

# United States *Luge* Association

## SEEDING PROCESS

**PURPOSE** - To provide a method to rank eligible luge athletes for the purpose of National Team Selection or for whatever use deemed necessary by the USLA.

**ELIGIBILITY** - Athletes will be seeded in all three Olympic disciplines; Men's Singles, Women's Singles, and Doubles.

To be eligible to be seeded in the Senior division an athlete must meet all of the following criteria:

1. Be a "senior" as defined in the FIL rulebook or be a "junior", who will become a "senior" by the close of the following FIL sports year.
2. Be eligible to compete on the next U.S. Olympic Team (Kunstbahn only). The U.S. Olympic Committee requires all U.S. Olympic Team members to be U.S. citizens at the time the official Olympic entry is submitted to the IOC. Therefore, only U.S. citizens may try out for the U.S. Olympic Team. By extension, only U.S. citizens may try out for any Artificial Track or Natural Track National Team unless the conditions listed as follows are met:

Non-citizens of the U.S. are only eligible to try out for the National Luge Teams of the U.S. in the quadrennial that their five-year waiting period for citizenship is due to expire. They are also required to have established Permanent Residency, as defined by the Immigration Laws of the U.S., prior to trying out for any team.

3. Be cleared to race from their respective start by the general consensus of the coaching staff present. Clearance may only be given to a competitor if that competitor is safely getting down the course, on a consistent basis, with no braking, during training prior to the start of the seeding races "official training", which is described below.
4. A minimum of three (3) athletes or teams, in each respective event, must start for the race to be eligible to be counted as a seeding race.

To be eligible to be seeded in the Junior or Youth division an athlete must meet all of the following criteria:

- 1.) Be a "junior" or "youth" as defined by the various age classes of the FIL rule book or be an athlete who will become a "junior" or "youth" by the close of the following FIL sports year.
- 2.) Competitors who compete in Junior or Youth Seeding Races must belong to one of the following age groups:

# United States *Luge* Association

## SEEDING PROCESS

NOTE: In conformance with the FIL rule book the “Year of the Event” will be defined as follows for this policy: For events taking place at *any time* during the Sports Year (the “Sports Year” is defined by the FIL as July 1 of one year to June 30 of the next year) the event will be considered as taking place in the second half of the sports year (for example, an October 2002 event or a March 2003 event would both be considered a 2003 event).

Jr. Doubles: Athletes must be born between January 1 of the year of the event minus 19 and December 31 of the year of the event minus 14 (Athletes born between January 1 of the year of the event minus 20 and December 31 of the year of the event minus 20 may compete for the title but will not be eligible to receive any points).

Junior: Athletes must be born between January 1 of the year of the event minus 19 and December 31 of the year of the event minus 17 (Athletes born between January 1 of the year of the event minus 20 and December 31 of the year of the event minus 20 may compete for the title but will not be eligible to receive any points).

Youth A: Athletes must be born between January 1 of the year of the event minus 16 and December 31 of the year of the event minus 14 (Athletes born between January 1 of the year of the event minus 17 and December 31 of the year of the event minus 17 may compete for the title but will not be eligible to receive any points).

Youth A racers may compete in Junior events at any time.

Youth B: Athletes must be born between January 1 of the year of the event minus 13 and December 31 of the year of the event minus 12 (Athletes born between January 1 of the year of the event minus 14 and December 31 of the year of the event minus 14 may compete for the title but will not be eligible to receive any points).

Youth B racers may compete in Youth A events at any time.

Youth C: Athletes must be born on or after January 1 of the year of the event minus 11 (Athletes born between January 1 of the year of the event minus 12 and December 31 of the year of the event minus 12 may compete for the title but will not be eligible to receive any points).

The start height for each junior or youth class will be set at each track prior to the first official training run.

3.) See rule #3 and #4 above under Senior division eligibility.

# United States *Luge* Association

## SEEDING PROCESS

RANKING OF ATHLETES - Eligible athletes will be awarded points on the basis of their results in selected seeding races. In doubles events, points will only be awarded on a team basis, not an individual basis. The highest finishing eligible athlete or team (lowest aggregate time) will be placed first, the second highest, second, and so on and then awarded points according to the table which follows. A separate ranking will be issued in each of the three disciplines listed above based on the total number of points earned in each discipline during the seeding races. The highest total of points earned will rank first, the second highest total of points rank second and so on. An athlete or team need only compete in a single seeding race in order to be ranked.

### AWARDING OF POINTS:

Men / Women / Doubles:

1st Place	100 Points	15th Place	26 Points	29th Place	12 Points
2nd Place	85 Points	16th Place	25 Points	30th Place	11 Points
3rd Place	70 Points	17th Place	24 Points	31st Place	10 Points
4th Place	60 Points	18th Place	23 Points	32nd Place	9 Points
5th Place	55 Points	19th Place	22 Points	33rd Place	8 Points
6th Place	50 Points	20th Place	21 Points	34th Place	7 Points
7th Place	46 Points	21st Place	20 Points	35th Place	6 Points
8th Place	42 Points	22nd Place	19 Points	36th Place	5 Points
9th Place	39 Points	23rd Place	18 Points	37th Place	4 Points
10th Place	36 Points	24th Place	17 Points	38th Place	3 Points
11th Place	34 Points	25th Place	16 Points	39th Place	2 Points
12th Place	32 Points	26th Place	15 Points	40th Place	1 Point
13th Place	30 Points	27th Place	14 Points	41st Place	and continuing with 1
14th Place	28 Points	28th Place	13 Points		point earned for each
					placement after 41 <sup>st</sup> place

An athlete / team receives no points for not finishing a race (DNF) or being disqualified from a race (DSQ)

TIE - BREAKING: - FINAL RANKING LIST: - In the event a tie occurs in points during the final ranking for any discipline, the following criteria will be used, in the order stated, until the tie is broken:

1. The highest finish for any individual seeding race will rank ahead.
2. The best official run, as recorded in the official results, during any seeding race will rank ahead.
3. The least number of seeding races competed in during the seeding races ranks ahead.
4. As decided by the National Team Selection Committee.

# United States *Luge* Association

## SEEDING PROCESS

TIE - BREAKING: INDIVIDUAL RACES: - In the event of a tie in the aggregate time at the end of a race, the following criteria are to be used, in the order stated, until the tie is broken:

1. The applicable rules, if any, governing ties in the FIL rule book.
2. The single best run of one competitor will be compared with the single best run of all other tied competitors and the individual who had the fastest run will be placed highest.

The next individual with the next fastest run will be placed next highest, and so on.

3. If the tie is still not broken, then points will be distributed in the following manner:

All competitors will earn a placing in a race based on the number of competitors ahead of them (if three competitors finish ahead of an athlete then that athlete would finish fourth).

If two or more competitors finish tied, and the above tie breakers have not broken the tie, then those competitors all earn the same number of points associated with that position.

The next competitors in line after the tied competitors are again assigned a placing (and therefore points) based on the number of competitors ahead of them. For the above, "competitors" means men's singles, women's singles or men's doubles teams. (For example, two competitors tie for second. The following occurs: the first place competitor receives 100 points, both second place competitors receive 80 points, no one receives 65 points, and the fourth place competitor receives 53 points).

SEEDING RACES: - Two to three seeding races will be scheduled. All races will be run as close as possible to FIL rules (Other provisions must be approved by the NTC on a case by case basis). The seeding jury (described below) shall have the authority to reschedule these races at its discretion. All races are to be run as close as possible to FIL rules. Changes in scheduled dates for races must be posted no later than 24 hours prior to the deadline for entering the race. In the event that only one race can be held due to unforeseen circumstances, the one race shall serve as the means to seed the athletes.

SEEDING JURY: - A seeding jury of three (3) will be formed prior to the seeding races. The seeding jury will be made up of the following three individuals:

1. The highest ranking sports staff person in the race location (artificial track) or the Natural Track National Team Head Coach (natural track).
2. An individual as selected by the National Team Committee Chairman.
3. An athlete as selected by the USLA Athlete Reps.
4. It is understood that this seeding jury is not the same as the race jury, which presides over the running of all races. The seeding jury's purpose is to oversee the scheduling of

# United States *Luge* Association

## SEEDING PROCESS

the seeding races in the event that the race jury must cancel a race. Therefore, the seeding jury is not empowered to alter the official race results or make random deviations from the rules during the course of a seeding race. It is expressly understood that the seeding jury is empowered to do all that is needed to assure that as many as possible of the originally scheduled seeding races are run. This includes, but is not limited to, the grouping of seeding races together and the running of seeding races on weekdays.

TRAINING: - While recognizing that the "national" training environment is different than that encountered in the international arena, the following principles will be followed in establishing the training schedule for seeding races:

1. The three days before an event will be termed as "official" training days. A coaching staff member designated by the Sports Program Director that will be present for the Seeding Races, using the current available track schedule, will determine the best and fairest schedule for "official" training.
2. For these three days, if the track schedule provides for more than one training session, training groups will be determined by random draw.
3. For these three days, the training groups will be rotated so that each group gets, as close as possible, equal training time on both a "prepared" track and "unprepared" track.
4. There will be a pre-determined number of runs, including a "systematic" run if so requested in advance.
5. Once the Seeding Races Official Training plan has been determined, then the schedule must be announced two days in advance of the first Official Training session. Any questions or complaints about the Official Training plan must be made known one day before the first training begins to the attention of the same staff person identified in item 1. above.
6. In a situation where the schedule allows Official Training to have more than one session, Doubles athletes that are sliding in both singles and doubles may slide singles in one session and doubles in another session. In a situation where only one session is available for Official Training, Doubles athletes that are sliding in both singles and doubles must choose which discipline they are sliding in for each Official Training day (they may only slide one discipline per day in this situation.)
7. All training run times, with available split times, will be posted in a common location for all competitors to review.

# United States *Luge* Association

## SEEDING PROCESS

### Types of Inter-Team Seeding Races

The purpose of this section is to describe the different types of race event formats that may be used by the coaching staff to rank eligible athletes.

The following three types of race event formats will be used for ranking US athletes. The coaching staff will have the authority to determine what style of race format to use for each series of Seeding Races – and – the coaching staff will have the authority to use multiple formats in a series if they feel it is warranted:

1. Two Run (World Cup Style) Race Format
2. Best Two of Three Race Format
3. Four Run (Olympic Singles Style) Race Format

The descriptions for the three types of race formats are as follows:

**Two Run Race Format** - The lowest cumulative time from two runs is used to determine the winner. This race is the most familiar type of race as our current National Championship, each World Cup, and the World Championships use this style of competition. A disqualification in either of the two runs is a disqualification from the entire race.

**Best Two of Three Race Format** – The lowest cumulative time from the two fastest runs out of three will determine the winner. The athlete takes three runs with the slowest run dropped to form a two run cumulative time from the two fastest runs. A disqualification in one run does not disqualify the athlete from the entire race. In this situation, the disqualified run would be dropped and the two (assumed) completed runs would be used to form the result. However, if an athlete is disqualified from two of the runs, then the athlete is disqualified from the entire race.

**Four Run Race Format** – This race is used only for singles competitors. The lowest cumulative time from four runs is used to determine the winner. A disqualification in one of the runs is a disqualification from the entire race.

If the coaching staff conducts a Seeding Race series that includes more than one race, then points will be awarded for the results in each individual race in accordance with this Seeding Process Policy to determine an overall point standing for the Seeding Race series.