

**UNITED STATES LUGE ASSOCIATION (USLA)
ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES
2018 PYEONGCHANG, KOREA WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES
LUGE
April 2016**

1. SELECTION SYSTEM

1.1. Provide the minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for nomination to the Team:

1.1.1. Nationality/Passport requirements:

Athlete must be a national of the United States at the time of nomination.

Athlete must hold a valid U.S. passport that will not expire for six months after the conclusion of the Games.

1.1.2. Minimum International Olympic Committee (IOC) standards for participation:

Any competitor in the Olympics must be a national of the country of the National Olympic Committee (NOC), which is entering such competitor. For additional information regarding an athlete who is a national of two or more countries, or has changed his or her nationality, or acquired a new nationality, refer to the [IOC Olympic Charter \(Rule 41\)](#).

1.1.3. Minimum International Federation (IF) standards for participation (if any):

Meet the requirements spelled out in the current version of the International Luge Federation Rulebook, referred to as the "[IRO International Luge Regulations - Artificial Track](#)", and the [International Luge Federation's Pyeongchang Qualification System](#). Parts of both are excerpted below, however, the FIL IRO and the FIL Pyeongchang 2018 Qualification System are the binding policies in respect to any discrepancies between the FIL policies and this policy:

The IOC-FIL quota for athlete entries (men, women and doubles) into the Olympic Games is 110. If that number is exceeded through the FIL qualification system, the FIL must then pare down the size of qualified athletes to 110. The FIL will do so based on the overall World Cup standings as of December 31, 2017.

1.1.3.1. According to §3 Point 4.3 of the “[IRO International Luge Regulations - Artificial Track](#)”, an athlete must reach their sixteenth 16th birthday during the sport’s year (sport’s year is defined as the period between July 1 and June 30). In order to participate in the 2018 Olympic Games, an athlete must have been born before July 1, 2002. An athlete in this age group is considered to belong to the General Class according to the IRO.

1.1.3.2. According to §3 Point 9 of the “[IRO International Luge Regulations - Artificial Track](#)”, in order to qualify to race in any major competition of the FIL (World Cups, World Championships, European Championships), athletes must post at least one Official Training Run time, in the training for that event, that is no slower than seven percent (7%) slower than the fastest training time posted for the training group for the heat in question. For example, if the fastest heat time is 42.077, then the slowest acceptable heat time for event qualification purposes would be 45.022 ($42.077 + 7\%$ of 42.077 or $2.945 = 45.022$).

1.1.3.3. In order to meet the minimum FIL standard to qualify to race in the Olympic Games, an athlete must qualify for, and participate in, a total of five (5) World Cup events (to include Junior World Cup events (Junior Class Only) or earn World Cup points through Nations Cup events) over a combination of the pre-Olympic season, which is currently scheduled as July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017, and the period of the Olympic season from July 1, 2017 through to December 31, 2017 and have earned a combined minimum of five (5) points from the World Cup, Junior World Cup (Junior Class Only), or Nations Cup races; or, an athlete must have earned the following minimum World Cup points in the Olympic season in two (2) races prior to December 31, 2017:

Men – 20 points

Women – 36 points

Doubles – 44 points

1.1.3.4. Extra requirements for those athletes ranked lower than the top 32 men, 24 women, or 20 doubles teams at the close of the pre-Olympic season (June 30, 2017): if an athlete, by name, is ranked lower than 32nd in men, 24th in women and 20th in doubles in the pre-Olympic season World Cup Ranking List (General Class), then the following conditions must additionally be met to be eligible for selection by their respective NOC for the Olympic Games:

1.1.3.4.1. Complete mandatory training at the Pyeongchang track during the International Training Week in the Fall of 2017; and

1.1.3.4.2. Mandatory participation in two (2) World Cup races after January 1, 2018 or mandatory participation in one World Cup race after January 1, 2018 and FIL approved training of a minimum of 20 runs after January 1, 2018; and

1.1.3.4.3. The athlete must complete a minimum of ten (10) timed runs on the Olympic track from the respective event(s) Olympic race start height from the start of the Pre-Olympic Season to December 31, 2017 in the Olympic Season: Men from Men's Start, Women from Ladies Start, and Doubles from Doubles' Start.

1.1.4. Other requirements (if any):

Athletes must be members in good standing of the United States Luge Association.

1.2. Tryout Events:

1.2.1. Provide the event names, dates and locations of all trials, events and camps to be used as part of the selection process.

1.2.1.1. Fall 2016 National Seeding/Championship Races – Lake Placid or Park City USA: October/November 2016. This event is an open event.

1.2.1.2. Pre-Qualification Events for the National Team athletes of the 2016-2017 season

- Pyeongchang, Korea Pre-Olympic Test Race/World Cup Race: January, February, or March 2017. NOTE: Results from the Pyeongchang, Korea Pre-Olympic Test Race will only be used for Pre-Qualification status if this race is a FIL World Cup.
- Igls, Austria World Championships: February 2017
- Final Overall World Cup Standings (multiple sites): March 2017

1.2.1.3. Spring 2017 National Seeding Races – Lake Placid or Park City USA: March 2017. This event is an open event.

1.2.1.4. Fall 2017 National Seeding/Championship Races – Lake Placid or Park City USA: October/November 2017

1.2.1.5. Qualification Period World Cups – During the 2017-2018 season, all General Class FIL World Cups contested before December 25, 2017 will be considered to be during the “Qualification Period”.

1.2.2. Provide event names, dates, locations and description of how athletes qualify for the trials, events and camps listed above in 1.2.1. (if any).

Athletes will qualify for preliminary/qualifying events listed in 1.2.1 through entry into USLA’s National Seeding Races.

1.2.2.1. Entry into the USLA National Seeding Races listed in Points 1.2.1.1 and 1.2.1.3 is limited by age, athletes must belong to the General Class as stated in 1.1.3.1; and is limited by safety – all coaches present at the event make a discretionary decision as to whether an athlete can safely navigate the course without braking. If the safety of the athlete is in question, the athlete will not be allowed to start in the race.

1.2.2.2. All eligible USLA athletes desiring to be selected to the 2018 Olympic Team (except athletes that have met the pre-qualification criteria) must enter the Spring 2017 National Seeding Races (Pre-qualified athletes are not required to participate in the Spring 2017 National Seeding Races). The Summer 2017 National Team athletes (including those that have met the pre-qualification criteria unless excused from participation by the Coaching Staff, USLA Sport Program Director, and USLA CEO) must enter the Fall 2017 National Seeding/Championship Races. Both the Spring 2017 National Seeding Races and the Fall 2017 National Seeding/Championship Races will serve as a part of the USLA’s 2018 Olympic Team selection process.

1.2.2.3. All Seeding Race entries must satisfy Point 1.1.3.2. (known as the 7% rule from the FIL IRO).

1.3. Provide a comprehensive, step-by-step description of the method that explains how athletes will go through the selection process to become Team nominees (include maximum Team size).

1.3.1. Olympic Luge Team Size – A maximum of ten (10) athletes, three (3) men’s singles competitors, three (3) women’s singles competitors and four (4) double’s competitors (i.e. two teams of two athletes) may qualify for the 2018 Olympic Luge Team. If a member of a doubles team is removed for any reason, the whole team will be replaced. Members of doubles teams are not interchangeable.

1.3.2. Pre-qualification / Verification Process Description:

1.3.2.1. *Pre-qualification:*

The Pre-qualification/Verification Process allows for up to only one man, up to only one woman and up to only one doubles team to earn a spot on the 2018 Olympic Luge Team.

1.3.2.1.1. In order to be considered for a “pre-qualified” spot for the 2018 Olympic Luge Team an athlete/team must earn a “pre-qualification” ranking via this criterion. To earn a “pre-qualification” ranking an athlete or doubles team must do one of the following in these pre-qualification events:

1.3.2.1.1.1. Earn at least a top six (6) placing at the Pyeongchang, Korea Pre-Olympic Test Race/World Cup (January, February, or March 2017). NOTE: Results from the Pyeongchang, Korea Pre-Olympic Test Race will only be used for Pre-Qualification status if this race is a FIL World Cup and if it is a two run race. If the number of runs for this event is reduced by the Race Officials for any reason, the results of this race will not be used for Pre-Qualification. A Pyeongchang Sprint World Cup will not be used for Pre-Qualification.

1.3.2.1.1.2. Earn at least a top seven (7) for men, a top six (6) for women or a top six (6) for doubles placing at the 2017 Igls, Austria World Championships (January/February 2017). If the number of runs for this event is reduced by the Race Officials for any reason, the results of this race will not be used for Pre-Qualification. Sprint World Championship race results will not be used for Pre-Qualification.

1.3.2.1.1.3. Finish the 2016-17 season in the top three (3) of the overall World Cup standings calculated without Sprint World Cup results and without results from one run World Cup races, if any.

1.3.2.1.2. After the pre-qualification events have been contested, if more than one man, one woman or one doubles team were to earn a pre-qualification ranking in their respective events, then only the male athlete, and/or female athlete, and/or doubles team with the best pre-qualification ranking, will be considered to have “pre-qualified” for the 2018 Olympic Luge Team.

1.3.2.1.2.1. The 2017 Pyeongchang, Korea Test Race/World Cup placing will be considered the placing of highest importance and will act as the tiebreaker if competitors have duplicate results between any combinations of the pre-qualification events except the one that follows. The 2017 Igls, Austria World Championships placing will be the placing of second highest importance and will act as the tiebreaker if competitors have duplicate results between the World Championships and the Overall World Cup result. NOTE: Results from the Pyeongchang, Korea Pre-Olympic Test Race will only be used for Pre-Qualification status if this race is a FIL World Cup and a two run race.

1.3.2.1.2.2. For the individual events, should a duplicate top placing be made in the same race (i.e. there is a tie in the total aggregate time), the athlete or doubles team with the single fastest run of the competition will rank ahead.

1.3.2.1.2.3. In the overall World Cup Standings, if a duplicate top ranking is achieved, each athlete's/ doubles team's best individual World Cup race result will be compared. The athlete(s)/ team(s) with the single best result of the series will rank ahead. If this does not fully break the tie (i.e. if three tied athletes gets reduced to two), then the second best individual World Cup race result, and continuing in rank order, will be compared until the tie is broken.

1.3.2.1.3. Once an athlete pre-qualifies for the 2018 Olympic Luge Team, he/she/they automatically become a 2017 Summer and Fall National Team member.

1.3.2.1.3.1. Pre-qualified athletes are required, though, to participate in the Fall 2017 National Seeding/Championship Races according to Section 1.2.2.2 of this document.

1.3.2.2. Verification:

Once pre-qualified, athletes and/or doubles team (if any) must then earn a top five (5) placing in any one of the non-domestic World Cup Races, or a top three (3) placing in any one of the domestic (Lake Placid or Park City) World Cup Races contested during the Qualification Period in order to "verify" their selection for nomination to the 2018 Olympic Luge Team.

1.3.2.2.1. If the number of runs in a World Cup is reduced by the Race Officials for any reason, the results of that race will not be used for Verification. A World Cup must contest the normal two runs in order

to be used for Verification. Sprint World Cup results will not be used for Verification.

1.3.3. Selection to the 2018 Olympic Team through the Tier System:

Besides the Pre-qualification and Verification path to the 2018 Olympic Team, athletes can also be selected to the 2018 Olympic Team through a Tier System. In the Tier System, to be considered a nominee to the 2018 Olympic Luge Team, a three-step process must be completed. First, an athlete/doubles team must be selected to the 2017 Summer National Team. Second, from the 2017 Summer National Team, athletes/doubles teams must be selected to the 2017 Fall National Team. And third, athletes/doubles teams are selected for nomination to the 2018 Olympic Team from the 2017 Fall National Team by earning Tiers (as described herein) through results achieved in the World Cups of the 2017-2018 General Class FIL World Cups contested before December 25, 2017.

1.3.3.1. *Selection to the 2017 Summer National Team:*

The 2017 Summer National Team size will be no more than the number of competitors allowed to participate in the General Class World Cup races and additional starters allowed in the General Class Nation's Cup races according to the [IRO International Luge Regulations - Artificial Track](#) §3 Point 3.2 and §3 Point 3.3. Up to six (6) singles women, up to eight (8) singles men, and up to five (5) doubles teams may be selected for the 2017 Summer National Team.

1.3.3.1.1. Note: this clause overrides those portions of the USLA National Team Athlete Selection policies dealing with race 'byes'. Only Pre-qualified athletes are automatically selected to the 2017 Summer and Fall National Teams. National "A" Team athletes that earned their "A" team status in either the 2015-2016 season or 2016-2017 season according to the USLA National Team Athlete Selection Policy do not receive the automatic bye through the Spring 2017 and Fall 2017 National Seeding Races. National "B" Team athletes that earned their team status in the 2016-2017 season according to the USLA National Team Athlete Selection Policy do not receive the automatic bye through the Spring 2017 and Fall 2017 National Seeding Races. NOTE: All other Team Status benefits remain in effect for each Team Status whether the benefit is an "A", "B", or "C" team benefit.

1.3.3.1.2. Any athletes that have Pre-qualified, according to 1.3.2.1. of this document, will be awarded the first slots on the 2017 Summer National Team.

1.3.3.1.3. In addition to the Pre-qualified athletes, additional athletes will be selected to the 2017 Summer National Team through two Spring 2017 National Seeding Races. Selections will be based on the results of these two races and the application of the USLA [Seeding Process](#) policy. The two races are tentatively scheduled for March 2017 on either the Lake Placid and/or Park City track. The [Seeding Process](#) policy will be used to rank all USLA athletes who have qualified for, and entered at least one of, the Spring 2017 National Seeding Races.

1.3.3.1.3.1. Exception to Point 1.3.3.1.3: Athletes that are Pre-qualified and participate in the Spring 2017 National Seeding Races will not receive points and will not be ranked.

1.3.3.1.4. Based on the ranked list of athletes at the conclusion of the Spring 2017 National Seeding Races, the following will happen:

1.3.3.1.4.1. If no Pre-qualified athletes exist, according to 1.3.2.1, then the top five ranked men, the top four ranked women and the top three ranked doubles teams, as noted in the cumulative rankings after the Spring 2017 National Seeding Races have been completed, will automatically earn a spot on the 2017 Summer National Team, except...

1.3.3.1.4.1.1. ...If a pre-qualified athlete/ doubles team has taken an available spot in their discipline on the 2017 Summer National Team (according to 1.3.2.1), then only the top four ranked men in the case of Men's Singles, and/or the top three ranked women in the case of Women's Singles, and/or the top two ranked doubles teams, in the case of Doubles, who did not pre-qualify, will earn a place on the 2017 Summer National Team.

1.3.3.1.4.2. Coaches may select additional athletes/teams to the 2017 Summer National Team through coaches' discretion, according to Section 2 of this document, up to 8 men's singles, up to 6 women's singles, and up to 5 doubles teams.

1.3.3.1.5. In September and October of 2017, all athletes that are part of the Olympic Selection process, according to this document, will be required to pass the USLA's physical test standards according to the USLA [Physical Testing Standards](#) policy and the [2017 Physical Test Scale](#). Only those athletes on the 2017 Summer National Team that have passed the physical test standards will continue to be on the 2017

Summer National Team and remain eligible for selection for nomination to the 2018 Olympic Team.

1.3.3.2. Selection to the 2017 Fall National Team:

The 2017 Fall National Team will be selected from the Summer 2017 National Team using Pre-Qualification results (according to 1.3.2.1) and the results of three Fall 2017 National Seeding/Championship Races. Note: While three races is the goal, two will be deemed acceptable if cancellation of a race is necessary due to adverse weather or facility mechanical issues. All athletes/teams selected to the Summer 2017 National Team must compete in the Fall 2017 National Seeding/Championship Races according to 1.2.2.2. All athletes, including the Pre-qualified athletes, will receive points in these races according to the [Seeding Process](#) policy.

1.3.3.2.1. The 2017 Fall National Team size will be no more than the number of competitors allowed to participate in a General Class World Cup race according to the [IRO International Luge Regulations - Artificial Track](#) §3 Point 3.2 (up to 5 men's singles, up to 4 women's singles, up to 3 doubles teams).

1.3.3.2.2. Athletes that have Pre-qualified, according to 1.3.2.1. of this document, will be awarded the first slots on the 2017 Fall National Team.

1.3.3.2.3. In addition to the Pre-qualified athletes, additional athletes will be selected to the Fall 2017 National Team through three Fall 2017 National Seeding/Championship Races. Selections will be based on the results of these three races and the application of the USLA [Seeding Process](#) policy. The three races are tentatively scheduled for October/November 2017. These races must occur on at least two different tracks (most likely on Lake Placid and Park City, but they may occur on other tracks as scheduling permits). The [Seeding Process](#) policy will be used to rank all USLA athletes who have qualified for, and entered at least one of, the National Seeding Races. *[Athletes will first be notified of the intended dates of these races by July 15, 2017, but such dates are subject to change. Should a change occur, the athletes will be notified of such change as soon as feasible. The format of these races (as defined in our [Seeding Process](#) policy) will also be announced at this time].*

1.3.3.2.4. Athlete(s) that Pre-qualified for the Fall 2017 National Team will be entered in every international training opportunity and World Cup race during the Qualification Period (as defined by 1.2.1.5 of this

document) provided they 1) continue to meet USLA's physical test standards and/or 2) are not injured.

1.3.3.2.5. The ranked list of athletes/teams from the Fall 2017 National Seeding/Championship Races will be used to select athletes that have not Pre-qualified.

1.3.3.2.5.1. If no male athlete has Pre-qualified in Men's singles, then the top 4 men from the ranked list of Men's singles athletes from the Fall 2017 Seeding Races will be selected to the Fall 2017 National Team. If a male athlete has Pre-qualified, then the top 3 ranked men will be selected for the Fall 2017 National Team.

1.3.3.2.5.2. If no female athlete has Pre-qualified in Women's singles, then the top 3 women from the ranked list of Women's singles athletes from the Fall 2017 National Seeding/Championship Races will be selected to the Fall 2017 National Team. If a female athlete has Pre-qualified, then the top 2 ranked women will be selected for the Fall 2017 National Team.

1.3.3.2.5.3. If no doubles team has Pre-qualified in Doubles, then the top 2 Doubles teams from the ranked list of Doubles teams from the Fall 2017 National Seeding/Championship Races will be selected to the Fall 2017 National Team. If a Doubles team has Pre-qualified, then only the top ranked Doubles team will be selected for the Fall 2017 National Team.

1.3.3.2.6. The final event entry in Men's Singles, Women's Singles, and Doubles may be filled by coaches' discretion. An athlete/team may only be selected by discretion for this spot if they have finished in the top ten in the 2017 Pyeongchang Test Race/World Cup, 2017 World Championships or 2016/2017 Overall World Cup. (The 2017 Pyeongchang Test Race/World Cup result may only be used for this discretionary selection if the Pyeongchang race is a World Cup. Sprint World Cup results will not be used. All races used for evaluation within this section must be two (2) runs in length.)

1.3.3.2.6.1. Should the coaching staff not use discretion in Point 1.3.3.2.6 in a discipline, then the next ranked athlete/team in that discipline from the ranked list of athletes from the Fall 2017 National Seeding/Championship Races will be selected to the Fall 2017 National Team.

1.3.3.3. Tier System

Pre-qualified athletes that do not “verify” according to 1.3.2.2 are still eligible to make the Olympic team through this part of the process. Selection for nomination to the 2018 Olympic Luge Team will be based on the results each athlete/ doubles team posts in the FIL sanctioned General Class World Cup races held during the Qualification Period (defined in 1.2.1.5) in line with the following:

1.3.3.3.1. There must be a minimum of six (6) ‘sleds entered’ in an applicable discipline for the race to count towards qualification for the Olympic Games. (*‘Sleds entered’ will be defined as those sleds beginning at least one run of a World Cup race, as well as those sleds beginning the qualifying run, as defined by the FIL IRO, that do not actually qualify for that same World Cup race.*)

1.3.3.3.2. Each FIL sanctioned General Class World Cup race result can only be used as a qualification race for a tier for the Olympics if the race is a two-run race. A World Cup must contest the normal two runs in order to be used for a qualification race for a tier. Sprint World Cup results will not be used for earning Tier rankings.

1.3.3.3.3. Definition of Tiers:

Tier A: When there are twenty-six (26) or more ‘sleds entered’ in doubles, twenty-four (24) or more ‘sleds entered’ in women’s singles or forty-two (42) or more ‘sleds entered’ in men’s singles, then the standard is one finish in the top five (**This will be called Tier A**)

Tier B: - or - two finishes in the top ten for doubles, two finishes in the top nine for women’s singles, or two finishes in the top fifteen for men’s singles, all of which will be called **Tier B**

Tier C: - or - one finish in the top ten and two additional finishes in the top thirteen for doubles, one finish in the top nine and two additional finishes in the top twelve for women’s singles, or one finish in the top fifteen and two additional finishes in the top twenty-one for men’s singles, all of which will be called **Tier C**.

1.3.3.3.4. When there are more than five (>5), but less than twenty-six (<26) ‘sleds entered’ (See 1.3.3.3.1 for definition of ‘sleds entered’) in doubles, less than twenty-four (<24) ‘sleds entered’ in women’s singles, and less than forty-two (<42) ‘sleds entered’ in men’s singles, then the standard(s) that need(s) to be met will correspond to the following chart:

# of Entries	Race Result Needed for Tier A Qualification	Tier B & C: Maximum Race Result Permitted To Be Used Against Tier B & Tier C Qualification Definitions		
		Doubles	Women	Men
6	2	3	3	3
7	2	3	3	3
8	2	4	4	4
9	3	4	4	4
10	3	5	5	5
11	3	5	5	5
12	4	6	6	6
13	4	6	6	6
14	4	7	7	7
15	5	7	7	7
16	5	8	8	8
17	5	8	8	8
18	5	9	9	9
19	5	9	9	9
20	5	10	10	10
21	5	10	10	10
22	5	11	11	11
23	5	11	11	11
24	5	12	12	12
25	5	12	12	12
26	5	13	12	13
27	5	13	12	13
28	5	13	12	14
29	5	13	12	14
30	5	13	12	15
31	5	13	12	15
32	5	13	12	16
33	5	13	12	16
34	5	13	12	17
35	5	13	12	17
36	5	13	12	18
37	5	13	12	18
38	5	13	12	19
39	5	13	12	19
40	5	13	12	20
41	5	13	12	20
42	5	13	12	21

1.3.3.3.4.1. Note: Any athlete or doubles team that “pre-qualifies” and “verifies” its spot on the 2018 Olympic Luge Team (1.3.2), will take up one of the available Olympic Team spots before any athlete or team that qualifies through this part of the process. Conversely, any athlete that “pre-qualifies” but fails to “verify” its spot on the 2018 Olympic Luge Team then joins the balance of the athletes on an equal basis for this part of the process. These athletes would no longer maintain a preferential position based on the “pre-qualification” standard that was achieved the prior year.

1.3.4. Qualification for Nomination to the 2018 Olympic Luge Team

At the end of the Qualification period (1.2.1.5), if more athletes/teams have qualified for the 2018 Olympic Luge Team, through either the Pre-qualification / Verification process, and/or earned A, B or C Tiers according to the Tier

System, than the maximum allowable entrants in a specific Olympic event (according to 1.3.1 of this document), then the following will occur:

- 1.3.4.1.** The “Pre-qualified” and “Verified” athlete(s) are/is the first level of athletes that qualify for the 2018 Olympic Luge Team.
- 1.3.4.2.** Next, if the number of athletes/teams in Tier A is less than or equal to the entries (still) available, then everyone in Tier A will qualify for the Olympic Games. If entry spots are (still) available after all Tier A athletes/teams have been considered, then the USLA will go to Tier B, under the above sentence, and then to Tier C, again, under the above sentence, in an attempt to fill out the 2018 Olympic Luge Team.
- 1.3.4.3.** However, if there are more athletes/teams eligible in a Tier than entries still available, those athletes/teams will then be ranked within their Tier using World Cup points, (Sprint World Cup points will not be used for ranking athletes within the Tier).
 - 1.3.4.3.1.** The first and highest level of ranking for Tier A will be the number of World Cup points earned from rankings where a medal was won.
 - 1.3.4.3.2.** In the event a tie exists after implementing 1.3.4.3.1, the second level of ranking for Tier A, and the first and highest level of ranking for Tier B and C will be the number of World Cup points earned from rankings achieved in the highest Tier earned by the athlete/team. For the calculation of the World Cup points earned by an athlete in Tier C, the points of the single Tier B finish will be included in this total if so achieved.
 - 1.3.4.3.3.** In the event a tie still exists after implementing 1.3.4.3.1 and 1.3.4.3.2, the final level of ranking for all Tiers will be the number of World Cup points achieved in the World Cups contested during the entire Qualification Period, excluding Sprint World Cup points.
- 1.3.4.4.** Once the athletes/teams are ranked within their Tier, then the number of athletes/teams in Tier A will be compared to the number of remaining Olympic Games race entries (still) available to USLA. With this ranking complete, the following will occur:
 - 1.3.4.4.1.** *Singles*
In the event of a “Pre-qualification” and “Verification” in singles (1.3.2), then the next two highest tier-ranked singles athletes will

qualify as 2018 Olympic Luge Team nominees (provided the USLA has qualified three (3) slots) unless a race-off becomes necessary because an athlete or athletes is awarded an opportunity to earn a spot as a 2018 Olympic Luge Team nominee through the 'Exceptional Circumstance' clause described in Section 2. In the event of no "Pre-qualification" or no "Verification", then the three highest tier-ranked singles athletes (or up to the number of qualified slots) will qualify as 2018 Olympic Luge Team nominees unless a race-off becomes necessary because an athlete or athletes is awarded an opportunity to earn a spot as a 2018 Olympic Luge Team nominee through the 'Exceptional Circumstance' clause described in Section 2.

1.3.4.4.2. *Doubles*

In the event of a "Pre-qualification" and "Verification" in doubles (1.3.2), then the next highest tier-ranked doubles team will qualify as a 2018 Olympic Luge Team nominee (provided USLA has qualified two (2) slots) unless a race-off becomes necessary because a team or teams is awarded an opportunity to earn a spot as a 2018 Olympic Luge Team nominee through the 'Exceptional Circumstance' clause described in Section 2. In the event of no "Pre-qualification" or no "Verification" in doubles, then the two highest tier-ranked doubles teams (or up to the number of qualified slots) will qualify as 2018 Olympic Luge Team nominees unless a race-off becomes necessary because a team or teams is awarded an opportunity to earn a spot as a 2018 Olympic Luge Team nominee through the 'Exceptional Circumstance' clause described in Section 2.

1.3.4.5. In the event an athlete(s) or team(s) applies for consideration as a discretionary choice under the 'Exceptional Circumstance' clause in Section 2 of this document, and such request is granted, then the following described "race-off" will take place:

1.3.4.5.1. The lowest ranked of the tier-ranked athletes/teams will "race-off" against the athlete(s)/team(s) granted the 'Exceptional Circumstance' exemption in a format prescribed by the National Team Coaching Staff and be ranked by those results, with the top ranked athlete/team used to fill out the remaining available 2018 Olympic Luge Team nominee position(s). This final ranking will be based on points earned from the "race-off". If only one race is feasible, then there will be no ranking, as winner takes all. This "race-off" (format, location and timing) will be announced to the athletes and the USOC as soon as possible after this "race-off" condition creates itself, even if it is early in the Qualification Period. Athletes can

expect any race off to occur as part of the race week of the last World Cup held before December 25, 2017, whether the race-off occurs during that week's Official Training, during that week's Nation's Cup, or during that week's World Cup.

1.3.4.6. Finally, in the event that the number of spots earned by US athletes for 2018 Olympic Luge events has not been filled with tier-ranked nominees in men's singles, women's singles or doubles using the above described ranking and selection language - or - the tie-breaking procedures described above did not break a tie, and such a tie needs to be broken to determine the final nominee in men's singles, women's singles or doubles, then said athletes/ teams that raced in the Qualification Period's World Cup races and any other athletes selected by the National Team Coaching Staff due to 'Exceptional Circumstances', will "race-off" in a format prescribed by the National Team Coaching Staff and be ranked by those results with the top ranked athlete(s)/team(s) used to fill out the remaining available 2018 Olympic Luge Team nominee position(s). This final ranking will be based on points earned from the "race-off". If only one race is feasible, then there will be no ranking, as winner takes all. This "race-off" (format, location and timing) will be announced (to USOC as well) as soon as possible after this "tie" condition creates itself, even if it is early in the qualification period. Athletes can expect any race off to occur during the race week of the last World Cup contested before December 25, 2017, whether the race-off occurs during that week's Official Training, during that week's Nation's Cup, or during that week's World Cup.

1.3.5. Olympic Games Start Positions

1.3.5.1. Athletes that have qualified to become a nominee to the 2018 Olympic Luge Team in the singles event may only be entered in the singles competition, and possibly the singles discipline of the Team Relay event as well. Athletes that have qualified to become a nominee to the 2018 Olympic Luge Team in the doubles event may only be entered in the doubles competition, and possibly the doubles discipline of the Team Relay event as well.

1.3.5.2. *Team Relay*

1.3.5.2.1. Those U.S. athletes, participating in the men's singles, women's singles, and doubles disciplines at the 2018 Olympic Games are eligible to be selected to compete in the Team Relay event.

1.3.5.2.2. Athletes that post the single fastest run or best finish rank in the 2018 Olympic Games men's race, women's race and doubles' race will qualify to be selected by the coaching staff to be the participants for the Team Relay. The coaching staff will select, by discretion, the Team Relay participants from the athletes that have either posted the fastest run time or posted the best finish rank. If an athlete posts both the fastest run time and the best finish rank in the 2018 Olympic Games men's race, women's race and doubles' race, then these athletes will automatically qualify for the Team Relay (no discretion will be needed).

1.3.5.2.3. In the unlikely event a discipline's race in the Olympic Games is canceled, but the Team Relay event is still contested, then the National Team Coaching Staff will have the authority to select the US Team Relay participant(s) from the canceled events in line with the discretionary criteria outlined within this document in Section 2.

1.3.5.2.4. NOTE: If an athlete/doubles team, through this policy, qualifies to race in the Team Relay, and either declines to compete or is injured; then the second fastest athlete/doubles team, as prioritized above, will be selected to be the replacement.

2. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION (if applicable)

2.1. Provide rationale for utilizing discretionary selection (if any):

Discretion will be used in the following areas:

2.1.1. Section 1.2.2.1 – Entry into Seeding Races is made by coaches present at the event as to whether an athlete can safely navigate the course without braking.

2.1.2. Section 1.3.3.1.4.2 – Coaches may select additional athletes/doubles teams to the 2017 Summer National Team.

2.1.3. Section 1.3.3.2.6 – Coaches may select the final spot in each discipline for the 2017 Fall National Team.

2.1.4. Section 1.3.4.5 – Names, dates and locations of additional race-offs.

2.1.5. Section 1.3.5.2.2 – Coaches will make a discretionary selection for each discipline for the Team Relay event based on athletes that have posted either the fastest run time or the best finish rank.

- 2.1.6.** Section 1.3.5.2.4 – In the unlikely event a discipline’s race in the Olympic Games is canceled, but the Team Relay event is still contested, then the Discretionary Selection Committee will have the authority to select the US Team Relay participants in line with the discretionary criteria outlined later in this document.
- 2.1.7.** Section 4.1. – Concerning Replacement Athletes, discretion will be used by the National Team Coaching Staff to select the Replacement Athlete(s) if the objective criteria and an athlete’s willingness to participate in continued training (see Section 9) does not result in a top ranked replacement, using all previously described criteria.
- 2.1.8.** Exceptional Circumstances - Selectors may also make a Discretionary Selection(s) in an exceptional circumstance whereby an athlete or team that has clearly proven in the past to be (a) medal contender(s), coupled with the exceptional circumstance(s), prohibits them from making the team by the selection process from 2016 and/or 2017 international results. The National Team Coaching Staff, with the advisement of the Executive Director/CEO, must be able to defend that, had it not been for an exceptional circumstance(s), the athlete(s) would have clearly made the team. This level of Discretionary Selection may only be used if the athlete/team was ranked in the top ten in either the Pyeongchang Test Race/World Cup, World Championships or overall World Cup standings in the 2016-2017 season. (The Pyeongchang Test Race/World Cup result may only be used for the Exceptional Circumstance if the Pyeongchang race is a World Cup. Sprint World Cup results and any one-run World Cup races will not be used.) The National Team Coaching Staff, with the advisement of the Executive Director/CEO, must also be able to defend that by that athlete(s) not being nominated to the 2018 Olympic Luge Team, it would have a direct bearing upon obtaining the best qualified team for the Olympic Games. It will be the athlete(s) responsibility to 1) request consideration from USA Luge (in writing) under this clause before December 9, 2017, 2) detail in writing the Exceptional Circumstances leading to the request, and 3) be prepared for a quick response, that may likely involve a race-off within a short timeframe at a date, time and location of USA Luge’s sole choosing. This race-off will occur as part of the race week of the final World Cup contested in the Qualification Period, before December 25, 2017.
- 2.1.8.1.** NOTE: Should an Exceptional Circumstance be filed before the Fall 2017 Seeding Races for any reason, and the Exceptional Circumstance is approved, that athlete/team will be selected to the Summer National Team and be allowed to race in the Fall 2017 Seeding Races.

2.1.8.2. NOTE: The Exceptional Circumstance deadline of December 9, 2017 is needed, because if the Exceptional Circumstance is approved, appropriate time is needed to arrange the required race-off during the final World Cup week contested in the Qualification Period (tentatively scheduled between December 14 and December 18 of 2017).

2.1.9. In addition, after completion of the Spring 2017 National Seeding Races in March of 2017 or the Fall 2017 National Seeding/Championship Races in late October / early November of 2017, any “remaining” spots on either the 2017 Summer National Team, or on the 2017 Fall National Team, as the case may be, may be selected on a discretionary basis; provided, however, that the group eventually chosen to race in the 2017 Fall World Cup races will be comprised of at least three (3) men’s singles competitors, three (3) women’s singles competitors and two (2) doubles teams.

2.1.10. After completion of all the World Cup races contested in the Qualification Period (as defined in 1.2.1.5) and the application of the objective criteria described above, should any “remaining” spots on the 2018 Olympic Luge Team still need to be filled, they will be made on a discretionary basis.

2.2. List the discretionary criteria and explain how they will be used (if any):

Specific items that will be reviewed by the National Team Coaching Staff to help with the discretionary selections are as follows, not in priority order, with more recent competitions carrying more weight:

- International PyeongChang Races and Training
- World Cup Races and World Championships
- Junior World Championships and Junior World Cup Races
- All Lake Placid and Salt Lake National Races and Training
- National Championships and Seeding Races
- Performance of the Start
- Views of Coaches and Trainers on technical skills, future potential, and ability to excel under race pressure.
- Physical Training, in and out of Season

2.3. Provide the name of the committee that will be responsible for making discretionary selections, along with a complete list of the members’ titles currently serving on the committee:

Currently, as of the writing of this document, the intended members of the staff responsible for discretionary selections include the National Team Coaching Staff and the Sports Program Director

National Team Head Coach
National Team Assistant Coach
National Team Assistant Coach
Sports Program Director

The National Team Committee shall have the right to review such discretionary selections but only to the extent that it may grant its approval or disapproval based solely on its assessment as to whether or not the policies and procedures outlined in this document were followed correctly, and not on whether or not it simply agrees or disagrees with the discretionary decision of the National Team Coaching Staff.

The National Team Coaching Staff will consist of a minimum of three people. In the event that changes to the above list need to be made after the formal approval of this document by USA Luge and the U.S. Olympic Committee, the Chairman of the National Team Committee, and the CEO of USLA will consult and jointly name a replacement in advance of the Spring 2017 National Seeding Races, in advance of the Fall 2017 National Seeding/Championship Races, or in advance of the Qualification Period, as the case may be.

- 2.3.1.** Specify the process that will be used to identify and handle any potential conflicts of interest involving a member of the committee.

Any member of the selection committee that has a possible conflict of interest must disclose it. If such conflict exists, the selection committee member must recuse him/herself from committee discussions and voting. Further, the committee member should not otherwise influence other members of the committee in the nomination process. However, a committee member who recused him/herself, but who has relevant and necessary information with respect to athlete performance, for example a national team coach or high performance director, may, if requested by the selection committee, provide such information to the committee so long as such information is provided in a fair and unbiased manner and the committee member who declared the conflict of interest does not vote toward the final decision.

3. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES

- 3.1.** Prior to acceptance of nominations by the USOC, the NGB/HPMO has jurisdiction over potential nominees.

An athlete who is to be nominated to the Team by the NGB/HPMO may be removed as a nominee for any of the following reasons, as determined by the

NGB/HPMO:

- 3.1.1. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written letter to the USLA CEO.
- 3.1.2. Injury or illness as certified by a physician (or medical staff) approved by the NGB/HPMO. If an athlete refuses verification of his/her illness or injury by a physician (or medical staff) approved by the NGB/HPMO, his/her injury will be assumed to be disabling and he/she may be removed.
- 3.1.3. Violation of the [USLA's Code of Conduct](#).

An athlete who is removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per the [USLA's Bylaws](#) as mentioned in Article XXVI(b), Article XXIX and Article XXX, as well as mentioned in the USOC's Bylaws, Section 9.

- 3.2. Once an athlete nomination is accepted by the USOC, the USOC has jurisdiction over the Team, at which time, in addition to the [USLA's Code of Conduct](#), the USOC's Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures apply. The USOC's Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures can be found at:

<http://www.teamusa.org/For-Athletes/Athlete-Ombudsman/Games-Info>

- 3.3. An athlete may be removed as a nominee to the Team or from the Team for an adjudicated violation of IOC, PASO, IPC, WADA, IF, USADA and/or USOC anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures, as applicable.

4. REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES

- 4.1. Describe the selection and approval process for determining replacement athlete(s) should a vacancy occur:

If an athlete(s) needs to be replaced for any of the reasons listed above in Section 3, a ranked list according to this document will be used: in each discipline, the "highest" ranked athletes that don't make the team through the process submitted herein will be the potential replacement athlete(s) that make up this pool.

- 4.1.1. Prior to submission of Entries by Name to the Local Organizing Committee, including any applicable group or committee:

The ranked list will be used to nominate replacement athletes to the Team. If the number of entries for the Olympic Games event in question were filled based on the point where a Tier ended, then the athletes/teams in the next Tier will be ranked according to this policy to select the replacements. If there are no other athletes that meet all of the qualifying criteria, then a replacement may only be chosen on a discretionary basis, and only in line with the criteria spelled

out in Section 2.

All potential replacement athletes must continue to train in Park City or Lake Placid, under USLA direction, until the date for the USOC's final submission of names has passed, and if applicable, any appeals to extend the deadline have been exhausted. Should a replacement athlete be in line to be nominated to the 2018 Olympic Luge Team, this person's/team's selection would not occur if they have not satisfied the Official Olympic Team Staff of their commitment to train, listed under Section 9

4.1.2. After submission of Entries by Name to the Local Organizing Committee, including any applicable group or committee:

The ranked list will be used to nominate replacement athletes to the Team. If the number of entries for the Olympic Games event in question were filled based on the point where a Tier ended, then the athletes/teams in the next Tier will be ranked according to this policy to select the replacements. If there are no other athletes that meet all of the qualifying criteria, then a replacement may only be chosen on a discretionary basis and only in line with the criteria spelled out in Section 2.

All potential replacement athletes must continue to train in Park City or Lake Placid, under USLA direction, until the date for the IOC's final submission of names has passed, and if applicable, any appeals to extend the deadline have been exhausted. Should a replacement athlete be in line to be nominated to the 2018 Olympic Luge Team, this person's/team's selection would not occur if they have not satisfied the Official Olympic Team Staff of their commitment to train, listed under Section 9.

5. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

The USLA will retain the approved Selection Procedures and all supporting documents, including scouting or evaluation forms, etc., and data from the selection process for six months past the date of the Closing Ceremony of the Games.

6. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

In addition to the USOC Code of Conduct, the following documents are required to be signed by an athlete as a condition of nomination to the Olympic Games and are included as attachments:

[USLA's Code of Conduct](#)

7. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES

The USOC approved Selection Procedures (complete and unaltered) will be posted/published by the USLA in the following locations:

7.1. NGB Web site: <http://www.teamusa.org/USA-Luge/Rules-and-Policies>

These procedures will be posted as soon as possible, but not more than five business days following notice of approval by the USOC.

7.2. Other:

All athletes within the current team structure will also receive the document either via mail, or in person, and be required to sign and return an acknowledgment of their receipt of the document.

8. DATE OF NOMINATION

The Nomination of Athletes form, including replacements, will be announced to all athletes and submitted to the USOC on or before: January 12, 2018.

9. MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION

Specify the location, schedule and duration of mandatory training and/or competition:

Nominated 2018 Olympic Luge Team members must participate on a USLA organized training and racing trip (likely to be the Winter of 2018 World Cup tour), to begin sometime after the completion of the Qualification Period (as defined by 1.2.1.5). The anticipated announcement for this trip will be in the spring/summer of 2017, once the FIL finalizes its 2017-18 schedule. This trip will include the entire Official Olympic Team Staff, and the entire group will participate in training and/or racing from the beginning of this trip until the time the group completes its responsibilities in the Olympic Village.

All potential replacement athletes must continue to train in Park City or Lake Placid, under USLA direction, until the date for the IOC's final submission of names has passed, and if applicable, any appeals to extend the deadline have been exhausted. Should a replacement athlete be in line to be nominated to the 2018 Olympic Luge Team, this person's/team's selection would not occur if they have not satisfied the Official Olympic Team Staff of their commitment to train under this section.

10. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS

Athletes must adhere to all IOC, IPC, PASO, WADA, IF, USADA and USOC anti-

doping protocols, policies and procedures, as applicable. This includes participation in Out-of-Competition Testing as required by the IOC, IPC, PASO, WADA, IF, USADA and USOC Rules, as applicable.

11. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES

The following committee/group (include names and titles) was responsible for creating these Selection Procedures:

The USLA National Team Committee is the body responsible for vetting and approving these 2018 Olympic Team Athlete Selection Procedures for submission to the US Luge Association Board of Directors. The National Team Committee consists of the following positions:

Voting Members:

- Chairman
- Active Athlete Representative
- Three Members

Of the five voting members, the one active athlete representative satisfies the USOC requirement that there be 20% athlete representation.

Non-voting Members:

- Sports Program Director of the USLA (non-voting)
- Executive Director/CEO of the USLA (non-voting)

The USLA Board of Directors is responsible for final approval of the Selection Procedures so that they can be submitted to the US Olympic Committee. This Board of Directors has 20% athlete representation.

12. NGB/HPMO BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

The United States Luge Association's Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found at:

<http://www.teamusa.org/USA-Luge/Rules-and-Policies>

13. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER

These procedures are based on IOC, IPC, PASO, as applicable, and/or FIL rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in IOC, IPC, PASO, as applicable, and/or FIL rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes immediately. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to the United States Luge Association. However, the selections are always subject to unforeseen, intervening

circumstances, and realistically may not have accounted for every possible contingency.

If any force of nature, or force majeure, should cause the alteration or cancellation of any of the selection events listed in this document, and this document does not already provide for an alternative course of action, these selection procedures will be revised, pursuant to their resubmission to the USOC.

14. ATHLETE OMBUDSMAN

Athletes who have questions regarding their opportunity to compete that are not answered by USLA may contact the USOC Athlete Ombudsman by:

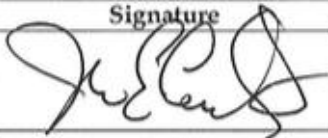


Telephone at (719) 866-5000

Email at athlete.ombudsman@usoc.org

<http://www.teamusa.org/For-Athletes/Athlete-Ombudsman.aspx>

15. NGB/HPMO SIGNATURES

I certify that I have read and understand the standards/criteria set by our IF and/or CF (PAG/PPAG only) and incorporated those standards/criteria into our Selection Procedures. I further certify that the information provided herein regarding Athlete Selection Procedures represents the method approved by the United States Luge Association.

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
NGB CEO	Jim Leahy		5/14/16
NGB Sport Program Director	Mark R. Grimmette		5/14/16
USOC Athletes' Advisory Council Representative*	Brian Martin		5/14/16

* If the USOC AAC Representative has delegated authority to the Alternate AAC Representative to sign the Selection Procedures, attach a letter from the AAC Representative indicating the reason he/she has delegated authority.

* Signature by the Athlete Representative constitutes that he/she has read and understands the Selection Procedures. If the Athlete Representative reads and does not agree with the Athlete Selection Procedures being submitted by the NGB/HPMO, he/she may submit those reasons in writing to his/her Sport Performance Team.

* If, for some reason, a sport does not have an elected USOC AAC Representative, the NGB/HPMO must designate an athlete from that sport to review and sign the Selection Procedures.