

USABS PARA BOB & PARA SKELETON TEAM SELECTION 2015/2016

Introduction

The International Bobsleigh & Skeleton Federation (IBSF), the international governing body of the Olympic Sports of Bobsled and Skeleton is conducting a development program to have Para Bob & Para Skeleton to be full Medal Events on the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Program for 2022.

The United States Bobsled and Skeleton Federation (USABS), is the National Governing Body (NGB) for Olympic Bobsled & Skeleton and a Member of the IBSF. The IBSF conducts World Cup Competition (WC) every year with a World Championship (WM) at the end of the Season, except every 4 years the Season ends with the Olympic Games.

The IBSF in 2010 began an initiative to extend the opportunity for participation in the sports of Bobsled & Skeleton to individuals with physical impairments establishing a goal of inclusion into the Winter Paralympic Games. Over the past 4 years the IBSF has conducted Para Development Schools with 2014/2015 being the initial Season for Official World Cup Races. For the 2015/2016 Competitive Season, the IBSF will hold 4 World Cup Races (Calgary-11/7-14; Park City 11/15-22; St. Moritz 1/10-16; Innsbruck 1/17-23) with a first ever World Championship to be held in Park City March 14-23, 2016.

The USABS has now determined to officially create a USABS Para Bobsled & Para Skeleton Team with a Team Captain to effectively compete in the 2015/2016 IBSF Para WC & WM Season.

2015/2016 IBSF WC and WM RULES FOR PARTICIPATION BY NATION

At the moment, the IBSF will permit each Nation to submit an unlimited number of Athletes (within reason of course and subject to the yet to be determined quota of total participating Athletes) for competition in WC Races for 2 Disciplines: Seated Para Mono Bob and Ambulatory Para Skeleton. Only the top 3 Athletes from each Nation, determined by final placement in the Official Race Results however, will receive WC ranking Points. Each Nation will be limited to 2 Athletes for each Discipline to participate in the World Championships in March.

2015/2016 USABS PARA BOBSLED & PARA SKELETON NATIONAL TEAM SELECTION

The USABS National Team Selection for the able bodied Athletes to compete in IBSF Olympic, World Championship and World Cup Competition is planned well in advance of the Sliding Season and National Team selection Races are conducted just prior to the current Season.

This opportunity does not present itself for the selection of the USABS Para Bob & Skeleton Team for the 2015/2016 Season. Therefore, we have to adapt to the emerging development of

the Para Sports this year and will provide the proper planning and National Team Selection process for 2016/2017 soon after the 2016 Para Bob & Skeleton World Championships.

The 2015/2016 USA National Para Bob Team and Para Skeleton Team will be selected in this manner:

1. Since the IBSF Rule for Eligibility to participate in the 2016 IBSF Para World Championship requires the Athlete to have competed in 3 World Cup Races on 2 different Tracks, and there is no prior National Team Selection Race, the USA National Team will be selected after the final of the 2 World Cup Races in Park City November 22, 2015 based upon the IBSF World Cup Points ranking.
2. The National Team for Bob and National Team for Skeleton will consist of 4 WC ranked Athletes in each Discipline.¹
3. There will be 2 Athletes receiving a Bye into inclusion on the USA Para Bob and Para Skeleton Team: 2014/2015 IBSF Para Skeleton World Cup Points Champion, Eric Eierdam and Jason Sturm, 2014/2015 IBSF Seated Para Mono Bob World Cup Points Champion will be automatically included on the National Team as a result of last year's Finish as IBSF World Cup Points Champions, provided they participate in the St. Moritz, Switzerland and Igls, Austria WC Races.
4. At the Conclusion of the World Cup Finale in Igls, the USA Para Bob and Skeleton National Team will be redetermined based upon the Athletes 3 best WC Finish Points earned or allocated for the 2015/2016 WC Season.

¹ Since the IBSF Rules permit only the top 3 Athletes from one Nation be awarded the World Cup Points earned; for USA National Points ranking purposes, the WC Points that the Athlete would have earned for WC Finish Result will be assigned toward the USA National ranking. Example: USA Athletes in WC Race finish; 1,2,4,7,10,12; 1,2,4 receive WC Points and 7,10 & 12 do not. The 7, 10, and 12 Place Finishers do receive the WC Points they would have received allocated toward National ranking purposes.