



United States Bobsled & Skeleton Para Sliding Sports National Team Selection Criteria & Process 2022-2023

The USA Bobsled & Skeleton (“USABS”) Para Sport athlete selection process encompasses a number of phases and events such as training camps and national team selection trials for both the National Team(s). National Team(s) are separated into National Team Domestic and National Team International. Determination of athlete selection is determined both quantitatively, qualitatively, and via discretionary selection by the Selection Committee.

Selection procedures are broken into four (4) headings that include:

1. USABS General Eligibility
2. National Team(s) Selection Committee
3. National Team(s) Qualification
4. Participation and Waivers

It is the goal and guiding principles of USABS to field the most competitive teams for domestic and international competition leading to future World Cup competitions and Paralympic Games, and these procedures are designed to meet that goal. Below is an overview of the entire selection process that is covered through each of the four headings (above).

USABS National Team Eligibility

In order to participate in a USABS program, all athletes must meet the following eligibility requirements.

1. All USABS teams and programs
 - a. Must be a member in good standing with USABS;
 - b. Must abide by the US Anti-Doping Association (USADA), World Anti-Doping Association (WADA) and International Bobsleigh & Skeleton Federation (IBSF) anti-doping requirements;
 - c. Must meet all US Olympic & Paralympic Committee, IBSF, and USABS eligibility requirements for representing the USA in international or domestic competition.
 - d. Must sign and return the USABS Athlete Handbook and Code of Conduct.
2. Must meet US National Team Para Sliding Sports Athlete Eligibility – The US National Team (Para Sliding Sports) is defined as athletes in a bobsled or skeleton that are named to the National Team Para Bobsled Push and Skeleton (athletes who compete on the American Para Cup tour) and the National Team Para Seated (athletes who compete on the IBSF Para Bobsleigh World Cup tour). In addition to the eligibility requirements listed above, an athlete:
 - a. Must meet the USABS/IBSF minimum classification criteria for Para Bobsleigh (Seated), Para Bobsleigh (Push), or Para Skeleton and be placed in the discipline in accordance with their classification;

- b. Must be able to meet the commitment of travel and participation in all races in both North America and Europe/Asia;
 - c. Must be able to gain funding for their participation to compete on either national team;
 - d. Must not exceed the weight requirements of the athlete's classification for their assigned discipline as outlined in the IBSF Para Bobsleigh and Para Skeleton Rules for Para Bobsleigh and Para Skeleton handbook.
3. In addition to the Athlete Participant Eligibility requirements in Sections 1 and 2, an athlete must meet the following requirements to be considered for the National Team.
- a. All athletes returning from the 2020-2021 season must attend the National Team selections official training and safely make a minimum of 10 track descents, under the supervision of a USABS or IBSF certified coach.
 - b. All athletes returning from the 2019-2020 season or earlier, are required to complete a para training camp before being invited to participate in National Team selections.

National Team(s) Selection Committee In order to present National Team(s) Seated, Push, and Skeleton, with the highest performance capabilities, the Selection Committee will be responsible for the assignment and enforcement of the Para Sport selection criteria. The Selection Committee will be comprised of:

- The current Head Coach/Team Manager
- The Chairman of Para Sport
- The High-Performance Director for USABS
- A retired Para Athlete selected and approved by the CEO of USABS

National Team(s) Qualification

4. The US National Team (Para Sliding Sport) is defined as athletes in a bobsled or skeleton that are named to the National Team Bobsled Push or Skeleton (who compete on the America Para Cup tour) and National Team Bobsled Seated (who compete on the IBSF Para-World Cup tour). Qualification for the US National Team(s) to compete in bobsled and skeleton on the IBSF Para World Cup tour and America Para Cup tour include attendance in mandatory events as defined by USABS to earn roster spots on the U.S. team.
- a. National USABS Events– Top performers chosen by the selection committee, who shall be classified by the IBSF or USABS classification process and who meet other minimum requirements as listed in this document, may be invited to participate in either the American Para Cup or the IBSF Para World Cup training and race schedules.
 - b. National Team Selections – National Team training and trials will be held prior to the starts of the IBSF Para World Cup and American Para Cup seasons.
 - i. Race results will provide metrics for athlete ranking for the National Team(s) competing in the American Para Cup and/or IBSF Para World Cup programs.
 - ii. Specific race protocols, dates and times will be announced 30 days prior to the start of the team selections.
 - iii. To be eligible to compete in the USABS Para National Team selection official training, athletes will have:
 - 1) Safely made a minimum of 10 track descents in the previous season, under the supervision of a USABS or IBSF certified coach.
 - 2) All athletes returning from the 2020-2021 season must attend the 2022-23 National Team selections official training and safely make a minimum

of 10 track descents under the supervision of a USABS or IBSF certified coach prior to competing in the selection races.

- 3) National Championships – National Championships will be held upon completion of the World Cup racing season as part of the American Para Cup schedule. These races will be open to all athletes who have participated in training camps and sanctioned races and can safely make it down the assigned course from the top. The highest placing finisher in the Seated Bobsled race will earn a first-place rank and automatic bye onto the National Team Seated for the following season.
- 4) If unforeseen circumstances occur (i.e. crash, runner damage, sled damage, push athlete falls) an extra run may be granted by the head coach with input from the jury (acting IBSF approved officials, track official) to substitute for a previous run. Ties will be broken with the single fastest heat.
5. Competition entries—Athletes chosen for competition entries must meet the following criteria to be considered for National Team Para World Cup and American Para Cup positions.
 - a. Must meet the minimum classification criteria for Para Bobsled (Seated), Para Bobsled (Push) or Para Skeleton and be placed in the discipline in accordance with their classification;
 - b. Must be available to meet the commitment of travel and participation in all races in both North America and Europe/Asia, except that a pre-approved waiver for this requirement due to injury, illness, or emergency situation may, at the sole discretion of the Selection Committee, be granted for a maximum of one race event per season (either a single or double race);
 - c. Must be able to gain funding for their participation or qualify for provided funding support to compete on the national team;
 - d. Must not exceed the weight requirements of the athlete's classification for their assigned discipline as outlined in the IBSF Para Bobsleigh & Para Skeleton Rules for Para Bobsleigh and Para Skeleton handbook.
6. National Team Bobsled Push and Skeleton Selection – The Selection Committee will select up to two Bobsled (Push) and two Para Skeleton athletes as National Team Domestic pilots.
7. National Team Seated Pilot Selection – The Selection Committee will select National Team seated pilots in accordance with the IBSF Selection process for World Cup pilots. The Selection Committee will select up to three male and up to three female Para Bobsled (Seated) pilots in accordance with the IBSF selection process for World Cup pilots. Additionally, the Selection Committee may choose one alternate pilot of each gender.
8. National Team(s) Review – To ensure the US is submitting the best performing team possible, the Selection Committee will review the team to determine if there is a need for substitution. The National Federation and Selection Committee reserve the right to not fill domestic and international quotas should the available athletes not meet the requirements for the competition.

9. Para World Championship Pilot Selection – Per IBSF rules, Para World Championship pilots are qualified based on their experience and ranking in Para World Cup tour races. Para World Championship pilot entries will be selected from the Seated National Team.

Participation and Waivers

10. Participation - Athletes are required to participate in mandatory events defined by USABS. Any athlete who does not attend a race for which they have been selected will be subject to removal from the National Team(s) prior to the next competition. The Selection Committee will determine, on a case-by-case basis, if that athlete's circumstance merits reinstatement to their race opportunities. Failure to participate in a mandatory event and/or to follow the waiver procedures may result in a hearing regarding the athletes' participation in further events.
11. The National Federation and Selection Committee reserve the right to not fill Domestic and/or International quotas should the available athletes not meet the requirements for the competition.
12. Waivers – The Selection Committee will consider waivers in this criteria:
 - a. Injury/Illness Waiver: Injury/illness waivers may be given to athletes that have suffered an injury or illness and said injury/illness has been verified by a medical professional.
 - b. Extreme Circumstance Waiver: Constitute unforeseen circumstances that include, but are not limited to: a crash, runner or sled damage, personal situations, etc. The waiver will only be used for an extreme circumstance that will be determined by the Selection Committee.
 - c. Any waivers to the requirements for team selection will only be authorized with the final approval of the CEO of USABS.
13. Removal of Athletes – Athletes may be removed from the National Team(s) for the following reasons:
 - a. Voluntary withdrawal – Athletes must submit a written letter to the Head Coach/Team Captain stating the reasons for requesting a withdrawal. In the event of illness or injury, the athlete must be examined by a USABS approved physician or caregiver. 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.
 - b. Code of Conduct – 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. The athlete also has the right to appeal to the USABS Judicial Committee.
 - c. Anti-Doping – An athlete may be removed from any team at any time for violation of IOC, IPC, WADA, IBSF, USADA and USOPC anti-doping protocol, policies, and procedures. In such instances, the adjudication process will be managed through the USADA.
 - d. An athlete who does not meet the requirements stated in Section 4a, b, c, and d, may be removed from the National Team, forfeiting all rights and privileges that come with that position.
14. Replacement of Athletes – The Selection Committee will select replacement athletes to the National Team(s) per the Selection Criteria. An athlete who replaces another athlete does not automatically assume the rank of the replaced athlete.