

**2009 IBU SUMMER BIATHLON WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
**September 20-27, Oberhof, Germany**  
**United States Biathlon Association Selection Procedures**  
**USBA Summer Biathlon World Championship Team Trials**  
**July 8-12, Lake Placid, Essex County, New York**

Introduction

The United States Biathlon Association (USBA) will sanction team entry to the 2009 International Biathlon Union (IBU) Summer Biathlon World Championships (WCH). The 2009 Summer Biathlon World Championship Team Trials (WCH Trials) will be used to select the United States team (Team USA) for the running events. There is no funding available from the USBA to support the athletes competing in the running events. US Biathlon will select the National Team athletes to compete in the Rollerski events.

Team Size

The IBU allows four starts each for men and women in the Sprint Competition. Therefore, the team size will include up to four (4) Senior and four (4) Junior athletes in each gender, based on the ranking list described below. The intent of these selection criteria is to field the most competitive team possible and to enter competitors in both the Senior and Junior individual medal events at the WCH. Because USBA will not provide funding for the 2009 Team USA, team size will be limited up to the maximum only by the cutoff point for selection. Junior athletes are defined as anyone born on or after January 1, 1989. Senior athletes are defined as anyone born on or before December 31, 1988.

Team Selection Series

There will be a three-race WCH Trials event to determine team selection. This event will be held July 8 through July 12 at the Olympic Biathlon Venue at Mt. Van Hoevenberg, Lake Placid, Essex County, New York. For entry information for this event, go to: <http://summer.nybiathlon.org/> or contact Rick Costanza at 518-524-6459 or Russ Myer at 518-729-3780. The WCH Trials will consist of one Sprint Format (PS), one Pursuit Format (PPSS), and one Mass Start (PPSS) format race. Junior and Senior athletes will not be separated in the start order or the final results of the trials events. The Pursuit race will be a true Pursuit. However, points for this competition will be based on time on course, not finish position.

Scoring

Each race will be scored using the following Percent Back system:

$$\text{Athlete's \% Back} = (2 - (\text{Athlete's Time} / \text{Scoring Base})) \times 100$$

The Scoring Base is the average time of the top three finishers.

A ranking list based on the average of each competitor's best two scores in each of the three races of the WCH Trials will establish the final standings of the trials series. For the purposes of ranking, Junior and Senior competitors will be included on the same list. Team selection will be made following these steps:

1. The top four (4) Senior and Junior athletes who achieve the cutoff point for selection will be nominated to Team USA.
2. If any of the top four (4) athletes in each class decline their nomination, the next athlete in their class will be nominated to the team. This process will continue until all positions are filled or the cutoff point for selection is reached.

### Cutoff Point for Selection

This point will be 95% of the top three in each gender. In other words:

Men's Cutoff = (average score of top 3 men on ranking list) x .95

Women's Cutoff = (average score of top 3 women on ranking list) x .95

### Contingency for Race Cancellation

In the event that any of the three races are cancelled, then an average of the scores from the other two races will be used to select Team USA. In the event that two out of the three races are cancelled, then the top two men and top two women from the remaining race will automatically be nominated to Team USA and the remaining spots will be filled by the USBA International Competition Committee following USBA Principals of Discretion based on results from the single WCH Trials race and other results from the 2009 Summer Biathlon season.

### Additional Nominations

Additional members may be nominated to Team USA on the basis of discretion by USBA, provided that their nomination does not affect the start position of any athlete earning a nomination through ranking list selection.

### Declined Position, Dismissal, or Injury

In the event an athlete declines his or her position on Team USA, suffers a performance-hindering medical condition, or is dismissed from Team USA, the next athlete, in ranking order, will be named to Team USA. This process will continue until all positions have been filled or the cutoff point for selection has been reached.

### Force Majeure

Acts of fate, severe illness, injury, and equipment problems that are clearly beyond the athlete's control will be taken into account for athletes who have finished at least one trials race in first or second place, or who have clearly shown through recent competition that they are a top contender for Team USA. The International Competition Committee shall review any petition filed within twenty-four (24) hours of the naming of Team USA.

### Code of Conduct

All athletes named to Team USA shall accept their nomination by signing the USBA Code of Conduct, Grievance Procedures, and Team USA Agreement.

### World Championships Starts and Seeding

The team size is planned to allow all athletes to start in at least one individual event at the WCH. Seed groups will be determined by the coaching staff or team leader(s) as selected by the athletes and approved by USBA.

### USBA Principals of Discretion

The purpose of a discretionary choice is to allow some flexibility in team selection and race start decisions. Finite criteria for discretionary choices are not possible, since by their nature they are meant to account for the unanticipated circumstances that inevitably elude the principals of objective criteria. Based on the context of the situation, the staff will evaluate which athlete has the chance of producing the best result. Factors that influence the staff's use of discretion are:

History of performance in an event

Recent improvement or decline in results (both training and racing)

Sickness or injury as certified by USBA or USOC physician