



US Biathlon Association ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES

2017-18 World Cup (WC) & IBU Cup Teams

Overview

The following criteria specify how athletes qualify for competition teams in the 2017-18 Season. The competitions this document covers are World Cups, Open European Championships, and IBU Cups. The Olympic Criteria is covered by a separate document, but this document aligns with the Olympic Criteria.

Several athletes achieved personal top-25 results on the World Cup or at World Championships in the 2016-17 season and are therefore prequalified for the early winter training camp in Canmore, Canada and World Cups 1-3.

For non-prequalified athletes, qualifying begins with two sets of roller ski competitions held in Jericho, Vermont. Results from these races in August and October will be used to select additional athletes for the training camp in Canmore. Evaluation of these athletes will be used to determine the remainder of the team for World Cups 1-3.

The top athletes from World Cups 1-3 will continue to World Cup 4. Others will move to IBU Cup 4, joined by the top athletes from the trials held December in the U.S. Results from IBU Cups 4-5 will be used to promote athletes to World Cup 5-6, and be used in conjunction with performance data from all races, including the North American Cup, to select the team for Open European Championships and IBU Cup 6.

The Olympic team will be determined after IBU Cup 5 based on results at the international level, especially the World Cup. After the Olympics, athletes will continue to World Cups 7 to 9 primarily depending upon their results on the World Cup and at Olympics. Self-pay may be required for some athletes at World Cups 7 to 9. Performance data from the North American Cup and international races will be used to select a team to represent the U.S. at IBU Cups 7-8.

Note: *Performances in all biathlon trials races, North American Cups, and IBU events, taking into consideration the relative strength of the competitive fields at those races, may be used in the discretionary process to name athletes to teams.*

Note: *Performances in all biathlon trials races, IBU events, and international rankings in the 2017-18 Season may be used to select athletes to teams for training and competition in the 2018-19 Season.*

Trials Event Information

Rollerski Trials: Rollerski races will be held in Jericho, Vermont at the Ethan Allen Firing Range on August 12-13 and October 14-15. Point lists will be calculated off of the best 3 of 4 results for each athlete using the USBA percent-back system. The point base will include only American athletes, and exclude athletes prequalified for the early season World Cups. Athletes must notify the USBA of their intent to participate three weeks prior to the races by emailing Erik Lewish at erik.lewish@gmail.com. Athletes participating in the rollerski races for trials purposes must note that they agree to ski on matched roller skis, which will be provided by US Biathlon prior to the race. See <http://www.eabiathlon.org/> for more information about the facility hosting these races.

December Trials: Races will be held at Mount Itasca in Coleraine, Minnesota December 15-19. Point lists will be calculated off of the best 3 of 4 results for each athlete using the USBA percent-back system. The point base will include only American athletes, and exclude any pre-qualified athletes. The standardized wax procedures will be in place for these races. Athletes should register directly with the Organizing Committee. See <http://minnesotabiathlon.com/> for more information.

Formats and dates for trials races:

Aug 12	Aug 13	Oct 14	Oct 15	Dec 15	Dec 16	Dec 17	Dec 19
SPR	MASS	SPR	SPR	SPR	SPR	MASS	SPR

February North American Cup Challenge: In conjunction with Biathlon Canada, North American Cup races will be held in February. For the purposes of qualifying for IBU Cups 7-8, point lists will be calculated off of the best 3 of 4 results for each athlete using the USBA percent-back system. The point base will include only American athletes, and exclude any athletes already qualified for IBU Cups 7-8. Should pursuit races be held, athlete times and the point base will be calculated for the race as time on course. Athletes should register directly with the local organizing committees, which will be determined in summer 2017. If more than 4 races are to be held, USBA will announce before the winter which races will count.

Selection Criteria

On-Snow Camp in Canmore, Canada: Oct 23rd – Nov 11th 2017

- All prequalified athletes for the December World Cups are eligible to attend.
- Top ranked athlete on the Roller ski Trials points lists will be invited for each gender.
- Up to 1 more athlete per gender may be named by the ICC in consultation with US Biathlon staff, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection. These athlete(s) would be required to pay for the cost of their flight. See self-pay policy in appendix.

World Cups 1 - 3

World Cup 1 in Ostersund, Sweden: November 27 - December 3, 2017

World Cup 2 in Hochfilzen, Austria: December 5-10, 2017

World Cup 3 in Le Grand Bornand, France: December 12-17, 2017

Women

Start spots: 4

- All athletes with a personal top-25 result on the World Cup or at World Championships during the 2016-2017 Season are prequalified. (Susan Dunklee and Clare Egan met this benchmark.)
- Top ranked athlete on the Rollerski Trials points list will be named.
- 1 additional athlete may be named by the ICC in consultation with US Biathlon staff, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection after completion of the on-snow camp in Canmore.

Men

Start spots: 5

- All athletes with a personal top-25 result on the World Cup or at World Championships during the 2016-2017 Season are prequalified. (Lowell Bailey, Tim Burke, Sean Doherty and Leif Nordgren met this benchmark.)
- 1 additional athlete will be named by the ICC in consultation with US Biathlon staff, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection after the completion of the on-snow camp in Canmore, CAN.

World Cup 4

World Cup 4 in Oberhof, Germany: January 2-7, 2018

Women

Start spots: 4

- Prequalified athlete for Olympic Games: Susan Dunklee
- Up to 2 athletes with a Top 30 WC result will qualify. If more than 2 athletes meet the criteria, then the two athletes with the best single WC result will qualify (see Olympic criteria for further details).
- If no athlete meets the criteria, then one athlete with the single best WC result will be qualified.

Men

Start spots: 5

- Prequalified athlete for Olympic Games: Lowell Bailey
- Up to 2 athletes with a Top 30 WC result will qualify. If more than 2 athletes meet the criteria, then the two athletes with the best single WC result will qualify (see Olympic criteria for further details).
- If no athlete meets the criteria, then one athlete with the single best WC result will be qualified.

IBU Cups 4 - 5

IBU Cup 4 in Osrblie, Slovakia: January 3-7, 2018

IBU Cup 5 in Langdorf, Germany: January 10-13, 2018

Women & Men

Start spots: 4 per gender

- All athletes from the December World Cup team who did not qualify for World Cup 4 will be named.
- Top ranked athlete on the December Trials points lists will be named for each gender.
- Additional athletes of each gender from the December Trials will be named by the ICC in consultation with US Biathlon staff, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection until the team is full. These athletes will attend the competitions on a self-pay basis. See self-pay policy in appendix.

World Cups 5 - 6

World Cup 5 in Ruhpolding, Germany: January 08-14, 2018

World Cup 6 in Antholz, Italy: January 15-21, 2018

Women

World Cup 5

Start spots: 4

- All athletes qualified for World Cup 4 will be named.
- Additional athlete(s) may be named after completion of IBU Cup 4 by the ICC in consultation with US Biathlon staff in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection, if, and only if, the athlete(s) clearly demonstrates a superior level of performance distinctly above that of the other athletes. The evaluation will be made off of the athlete(s)'s ability to contribute to relay races, with a focus on race results from IBU Cup 4.

World Cup 6

Start spots: 4

- All athletes qualified for World Cup 5 will be named.
- Additional athlete(s) may be named after completion of IBU Cup 5 by the ICC in consultation with US Biathlon staff, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection.

Men

World Cup 5

Start spots: 5

- All athletes qualified for World Cup 4 will be named.
- Additional athletes may be named after completion of IBU Cup 4 by the ICC in consultation with US Biathlon staff, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection, if, and only if, the athlete(s) clearly demonstrate a superior level of performance distinctly above that of the other athletes. The evaluation will be made off of the athlete(s)'s ability to contribute to relay races, with a focus on races results from IBU Cup 4.

World Cup 6

Start spots: 5

- All athletes qualified for World Cup 5 will be named.
- Additional athlete(s) may be named after completion of IBU Cup 5 by the ICC in consultation with US Biathlon staff, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection.

Open European Championships and IBU Cup 6

Open European Championships in Ridnaun, Italy: January 22-28, 2018

IBU Cup 6 in Martell, Italy: Jan 31 – Feb 3, 2018

Women & Men

Start spots: 6 per gender for OECHs and 4 per gender for IBU Cup 6

- Top ranked athlete on the December Trials points-lists will be named for each gender.
- Athlete with the single best personal placing at IBU Cups 4-5 will be named for each gender.
- Additional athletes may be named by the ICC in consultation with US Biathlon staff, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection, with a holistic view of athlete performances at North American Cups held in January and IBU Cups 4-5. These athlete(s) will attend the competitions on a self-pay basis. See self-pay policy in appendix.

Olympic Winter Games

Held in Pyeongchang, Korea from Feb 09 – Feb 25, 2018

See separate Criteria for Olympic Games

World Cup 7 and 8

WC 7 in Kontiolahti, Finland, March 5 – 11, 2018

WC 8 in Oslo, Norway, March 14 – 18, 2018

Women

Start spots: 4

- 3 athletes with the most World Cup points following World Cup 6 will be named. If three athletes do not have points, then all athletes with points will qualify, and the single best personal World Cup placing in the current season will be used until the limit of 3 athletes is reached.
- Additional athletes may be named by the ICC in consultation with US Biathlon staff, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection.

Men

Start spots: 5

- 4 athletes with the most World Cup points following World Cup 6 will be named. If four athletes do not have points, then all athletes with points will qualify, and the single best personal World Cup placing in the current season will be used until the limit of 4 athletes is reached.

- Additional athletes may be named by the ICC in consultation with US Biathlon staff, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection.

World Cup 9

WC 9 in Tyumen, Russia: March 20-25, 2018

Women

Start spots: 4

- All athletes who are ranked in the top-50 overall World Cup following either World Cup 6 and/or OWGs will be named.
- Additional athletes may be named by the ICC in consultation with US Biathlon staff, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection.

Men

Start spots: 5

- All athletes who are ranked in the top-50 overall World Cup following either World Cup 6 and/or OWGs will be named.
- Additional athletes may be named by the ICC in consultation with US Biathlon staff, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection.

IBU Cups 7 - 8

IBU Cup 7 in Uvat, Russia: March 7 – 11, 2018

IBU Cup 8 in Khanty Mansiysk, Russia: March 13 – 19, 2018

Women & Men

Start spots: 4 per gender

- All athletes qualified for Olympic Games, but not selected for World Cup 7.
- All athletes with at least one personal top-30 placing at IBU Cups 4-6 or Open European Championships will be named.
- Top ranked athlete from the North American Cup events in February will be named for each gender. The best three of four races from February will be scored.
- Additional athletes may be named by the ICC in consultation with US Biathlon staff, in accordance with the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection. ICC will have a close look at the IBU Jun Cup and the IBU Open European Championships results as well.
- All athletes will attend this trip on a full self-pay basis, sharing in the costs of coaching and service support. See self-pay policy in appendix.

Appendix: Policies & Rules

1. USBA Percent-Back System

An athlete's percent-back in a race is calculated using the following formula:

$$\text{Athlete's Percent-Back} = 2 - (\text{Athlete's time} / \text{Average time of the top three finishers scored})$$

If there are only two finishers that can be scored, the average of their times shall be used as the denominator in the formula above. If only one finisher can be scored, that athletes shall receive a percent-back of 100%. In the case of pursuit races *held at a trials*

2. Movement between World Cup & IBU Cup

The National Team coaching staff may use the following guidelines to recommend to the ICC that athletes from the IBU Cup move to the World Cup, and vice versa:

1. Athletes achieving a personal top-15 placing at IBU Cup may be moved up to the World Cup provided there are open start positions.
2. Athletes not placing in the top-60 on the World Cup may be brought down to the IBU Cup at any time or dismissed from the World Cup Team.
3. Athletes who have been injured or sick for lengthy periods of time may be brought down to the IBU Cup, or dismissed from the WC Team.

In addition, IBU Cup athletes will be considered to fill World Cup relay teams when there are not enough World Cup athletes to fill the team, the logistics of getting an athlete to the event can be managed without excessive costs, and the coaching staff sees the need and/or benefit of having a relay team compete.

3. USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection

The purpose of a discretionary choice is to ensure selection of the most competitive team. Creating watertight, finite criteria for discretionary choices is impossible, since by their very nature they are meant to account for the unanticipated circumstances, which inevitably elude the principles of objective criteria. Based on the context of the situation, the ICC will select the athlete(s) that has the best chance of producing the best result based on the following factors:

1. History of performance in a specific competition type over the current and previous competitive seasons.
2. Recent improvements in results or performance parameters such as ski speed and shooting performance (both in training and competition).
3. Recent positive trend of competition results or performance parameters, such as ski speed and shooting, indicating a potential for Olympic success. This includes indication of medal potential

in future Olympic or World Championship competition that would be materially enhanced by selection to the Team.

4. Recent decline in results or performance parameters such as ski speed and shooting performance (both in training and competition).
5. Performance/participation in the qualification process affected by illness or injury as certified by USBA.
6. Ability to effectively contribute to a relay.

If an athlete declines or is unable to attend the competition(s) for which (s)he has qualified, the ICC will rely upon the above Principles of Discretionary Selection to fill the spot. The ICC also reserves the right to not fill the vacated spot.

4. Contingency Procedures for Trials Events

In the event that weather conditions or other issues prevent a trials series from being held at the planned time and place, the ICC reserves the right to change the location, date, and/or format of the trials series. In the event that one or more events are canceled, cannot be held, or are in the view of the ICC held under grossly unfair conditions and not rescheduled by the ICC, the following contingencies may be applied by the ICC:

1. If more than three races are used in the selection process the following may be applied by the ICC:
 - a) If four races are held the best three of four will be scored
 - b) If three races are held the best two of three will be scored.
2. If only two races of a three race series are held and at least two athletes are being selected the following may be used:
 - a) If one race of a three race series is canceled and not rescheduled, the winners of each of the races held shall be named to the team and any additional athletes may be named discretionarily by the ICC using the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection.
 - b) If one or no races are held the ICC reserves the right to name the team by discretion and/or to create a new trials process for team selection.
3. If only one athlete is being selected from a three race series and one or more of the races are canceled or in the view of the ICC held under grossly unfair conditions and not rescheduled by the ICC, the ICC may name the athlete at its discretion using the USBA Principles of Discretionary Selection.

5. IBU Performance Standards for Starting at the World Cup

Quoted from the IBU Event & Competition Rules:

1.4.3.3 World Cup: The World Cup season consists of three trimesters generally made up of three WC events each, usually WC 1-3, WC 4-6 and WC 7-9. To gain the right to participate in WC events, a competitor must fulfill one of the following criteria during the current or preceding trimester:

- a. One result at an IBU Cup, OECH, WCH or OWG in the Sprint or Individual that is a maximum of 15% behind the average time of the top three competitors, or
- b. One placing in the top half at the JWCH (not Youth). All members of Relay teams must also have met this individual qualification requirement.

The qualification criteria achieved at the IBU Cup/OECH, WCH or OWG for the WC are valid only for the trimester in which the competitor begins competing in the WC. To retain the right to participate in the next WC trimester in which a competitor chooses to start, the competitor must achieve one result that is max. 15% behind the average time of the top three competitors, in the current WC trimester in a Sprint or Individual competition.

6. Self-Pay Policy

US Biathlon will cover joint expenses of events as well as the individual travel expenses of athletes except as noted in the selection criteria above. For athletes who are selected to teams on a self-pay basis, US Biathlon has the following policies depending upon the nature of the event:

- For athletes who are bearing their own individual travel expenses, athletes may be billed for their prorated share of lodging, food, and transportation. Where possible, athletes may pay their shares directly to the vendor, in which case athletes should keep copies of all receipts. In many cases, athletes may be expected to book and pay upfront for their own air transportation. Participation grant money from the IBU for competitions where athletes only bear their own expenses will be used by US Biathlon to pay for joint expenses and organizational overhead, and not paid or shared with athletes.
- For athletes who are also required to share in the joint costs of staffing the event, such as with IBU Cups 7-8, the travel expenses, material costs, and any prorated contract labor payments of coaching and service support will be aggregated as the total joint cost, and then divided equally among athletes attending to pay. For such trips, participation grant money from the IBU will be split evenly among athletes to help them offset these joint costs.

US Biathlon provides the below estimates of self-pay expenses for the events described in this document to help athletes budget for the upcoming season:

- Canmore on-snow camp: TBD
- IBU Cups 4-5: TBD
- Open European Championships and IBU Cup 6: TBD
- IBU Cups 7-8: TBD

7. USBA International Competition Committee (ICC)

Chair: Jay T. Kearney

USOC Athletes' Advisory Council Athlete Rep: Sara Studebaker

US Biathlon Chief of Sport: Bernd Eisenbichler

National Guard Biathlon Coach: Sarah Lehto

US Biathlon National Team Head Coach Women: Jonne Kaehkoenen