

United States *Luge* Association

DSQ POLICY – APPROVED APRIL 20, 2012

PURPOSE – It is the policy of USA Luge that Disqualifications (DSQ) during races are not acceptable outcomes in International races. A DSQ result represents a lost opportunity to perform as well as a wasted use of travel, training, and support resources. To this end, USA Luge establishes this policy to set appropriate expectations for athletes, coaches, and staff, as well as to identify the process and procedures that will minimize and eliminate avoidable Disqualifications.

SECTION 1 – Responsibilities

Responsibility for avoiding DSQ's is shared across the organization. There are three key areas of responsibility:

Athlete – The athlete has direct responsibility for their personal weight, equipment, and sled. If the athlete sees anything that might result in a DSQ, they should raise it to their coach's attention immediately. The athlete is directly responsible for:

- Personal weight, and additional weight, sled weight, and making sure all are within legal limits. In the situation of a doubles team, each athlete is held responsible for their own personal weight and additional weight; they are not responsible for their partner's weights. However, a doubles team is jointly responsible for their sled weight.
- Insuring that their sled has received a complete courtesy "tech" check from the race organizers at each race, and following any alterations to the sled.
- Any personal gear with legal limits (such as spikes) are appropriately and legally prepared.

The Coaches – The coaches have supervisory responsibility to insure that all team members are legal in all regards. This includes spot-checking and following up that all sleds have been courtesy checked, all athletes understand their weights and are legal, and all gear used by the athlete is legal.

The coaches also have a supervisory responsibility to oversee any alleged disqualification, and be sufficiently aware and prepared to file a timely and effective protest, if warranted, in the event an athlete is disqualified.

The coaches also have direct responsibility:

- To ensure any sleds or equipment they work on is returned to the athlete in a legal configuration.
- They also have direct responsibility to ensure that sleds are presented to the officials with legal steel temperatures.

The Organization – USA Luge has organizational responsibility to insure that all equipment issued is legal in all regards (such as sponsor logo dimensions) and that all coaches are informed of the appropriate requirements for each race.

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USA Luge also has an organizational responsibility to establish training programs for both athletes and coaches to insure that the rules are understood by all athletes, reinforced during local and National races, with sufficient opportunity for athletes to participate in races in controlled environments to the point they are comfortable and confident in their ability to race within the rules. To this end, USA Luge requires the following education component be adhered to as part of this policy statement:

SECTION 2 - Education

USA Luge coaches, athletes and staff have a shared responsibility to ensure that all members of race teams have received adequate training and experience in the relevant rules of the sport. To that end, the following education and training expectations are established for athletes named to the USA Luge National Teams.

For Travel Team Athletes (Junior National A and B and any athlete selected to travel and Senior National Team Athletes)

- Sufficient training in the rules to be able to “race out” very near max allowed weights with confidence.
- Sufficient training with the coaches to know when to reduce weight, if called for by track or race conditions.
- Sufficient understanding of sled rules to be able to tech sleds on their own, as well as be able to determine if an official has completely ‘tech’d’ their sled, or done it properly.
- Completed USLA National Officials course
- Athlete has officiated at a minimum of one (1) USLA sanctioned race annually

For all other athletes named to a USA Luge Junior National Team, including “C” and “D” teams:

- Formal education on rules – annually, reinforced in all training and local races.

Coaches

- Completed USLA National Officials course to include annual currency training.

SECTION 3 - Penalties

If a disqualification happens in an International race, the coach involved has 24 hours to file a telephonic report to the USLA Executive Director and 48 hours (from the point of the disqualification) to file a report by e-mail to the USLA Executive Director and athlete(s) involved detailing the root cause of the disqualification and any extenuating circumstances. The athlete(s) involved then have 48 hours to respond to the coach’s report by e-mail if they have additional details they feel need to be considered by the USLA Executive Director.

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If the USLA Executive Director finds the disqualification was caused by non-adherence to this policy, a one hundred (\$100.00) dollar fine may be levied against the coach and/or the athlete(s).

If the disqualification is due to the willful disregard of the athlete or coach (i.e. - an athlete blows off the pre-race weigh-in), the USLA Executive Director, in his/her sole discretion, can opt for a harsher penalty, to include a more significant fine, up to and including sending the coach and/or the athlete(s) home for the remainder of the travel season/session.

SECTION 4 – Appeal Process

If a coach, athlete or a team believes himself/herself/themselves to be at a disadvantage due to factors which have occurred causing the disqualification, the coach, athlete or a team has the right to appeal the fine/action taken against them.

Procedure –

- Appeals shall be handled in accordance with Article XXV of the USLA By-laws.