

International Team Selection Procedures for the 2009-2010 Season

I. Qualification for World Cup and U26 Team

1. December 2009 World Cup Team

December World Cup Team nominations determined by Olympic Winter Games Criteria:

The December World Cup Teams for 2009/2010 will be selected in rank order as follows: First, athletes will be selected via the 2008/2009 IBU World Cup ranking, second, if the team is not filled athletes will then be selected via their best single finish in the 2009 World Championships. If there is a tie for last place on the team, the athlete with the best percent back finish in the 2009 World Championships shall be selected. Percent back calculations will include foreign athletes in the points base. IBU registration quotas will determine the team size with a minimum selection of three men and two women. The ICC reserves the right to name additional athletes to the team based on the USBA Principles of Discretion.

Based on these criteria, the December WC Team will be:

Men

- Teela, Burke, Hakkinen, Bailey through WC and WCHs results season 2008/2009
- A 5th man will be selected through coaches' discretion by staff proposal and ICC approval. Decision will be made at the end of October 2009. Staff will take into account results from the rollerski races in Jericho and Soldier Hollow, as well as training progress through the end of the Soldier Hollow training camp.

Women

- Johnson through WC points season 2008/2009...place 23rd
- Studebaker through WC points season 2008/2009...place 38th
- L. Barnes through WCHs results and WC points...place 39th

In the event that an athlete or athletes choose not compete in an event for which they have qualified, the staff may at their discretion recommend to the ICC procedures for selecting the replacement athlete(s). The ICC will act on the staff proposal in accordance with USBA Principles of Discretion (see Sec. IV) and announce any decisions as soon as possible.

2. U26 World Champs Team, Estonia, March 1-7, 2010

Team size: Up to 3 men and up to 4 women will be nominated. All athletes need to be of U26 age.

Men's Qualification:

1. Top ranked male from IBU Cup Altenberg and Nove Mesto who did not qualify for the OWG. Scoring best 3 of 5 races (including time trial) with percent back method.

2. The 2nd men's position will be filled through the February NorAm selection races held on or about February 6-7 and February 13-14. The best 3 of 4 races will be scored using percent back scoring.
3. A third man may be selected by staff recommendation and ICC approval based in accordance with USBA Principles of Discretion (see Sec. IV).

Women's Qualification:

1. The 1st and 2nd positions will be filled by U26 OWG's qualifying women who do not qualify for March WC.
2. If the 1st and/or 2nd positions are not taken by OWG qualifiers, then those positions will be filled in rank order by IBU Cup athletes from Altenberg and Nove Mesto, scoring the best 3 of 5 races using percent back scoring.
3. The 3rd women's position will be determined through the February NorAm selection races held on or about February 6-7 and February 13-14. The best 3 of 4 races will be scored using percent back scoring.
4. A fourth woman may be selected by staff recommendation and ICC approval in accordance with USBA Principles of Discretion (see Sec. IV).

Funding: NorAm Cup qualifiers and discretionary nominations may be self-pay if budget dictates.

Replacement Policy:

In the event that an athlete or athletes choose not compete or are unable to compete due to illness or injury, in an event for which they have qualified, the staff may at their discretion recommend to the ICC procedures for selecting the replacement athlete(s).

The ICC will act on the staff proposal and announce any decisions as soon as possible.

3. Qualification for WC 7 and WC 8

Men:

Team Size: A minimum of 3 and maximum of 5 men. Budget limitation and staff discretion will be used to decide if team size will be larger than 3 men.

Athletes will be selected in rank order as follows

1. Any athlete having a chance for Top 50 overall WC ranking.
2. Top 25 result at OWG
3. TWO Top 30 result at 2009-2010 WC
4. Best overall WC ranking after OWGs
5. If the team is not filled by priorities 1-4, the team will be filled by the best single finish at OWG
6. Additional position possible for one athlete, born 1987 or later. This position filled by staff recommendation and ICC approval in accordance with USBA Principles of Discretion (see Sec. IV).

Women

Team Size: A minimum of 1 woman, up to maximum of 3 women.
Budget and staff discretion will be used to decide if team size will be larger than the 1 women.

Athletes will be selected in rank order as follows

1. Any athlete having a chance for Top 50 overall WC ranking .
2. Top 35 result at OWG
3. Two Top 40 results at WC
4. Best overall WC ranking after OWGs
5. If the team is not filled by priorities 1-4, the team will be filled by the best single finish at OWG.
6. Additional position possible for one U26 athlete. This position filled by staff recommendation and ICC approval in accordance with USBA Principles of Discretion (see Sec. IV).

5. Qualification for WC 9 in Khanty Mansysk

Men and Women: No minimum team size. Maximum size 5 men and 3 women

Men: Athletes will be ranked by the following criteria:

1. Any athlete having a chance for Top 50 overall WC ranking.
2. Top 25 result at OWG

Women: Athletes will be ranked by the following criteria:

1. Any athlete having a chance for Top 50 overall WC ranking
2. Top 35 result at OWG

II. Junior/Youth Criteria for Junior World Championship and European Championships

Junior/Youth Criteria for World Championship 2010

Qualification from Trials at Mt. Itasca, Dec 19-22, 2009

Prequalification via December 2009 WC:

Any Junior athlete that qualifies for December 2009 WC will automatically qualify for the WJCH at full funding. Prequalified athletes will be ranked first in the Junior qualification ranking, and therefore displace others at a lower rank for WJCH funding.

Method "A" and Method "B" for Selection of JUNIOR MEN only. If Leif Nordgren does not go to the Dec World Cups, and therefore races at the Mt Itasca Jr Trials/IBU Cup Trials, then the Junior Men and Youth Men will race as separate categories. If Leif

Nordgren qualifies for the December World Cups, then we will use Method “B” where the Youth and Juniors compete together (at Youth distances).

Junior men (born 1989, 1990) – Method “A”

Team size: up to 4 athletes

The best 2 of 3 races from the Trials will be scored using the Percent Back method.

The top 4 junior men will be selected at the Trials provided they achieve a 98% two race average in the trials composite points list.

Funding: Top two ranked athletes	100% Funding
Third athlete	50% Funding
Fourth athlete	Self-pay

If the team size is not met (athletes have not scored the 98% two race average), the Junior team may filled by staff recommendation and ICC approval in accordance with USBA Principles of Discretion (see Sec. IV). Discretionary athletes will be on a self-pay basis.

If Leif Nordgren is not racing at Mt Itasca, then Junior and Youth Men together at Youth Distances (see Method “B” below).

Youth men (born 1991 and later)

Team size: up to 4 athletes

The best 2 of 3 races from the Trials will be scored using the Percent Back method.

The top 4 Youth men will be selected at the Trials provided they achieve a 96% two race average in the trials composite points list.

If the team size is not met (athletes have not scored the 96% two race average), the Youth team may filled by staff recommendation and ICC approval in accordance with USBA Principles of Discretion (see Sec. IV). Discretionary athletes will be on a self-pay basis

Funding: First ranked athlete	100% Funding
Second and third ranked athletes	50% Funding
Fourth ranked athlete	Self-pay

Junior women (born 1989, 1990)

Team size: up to 4 athletes. This number would include any athletes that pre-qualify for WJCH via December 2009 WC.

The best 2 of 3 race from the Trials will be scored using the Percent back method.

The top 4 junior women from the trials will be selected at the Junior Trials provided they achieve 98 % two races average in the composite point list. In the case of an athlete prequalifying for WJCH via December 2009 WC, only 3 junior women will be selected from Trials.

Funding for Junior Women

Top 2 ranked athletes	100% Funding
Third ranked athlete	50% Funding
Fourth ranked athlete	Self-pay

If the team size not met (athletes have not scored the 98% two race average) , the youth team may filled by staff recommendation and ICC approval in accordance with USBA Principles of Discretion (see Sec. IV). Discretionary athletes will be on a self pay basis.

Youth Women (born 1991 and later)

Team size: up to 4 athletes

The best 2 of 3 races from the Trials will scored using the Percent beck method.

The top 4 Youth women will be selected at the Trials provided they achieve 96% two race average in the trials composite points list

Funding Best athlete 100% Funding

Second and third athletes 50% Funding

Fourth athlete Self-pay

If the team size not met (athlete have not score the 96% two race average) ,the youth team may filled by staff recommendation and ICC approval in accordance with USBA Principles of Discretion (see Sec. IV). Discretionary athletes will be on a self-pay basis.

Method “B” for Junior Men qualification to JWCH

Juniors and Youth Men will race the same distances (Youth distances). Juniors will have a points scoring list that will include the Youth athletes in the points base. The Youth points list will not include Juniors in the points base.

Junior men (born 1989, 1990)

Team size: up to 4 athletes. (3 athletes from Trials and once from Prequalification via Dec 2009 WC).

The best 2 of 3 races from the Trials will be scored using the Percent Back method. The Junior points list will include Youth athletes in the points base.

The top 3 junior men will be selected to WJCH provided they achieve a 99% two race average in the trials composite points list.

Funding: First ranked athlete from the trials: 100% Funding

Second ranked athlete from trials: 50% Funding

Third ranked athlete from trials: self-pay

If the fourth placing Youth man finishes in front of the second junior athlete on the final composite points list, then only one junior will be selected to the JWCH team from the Trials. If the team size is not met, a Junior athlete may be added to the Junior team with junior national team staff recommendation and ICC approval in accordance with USBA Principles of Discretion (see Sec. IV). Discretionary athletes will be on a self-pay basis.

Qualification for European Championships, Estonia

1. One Junior Man and one Junior Woman will qualify for European Championships will if they place in the top 30 at WJCH. If more than one athlete places in the top 30, the athlete with the highest placing will qualify. In the case of a tie in best placing, percent back scoring will be used to break the tie.
2. Up to 1 additional male (junior or youth) and 2 additional females (junior or youth) may be added to the European Championship team with staff recommendation and ICC approval.
3. Junior Team participation at European Championships will be based on available budget after WJCH.

III. National Team Criteria for 2009-2010

1. Senior National Team A:

Men:

A 1 team: Two top 15 performances or top 50 overall World Cup or member of medal winning relay team

A 2 team: Two top 30 or one Top 15 performances or member of top 8 relay team

A 3 team: Recommendation coaching staff with ICC approval.

The following guideline has been added to the USBA Principles of Discretion for purposes of nominating A3 Team men:

- An athlete's season average ski speed needs to be 93 % or higher behind the average of the TOP 6 ski speed at the WC.
- Ski speed requirement will be 92% or higher behind the TOP 6 average for ski speed for the first two years after an athlete becomes a senior.
- IBU Cup Performance: An athlete's average running speed needs to be 95 % for both age groups behind Top 3 average running speed at IBU Cup.

Women:

A 1 team: Two top 20 performances or top 60 overall World Cup or member of medal winning relay team

A 2 team: Two top 35 or one Top 20 performances or member of top 8 relay team

A 3 team: Recommendation coaching staff with ICC approval

The following guideline has been added to the USBA Principles of Discretion for purposes of nominating A3 Team women:

- An athlete's season average ski speed needs to be 92 % or higher behind the average of the TOP 6 ski speed at the WC.
- Skiing speed requirement will be 91% or higher behind the TOP 6 average for ski speed for the first two years after an athlete becomes a senior.
- IBU Cup: An athlete's average skiing speed needs to be 94 % for both age groups behind Top 3 average running speed at IBU Cup.

2. Senior National Team B:

Men:

B 1 team: Olympic Team member

B 2 team: coaches proposal and ICC approval based on significant national and/or international results.

Women:

B 1 Team: Olympic Team member

B 2 Team: coaches proposal and ICC approval based on significant national and/or international results.

2. Juniors becoming Seniors:

A 1 team: Medal at World Jrs (except relay), or two top 6 results

A 2 team: Top 12 at World Jrs (except relay), or two top 15

A 3 team: Member of Medal winning relay team at World Jrs, or recommendation of coaching staff with ICC approval

B 1 team: Top 25 at World Jrs or two Top 30

B 2 team: Staff recommendation and ICC approval

3. Junior National Team:

A Team Criteria:

Top 15 at Biathlon Youth World Championships

Top 20 at Biathlon Junior World Championships

B Team Criteria:

Top 25 at Biathlon Youth World Championships

Top 30 at Biathlon Junior World Championships

Top 3 at U.S. Junior Olympics (J1 or OJ category)

C Team Criteria:

Top 40 at Biathlon Junior World Championships

Top 30 at Biathlon Youth World Championships

Top 10 at U.S. Nordic Junior Olympics (J1 or OJ category)

Top 5 at U.S. Nordic Junior Olympics (J2 category)

Staff recommendation with approval from ICC.

Junior National team will be limited up to 6 men and 6 women. Any athletes who do not make the quota but make the C team criteria will qualify for the National Development Team. Athletes will be ranked by their best single results.

IV. USBA Principles of Discretion

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 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