

United States *Luge* Association

**SENIOR SELECT TEAM CANDIDATES / SENIOR NATIONAL "C" TEAM
JUNIOR TEAM CANDIDATES / JUNIOR NATIONAL "C" TEAM
JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT TEAM / JUNIOR NATIONAL "D" 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)

I. Objectives

- A. To form Candidate/Development (C/D) Teams that will train throughout the year.
- B. To form a Senior Select Candidate Team, Junior Candidate Team and a Junior Development Team, that will be comprised of athletes who either "just missed" making the USLA funded teams or who show potential in the sport but who have not yet had the years of experience necessary on the sled to excel. There will be one national Senior Select Candidate Team and four separate but equal Junior Candidate and Junior Development Teams, two based in Lake Placid (LP) and two based in Salt Lake City (SLC). For the sake of structure continuity, the Junior Team Candidates will rank higher in importance than the Junior Development Team.

II. Purpose

- A. To give non-National Team athletes who have proved that they are competent sliders a chance to train in a team environment.
- B. To give non-National Team athletes the chance to further refine their skills so that they one day may be proficient enough to earn a National Team position.
- C. When thought to be appropriate, to expose sliders who have only been on the national tracks to different tracks. This opportunity will increase their versatility and adaptability in luge and thereby make them more competitive sliders.

III. Selection Process

- A. WHO - Sliders (a maximum of twenty [20] per team) who were safely sliding (for senior age athletes, from at least the women's start) on the national tracks during the prior season and also meet the Objectives outlined in Section I of this policy.
- B. HOW - Where not noted below, selections for the teams will be made on an entirely discretionary basis. Criteria that will be seriously considered are the athlete's form on a sled, sliding lines, training times, racing times, and potential to excel in the sport on an international level. Also considered for logistical purposes is the athlete's declared "base

Development Team Selection Processes

Page 2 of 4

of training" (SLC or LP) and the availability of funded US Olympic Training Center (OTC) slots. Such declaration will take place, as needed, sometime after the conclusion of the final senior, junior and youth seeding(s), as the case may be.

For the Junior Team Candidate Selection Process: Either Junior Candidate Team (SLC or LP) will be comprised of at least the first two men and at least the first two women in the Youth A age category, who are "eligible" according to the final Youth A seeding, provided there is a minimum of ten (10) Youth A men's singles and ten (10) Youth A women's singles competitors, in each and every race, in each respective discipline. Either team will be comprised of at least the first place man and the first place woman if there are less than 10 competitors racing in any one race in any discipline.

For the Junior Development Team Selection Process: Either Junior Development Team (SLC or LP) will be comprised of at least the first two men and at least the first two women in the Youth B age category, who are "eligible" according to the final Youth B seeding, provided there is a minimum of ten (10) Youth B men's singles and ten (10) Youth B women's singles competitors, in each and every race, in each respective discipline. Either team will be comprised of at least the first place man and the first place woman if there are less than 10 competitors racing in any one race in any discipline.

- C. WHEN - The members of the C/D Teams will be selected after the end of the winter season, sometime around May 1st. Furthermore, if desired, additional selections and/or deletions may be made at other times during the year, specifically at the end of the summer training period before fall sliding begins, and around the Christmas – New Year time period.
- D. LIMITATIONS - Each athlete will be required to pass the minimum physical standard on the USLA's required physical test items for the athlete's age range.
- E. 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 select the teams in the case of kunstbahn; or in the case of naturbahn, three individuals from the Naturbahn community (to include the Naturbahn Team Coach), approved by and under the guidance of the Executive Director and the National Team Committee Chairman, will select the teams. The respective selection committees will have the authority to take less sliders if they feel that there are less than twenty (20) qualified athletes for each team.

Development Teams Selection Processes
Page 3 of 4

IV. Coach & Manager

Each team must have a coach at the track at all times and, in the event of a trip, must also have a manager traveling with the group. One person may assume the responsibilities of both of these positions. A Certified Athletic Trainer (ATC) must also be available at all training opportunities. In the event that a coach or ATC is unavailable, any planned training (or trip) will be canceled.

V. Summer Training

Athletes named to the Senior Select Team Candidates, Junior Candidate Team or Junior Development Team must attend a minimum number of summer camps, as determined by the Director of Sports Programs, after consultation with the applicable team's Head Coach, in order to remain on the team. Athletes who do not meet this requirement may be removed from the applicable team at the discretion of the Team Selection Committee.

VI. Expenses (& Trip Length, if applicable)

These are unfunded teams; however, the USLA, subject to its own budget limitations, as well as the rules and policies of the US Olympic Committee (USOC), will generally support the following:

The salary for a coach of the team(s)
Track Fees at the domestic tracks (through USOC support)
Room and Board at an OTC (through USOC support)

The length and schedule of any C/D Team trips shall be decided upon by the Director of Sports Programs or his/her designate as track availability and the various other National Team schedules allow. C/D Team athletes will be required to pay all expenses associated with the trip (travel, track use, room and board, coaching/managing, salary and expenses, transportation, etc.) not assumed by the USLA.

VII. Club Athletes – Special Provision

For the purpose of this 'special provision', a Club Athlete is defined as:

- a USLA athlete that was never selected or earned a spot on any of the USLA's teams
(an athlete invited to spend a short stint with a team for evaluation purposes
is not considered to have been a team athlete)
- being of junior or youth age
- being a member in good standing of one of the USLA's sanctioned clubs

Development Teams Selection Processes

Page 4 of 4

Once an athlete is selected or earns a spot on any of the USLA's teams through the other sections of this policy, or through another policy, if at any point thereafter he or she no longer maintains that team position, and as a result resumes training under the auspices of his or her club, the opportunity to re-qualify for what follows will no longer apply. In addition, once an athlete qualifies to take advantage of this Special Provision, they may not take advantage of it again in a future year.

The USLA, in order to promote the efforts of its clubs, makes the following opportunity available to its' Club Athletes:

Once the May 1 team selections specified in III.C. above have been completed, the top half of the ranked lists of Youth A Woman, Youth A Men, Junior Woman and Junior Men will be reviewed to see if any Club Athletes appear on the list who were not just selected to a team.

If Club Athlete(s) who were not just selected to a team appear in the top half of any of the four lists, then only the top Club Athlete from each respective list (therefore, a maximum of four athletes and no more than one from each age category) will be invited to train with the most appropriate age and skill level USLA team, as determined by the coaching staff, over the ensuing summer, all at no cost to USLA. At the end of the summer the athlete will be evaluated and subsequently informed by the team's Head Coach that he or she is either invited to continue as a member of that team with the same rights, benefits and requirements / expectations as the other athletes on that team, or thanked for the effort and directed back to his or her club.

Note to file – the most recent changes to this policy occurred in October 2008 and entailed interchangeable name changes to the team names.