</i>	<i>Bye</i>
Selection 2	-	<i>Selection Committee Discretion</i>	<i>*Team Trials</i>	-	<i>*Team Trials</i>	<i>*Team Trials</i>	<i>*Team Trials</i>	<i>Bye</i>
Selection 3	-	-	<i>Selection Committee Discretion</i>	-	-	<i>Selection Committee Discretion</i>	-	<i>*Team Trials</i>

Table 3

v) Mid-Season and World Championships Review.

The dates of a mid-season review will be declared prior to the season as the most convenient time for changes to the National Team. This review period will most likely

coincide with IBSF travel breaks and continental changes in the IBSF World Cup circuit.

At the time of the mid-season review in the World Cup schedule and just prior to the start of the World Championships, female pilots must have an overall top 4 ranking in the IBSF World Cup combined rankings and male pilots must have an overall top 6 ranking in the IBSF World Cup combined rankings to guarantee their position on the World Cup team for second half of the season. If an athlete is ranked below the standard, the Team Selection Committee may replace the pilot from the National Team with the highest ranked athlete from a development racing circuit provided that the development circuit pilot is in, at minimum, Phase 2 of Development in the Bobsled Athlete Progression Pathway (Appendix 2) at the time of the mid-season or World Championships review. Note that the number of World Cup races at the time of the mid-season review will determine the number of races used for ranking comparison in alignment with the posted IBSF rankings.

- vi) Due to safety concerns, USABS requires a coach, approved by the Director of Sport Performance and the Bobsled Head Coach, be present anytime an athlete is training or racing on a track for a World Cup event. A coach has the authority to deny race entry if he or she feels an athlete has failed to demonstrate the ability to safely navigate the track.

b) Push Athletes

The Team Selection Committee will name the number of push athletes to the National Team according to Table 1 and Table 2 in Section 3.

- i) For the first half of the World Cup racing circuit, selection will be made with highest emphasis on:
 - Push Championships combination results (time and velocity)
 - Push Championships individual results (time and velocity)
 - Team results at the most recent National Team Trials with focus on both the start performance and finish results.

Second, the Team Selection Committee will also consider:

- Off-season 30-meter sprint, vertical jump, and other USABS Combine results
- Size and weight of the push athlete

Other criteria to consider:

- Athlete input (collected in written form by Team Selection Committee athlete representatives prior to the Team Selection Committee meeting)
- Proven international experience with history/results of team combinations emphasizing top 6 start times and finishes within the past 4 years
- Upward/downward trend of push times, start rank, and velocity at the start in IBSF and USABS sanctioned events

ii) For the mid-season review of the World Cup racing circuit and the World Championships/Olympic Games selection, selection will be made with highest emphasis on:

- Upward/downward trend of push times, start rank, and velocity at the start in IBSF and USABS sanctioned events
- Current season results

Second, the Team Selection Committee will also consider:

- Proven international experience with history/results of team combinations emphasizing top 6 start times and finishes within the past 4 years
- Push Championships combination results (time and velocity)
- Push Championships individual results (time and velocity)
- Team results at the most recent National Team Trials with focus on both the start performance and finish results.
- Size and weight of the push athlete

Other criteria to consider:

- Off-season 30-meter sprint, vertical jump, and other USABS Combine results
- Athlete input (collected in written form by Team Selection Committee athlete representatives prior to the Team Selection Committee meeting)

4. National Team Selection Events

a) Combine Tests

- i) To be considered for the National Team and be eligible to receive USOPC and USABS funding and support, an athlete must complete an official USABS combine test prior to the start of the season. Note this combine is not the same as and cannot be substituted by a *Recruiting Combine*. Times, dates, and locations of official USABS combine tests will be published on the USABS website at least 30 days prior to the event date.
- ii) Athletes may qualify to be exempt from the Combine test requirement according to Section 2.d.
- iii) All athletes must complete a 30m sprint and a vertical jump to be used for discretionary athlete selection (Section 3.b.).

b) National Push Championships

- i) National Push Championships will include both individual and combination pushes. The dates and locations will be announced at least 30 days prior to the competition. Competition format including number of pushes, distance, and push positions will be determined by coaches prior to competition. Both time and velocity will be collected whenever possible.

- ii) The following will be invited to National Push Championships. All athletes invited must be in, at minimum, Phase 2 of Recruitment in the Bobsled Athlete Progression Pathway (Appendix 2).
- The top performers selected by the coaching staff from Rookie Push Camps
 - All National Team athletes from the previous season
 - Athletes who raced in EC, NAC, or Jr. World Championships from the previous season
 - Additional athletes invited by the Head Coach and/or Director of Sport Performance

c) National Team Trials

i) Qualifying for National Team Trials

National Team Trials will be used to determine National Team pilot selection. To be eligible for the National Team Trials race, a pilot must meet IBSF rule 4.2.1 (5-3-2 rule) as outlined in the IBSF rulebook prior to the start of the National Team Trials.

The following pilots will be invited to participate in the National Team Trials:

- (a) Pilots who competed in the previous season Olympic Games or World Championships will be invited.
- (b) Up to the next six (6) highest ranked pilots on the previous season's IBSF overall ranking list that have raced in a World Cup, Europa Cup, or North America Cup race during the previous season will be invited.

If one of the qualified pilots retires following the previous season or declares they will not participate in National Team Trials prior to official training for the race, the next highest ranked pilot on the previous season's IBSF overall ranking list will be invited provided that the athlete is eligible per the IBSF rule 4.2.1 (5-3-2 rule) and is in, at minimum, Phase 2 of Development of the BAPP (Appendix 2).

- (c) Additional athletes, identified by the Bobsled Head Coach and the Director of Sport Performance, may be invited. These athletes must be eligible per IBSF rule 4.2.1 (5-3-2 rule) prior to the start of the National Team Trials and must be, at minimum, in Phase 2 of Development as described in the BAPP (Appendix 2).

ii) National Team Trials Races

National Team Trials will be held prior to the start of the IBSF World Cup season. These races will provide results for the pilot ranking for the National Team selection. At the conclusion of the National Team Trials, pilots will be ranked by combining points from all races in all disciplines using the IBSF scoring system (Appendix 1).

- (a) The National Team Trials will consist of a minimum of two races (combination of disciplines) with a maximum of four races.

- (b) The 2022/2023 Bobsled National Team Trials Races will take place in Lake Placid, New York and/or Park City, Utah.
- (c) The National Team Trials will consist of both monobob and 2-woman races for women and 2-man and 4-man races for men.
- (d) Women may also participate in the 4-man discipline, but points earned in the 4-man race(s) will not count toward the women's National Team selection.
- (e) Proposed dates for the 2022/2023 National Team Trials (2 races total):

Lake Placid National Team Trials

Oct 24 – Oct 26 - Unofficial Training

Oct 27 – Oct 29 – Official Training

Oct 30 & Nov 1 - National Team Trials Races (2 races)

iii) National Team Trials Race Protocol

- (a) Pilot/athlete ranking prior to the National Team Trials races will be according to the following ordered criteria:
 - 1) Previous season World Championships or Olympic Games
 - 2) Previous season IBSF ranking
 - 3) Current phase in the Bobsled Athlete Progression Pathway (Appendix 3)
 - 4) Results from individual Push Championships
- (b) The total number of races will be dependent on track time, weather, and other external factors, and the official race protocol will be announced as soon as reasonably possible.
- (c) A race jury will be comprised of IBSF certified officials, when possible, and will conduct the race as an IBSF sanctioned event.
- (d) Up to 6 official training runs will be offered to each eligible pilot over 2-3 days on each track prior to the race(s). Pilots must safely complete at least two runs of each discipline on each track to be eligible for a race per IBSF rule 10.1.e as determined by the Bobsled Head Coach along with present USABS development coaches.
- (e) Each race will be two heats, but in extreme cases, a race may be reduced to one heat as determined by the jury per IBSF rule 10.6.1.

Race Heats. “A reduction in the number of heats is possible in cases of force majeure. At least one race heat must be conducted for the race to be officially valid.”

- (f) The Bobsled Head Coach, along with the Director of Sport Performance, may determine a third heat will be allowed in a race to a team/pilot that experiences an unforeseen irregular situation such as an athlete failing to load into the sled. There will be a maximum of one (1) third heat allowed per team/pilot per track. If the National

Team Trials take place on only one track, then each pilot is allowed a maximum of one (1) third heat. The third heat, if taken, will replace the slower of the first two (2) heats, regardless of the third heat time. The race jury must verify the unforeseen circumstance prior to awarding a third heat.

- (g) In extreme circumstances a rerun of a heat may be granted by the race jury per IBSF rule 10.6.11.

Repetition of a Heat. “After a malfunction not caused by the athlete, the heat may be repeated for the athlete with the authorization of the jury. The run may be repeated as soon as the athlete is ready to start.”

- (h) Pilots will be ranked by combined points from all National Team Trials races utilizing the IBSF World Cup Point System in Appendix A. If a tie in points exists at the end of the National Team Trials, ties will be broken by comparing the last heat of the most recently completed National Team Trials race. If a tie still exists, the fastest time of the first heat of the most recent completed National Team Trials race will determine the winner. If a tie continues to exist, a comparison of the most recent non-identical time heat of the National Team Trials will determine the winner.
- (i) Only IBSF runners will be allowed in all National Team Trials races. Runner check may be enforced by the race jury.
- (j) Sled inspection may be conducted at the conclusion of each race as requested by the race jury.
- (k) Athletes racing in the National Team Trials should be prepared for all weather and track conditions. The IBSF bobsled rule book will be used in cases of damaged runners, timing issues and any other issue that may arise. The National Team Trials race jury will be the deciding body for all issues and will abide by the IBSF rule book to manage their decisions.
- (l) Clause for extreme circumstances. Every effort will be made to conduct a fair National Team Trials race series. If weather, track conditions, or other extreme unforeseen circumstances prohibit a complete National Team Trials race series from taking place, National Team athletes will be ranked based on previous season IBSF ranking.
- (m) The Bobsled Head Coach and medical personnel can limit an athlete’s participation due to safety concerns and experience level.
- (n) Pilot/Push Athlete Combinations at the National Team Trials.
 - 1) Prior to the National Team Trials, the head coach will select push athletes for the pilots with a bye that are pre-selected to the National Team prior to the National Team Trials races using the push athlete criteria. These push athletes will be named prior to official sliding.
 - 2) The remaining pilots will declare their teams/push athletes prior to the team captains’ meeting of each National Team Trials race.

- (o) Ties will be broken with the single fastest heat. If a tie remains, the most recent single heat will break the tie. The men's bobsled pilots will be ranked by combining points earned in both two-man and four-man competitions. The women's 2-woman /monobob pilots will be ranked by combining points earned in both 2-woman/monobob competitions.
- (p) USABS owned runners will not be allocated or rented for National Team Trials except for pilots who have earned a bye.

5. Development Team Selection

Europa Cup

All pilots must be, at minimum, Phase 1 of Development in the BAPP (Appendix 2) to be eligible to compete in any Europa Cup (EC) event. Exceptions may be made with approval from the Bobsled Head Coach and Director of Sport Performance.

- a) At least 2 race entries will be filled with pilots selected based on the discretion of the Bobsled Head Coach, the Director of Sport Performance, and the development coaching staff. The staff will consider the following factors for the discretionary selection (in no particular order).
 - Final rank from the National Team Trials
 - Development needs of the USABS. Pilots must be in, at minimum, Phase 1 of the Development Program in the USABS Bobsled Athlete Progression Pathway.
 - Performance needs of the USABS program for pilots in Phase 1 or Phase 2 of the Performance Program of the USABS Bobsled Athlete Progression Pathway.
 - Athletes who have been granted a Medical Waiver or Extreme Circumstances Waiver.
- b) All other race entries will be filled with pilots by rank from National Team Trials.
- c) Push athletes will be selected by the development coaching staff with input from the selected development pilot and other teammates. Push athletes must be in, at minimum, Phase 1 of Development in the Bobsled Athlete Progression Pathway.

North America Cup

All pilots must be, at minimum, Phase 1 of Development in the BAPP (Appendix 2) to be eligible to compete in any North America Cup (NAC) event. Exceptions may be made with approval from the Bobsled Head Coach and Director of Sport Performance.

- d) At least 2 of the 4 race entries will be filled with pilots selected based on the discretion of the Bobsled Head Coach, the Director of Sport Performance, and the development coaching staff. The staff will consider the following factors for the discretionary selection (in no particular order).
- Final rank from the National Team Trials
 - Development needs of the USABS. Pilots must be in, at minimum, Phase 1 of the Development Program in the USABS Bobsled Athlete Progression Pathway.
 - Performance needs of the USABS program for pilots in Phase 1 or Phase 2 of the Performance Program of the USABS Bobsled Athlete Progression Pathway.
 - Athletes who have been granted a Medical Waiver or Extreme Circumstances Waiver.
- e) All other race entries will be filled with pilots by rank from National Team Trials.
- f) Push athletes will be selected by the development coaching staff with input from the selected development pilot and other teammates. Push athletes must be in, at minimum, Phase 1 of Development in the Bobsled Athlete Progression Pathway.

6. Participation, Removal, and Replacement

a) Participation

Athletes are required to participate in events for which they are qualified, are named, and to which they commit. When an athlete does not attend a race and/or leaves a position vacant, they can negatively affect the chances for the USA to qualify the maximum number of spots in an IBSF competition. Thus, any athlete who does not attend a race for which they have been selected, will be assessed a fine of \$100.00. The fine must be paid before the next competition. The CEO, along with the Head Coach, will determine, on a case by-case basis, if that athlete's circumstances merit reinstatement to their race opportunities, or if some or all of their races are to be reallocated to other athletes.

Failure to participate in a mandatory event and/or to follow the waiver procedures may result in limitation of the athlete's participation in further events during the calendar year, or to the benefits the athlete receives from USABS and/or the USOPC, but in no way excludes rights guaranteed by USABS and the USOPC.

b) Removal of Athletes

An athlete may be removed from any team for any of the following reasons:

- i) Voluntary withdrawal: Athlete must submit a written letter to the Head Coach. In the event of a disabling illness or injury to an athlete, the athlete must be examined by a USABS-approved physician or a USOPC/USABS care-giver. Should an athlete refuse injury/illness verification by a physician or a USOPC/USABS approved care-giver, then their injury or illness will be assumed to be disabling and they will be replaced. If an athlete misses two World Cup events in succession, related to the same condition, that athlete must be seen by a medical doctor designated by the CMO, which could be facilitated by the USOPC/USABS athletic trainers (ATCs). Medical staff at any track at which an athlete is competing can, in the interest of safety, prevent an injured athlete from competing at that event, should they deem that athlete unsafe.
- ii) Code of Conduct or Team Policy violation: In the event of an excessive or serious violation of the Code of Conduct or Team Policies, an athlete could be removed from a race series according to the USABS Team Handbook. An athlete who may be removed from the team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per USABS Bylaws, or USOPC Bylaws, Section 9.1. The athlete also has the right to appeal to the USABS Judicial Committee.
- iii) Anti-Doping violation: An athlete may be removed from any team at any time for violation of IOC, WADA, IBSF, USADA, and/or USOPC anti-doping protocol, policies, and procedures. In such instances, the adjudication process will be managed through the United States Anti-Doping Agency.

c) Replacement of Athletes

If an athlete is removed from a race circuit due to any reason, the Team Selection Committee will determine a replacement athlete as soon as possible considering the Discretionary Selection using the discretion criteria for that racing circuit.

7. Waivers

A Waiver Committee will consider all waivers and seek input from relevant personnel. For medical waivers, relevant personnel includes the USABS Chief Medical Officer (CMO) and all medical personnel involved with the athlete's injury, rehab/recovery, diagnosis, etc.

Waivers may only be *granted* by the waiver committee. A granted waiver does not ensure selection. If a waiver is granted, the Team Selection Committee will proceed with selection considering the granted waiver.

All waiver requests for USABS events must be submitted to the Director of Sport Performance via hard copy or email as soon as reasonable. The waiver fee of \$100.00 must be paid and received prior to any meeting of the Waiver Committee. Following receipt, the Waiver Committee will review such request for approval or denial. The Waiver Committee will make a decision and provide a written copy of the approval or denial of the waiver to the athlete within seven (7) days. If granted, the waiver fee will be reimbursed to the athlete.

Medical Waiver

Athletes may apply for medical waivers based on having suffered an injury or illness and said injury/illness has been verified by the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) or his designee. The USABS CMO, or his/her designee, must examine injured/ill athletes wishing to receive a medical waiver for medical reasons. The injured athlete must follow rehabilitation guidelines set by the CMO and Bobsled Head Coach to be able to receive and keep the waiver.

Extreme Circumstances waiver

An extreme circumstances waiver may be granted for any unforeseen circumstances that include but are not limited to personal or family situations or race situations that may include but are not limited to a crash, runner or sled damage, etc. during a competition or training.

8. Committees

- a) The Waiver Committee will seek input from the USABS Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Eugene Byrne, in addition to relevant medical personnel involved with the athlete's injury, rehab/recovery, diagnosis, etc.
 - i. Aron McGuire, CEO
 - ii. Curt Tomasevicz, Director of Sport Performance
 - iii. Brian Shimer, Bobsled Head Coach
 - iv. Jill Bakken-Linder, Athlete Representative
 - v. Natalie DeRatt, Athlete Representative
 - vi. Dr. Eugene Byrne, Chief Medical Officer (non-voting member)
- b) The Team Selection Committee will meet either in person or remotely prior to the National Team selection at the beginning of the season, the mid-season review, and prior to the World Championships to determine athlete selection. For each team selection, the committee will seek input from all relevant USABS bobsled coaches and start coaches to ensure that these criteria are applied with fairness and transparency.

Team Selection Committee:

 - i. Aron McGuire, CEO
 - ii. Curt Tomasevicz, Director of Sport Performance
 - iii. Brian Shimer, Bobsled Head Coach
 - iv. Jamie Greubel-Poser, Athlete Representative
 - v. Chris Kinney, Athlete Representative
- c) USABS Judicial Committee: There is a standing Judicial Committee to oversee any grievances of these criteria. The USABS Board of Directors will appoint members of the committee. If an athlete has a reasonable and articulable concern regarding any grievance with the criteria, an athlete is encouraged to notify the judicial committee. The contest must be made in writing and emailed to the Judicial Committee Chairperson at: judicialcommitteechair@usabs.com.

- d) USABS Ethics Committee: There is a standing Ethics Committee to oversee any ethical violations of these criteria. The USABS Board of Directors will appoint members of the committee. If an athlete believes there is any impartiality or potential conflict of interest, an athlete is encouraged to notify the ethics committee. Concerns must be sent via email to the Ethics Committee Chairperson at: ethicscommitteechair@usabs.com.
- e) Any individuals, including athlete representatives, who have a possible conflict of interest must disclose it to the USABS's Ethics Committee for review. Additionally, any person (including any potentially impacted athlete or coach of a potentially impacted athlete) with good faith, believe that an individual involved in the selection process has a conflict of interest may report the alleged conflict of interest to USABS's Ethics Committee for review. Reports may be made anonymously. The Ethics Committee may take any measures necessary to create a fair process for athletes, including restrictions or removal of the conflicted individual.
- f) If an individual is recused and a vacancy on a committee exists, USABS shall use its best reasonable efforts to fill that vacancy as soon as possible. If an athlete representative is recused, another athlete representative who meets the qualifications for that committee shall be appointed by the USABS and approved by an unaffected representative group of athletes as soon as possible.

9. Other

Athletes' Right to Compete

An athlete's right to compete is defined and protected by USOPC Bylaws. Should an athlete feel his/her right to compete has been withheld, the USABS bylaws provides for a grievance procedure for him/her to seek a fair hearing and relief.

All questions regarding an athlete's opportunity to compete that are not answered by the USABS, may be directed to the USOPC Athlete Ombudsman by telephone at (888) ATHLETE, or by email ombudsman@usathlete.org.

Saving Clause

The procedures above are based on IOC, IBSF and USOPC rules and regulations as presently published. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in IOC, IBSF or USOPC rules and regulations will be distributed to all athletes as soon as possible. The desire to field the most competitive teams for international competition presently and in the future are the guiding principles and will determine the administration of the selection criteria. The National Team Selection Criteria are based on the latest information available to the USABS. However, these criteria are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances (weather, budget, war, etc.) and no doubt have not accounted for every possible contingency. In which case, the USABS staff will administer changes with the utmost reverence for fairness, respect of athletes, and for honor of the sport. If a scheduled event cannot be held or must be interrupted, USABS will first try to reschedule the event. Second, USABS will try to change the venue but will not guarantee funding for

travel to the new venue. Finally, if a venue change is not feasible, ranking will be based first on the portion of that event completed (at least one race) or if no portion has been completed, then ranking will be based on the most recent IBSF ranking. These Selection Criteria come into force as of the date of their approval by the USABS coaching staff and Chief Executive Officer and supersede all previous criteria.

USABS reserves the right to change the selection criteria prior to the start of each competition season based on schedules, coaching, logistics, finances, and other limiting factors. The rules in these criteria will be interpreted by the USABS coaching staff along with the CEO and Director of Sport Performance in the way in which they were intended.

Criteria Distribution

This document shall be distributed and made available to all athletes via the USABS website at <https://www.teamusa.org/USA-Bobsled-Skeleton-Federation/Resources/For-Athletes/Criteria> and shall be e-mailed to all active USABS Athlete Members.

Appendix 1 – IBSF Point System

The IBSF point system.

Rank	Points
1	225
2	210
3	200
4	192
5	184
6	176
7	168
8	160
9	152
10	144
11	136
12	128
13	120
14	112
15	104
16	96
17	88
18	80
19	74
20	68
21	62
22	56
23	50
24	45
25	40
26	36
27	32
28	28
29	24
30	20

Table 4

Appendix 2 – USABS Bobsled Athlete Progression Pathway
The USABS Bobsled Athlete Progression Pathway

Access to National Medical Network	No	No	EAHI only	EAHI only	EAHI only	EAHI only	EAHI only
Coaching (Coach, Driving, Push Coach)	During programs	During programs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
USABS Med Staff	When available	When available	When available	When available	When available	Yes	Yes
USOPC Mental Health	Available for consultation	Available for consultation	Available for consultation	Available for consultation	Available for consultation	Available for consultation	Available for consultation
Team Logistics Support (Flights and Ground)	No	No	When available	When available	No	When available	Yes
Sled Equipment (Leasing Program)	N/A	School provided	School provided	When available and based on development progression	When available and based on development progression	When available and based on development progression	Allocation criteria
Elite Athlete Health Insurance	No	No	Refer to DAS	Refer to DAS	Refer to DAS	Refer to DAS	Refer to DAS
USABS CMO Access	Emergency only	Emergency only	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
USOPC ACE Program	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Table 5

Equipment Allocation

USABS equipment, to include sleds and runners, will be allocated by the Bobsled Head Coach and Director of Sport Performance. Rental fees and other details are outlined in the Athlete Handbook.

1. Equipment Allocation Priority will align with the BAPP (Appendix 2)
2. USABS owned equipment will not be allocated to athletes who fail to possess the requisite skills to use the equipment, which will be evaluated by the Bobsled Head Coach and bobsled coaching staff. All athletes using USABS equipment must sign the non-disclosure agreement.
3. All USABS owned equipment usage must be approved by the USABS. USABS is not required to allocate all available sleds.
4. The Bobsled Head Coach and Director of Sport Performance will continue to review and allocate equipment throughout the season as needed.
5. Equipment rules:
 - a) USABS owned bobsleds and USABS owned runners may NOT be altered by an athlete without written permission from the USABS Head Bobsled Coach.
 - b) Only USABS authorized staff may authorize inspections of the equipment by others.
 - c) Athletes sharing USABS owned equipment or technology, directly or indirectly with anyone will lose privileges to use USABS owned equipment.
 - d) USABS owned runners will be allowed to be used on USABS owned sleds or athletes' athlete owned sleds as long as no alterations to the runners are required.
 - e) USABS Intellectual Property regarding runner and sled technology may only be shared among USABS athletes, coaches, and staff under written agreement.

Appendix 4 – National Championships and Regional Races

National Championships Race

- a) A National Championships race will be held, if possible, after the 2022-2023 IBSF season. The race is subject to weather, available track time, and unforeseen circumstances. While the structure of the race will encourage competition, participation in the National Championships races will also serve as an opportunity for an athlete to be observed by the USABS coaches as part of regular assessment and evaluation regarding the Bobsled Athlete Progression Pathway.
- b) Race location, schedule, and format will be announced at least 30 days prior to the event. The race will be conducted as a high-level competitive race.
- c) Pilots must be in, at minimum, Phase 2 of Recruitment of the BAPP (Appendix 2) and be able to start safely from the top of the track as determined by USABS development coaches to be eligible to participate in the National Championships race.
- d) USABS coaches and staff will have the authority to deny race entry to an athlete that has failed to demonstrate the ability to safely navigate the track.

Regional Races

Eastern (Lake Placid) and Western (Park City) Regional race(s) may be held and hosted by the local tracks throughout the season. The local track development coaches will work with the USABS coaches to identify up to 2 athletes not already in the BAPP to be invited to National Championships to be observed and evaluated to be inserted appropriately into the SAPP.

Appendix 5 – Athlete Standards

- a) For off-season support, an athlete will be considered to have achieved a Standard if they have met *any* of the listed Standards from July 1, 2022 through end of 2023/24 National Team Trials.
- b) For in-season support (starting with the first IBSF race of the season after National Team Trials), an athlete will be considered to have achieved a Standard if they have met *any* of the listed Standards since July 1, 2022 of the current season.
- c) Standards.

Combine Scoring	“A” Standard	“B” Standard	“C” Standard
Men	740+	700 +	660 +
Women			

Table 6

Lake Placid Ice-House		‘A’ Standard	‘B’ Standard	‘C’ Standard
Push Athletes	Men	<i>TBD</i>	<i>TBD</i>	<i>TBD</i>
	Women	<i>TBD</i>	<i>TBD</i>	<i>TBD</i>
Pilots	Men	<i>TBD</i>	<i>TBD</i>	<i>TBD</i>
	Women	<i>TBD</i>	<i>TBD</i>	<i>TBD</i>

Table 7