

United States *Luge* Association

JUNIOR NATIONAL TEAM / JUNIOR NATIONAL "A" TEAM AND JUNIOR NATIONAL TEAM SELECT / JUNIOR NATIONAL "B" TEAM SELECTION PROCESS

(Both name options are permissible for each team listed above and have equal meaning within the context of this policy. The use of either name option is at the discretion of the user)

The procedure and policy for selection to the Junior National Team Select is as follows:

Objectives

- A) To maintain the Junior National Team Select as an extension of the Junior National Team.
- B) To have it be comprised of athletes on the basis of their performance, dedication, and potential to graduate to the Junior National Team level.

Purposes

To enable top contenders for the Junior National Team to train as a team and fine-tune their skills on varied tracks. As a result, the Junior National Team Select will maintain its position as a strong secondary team made up of well trained, disciplined, and committed athletes. This depth will create a highly competitive situation between the teams, resulting in a stronger American luge program. NOTE: It is the intention of the USLA to supplement its Junior National Team with members from this team when logistics and budgetary limitations allow. The Team Selection Committee is empowered, at their discretion, to select any number of Junior National Team Select athletes to travel, train, and/or race with the Junior National Team at any time during the season and for any duration.

Selection Process

A) HOW and WHEN -

The two highest ranked eligible junior men, two highest ranked eligible junior women from the U.S. National Junior Seeding Races will automatically qualify for at least the Junior National Team Select, provided that there is a minimum of ten (10) junior men's singles competitors, and in the case of junior women, a minimum of ten (10) junior women's singles competitors racing in each and every race in each respective discipline.

Should there be less than these numbers racing in each respective discipline in at least one race, only the highest ranked eligible junior men's singles competitor and in the case of junior women, the highest ranked eligible junior women's singles competitor, will automatically qualify for the Junior National Team Select. For a race to be eligible as part of (to count towards) the seeding process, a minimum of three (3) athletes or teams, in the respective discipline, must start in that race.

JR NATIONAL TEAM AND JR NATIONAL TEAM SELECT SELECTION PROCESS

Page Two of Four

The selection of the remaining Junior National Team Select members is made on a discretionary basis by the Team Selection Committee, provided that the athlete/team competed in all the Junior National Seeding Races and/or Junior National Championships. The only exceptions to this mandatory participation will be for a.) injuries verified by a USLA approved medical doctor or athletic trainer to be of a nature that prevents competition participation, b.) an FIL race deemed by the Sports Program Director to be of a nature that is more beneficial to the athlete's athletic development or c.) as excused by the USLA Executive Director and relevant Head Coach.

The criterion used by the Team Selection Committee is based on the following basic premise: Who has the most potential to do the best in the next or future Olympic Games. To help determine who has the most potential for the next or future Olympic Games, the committee will review, but is not limited to, the following (not in priority order):

- International Vancouver Races and Training
- World Cup Races and World Championships
- Junior World Championships and other Elite Junior Races
- All Lake Placid and Salt Lake National Races and Training
- National Championships and Seeding Races
- Views of Coaches and Trainers
- Physical Training - in and out of season

It is also understood that the athletic team staff will always attempt to fill out any Junior World Cup or Junior World Championship race roster and its accompanying training session with other than Junior National Team athletes, when additional positions are available for qualified athletes, in accordance with USLA policies and within budgetary limitations. Additional positions will be filled on a discretionary basis by the highest ranking athletic team staff present and are valid for that event only. Once a training entry roster is completed for a race, the athletic team staff may choose the final entries from any eligible athletes without regard to their status on a particular team.

The Team Selection Committee will meet three times a year (it can meet more often if need be).

The first time will be at the end of the competitive season. One of its duties will be to pick the respective athletes it desires to be included on the Junior National Team Select.

The second time that the Team Selection Committee will meet is prior to the fall training trip. At this time, one of its duties will be to select any additional athletes to the Junior National Team Select, if desired. The same team size restrictions and selection criteria will apply.

JR NATIONAL AND JR NATIONAL SELECT TEAM SELECTION PROCESS

Page Three of Four

The third time the Team Selection Committee will meet is after the fall trip. At this time, one of its duties will be to pick a new Junior National Team and Junior National Team Select, and if desired, select Junior National Team Select athletes to travel with the Junior National Team if so budgeted. These selections will also be based on the same discretionary criteria mentioned previously. The athletes picked at this time are not obligated to compete in the seeding races if the schedules conflict; however, they must understand that by not competing in the seeding races, their selection in the spring would be based solely on the subjective guidelines previously outlined.

The Team Selection Committee may meet at any time it deems necessary if they feel they wish to fill a vacancy on the team.

Once the Junior National Team Select athlete(s) have been chosen as outlined above, then only the following members of that elite group will have their status elevated and be referred to as a Junior National Team athlete (the word 'Select' will be removed from their title):

Junior National Team Select athletes who have also won a minimum of one Junior World Cup / Junior World Championship (not to include the Team Competition or Youth Class events) or Olympic Medal (with 'Medal' hereinafter defined as finishing in the International Luge Federation recognized positions of first, second or third place) over the last two seasons. Such a change in status would occur immediately at the time a Medal in any of the aforementioned events is won for any athlete that is already a Junior National Team Select athlete.

Such a Junior National Team athlete will rank higher than any Junior National Team Select athlete whenever such a ranking is necessary for the distribution of items/resources/benefits that are limited in number; however, any distribution of such items/resources/benefits that occurred prior to an athlete's elevation in status will not be reassessed until the next regularly scheduled point in time when that item/resource/benefit, if any, again becomes available.

It must be noted that the National Team Committee, the Racing Committee, and appropriate staff must work together to schedule the seeding races in a timely fashion so that the National Team Committee can design selection criteria for major international events (i.e., World Championships, a U.S.-based World Cup, etc.) around or incorporating the seeding races. The scheduling of seeding races can and is encouraged to be used for selecting additional athletes, other than the Junior National Team members, to compete in these other major international events.

JR NATIONAL AND JR NATIONAL SELECT TEAM SELECTION PROCESS

Page Four of Four

B) WHO WILL SELECT -

A Team Selection Committee consisting of members of the Athletic Department staff approved twenty-four hours in advance of the actual team selection meeting by the Executive Director and the National Team Committee Chairman will fill the team spots. Discretionary picks may be left unfilled at this committee's choice when forming the team but justification to remove someone once the team is selected must be documented.

The combined total number of athletes for the Junior National Team and Junior National Team Select will be fourteen (14).

Length and Expense of Trip

The length and schedule of any Junior National Team Select trip shall be decided by the National Team Committee as track availability and Junior National Team and Junior National Team Select schedules allow. Junior National Team Select athletes will be required to pay all expenses associated with the trip (travel, track use, coaching, room and board, transportation, etc.) when funds are not available.

Conduct

The objective of the Junior National Team Select is to produce trained, competitive athletes capable of making the Junior National Team. All Junior National Team Select members are expected to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with USLA policies. They are also required to participate, to the best of their ability, in all activities including a physical evaluation test. During all trips, the Junior National Team Select manager and coach will remain in contact with the USLA and will have full authority over the Junior National Team Select members.

Vacancies

- A) If an athlete cannot attend a trip due to financial reasons (when the athlete must pay for the trip out of their own pocket) they will still retain their Junior National Team Select status for the remainder of that selection period. This vacancy may be filled at the Team Selection Committee's choice as previously outlined.
- B) In the event an athlete qualifies in more than one discipline, i.e., singles and doubles, the vacancy created can be filled by the Team Selection Committee as previously outlined.