

USABS Youth Selection Criteria

(Update 9/9/2022)

It is the goal of this criteria to ensure USA Bobsled/Skeleton (USABS) fields the most competitive bobsled and skeleton athletes in the pursuit of Youth Olympic medals. In keeping with this goal, USABS will work closely with the Olympic Regional Development Authority (ORDA) and the Utah Olympic Legacy Foundation (UOLF) to select the most competitive athletes to represent the U.S. at the 2024 Gangwon Youth Olympic Games (YOG) as part of the USABS development pipeline.

The YOG Team Selection committee and the coaching staff will use these criteria and supporting documents for selecting athletes to represent USABS in International Bobsleigh and Skeleton Federation (IBSF) competitions that are determined qualification races for the 2024 YOG. All other youth training camps, schools, local and domestic competitions, and push track sessions will be overseen by ORDA and/or UOLF development staff.

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USABS Athlete Participant Eligibility

To participate in a USABS sliding program, an athlete must:

- 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 Code of Conduct prior to participation in any USABS event.

Youth Team Eligibility

In addition to the Participant Eligibility requirements above, an athlete must meet the following requirements to be considered for competition in IBSF youth races.

- a) Athletes must be born between January 1, 2006 and December 31, 2009 to be eligible for the YOG qualification races.
- b) Athletes must be nominated by the ORDA (bobsled) or UOLF (skeleton) for confirmation by USABS to participate in IBSF YOG qualification races.
- c) Any USABS, ORDA, or UOLF coach has the authority to deny race entry into the Youth Team Trials to an athlete if he or she feels the athlete has failed to demonstrate the ability to safely navigate the track.

Youth Team Selection

The *USA Youth Bobsled and Skeleton Team* is defined as those athletes selected to compete in the IBSF Youth Olympic Games qualification events. The number of athletes named to team will align with the number of quota spots granted to the U.S. by the IBSF as shown on Table 1.

Discipline	2022-23 YOG Qualifying Races Quota Spots
Boys Skeleton	3
Girls Skeleton	3
Boys Bobsled	3
Girls Bobsled	3

Table 1

Race entries

All race entries into IBSF YOG qualification races will be by rank from the national Youth Team Trials races held prior to the first YOG qualification race. The dates, times, race format, and additional qualification requirements (i.e. physical testing) will be coordinated and managed by the local track organizations (ORDA and UOLF). The dates, times, and format will be announced at least 30 days prior to the events.

Equipment

Bobsleds and runners will be provided by the IBSF when available. Athletes are expected to provide all other equipment including, but not limited to, skeleton sleds and runners, helmets, shoes, etc.

Participation, Removal, and Replacement

a) Participation

Athletes named to the U.S. Youth Team are expected to participate in at least the minimum number of races required qualify for the 2024 YOG over the course of the 2022-23 and 2023-24 seasons as to meet the IBSF minimum race requirement for eligibility for the YOG (IBSF 8-3-2 rule).

If a qualified athlete does not intend to compete in a YOG qualification race, they must communicate their plan for absence to the U.S. YOG coach/coordinator at least 1 month prior to the start of official training. Failure to do so may result in suspension from future YOG qualification races.

b) Removal of Athletes

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

- i. Voluntary withdrawal: Athlete must submit a written letter or email to the Youth Team coach/coordinator. 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. 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 violation: In the event of an excessive or serious violation of the athlete Code of Conduct, an athlete could be removed from a race series. 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 of the reasons outlined above, the Youth Team Selection Committee will determine a replacement athlete as soon as possible.

Committees

- a) The Youth Team Selection Committee will meet either in person or remotely prior to the Youth Team selection at the beginning of the season to determine athlete selection. Each committee will consult all relevant ORDA and UOLF development coaches prior to selection.

Bobsled Youth Team Selection Committee:

- i. Curt Tomasevicz, USABS Director of Sport Performance
- ii. Shauna Rohbock, USABS Bobsled Development Coach
- iii. TBD, Athlete Representative

Skeleton Youth Team Selection Committee:

- i. Curt Tomasevicz, USABS Director of Sport Performance
- ii. Eric Bernotas, USABS Director of Skeleton Programs
- iii. TBD, Athlete Representative

- b) 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.
- c) 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.
- d) 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.
- e) 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.

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 Youth 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. 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>.