

Note: The Following Criteria has been approved by the International Competition Committee of the USBA. This criteria is not final until approved by the US Olympic Committee.

**Qualifying Criteria for Youth Olympic Games Team,
Innsbruck, Austria, January 13-22, 2012**

Team Size:

2 men and 2 women based on anticipated Nations Cup rankings of the US Men's and Women's Teams for the 2010-2011 team. All teams ranked in the top 20 for the 2010-2011 season will be allowed 2 athletes.

Age Eligibility:

Athletes must have birthdates that fall on, or between January 1, 1994 and Dec 31, 1995.

Citizenship and Standing:

All athletes must hold a US Passport and be members in good standing of the US Biathlon Association.

Training Contract:

Athletes must be available for the entire period of the Youth Olympic Games and are subject to USBA training contract which will cover training and competition from the time of Team Nomination through the conclusion of the Youth Olympic Games.

Qualifying Process:

There will be three qualifying race series:

Jr World Trials, Jericho, VT, Dec 28-30, 2010- 3 races

US National Championships, March 16-19, 2011- 3 races

Summer Festival, Jericho, VT, August 4-7, 2011- 3 races (notes, Summer Festival dates are still tentative)

Athletes will be scored on the USBA Percent back system, scoring their best 4 of 9 races. Only US Athletes of eligible age will be scored in the points base.

Team Selection:

The top ranked male and female athletes will be nominated to the 2012 Youth Olympic Team. The second position for both men's and women's team will be selected through staff discretion and ICC approval. Rankings in the scoring of the best 4 of 9 races will be heavily weighted by staff and ICC for the discretionary choice.

Alternate Athlete:

One male and one female alternate will be nominated. The alternate will be selected from the percent back points scoring list. The alternate will be the next highest ranked athlete that has not yet been selected to the team. For example, if the discretionarily

selected athlete is ranked 2nd, the alternate will be the 3rd ranked athlete. If the discretionarily selected athlete is ranked 3rd or lower, the alternate will be the 2nd ranked athlete.

The Alternate athlete will be promoted to the Youth Olympic Games Team if one of the two other nominated athletes is unable to compete at the Youth Olympic Games, or is unable or unwilling to abide by the terms of the athlete contract. Alternates will not travel to the Youth Olympic Games, but may be included in preparatory training camps.

Note: athletes will need to abide by USBA waxing protocols for Jr World Team Trials and US National Championships. Also, matched rollerskis will be used for the Summer Festival and all athletes that wish to be considered must participate in the matched ski protocol.

Contingencies:

- 1) In the case of only 7 races are held, best 4 will be scored
- 2) In the case of only 6 races are held, best 3 will be scored
- 3) In the case of only 5 races are held, best 3 will be scored
- 4) In the case of only 4 races are held, best 2 will be scored

USBA Principles of Discretion

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:

- History of performance in an event over the previous 2 competitive seasons
- **Recent display of internationally competitive ski speed in competition and/or training**
- Recent improvements in results (both in training and racing)

Recent positive direction or trend of competition results 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.

- Recent decline in results (both in training and competition)
- Illness or injury as certified by a USBA

Contingencies:

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 or 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 can be used: If one race of a three race series is canceled or in the view of the ICC held under grossly unfair conditions 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 Discretion. If one or no races are held the ICC reserves the right to name 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 Discretion.

USBA Percent back system:

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

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

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%.