1. **SELECTION SYSTEM**

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

1.1.1. Citizenship:

Athlete must be a national of the United States at the time of selection and hold a valid U.S. passport that will not expire for six months after the conclusion of the Games.

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

- Athletes must, at all times, meet the requirements set forth in the IF rulebook (commonly referred to as the IRO), a copy of which can be accessed on the International Luge Federation’s website at this address: [http://www.fil-luge.org/index.php?id=388](http://www.fil-luge.org/index.php?id=388)
- Athletes must have been born between January 1, 1998 and December 31, 2001.
- Athletes must have participated in a minimum of at least three (3) Youth A World Cup races or Junior World Cup races or World Cup races in the General Class during the pre-Youth Olympic Games season (2014-2015) and the Youth Olympic Games season until December 31, 2015.
  1. At least one of the three (3) races must be completed during the November 1 to December 31 time frame of the Youth Olympic Games season (2015-2016).
  2. Each athlete must have earned a minimum cumulative total of ten (10) World Cup points from these races.

1.1.3. Other requirements (if any):

- Athletes must attend for the entire duration of the Youth Olympic Games.
- Athletes must participate in the cultural and education program, and mixed team events as requested.
- Athletes must be members in good standing of USA Luge.
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.

A ranking list of qualified athletes will be created utilizing the highest total of IF World Cup points earned from three fall 2015 races, taking into account the limitations that follow: The races could be Youth A, Junior, or General Class World Cup Races contested between November 1, 2015 and December 16, 2015. If one of the Youth A World Cups is contested in Lillehammer, Norway, then the points from this race must be used as one of the three races. In the case of a double Youth A World Cup in Lillehammer, Norway then both of these races must be used in the three-race point calculation. The period of November 1, 2015 to December 16, 2015 will be defined as the “qualification period.”

These events are tentatively scheduled to occur during the qualification period:

- Lillehammer, Norway Youth A World Cup #1 (Tentative)
- Sigulda, Latvia Youth A World Cup #2 (Tentative)
- Konigssee, Germany Youth A World Cup #3 (Tentative)
- Igls, Austria Youth A World Cup #4 (Tentative)
- Lillehammer, Norway Junior World Cup #1 (Tentative)
- Sigulda, Latvia Junior World Cup #2 (Tentative)
- Konigssee, Germany Junior World Cup #3 (Tentative)
- Igls, Austria Junior World Cup #4 (Tentative)
- Igls, Austria General Class World Cup #1 (Tentative)
- Lake Placid, USA General Class World Cup #2 (Tentative)
- Park City, USA General Class World Cup #3 (Tentative)

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).

The Youth Olympic Games involve an age range of athletes whose skills are not fully developed in the sport of Luge. In addition, the overall population of athletes in the required age range is small, meaning that wide ranges in skill proficiency may exist between athletes that are close in numerical ranking. As such, a great deal of discretion must be applied as to which athletes and/or doubles teams are entered into the youth, junior and general class world cup races.
that are contested during the qualification period for both safety and developmental reasons.

The USLA coaching staff will select USA Luge athletes in the age range noted in Section 1.1.2 after the Lake Placid 2015 Fall training period prior to November 15, 2015, as is customarily done, without regard to the Youth Olympic Games, but with the overall development of the athletes and the program in mind. Athletes selected at this time will compete in the World Cup races contested during the qualification period.

Based on the artificial track FIL IRO §3.3.4, the coaching staff’s selections will not exceed the maximum team-size in the Youth A category of 6 men, 5 women and 3 doubles teams. Note that this is a maximum size for the team, the coaching staff may select less than the maximum.

Athletes compete in the qualification period by being selected to travel with the Junior National Team during the 2015 Junior Fall Team Trip. For more information about how athletes are selected to travel with the Junior National Team, please go to this link http://www.teamusa.org/usa-luge/rules-and-policies for the Junior National Team and Junior National Team Select Selection Process.

The USLA coaching staff members that will make selections for the Junior Team (which comprises Youth A age athletes) are:

• Fred Zimny, Junior National Team Head Coach
• Larry Dolan, Junior “C” Team Coach
• Jon Owen, Junior Development Team Coach
• Mark Grimmette, Sport Program Director

The following list contains specific items that the coaching staff will use to make discretionary selections. The items are not in priority order, but more recent competitions will carry more weight.

• General Class World Championships and General Class World Cup Races
• Junior World Championships and Junior and Youth World Cup Races
• National Championships and Seeding Races
• Views of Coaches and Trainers on technical skills, future potential, and ability to excel under race pressure
• Physical Training, in and out of Season
In all cases, discretion will also be applied by the relevant coaching staff members to assess whether or not an athlete has the skills necessary to safely navigate the course being used for each competition, without any level of braking. If they feel an athlete is not ready for such level of competition, then they will not be selected to enter such competition(s).

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. USA Luge must first earn “quota places” for the Games, as is outlined in the IOC approved IF document, which can be located at http://www.fil-luge.org/index.php?id=386, before an athlete can be selected to compete in the Games.

On December 17, 2015, the IF will publish a list of “quota placings” per NOC as described in the FIL Qualification System for the 2016 Youth Olympic Winter Games found at this link, http://www.fil-luge.org/index.php?id=386. USA Luge will receive the following possible quotas on entrants for the Games:

Men Singles: 0, 1 or 2 slots
Women Singles: 0, 1 or 2 slots
Doubles: 0 or 1 slot
**Team Relay

**The technical nature of participation in a Relay event requires that an athlete race in either Singles or Doubles.

1.3.2. USA Luge ranking for selection to the Youth Olympic Games

This ranking will be created as of December 17, 2015 for each of the non-Team Relay disciplines:

Only those athletes satisfying all of the relevant competition standards outlined in Section 1.1 of this document will be eligible for the Games.

These athletes will be credited with the total of IF World Cup points earned from the three best Youth and/or Junior and/or General Class world cup races that each raced in during the “qualification period” as described in §1.2.1.
Each male athlete, female athlete, and doubles team with the most points will be ranked first in their respective category. Each male athlete, female athlete, and doubles team with the next highest total of points will be ranked second in their respective category, and so on until the athlete or team in each event with the least amount of points is ranked in each category.

In the event of a tie:

1. The first tie-breaker will be to compare the highest amount of points earned by each tied athlete in any one of the above three referenced races, with the athlete earning the highest amount of points ranking ahead.
2. If the athletes are still tied after the first tie-breaker, then the results of each athlete’s second best race will be used to break the tie.
3. If the athletes are still tied, then the results of each athlete’s third best race will be used to break the tie.
4. Finally, if a tie still exists, the results of the most current race where the tied athletes raced together in the same race and age division during the qualification period will be compared, and the athlete that posted the single fastest time of that event will rank ahead.

This ranking will be used to select athletes to the Youth Olympic Games depending upon the number of “quota placings” received.

Team Relay Participant Considerations

- Athletes, selected to the Youth Olympic Games team as a doubles team, must participate as a doubles team in the Team Relay competition.
- For the *pre-race administrative requirements* of the Youth Olympic Games, if an athlete satisfies the selection procedures prerequisites to be selected to the Youth Olympic Games team in both doubles and singles, then they will be selected only as a part of the doubles team to fill the doubles team quota. Then, the singles athlete with the next best singles ranking will be selected to the Youth Olympic Games team to fill the singles participant quota.

**NOTE:** This point ensures that a singles specialist is selected to the Youth Olympic Games Team, so that the United States can enter a full Team Relay team.

*NOTE: Pre-race administrative requirements are those*
requirements of the USLA needed to submit names to participate in the Youth Olympic Games based on these selection procedures.

- Once the Youth Olympic Team is selected, then these four scenarios will determine who competes in the men’s or women’s singles discipline.

  - **Scenario 1** - If:
    - A doubles participant qualifies first for the team in both doubles and singles
    - And the US only qualifies one singles quota in the relevant discipline.
    - And only one men’s athlete is allowed to train in the applicable discipline.
    - Then the doubles athlete will participate only as a doubles athlete and the next ranked singles athlete in the relevant discipline (who is not part of the doubles team) will participate in the singles competition.

  - **Scenario 2** - If:
    - Both doubles participants qualify first in doubles and first and second in a singles discipline.
    - And the US qualifies two singles quota spots.
    - And the US is allowed to train only two athletes in the applicable discipline.
    - Then the doubles athlete qualifying first in both doubles and singles will participate in both doubles and singles, and the next ranked singles athlete (who is not part of the doubles team) will participate in the applicable singles discipline.

  - **Scenario 3** - If:
    - A doubles participant qualifies first for the team in both doubles and singles.
    - And the US only qualifies one singles quota in the relevant discipline.
    - And the US is allowed to train an extra athlete in the applicable discipline.
    - Then the doubles athlete qualifying first in both singles and doubles will
participate in both events and the next ranked singles athlete (who is not part of the doubles team) will only participate in the Team Relay.

- **Scenario 4**: If:
  - Both doubles participants qualify first in doubles and first and second in the team singles discipline.
  - And the US qualifies two singles quota spots.
  - And the US is allowed to train more than two athletes in the applicable discipline.
  - Then both doubles athletes will participate in both doubles and singles and the next ranked singles athlete (who is not part of the doubles team) will only participate in the Team Relay.
  - If the United States earns more than one quota entry in the singles discipline, then the singles athlete posting the single fastest run in the Men’s singles or Women’s singles events will participate in the Team Relay event.
    - The coaching staff will use discretion to select the singles athletes in either or both of the men or women’s singles discipline in exceptional circumstances as described in Section 2 of this document.

2. **DISCRETIONARY SELECTION (if applicable)**

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

Section 1.2.2 of this document describes how the coaching staff will use discretionary selection to select athletes to compete during the qualification period.

Coaches’ discretion will also be used to select singles athletes in either or both of the men or women’s singles discipline in extraordinary circumstances when an exceptional circumstance occurs in the individual disciplines race(s). According to this selection policy, the men and women’s Team Relay participants will be selected from the men and women’s individual singles discipline competitions. Occasionally, during the individual singles discipline competitions, events that are unpredictable occur that prevent selection of the best Team Relay team. When an unpredictable event (exceptional circumstance) occurs, the coaching staff will use discretion to select the participant to compete in the Team Relay.
2.2. List the discretionary criteria and explain how they will be used (if any):

In an exceptional circumstance, during the individual disciplines race(s), where a discretionary selection is needed, the coaches will base their decisions on the Youth Olympic Games training, which occurs immediately prior to the Youth Olympic Games races.

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

- Mark Grimmette: USLA Sports Program Director
- Fred Zimny: USLA Junior National Team Head Coach
- Larry Dolan: USLA Junior “C” Team Coach/USLA Junior Development Team Coach
- Jon Owen: USLA Junior Development Coach
- Brian Martin: Luge Athlete Advisory Committee Representative

2.3.1. Conflict of Interest

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, USLA has jurisdiction over potential nominees.

An athlete who is to be nominated to the Team by USLA may be removed as a nominee for any of the following reasons, as determined by USLA:
3.1.1. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written letter to the USLA’s Executive Director.

3.1.2. Injury or illness as certified by an approved USLA physician (or medical staff). If an athlete refuses verification of his/her illness or injury by an approved USLA physician (or medical staff), his/her injury will be assumed to be disabling and he/she may be removed.

3.1.3. Violation of USLA’s Code of Conduct.

An athlete who is removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per USLA’s Bylaws as mentioned in Article XXVI(b) 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 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://www2.teamusa.org/For-Athletes/Athlete-Ombudsman/Games-Information.aspx](http://www2.teamusa.org/For-Athletes/Athlete-Ombudsman/Games-Information.aspx).

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:

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

The ranking list referenced in Section 1.3 above will be used to select the next ranked eligible athlete(s).

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

The ranking list referenced in Section 1.3 above will be used to select the next ranked eligible athlete(s) if the Youth Olympic Games administrative procedures and time allow for the replacement.
5. **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

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 conclusion of the Games.

6. **REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**

The following documents are required to be signed by an athlete as a condition of nomination to the Youth 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 USLA in the following locations:

7.1. NGB’s Website: www.usaluge.org

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

Other: NA

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 5, 2016

9. **MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION**

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

Nominated athletes to the 2016 Lillehammer, Norway Youth Olympic Games must participate in all of the training and racing on the 2015-2016 Junior National Team Winter Trip. This trip will occur in the time frame of the end of December 2015 to the start of the Youth Olympic Games (February 12, 2016). The dates and location of this
trip will be announced during the summer of 2015 after the FIL confirms the 2015-2016 schedule.

Once the Youth Olympic Team is announced, all potential replacement athletes must continue to train, according to the Junior C Team training schedule. The dates and location of the Junior C Team schedule will be announced during the summer of 2015. The replacement athletes are only eligible to be selected to the Youth Olympic Team if an already selected athlete is removed and the replacement athlete has satisfied the 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 Selection Procedures were devised and drafted by the Sports Program Director, the Junior National Team Head Coach, the Junior Development Team Coach in Lake Placid, and the Junior Development Team Coach in Park City and is based on the IF requirements, as well as USA Luge’s program philosophy towards this event.

The National Team Committee, made up of the following members, was the body responsible for vetting and approving the Selection Procedures for submission to the US Luge Association Board of Directors:

Frank Masley – Chairman        Fred Andersen
Matthew Mortensen (Active Athlete)    Renee Myers
Ron Rossi
- And non-voting members -
Mark Grimmette, Sports Program Director (non-voting)
Jim Leahy, Executive Director/CEO, US Luge Association (non-voting)

The US Luge Board of Directors is responsible for final approval of the Selection Procedures so that they can be submitted to the US Olympic Committee.
12. **USLA BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES**

The NGB’s Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found at:
or the USOC’s Bylaws, Section 9 and Grievance Procedures,
http://www.teamusa.org/Footer/Legal/Governance-Documents

13. **INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER**

These procedures are based on IOC and FIL rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in IOC and FIL rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes immediately. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to USLA. 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, 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
- athlete.ombudsman@usoc.org
- http://www2.teamusa.org/For-Athletes/Athlete-Ombudsman.aspx
15. **USLA SIGNATURES**

I certify that I have read and understand the standards/criteria set by our IF 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 USLA.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Print Name</th>
<th>Signature</th>
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<tr>
<td>CEO/Executive Director</td>
<td>Jim Leahy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sports Program Director</td>
<td>Mark Grimmette</td>
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<tr>
<td>USOC Athletes' Advisory Council</td>
<td>Brian Martin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Representative*</td>
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* 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 USLA, 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 USLA must designate an athlete from that sport to review and sign the Selection Procedures.