

# 2022 – 2023 USABS Skeleton Selection Criteria

(Updated 8/1/2022)

## Goal and guiding principles of the athlete selection criteria for skeleton

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

The 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.

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## 1. Athlete Participant Eligibility

To participate in a USABS 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.

## 2. Qualifying for National Team Trials

The National Team Trials will be used to determine National Team selection. To be eligible for the National Team Trials race, all athletes must meet IBSF rule 4.5.2 (5-3-2 rule) as outlined in the IBSF rulebook prior to the start of the National Team Trials.

The following athletes will be invited to participate in the National Team Trials.

- a) Athletes who competed in the previous season Olympics or World Championships will be invited.
- b) The next six (6) highest ranked athletes on the previous season's IBSF overall ranking list that have raced in a World Cup, Intercontinental Cup, or Europa Cup race during the previous season that have not already qualified by 2.a. will be invited.

If one of the qualified athletes by 2.b. retires following the previous season or declares they will not participate in the National Team Trials prior to the start of official training for the race, the next highest ranked athlete on the previous season's IBSF overall ranking list will be invited provided that the athlete is eligible per the IBSF rule 4.5.2 (5-3-2 rule) and is in, at minimum, Phase 2 of the Development level of the Skeleton Athlete Progression Pathway (SAPP) (Appendix 2).

- c) Additional athletes, identified by the Skeleton Head Coach and the Director of Skeleton Development, may be invited. These athletes must be eligible per IBSF rule 4.5.2 (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 SAPP (Appendix 2).

### 3. National Team Trials Race

The 2022/2023 Skeleton National Team Trials Races will take place in Lake Placid, New York.

The proposed dates for the 2022/2023 National Team Trials (3 races total):

#### Lake Placid National Team Trials

Oct 24 – 25 - Unofficial Training

Oct 26 – 28 - Official Training

Oct 29, 30, & Nov 2 - National Team Trials Races (3 races)

#### Race Protocol

- a) The total number of races will be dependent on track time, weather, and other external factors, and the official race protocols will be announced as soon as reasonably possible prior to the races.
- b) The National Team Trials will consist of a minimum of two races with a maximum of four races.
- c) Up to 6 official training runs will be offered to each eligible athlete over 2-3 days on each track prior to the race(s).
- d) A race jury will be comprised of IBSF certified officials and conduct the race as an IBSF sanctioned event.
- e) Each race will consist of 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) A third heat may be offered in a race to an athlete who pops a groove. There will be a maximum of one (1) third heat allowed per athlete, per track. If the National Team Trials take place on only one track, then each athlete 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 that an athlete has popped a groove 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) Athletes will be ranked in each discipline by combined points from all National Team Trials races utilizing the IBSF World Cup Point System in Appendix 1. If a tie in points exists at the end of National Team Trials, ties will be broken by comparing the last heat of the most recently completed Team Trials race. If a tie still exists, the fastest time of the first heat of the most recent completed 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 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) Athletes racing in the National Team Trials should be prepared for all weather and track conditions. The IBSF skeleton rule book will be used in cases of damaged runners, timing issues, and any other issues 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.
- k) 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 selected based on the previous season IBSF ranking.

#### 4. National Team Selection

In addition to meeting the requirements for eligibility from Section 1, athletes must also participate in the current season Push Championships to be eligible for the National Team. Date, location, and format of the Push Championships will be announced at least 30 days prior to the competition.

##### World Cup

- a) Each race entry selection for the World Cup (WC) series will be determined by the Team Selection Committee with input and consultation from other USABS skeleton coaches and relevant personnel.
- b) A bye onto the World Cup team will be awarded to no more than one male athlete and one female athlete who meet any of the following criteria (in order):
  - i) finished in the top four (4) at the 2022 Olympic Games. If more than one athlete finished in the top four, the bye goes to the highest finisher.

- ii) finished the 2021/2022 season ranked in the top four (4) in the IBSF overall skeleton ranking (as published by the IBSF) in their discipline. If more than one athlete finished in the top four, the bye goes to the highest finisher.
  - iii) Finished the 2021/2022 season ranked in the top four (4) in the World Cup ranking (as published by the IBSF) result in their discipline. If more than one athlete finished in the top four, the bye goes to the highest finisher.
- c) Race Entries
  - i) The first race entry position will be filled with an athlete that has earned a bye from section 5.b. If no bye has been awarded, the position will be filled with the top finisher from the 2022/2023 National Team Trials.
  - ii) All other race entries will be filled with the next highest ranked finisher(s) from the 2022/2023 National Team Trials.
- d) Mixed Team Event Race Entries
  - i) All race entries will be pairs of the highest-ranking athletes in sequential order from the current IBSF overall rankings. Athletes must be entered into and intend to race individually in the coinciding World Cup race.
  - ii) If an athlete elects not to participate, is injured, or is unavailable for any reason, the next highest ranked athlete from that gender from the current IBSF overall rankings will be selected.
  - iii) Athletes selected to compete in the mixed team event must meet all IBSF mixed team event qualification standards.
- e) Mid-Season Review

Athletes must maintain an overall top 17 ranking in the IBSF World Cup standings (per current IBSF results) to guarantee their position on the World Cup team. If an athlete is ranked below the top 17 in the IBSF World Cup standings at the time of the mid-season break, the Team Selection Committee may replace the lowest ranked athlete from the World Cup team with the highest ranked athlete from the Intercontinental Cup (ICC) racing circuit provided that the ICC athlete is ranked in the top 6 of the IBSF ICC standings and must be in, at minimum, Phase 3 of the Development level in the Skeleton Athlete Progression Pathway (Appendix 2) at the time of the mid-season break. Note that the number of World Cup races at the time of the mid-season break will determine the number of races used for ranking comparison in alignment with the posted IBSF rankings.
- f) Due to safety concerns, USABS requires a coach, approved by the Director of Sport Performance and the Skeleton Head Coach, be present anytime an athlete is training or racing on a track for a World Cup event. The 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.
- g) World Championships Selection
  - i) All race entries to the World Championships will be according to the IBSF overall ranking list after the last World Cup race prior to the beginning of the World

Championships.

- ii) If a waiver is in consideration, exceptions to Section 4.g.i. may require the Selection Committee to use the discretion criteria outlined in Section 6 to select an athlete that has been granted a waiver by the Waiver Committee in place of the lowest ranked athlete(s).
- iii) Mixed Team Event Race Entries
  - (1) All race entries will be pairs of the highest-ranking athletes in sequential order from the current IBSF overall rankings.
  - (2) Athletes must be entered into and intend to race individually in the World Championships.
  - (3) If an athlete elects not to participate, is injured, or is unavailable for any reason, the next highest ranked athlete from that gender from the current IBSF overall rankings will be selected.
  - (4) Athletes selected to compete in the mixed team event must meet all IBSF mixed team event qualification standards.

### Intercontinental Cup

- h) Each race entry selection for the Intercontinental Cup (ICC) series will be determined by the Team Selection Committee with input and consultation from other USABS skeleton coaches and relevant personnel.
- i) Race Entries
  - i) One race entry for each ICC race will be reserved for a discretionary selection by the Team Selection Committee according to the criteria outlined in Section 6 and the development standards and requirements in the USABS Skeleton Athlete Progression Pathway (Appendix 2).
  - ii) All other race entries will be determined by the next highest ranked finisher from the 2022/2023 National Team Trials.
- j) Due to safety concerns, USABS requires a coach, approved by the Director of Sport Performance and the Head Skeleton Coach, be present anytime an athlete is training or racing on a track for an ICC event. The 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.
- k) Mixed Team Event Race Entries
  - i) All race entries will be pairs of the highest-ranking athletes in sequential order from the current IBSF overall rankings.
  - ii) Athlete must be entered into and intend to race individually in the coinciding ICC race.
  - iii) If an athlete elects not to participate, is injured, or is unavailable for any reason, the next highest ranked athlete from that gender from the current IBSF overall rankings will be selected.
  - iv) Athletes selected to compete in the mixed team event must meet all IBSF mixed team event qualification standards.

## 5. National Development Program Selection

### Europa Cup

- a) All athletes must meet, at minimum, the “B” Standard (Appendix 5) to be eligible to compete in any Europa Cup (EC) event.
- b) All race entries will be filled with athletes selected by the development coaching staff according to Section 6 and the development standards and requirements in the USABS Skeleton Athlete Progression Pathway (Appendix 2).
- c) Mixed Team Event Race Entries
  - i. All race entries will be pairs of athletes selected by the development coaching staff according to the discretion criteria outlined in Section 6.
  - ii. Athletes must be entered into and intend to race in the coinciding EC race.
  - iii. Athletes selected to compete in the mixed team event must meet all IBSF mixed team event qualification standards.

### North American Cup

- d) All athletes must meet, at minimum, the “C” Standard (Appendix 5) to be eligible to compete in any North America Cup (NAC) event.
- e) All race entries will be filled with athletes selected by the development coaching staff according to Section 6 and the development standards and requirements in the USABS Skeleton Athlete Progression Pathway (Appendix 2).
- f) Mixed Team Event Race Entries
  - i. All race entries will be pairs of athletes selected by the development coaching staff according to the discretion criteria outlined in Section 6.
  - ii. Athletes must be entered into and intending to race in the coinciding NAC race.
  - iii. Athletes selected to compete in the mixed team event must meet all IBSF mixed team event qualification standards.

## 6. Discretionary Selection

Specified racing entries on the ICC, EC, and NAC circuits will be based on the discretion of the Team Selection Committee and/or the development coaching staff. The committee and staff will consider the following factors for the discretionary selections (in no particular order).

- a) Final rank from the National Team Trials
- b) Development needs of USABS
  - i. For ICC races, athletes must be in, at minimum, Phase 2 of the Development Program in the USABS Skeleton Athlete Progression Pathway.
  - ii. For NAC and EC races, athletes must be in Phase 1 of the (Early) Development Program in the USABS Skeleton Athlete Progression Pathway.
- c) Extraordinary circumstances of athletes in Phase 1 or Phase 2 of the Performance Program of the USABS Skeleton Athlete Progression Pathway.
- d) Athletes who have been granted a Medical Waiver or Extreme Circumstances Waiver.

## 7. Participation, Removal, and Replacement

### a) Participation

Athletes are required to participate in events for which they are qualified, are named, and to which they have committed. When an athlete does not attend a race and/or leaves a position vacant, they can negatively affect the efforts of USABS 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 may 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 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 in Section 8.b., the Team Selection Committee will determine a replacement athlete as soon as possible considering the discretionary selection criteria described in Section 6.

## 8. 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 skeleton 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.

## 9. Committees

- a) The Waiver Committee will seek input from the USABS Chief Medical Officer 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) Tuffield Latour, Skeleton Coach
  - iv) Kimber Gabryszak, Athlete Representative
  - v) Matt Antione, Athlete Representative  
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 World Championships or Olympics to determine athlete selection. For each selection, the committee will seek input from all relevant USABS skeleton 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) Tuffield Latour, Skeleton Coach
  - iv) Annie O'Shea, Athlete Representative
  - v) TBD, 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

## 10. 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](mailto: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 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

## Appendix 2 – USABS Skeleton Athlete Progression Pathway

The USABS Skeleton Athlete Progression Pathway (Please see the SAPP document)

### Appendix 3 – Athlete Support/Resources Qualifications

In-season and off-season athlete support is intended to aid USABS athletes in their training and overall health and well-being with supplemental tools and resources that will allow athletes to focus on training and competing in pursuit of excellence in competition.

	Recruitment			Development			Performance	
	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 1	Phase 2
Stipend	No	No	No	Refer to DAS	Refer to DAS	Refer to DAS	Refer to DAS	Refer to DAS
Development Funding	No	Refer to Development Funding Outline	Refer to Development Funding Outline	Refer to Development Funding Outline	Refer to Development Funding Outline	Refer to Development Funding Outline	No	No
OPTC Housing Program	Program Housing	Program Housing	Program Housing	Residency/Short Term, as available	Residency/Short Term, as available	Residency/Short Term/Long Term, as available	Residency/Short Term/Long Term as available	Residency/Short Term/Long Term, as available
OPTC Facility Access	Yes, during programs	Yes, during programs	Yes, during programs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
OPTC Sports Med Staff	Emergency only	Emergency only	Emergency only	Injury management, no maintenance.	Injury management, no maintenance.	Injury management, no maintenance.	Yes	Yes
USABS Sports Med Staff	Yes, when available	Yes, when available	Yes, when available	Yes, when available	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Recovery Center Access	LP only when available	LP only when available	LP only when available	LP only when available	LP only when available	Yes	Yes	Yes
Massage	No	No	No	When available	When available	Yes, EAHI or resident only	Yes, EAHI or resident only	Yes
Nutritionist	USOPC Services "Menu"	USOPC Services "Menu"	USOPC Services "Menu"	USOPC Services "Menu"	USOPC Services "Menu"	USOPC Services "Menu"	USOPC Services "Menu"	USOPC Services "Menu"
Sports Psych	USOPC Services "Menu"	USOPC Services "Menu"	USOPC Services "Menu"	USOPC Services "Menu"	USOPC Services "Menu"	USOPC Services "Menu"	USOPC Services "Menu"	USOPC Services "Menu"

Sports Science	USOPC Services "Menu"	USOPC Services "Menu"	USOPC Services "Menu"	USOPC Services "Menu"	USOPC Services "Menu"	USOPC Services "Menu"	USOPC Services "Menu"	USOPC Services "Menu"
USOC Strength and Conditioning	USOPC Services "Menu"	USOPC Services "Menu"	USOPC Services "Menu"	USOPC Services "Menu"	USOPC Services "Menu"	USOPC Services "Menu"	USOPC Services "Menu"	USOPC Services "Menu"
Access to National Medical Network	No	No	No	EAHI only	EAHI only	EAHI only	EAHI only	EAHI only
Coaching (Coach, Driving, Push Coach)	During programs	During programs	During programs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Team Logistics Support (Flights and Ground)	No	No	No	When available	When available	When available	When available	Yes
Sled Equipment (Leasing Program)	N/A	School provided	School provided	When available based on allocation criteria	When available based on allocation criteria	When available based on allocation criteria	When available based on allocation criteria	When available based on allocation criteria
Elite Athlete Health Insurance	No	No	No	Refer to DAS	Refer to DAS	Refer to DAS	Refer to DAS	Refer to DAS
USOPC Mental Health	Available for consultation	Available for consultation	Available for consultation	Available for consultation	Available for consultation	Available for consultation	Available for consultation	Available for consultation
USABS CMO Access	Emergency only	Emergency only	Emergency only	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
USOPC ACE Program	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

## Equipment Allocation

USABS equipment, to include sleds and runners, will be allocated by the Skeleton Head Coach and Director of Skeleton Development.

- a) Equipment allocation priority will align with the SAPP (Appendix 2)
- b) 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 Head Skeleton Coach and skeleton coaching staff. All athletes using USABS equipment must sign the non-disclosure agreement.
- c) All USABS owned equipment usage must be approved by the USABS. USABS is not required to allocate all available sleds.
- d) The Head Skeleton Coach and Director of Skeleton Development will continue to review and allocate equipment throughout the season as needed.
- e) Equipment rules:
  - i) USABS owned skeleton sleds and USABS owned runners may NOT be altered by an athlete without written permission from the USABS Head Skeleton Coach.
  - ii) Only USABS authorized staff may authorize inspections of the equipment by others.
  - iii) Athletes sharing USABS owned equipment or technology, directly or indirectly with anyone will lose privileges to use USABS owned equipment.
  - iv) USABS owned runners will be allowed to be used on USABS owned sleds or athlete owned sleds as long as no alterations to the runners are required.
  - v) USABS owned runners cannot be altered in any way to fit different sled models.
  - vi) 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. Participation in the National Championships races will also serve as an opportunity for an athlete to be observed by the USABS coaches and Director of Skeleton Development as part of regular assessment and evaluation regarding the Skeleton 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) Athletes must be in, at minimum, Phase 3 of the Recruitment level of the SAPP (Appendix 2) and be able to start safely from the top of the track 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, NY) and Western (Park City, UT) 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 and Director of Skeleton Development to identify up to 3 athletes not already in the SAPP to be invited to National Championships to be observed and evaluated to be inserted appropriately into the SAPP.

## Appendix 5 – Athlete Standards

- a) To be eligible to receive 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) To be eligible to receive 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) Review Period.  
If an athlete fails to meet a required Standard necessary to receive support as outlined in Appendix 3, the athlete will be granted up to one year review period to meet the Standard while still receiving the support as if they had met the Standard.  
An athlete may only utilize this review period one time to achieve and maintain the standard as they progress through the SAPP (Appendix 2).

d) Standards

“A” Standard			
		Men (s)	Women (s)
Track Start Time*	Park City	4.66	5.04
	Lake Placid	4.82	5.39
Ice House Start Time <sup>†</sup>		-	-
IBSF ranking		4	4

“B” Standard			
		Men (s)	Women (s)
Track Start Time <sup>‡</sup>	Park City	4.83	5.10
	Lake Placid	5.05	5.45
Ice House Start Time <sup>§</sup>		-	-
IBSF ranking		30	20

“C” Standard			
		Men (s)	Women (s)
Track Start Time	Park City	4.93	5.23
	Lake Placid	5.20	5.65
Ice House Start Time <sup>**</sup>		-	-

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\* “A” Standard Track Start Time standards are average of the top 10 of the most recent two World Cup races on the respective track.

† “A” Standard Ice House Start Times will be determined after sufficient data has been collected during the 2022 Push Championships and the 2022 IBSF Push Championships.

‡ “B” Standard Track Start Time standards carried over from previous standards established for the 2018-2022 quadrennial.

§ “B” Standard Ice House Start Times will be determined after sufficient data has been collected during the 2022 Push Championships and the 2022 IBSF Push Championships.

\*\* “C” Standard Ice House Start Times will be determined after sufficient data has been collected during the 2022 Push Championships and the 2022 IBSF Push Championships.