

Selection Criteria: **National Bobsled Team**

I. USBSF Athlete Participant Eligibility:

In order to participate in United States Bobsled and Skeleton Federation (“USBSF”) National Team and selection races, an athlete:

- A. Must be a member in good standing with the USBSF;
- B. Must abide by the USADA, FIBT, and WADA Anti-doping requirements;
- C. Must meet all USOC, FIBT and USBSF eligibility requirements for representing the USA in international competition;
- D. Must sign and return the USBSF Code of Conduct, which is subject to USOC approval, to the USBSF Bobsled Coaching Staff; and,
- E. Must have current official Test results from National Team Testing, conducted August 2007-October 2007, held at various locations (announcements regarding test events sent to current athletes via email); however all athletes should access testing information (dates and locations) on the USBSF website www.usbsf.com . The only exceptions to National Team Testing include verified illness, injury, (verified by USBSF approved physician), or emergency (approved by Head Coaches and/or the CEO of the USBSF).

II. Mandatory Participation / Waiver

- A. Athletes, once chosen for a National Team, must be available to compete for the U.S. Bobsled Team in order to maintain their **National Team** status for the given year. (**National Team is defined by those athletes selected and competing in the World Cup Tour, World Championships or Olympic Games**). Any athlete that declines to compete in any International competitions for which he is chosen will be replaced by the next ranked driver (section III) or push athlete (section IV E). Exceptions include, verified illness, injury, (verified by USBSF approved physician), and emergency (approved by Head Coaches and/or the CEO of the USBSF).
- B. Waivers for exceptions must be approved by the Head Coach and CEO in writing.

III. Driver ranking prior to the National Team Trials Races

- A. U.S. Drivers, Men and Women, will be ranked and entered into the start order for two-man and four-man (Men only) for the National Team Trials in the following priority order from the “**previous season**”:
 1. Olympic Games/World Championship results (whichever event is most current).
 2. World Cup Ranking
 3. Current “Elite Driver” eligible athlete as per **Section VII**.
 4. Current summer/ fall testing results (Verified by USBSF Bobsled Head Coach)
 5. Europa Cup Ranking
 5. America’s Cup Ranking
 6. National Team Selection Race
- B. Rankings will be established for both 2-man and 4-man pilots in each discipline based on the criteria above in the listed priority for the respective event. Unranked drivers will be allowed to compete provided they are safely completing the course prior to official training, as determined by the Head Coaches. The Head Coaches will resolve any entry or ranking disputes prior to the National Team Trials races.

IV. Driver / Push Athlete Combinations

A. Before National Team Trials:

1. The Head Coaches will select push athletes for the drivers that are pre-selected to the National Team (**section VII**) prior to the National Team Trials races using the push athlete criteria listed at the bottom of this section. There is no implied priority of these criteria. The Head Coaches’ overriding principles will be those athletes who will produce the best push and riding combinations for competition as well as team cohesion.

2. The remaining Drivers will select their teams prior to the National Team Trials training and races using the push athlete criteria as outlined in **Section IV. E.** . Drivers may use input from the Coaching Staff as needed. There is no implied priority of these criteria. Drivers' overriding principle should be those athletes who will produce the best push and riding combinations for competition.

- a. Drivers must have the possibility to compete with the same Team on FIBT Events.
- b. The Drivers submit the team list to their Head Coach 7 days prior to the National Team Trails.

B. After National Team Trials:

After the National Team Trials Selection Races, the Head Coaches will make all decisions regarding driver / push athlete combinations in international competition based on the overarching principle of selecting the most competitive teams and using the criteria listed in **Section IV. E.**. The Head Coaches, with verification from the USBSF CEO and in consultation with an athlete representative not in contention for the National Team, will nominate driver and push athlete combinations to the National Team (World Cup Team) for the fall World Cup Tour. The Head Coaches will reserve the right to change a driver's push team based on the push Athlete criteria outlined in **Section IV. E.**

C. During the current Season:

The United States Bobsled & Skeleton Federation's goal is to produce the best performing teams in Olympic and World Championship competitions. Therefore, driver and push athlete combinations may be modified at any time during the World Cup season by the Head Coaches based on a team's results, start times, and criteria listed below. Additionally, the Head Coaches will also reserve the right to pair drivers with push athletes from another team in efforts to produce the best performing teams in international competition.

D. Discipline and Injuries:

1. The Head Coaches, with verification from the CEO, and in consultation with an athlete representative not in contention for the team, may remove an athlete for injury, illness, doping, or code of conduct violations. This action will be taken consistent with the USBSF bylaws and the USOC Bylaws. An approved USBSF physician or caregiver must verify all injuries. If an athlete refuses verification of an injury by an approved USBSF physician or caregiver, the injury will be assumed to be disabling and the athlete may be removed from the competition and team.
1. Injured/ill athletes wishing to receive a medical waiver for a USBSF sanctioned event must be examined by the Bobsled Chief Medical Officer (CMO) - Dr. Byrne or his designee.
2. While on the World Cup Tour if an athlete misses two World Cup events in succession that athlete must be seen by a medical doctor designated by Dr. Byrne, which could be facilitated by the USOC athletic trainers (ATCs).

E. Push Athlete Criteria:

1. Driver input
2. Test results (i.e. push championship results, physical testing, and push camp participation).
3. Size and weight.
4. Proven international experience (i.e. the athlete's ability to push and ride on specific track grades, push/load from different positions and ride well in sled).
5. International push times (push athlete's ability to compete under the pressure of competition).
6. Team cohesion (Team works well together.).
7. Attitude and work ethic.
8. History/results of teams pushing well together.

V. USBSF Sled/Runner Allocations

The Bo-Dyn equipment will be allocated based on Head Coaches discretion (who will use information from current international ranking, past season's results, current physical testing results, experience and the ability to care for equipment in making his decision). Bo-Dyn equipment will not be allocated to drivers who fail to possess the requisite skills to use the equipment, which will be evaluated by the Head Coaches. Prior to each year's National Team Trials races the Head Coaches will allocate (gender-specific) two-man sleds and runners based upon the following objective criteria/conditions:

- A. All Bo-Dyn equipment must be accompanied by an official U.S.B.S.F. or Bo-Dyn Bobsled Project sled technician.
- B. At any given time, other allocations may occur if the Head Coaches decide it will improve one or all of the following: international results, sled testing, runner testing. If a sled is irreparably damaged, the Head Coaches will reallocate sleds guided by the system above unless it determines a better solution that will avoid or cause the least disruption to the teams and also provide the best opportunity for international success.
- C. After the trials, drivers not selected to the team may lose their Bo-Dyn equipment
- D. The Head Coaches may withhold equipment from a driver if, in their judgment, that driver has a history of poorly maintaining Bo-Dyn equipment or does not yet have the requisite driving skills to preserve the equipment in a reasonable manner.
- E. Four-man USBSF sleds and drivers will follow the same allocation plan.
- F. Runners which are property of the USBSF will be allocated by the Head Coaches; however the Head Coach may re-allocate runners if World Cup results differ among the team. The goal is to give the best runners to the driver best able to produce top results with those runners at a given competition.
- G. Equipment will only be provided to athletes that support USBSF sponsors with sponsor marks on the sleds and equipment / apparel used at the competition venue, and/or as directed by the USBSF. In addition:
- H. Bo-Dyn Bobsled Project /USBSF sleds and runners may not be altered by an athlete without written permission from authorized USBSF and Bo-Dyn Bobsled Project personnel (Bo-Dyn Bobsled Project and USBSF CEO or their assigned proxies)
- I. Only the USBSF or the Bo-Dyn Bobsled Project authorized staff may authorize inspections of the equipment by others.
- J. Athletes will not share Bo-Dyn/USBSF technology, directly or indirectly, with anyone other than National Team athletes or USBSF staff.

VI. National Team Trials Races

A. National Team Trials:

There will be National Team Trials Races held prior to the World Cup season. These races will provide results for the driver ranking for the National Team (World Cup Team), America's Cup Teams and National Elite Development Teams. Results will be based on the total time of two heats. If unforeseen circumstances occur (i.e. crash, runner damage, sled damage, brakeman falls) a third run may be given by the Head Coaches with Jury's (acting FIBT approved officials, Track Official) input to substitute for a previous run. Ties will be broken with the single fastest heat. If still tied the fastest push time will break the tie. Drivers will be ranked in each discipline by combining points from both races in that discipline using the Swiss scoring system. Men's team Drivers will be ranked overall by combining the points earned from each discipline.

B. FIBT Steel

- a. FIBT steel (runners) must be used in all National Team Selection races and National Championships.
- b. Any FIBT steel runners that are used in National Team selection races must be available to that driver for all the World Cup and World Championship races.
- c. Teams choosing not to use FIBT steel (runners) will be entered into a guest class for the

- race and **will not** be considered for the National Team.
- d. National Titles and National Ranking can only be achieved by using FIBT steel (runners).

VII. National Team (World Cup Team) Driver Selection

A. If there is a driver who has achieved one of the following:

1. A top (3) at the prior season's Olympic Games/ World Championships whichever is most recent or
2. A top (3) overall previous season's FIBT World Cup ranking then this driver will automatically be nominated to the National (World Cup) Team with USA 1 status regardless of overall finish at National Team Trials, provided they maintain their preparation and training commitment as required by the head coaches (to be evaluated by the head coach).
3. If more than one driver achieves this, priority will be given to finish in the Olympic Games /World Championships, whichever is most recent. If the top drivers are tied, then no driver will be automatically nominated to the National Team (World Cup Team) with USA 1 status.

B. If no driver is selected from **Paragraph VII.1.-3.** then the top ranked driver, combined 2-man and 4-man (Men) and 2-man (Women), (by the Swiss point scoring system) will be named at the completion of the National Team Trials to the National (World Cup) Team.

C. If another team is to be nominated to the National Team (World Cup Team), the next driver(s) will be a discretionary decision by the Head Coaches, verified by the USBSF CEO and in consultation with an athlete representative not in contention for the National Team, based on: current National Team Trials results, number of trials participants, international results over the previous season by competing drivers, testing results and future potential of "Elite Driver" eligible athletes** for the 2010-2014 Olympic Games. Criteria is not listed in any priority order.

The number of additional drivers added to the team will be decided by the head coach based on available funding and resources.

D. If there is a driver who has achieved one of the following; from the previous season, top (3) World Cup result, top (6) World Cup ranking or top (6) Olympic Games/World Championship (whichever is most recent) result in a discipline, for whom unusual circumstances such as injury, illness, or equipment problems occurred that affected start times, driving ability or equipment performance at trials, he/she will be considered for discretionary placement on the National Team (World Cup Team) provided he/she is the top ranked driver from the previous season (**section III**) and has demonstrated readiness to compete in top form. In that case, the Head Coach may choose this other driver regardless of National Team Trials ranking. This discretionary placement may only happen for, at most, one driver per gender.

E. No athlete will be entered into an international competition for the USBSF with positive results from anti-doping testing. Any athlete who has a positive test during the trials races will automatically disqualify his partner(s). However, the partner(s) may be named to the team through the discretionary processes listed in this document. The Coaching Staff, CEO, and an athlete representative will meet and reconfirm team status should a positive test result take place.

**"Emerging Elite Driver" eligible athletes will be selected by the Head Coaches using the following:

1. An athlete is only eligible to be an "Emerging Elite Driver" for three years following being a junior age **national team** push athlete.
2. Ability to compete and develop over a span of several upcoming Olympic Games
3. Athletic ability- this standard will be evaluated based on physical testing scores that will match those of Olympic team caliber push athletes.
4. Commitment to driving and pushing
5. Leadership skills
6. Exhibiting driving aptitude

VIII. National Team (World Cup Team) Push Athlete Selection

- A. Immediately after the driver selection announcement, the Head Coaches will announce their push athlete selections, verified by the USBSF CEO and an athlete representative for the fall World Cup Tour. The push athletes will be selected to the National Team (World Cup Team) by the process outlined in **Section IV.E**. These teams may be modified at any time during the season by the Head Coaches based on that team's finish results and start times. Additionally, the Head Coaches will also reserve the right to pair drivers with push athletes from another team in efforts to produce the best performing teams in international competition.
- B. The Head Coach, with verification from the USBSF CEO and in consultation with an athlete representative who is not in contention for the team, may remove any athlete for injury, illness, doping, or code of conduct violations. Any action will be taken consistent with the USBSF bylaws and the USOC bylaws and constitution.
- C. The Head Coaches may add alternate and replacement push athletes up to a maximum total team size of 6-15 athletes based on funding.
- D. No athlete will be entered into an international competition for the USBSF with positive results from anti-doping testing. Any athlete who has a positive test during the trials races will automatically disqualify his partner(s). However, the partner(s) may be named to the team through the discretionary processes listed in this document. The Coaching Staff, CEO, and an athlete representative will meet and reconfirm team status should a positive test result take place.

IX. World Cup, Europa Cup, and America's Cup Start Positions

The Head Coach will determine ranking and subsequent seeding for FIBT World Cup, America's Cup, European Cup, and/or World Championships based on previous race results and current training times. If it is determined by the Head Coaches that seeding start order in a discipline (2-man or 4-man) should be changed for enhanced international results, he may interchange a team to the desired start position.

X. World Championships Driver and Push Athlete Selection

- A. Per FIBT rules World Championships Drivers qualify to compete at the World Championships, by name, based on the FIBT Discipline Ranking List prior to the World Championships. The method of qualification can be found at www.bobsleigh.com (FIBT Rules 4.2). If a third sled is allotted to the U.S. for the World Championships, the third driver will be highest ranked driver not already on the World Championship Team, based on the FIBT Discipline Ranking List.
- B. Push athletes will be selected to the World Championships Team based on the criteria in **Section IV.E** of this document.

XI. Junior World Championships

Teams (driver push combinations) will be selected by being the highest ranked U.S. Junior Teams on the FIBT Discipline Ranking List prior to the Junior World Championships. Quotas and eligibility rules for the Junior World Championships are allotted based on FIBT rules (www.bobsleigh.com). The Junior World Championship Teams will be self funded.

XII. Europa Cup, America's Cup Driver and Push Athlete Selection

Opportunities to compete in Europa Cup events and America's Cup events will be based on coaches

discretion with verification from the CEO, and in consultation with an athlete representative not in contention for the team, using criteria as outlined in **Section III** of this document, along with performance at the Team Trials, provided the teams meet the Eligibility requirements listed in **Section I**, as well as all FIBT Requirements for Participation. Additional criteria the coaches will use to select teams to Europa Cup events and America's Cup events are positive trajectory of performance and potential to medal at future international competitions. The coaching staff may alternate opportunities between the Europa and America's Cup events based on continuing performances over the season. If a team declines a spot in an event that spot will be offered to the next available team based on the criteria listed in this section.

XIII. U.S. Bobsled Team Coaching Staff

The U.S. Bobsled coaching staff consists of:

National Team Head Coach (Brian Shimer)
National Team Head Coach (Sepp Plozza)
National Team Assistant Coach (Bill Tavares)
National Team Assistant Coach (Janis Skrastins)

** In the event of an emergency or absences of the Head Coach of either gender. The Head Coach of the other gender, with verification from the CEO will assume authority and make all coaching decisions for the team.

XIV. International Federation Eligibility (Pilots)

All athletes and teams selected must be eligible to participate in the World Cup under all FIBT rules [Including but not limited to the following: FIBT International Rules ADMISSION (Section 3) and Requirements for participation (Section 4.5.1)].

XV. Saving Clause and International Disclaimer

The procedures above are based on FIBT, rules and regulations as presently published. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in FIBT, rules and regulations will be distributed to all athletes immediately. Fairness, equal opportunity and the desire to field the most competitive teams for international competition are the guiding principles and will determine the administration of the above selection criteria. The National & Olympic Team Selection Criteria are based on the latest information available to the USBSF. However, these criteria are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances (weather, budget, war, etc.) and no doubt have not accounted for every possible contingency. If a scheduled event cannot be held or must be interrupted, the Federation will first try to re-schedule the event. Second, the Federation will try to change the venue but will not guarantee funding for travel to the new venue. Finally, if a venue change is not feasible, ranking will be based first on the portion of that event completed or if no portion has been completed, then ranking will be based on last trials conducted. The USBSF reserves the right to change the selection criteria after the completion of each season based on FIBT rule changes, schedules, coaching, logistics, finances, and other limiting factors.

XVI. USOC Athlete Ombudsman

If you have any questions regarding your opportunity to compete that are not answered by the USBSF, you may contact the USOC Athlete Ombudsman: John W. Ruger by telephone at (888) ATHLETE, or by e-mail at john.ruger@usoc.org.

Swiss Points Scale:

A. Points to be awarded by place of finish

1. 200 points for 1st place finish
2. 180 points for 2nd place finish
3. 160 points for 3rd place finish
4. 140 points for 4th place finish
5. 120 points for 5th place finish
6. 100 points for 6th place finish
7. 80 points for 7th place finish
8. 60 points for 8th place finish
9. 40 points for 9th place finish
10. 20 points for 10th place finish

B. Average finish times of top ten (10) finishers

C. One (1) time point for every *1/10th second faster* than top ten (10) average is added to placement points.