

**USA LUGE**  
**ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES**  
**Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic Games**  
**(Men's Singles, Women's Singles, Doubles, and Team Relay)**  
~~July 28, 2021~~  
**Amended October 8, 2021**

**1. SELECTION SYSTEM**

**1.1. Provide the minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for selection to the Team:**

**1.1.1. Nationality/Passport requirements:**

Athlete must be a national of the United States at the time of nomination.

Athlete must hold a valid U.S. passport that will not expire for six months after the conclusion of the Games.

**1.1.2. Minimum International Olympic Committee (IOC) standards for participation:**

Any competitor in the Olympic Games must be a national of the country of the National Olympic Committee (NOC) which is entering such competitor. For additional information regarding an athlete who is a national of two or more countries, has changed his or her nationality or acquired a new nationality, refer to the Olympic Charter (Rule 41).

**1.1.3. Minimum International Federation (IF) standards for participation (if any):**

Meet the requirements spelled out in the current version of the International Luge Federation (FIL) Rulebook, referred to as the "[IRO International Luge Regulations – Artificial Track](#)", and the [International Luge Federation's Beijing Qualification System](#).

Please note the following IF Requirements:

- Age Requirements: All athletes participating in the Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022 must be born before 1 July 2006.
- Medical Requirements and Minimum FIL Olympic Qualification Standards must be met as described in Section C of the FIL Qualification System found at <https://www.fil-luge.org/en/rules/rules-artificial-track>.

**1.1.4. Other requirements (if any):**

- Athletes must successfully complete all Games Registration requirements by stated deadline.

- Athletes must be members in good standing of the United States Luge Association at the time of nomination.
- Any athlete age 18 or older will be required to undergo a background screen in accordance with the current USOPC Background Check Policy.
- Any athlete age 18 or older as of the Closing Ceremony will be required to complete the U.S. Center for SafeSport’s online training.

**1.2. Tryout Events:**

1.2.1. Provide the event names, dates and locations of all trials, events and camps to be used as part of the selection process.

1.2.1.1. Events of the Pre-Qualification and Verification path to the Olympic Team

1.2.1.1.1. The following list outlines the Olympic Pre-qualification Events for the National Team athletes of the 2020-2021 season. Only Olympic discipline races will be used for pre-qualification events, and only events that contested two (2) race runs will be used for pre-qualification events. The events listed below will only be used for Pre-Qualification if they occur in the 2020-2021 season. If any of the events below are rescheduled to the 2021-2022 season for any reason, then those events will not be used for Pre-Qualification. Performance criteria for each of the following Pre-Qualification Events are outlined in 1.3.2.

- Beijing, China Pre-Olympic Test Race/World Cup Race: if held in the 2020-2021 season. NOTE: Results from the Beijing, China Pre-Olympic Test Race will only be used for Pre-Qualification status if this race is a FIL World Cup, and if two (2) race runs were contested. Additionally, if an American athlete participated in the homologation, then any discipline or disciplines the athlete participates in at the Beijing, China Pre-Olympic Test Race/World Cup Race will not be used for pre-qualification for any athlete.
- 2021 World Championships: January 29-31, 2021, Berchtesgaden, Germany
- Final Overall World Cup Standings calculated with the Olympic singles and doubles disciplines only: March 2021 (the racing schedule and Overall World Cup Standings can be found at [https://www.fil-luge.org/en/overall-scores?event\\_season\\_id=28](https://www.fil-luge.org/en/overall-scores?event_season_id=28))

1.2.1.1.2. Verification Events: Qualification Period World Cups – During the 2021-2022 season, all General Class FIL World Cups contested before January 10, 2022, will be considered to be during the “Qualification Period”. FIL event calendar is posted at [www.fil-luge.org/en/results?event\\_season\\_id=29](http://www.fil-luge.org/en/results?event_season_id=29).

1.2.1.2. Events of the Tier System path to the Olympic Team.

1.2.1.2.1. Events for selection to the Fall 2021 National Team – these events are used to select athletes to the Fall 2021 National Team so they may participate in the Qualification Period World Cups listed in Point 1.2.1.2.2. These events are open

events.

1.2.1.2.1.1. Fall 2021 National Seeding Series of Races (a series of up to three races) – Lake Placid and/or Park City USA and/or other tracks: October/November 2021. Events will be announced and posted on the USA Luge website (<https://www.teamusa.org/usa-luge>) at least 30 days in advance of these events.

1.2.1.2.2. Qualification Period World Cups – During the 2021-2022 season, all General Class FIL World Cups contested before January 10, 2021 will be considered to be during the “Qualification Period”. Athletes can earn Tiers through these events in accordance to this document.

1.2.2. Provide event names, dates, locations and description of how athletes qualify for the trials, events and camps listed above in 1.2.1. (if any).

1.2.2.1. Entry into the USLA National Seeding Series of Races listed in Point 1.2.1.2 is limited by age, as stated in 1.1.3; and entry is also limited by safety. If there is reason to fear that an athlete or doubles team cannot maneuver the track safely, all USLA Olympic Team nominated Coaches present at the tracks used for events in the Qualification Period and the National Seeding Series of Races will make a determination as to whether the athlete or doubles team will be allowed to start in the race. The coaches will use run times, video, and coach(es) eyewitness accounts to make this decision.

1.2.2.1.1. If it is determined that it would be unsafe for the athlete/doubles team to race the course and the athlete/doubles team disagrees, then they may request a review of the coaches’ decision by a panel with three members consisting of a non-conflicted coach, the USLA Sport Program Director, and the AAC representative (or the AAC representative designee). A request for a review must be made in writing to the USLA CEO. Once the review has been submitted to the USLA CEO, the panel must meet and have a decision prior to the race.

The panel’s role is not to decide whether the athlete can safely navigate the course. The panel’s role is solely to review the coaches’ decision-making process. If the panel believes, based on evidence provided, which may include run times, video and eyewitness accounts, that the decision was made honestly, impartially and objectively, then the coaches’ decision will stand. If the panel overturns the coaches’ decision, the athlete will be allowed to slide to have an additional safety review of their sliding by the coaching staff present at the event.

1.2.2.2. All USLA athletes eligible for and desiring to be selected to the 2022 Olympic Team, except athletes that have met the pre-qualification criteria (1.3.2.), must enter at least one race of the Fall 2021 National Seeding Series of Races. Athletes will receive points from their placing in each of these races. The athletes will then be ranked according to the cumulative points earned in this series of races. Points per place are outlined in [§ 3 of the FIL IRO](#). Athletes that have met pre-qualification criteria (1.3.2.)

are not required to race in the Fall 2021 National Seeding Series of Races, but if they desire to race, they may not earn seeding points.

- 1.2.2.3. All National Seeding Series of Races entries must satisfy the 7% rule from [§ 3 of the FIL IRO](#) which can be found at <https://www.fil-luge.org/cdn/uploads/iro-2020-kb-en-web-final.pdf>.

**1.3. Provide a comprehensive, step-by-step description of the method that explains how athletes will go through the selection process (include maximum Team size).**

- 1.3.1. Maximum Olympic Luge Team Size – A maximum of ten (10) athletes, up to three (3) men’s singles competitors, up to three (3) women’s singles competitors and up to four (4) double’s competitors (i.e., up to two teams of two athletes) may qualify for the 2022 Olympic Luge Team. If a member of a doubles team is removed for any reason, the whole team will be replaced (4.1.). Members of doubles teams are not interchangeable.

**1.3.2. Pre-qualification / Verification Process Description:**

**1.3.2.1. *Pre-qualification:***

The Pre-qualification/Verification Process allows for up to only one man, up to only one woman and up to only one doubles team to earn a spot on the 2022 Olympic Luge Team.

- 1.3.2.1.1. An athlete/team “pre-qualifies” for selection to the 2022 Olympic Luge Team based on their performance at one of the three Pre-Qualification Events (1.2.1.1.1.) as follows:

- 1.3.2.1.1.1. Earn at least a top six (6) placing at the Beijing, China Pre-Olympic Test Race/World Cup (if held in the 2020-2021 season). NOTE: Results from the Beijing, China Pre-Olympic Test Race will only be used for Pre-Qualification status if this race is a FIL World Cup, if it is a two-run race, and if no American athlete participated in that particular discipline in the homologation. If the number of runs for this event is reduced by the Race Officials for any reason, the results of this race will not be used for Pre-Qualification. If an American athlete participated in a discipline in the homologation, then no result from any athlete in that particular discipline will be used for Pre-Qualification. A Beijing Sprint World Cup will not be used for Pre-Qualification.

- 1.3.2.1.1.2. Earn at least a top seven (7) for men, a top six (6) for women or a top six (6) for doubles placing at the 2021 World Championships. The results from this event will be used for Pre-Qualification if it is a two-run event or a one-run event. Sprint World Championship race results will not be used for Pre-Qualification.

1.3.2.1.1.3. Finish the 2020-21 season in the top three (3) of the Overall World Cup Standings calculated without Sprint World Cup results and without results from one-run World Cup races, if any. Overall World Cup Standings will be calculated only using Olympic singles and doubles disciplines. World Cup races where the United States Luge Association (USLA) did not participate, for any reason, will not be included in the calculation of the Overall World Cup Standings used in this policy. Only those World Cup races the USLA attends will be included in the calculation of the Overall World Cup Standings used for this policy. If an athlete decides to participate in a World Cup race on their own, that World Cup race will still not be used in the calculation of the Overall World Cup Standings for this policy. The Overall World Cup Standings for this policy must include results from at least three (3) World Cup races in order to be used for Pre-Qualification.

1.3.2.1.1.3.1. The Overall World Cup Standings, for the purposes of Pre-Qualification, will be calculated from the final 2020-2021 Overall World Cup Standings list, published after the final World Cup of the 2020-2021 season, and which can be found on the FIL website at:

[www.fil-luge.org/en/overall-scores?event\\_season\\_id=28](http://www.fil-luge.org/en/overall-scores?event_season_id=28)

For the purposes of Pre-Qualification, the Overall World Cup Standings List will be modified for all athletes by removing Sprint Race results, one-run World Cup race results, and any World Cup races that the USLA did not attend as an organization. The results for US athletes of the modified Overall World Cup Standings List will then be compared to the criteria in Point 1.3.2.1.1.3 to determine if any US athletes met the criteria for Pre-Qualification.

1.3.2.1.2. After all the Pre-Qualification Events have been contested, if more than one man, one woman or one doubles team were to pre-qualify in their respective disciplines, then only the male athlete, female athlete, and doubles team with the best pre-qualification result in each discipline, as defined below, will “pre-qualify” for selection to the 2022 Olympic Luge Team.

1.3.2.1.2.1. The 2021 Beijing, China Test Race/World Cup placing will be considered the placing of highest importance and will act as the tiebreaker if competitors have duplicate results between any combinations of the Pre-Qualification Events except in the case of a tie between the World Championships result and this policy’s modified Overall World Cup Standing. In this case, the 2021 World Championships placing will be the placing of highest importance and will act as the tiebreaker if competitors have duplicate results between the World Championships result and the Overall World Cup Standings as calculated by this policy.

- 1.3.2.1.2.2. For the single Pre-Qualification Events (the 2021 Beijing, China Test Race/World Cup and the 2021 World Championships), should a duplicate top qualifying placing be made in the same race (i.e., there is a tie in the total aggregate time), the athlete or doubles team with the single fastest run of the competition will rank ahead.
- 1.3.2.1.2.3. In the Overall World Cup Standings, if a duplicate top qualifying ranking is achieved within a discipline, each athlete's/doubles team's best single World Cup race result will be compared within that discipline. The athlete(s)/team(s) with the best race result from a single World Cup race of all the World Cup races that were included in calculating the Overall World Cup Standings for the purpose of this policy will rank ahead. If this does not fully break the tie (e.g., if three tied athletes get reduced to two), then the second-best single World Cup race result, and continuing in rank order, will be compared until the tie is broken.
- 1.3.2.1.3. Once an athlete pre-qualifies for the 2022 Olympic Luge Team, he/she/they automatically become a 2021 Summer and Fall National Team member.
- 1.3.2.2. **Verification:**  
Once pre-qualified, athletes and/or doubles team (if any) must then earn, in their respective discipline, a top five (5) placing in any one of the World Cup Races contested during the Qualification Period in order to "verify" their selection for nomination to the 2022 Olympic Luge Team.
- 1.3.2.2.1. Sprint World Cup, Sprint World Championships and Team Relay results will not be used for Verification.
- 1.3.2.2.2. If the number of runs in a World Cup is reduced by the Race Officials for any reason, the results of that race will not be used for Verification. A World Cup must contest the normal two runs in order to be used for Verification.
- 1.3.3. **Selection to the 2022 Olympic Team through the Tier System:**  
Besides the Pre-qualification and Verification path to the 2022 Olympic Team, athletes can also be selected to the 2022 Olympic Team through a Tier System. In the Tier System, to be considered a nominee to the 2022 Olympic Luge Team, a two-step process must be completed. First, athletes/doubles teams must be selected to the 2021 Fall National Team. And second, athletes/doubles teams are selected for nomination to the 2022 Olympic Team from the 2021 Fall National Team by earning Tiers (as described herein) through results achieved in the World Cups of the 2021-2022 General Class FIL World Cups contested before January 10, 2021.
- 1.3.3.1. Note: this clause (Clause 1.3.3.1) overrides those portions of the USLA National Team Athlete Selection policies dealing with race 'byes'. Only Pre-qualified athletes are automatically selected to the Fall National Teams. National "A" Team athletes that earned their "A" team status in either the 2019-2020 season or 2020-2021 season

according to the USLA National Team Athlete Selection Policy do not receive the automatic bye through the Fall 2021 National Seeding Series of Races. National “B” Team athletes that earned their team status in the 2020-2021 season according to the USLA National Team Athlete Selection Policy do not receive the automatic bye through the Fall 2021 National Seeding Series of Races. NOTE: All other Team Status benefits remain in effect for each Team Status whether the benefit is an “A”, “B”, or “C” team benefit.

**1.3.3.2. Selection to the 2021 Fall National Team:**

The 2021 Fall National Team will be selected using Pre-Qualification results (according to 1.3.2.1) and the results of three Fall 2021 National Seeding Series of Races. Note: All races canceled due to adverse weather or facility mechanical issues will be attempted to be rescheduled. While three races are the goal, two will be deemed acceptable if cancellation of a race is necessary due to adverse weather, facility mechanical issues, pandemic, or other reasons. All USLA athletes eligible for and desiring to be selected to the 2022 Olympic Team, except athletes that have met the pre-qualification criteria, must enter the Fall 2021 National Seeding Series of Races and be selected to the 2021 Fall National Team. Pre-qualified athletes are not required to participate in the Fall 2021 National Seeding Series of Races. Pre-qualified athletes may participate in these races, but they may not earn points. If a Pre-qualified athlete does not want to participate in these races, they can forerun. All athletes, except Pre-qualified athletes, will receive points in these races according to the [Seeding Process](#) policy.

- 1.3.3.2.1. The 2021 Fall National Team size will be no more than the number of competitors allowed to participate in a General Class World Cup race according to the [IRO International Luge Regulations – Artificial Track](#) §3 Point 3.2 (up to 5 men’s singles, up to 4 women’s singles, up to 3 doubles teams).
- 1.3.3.2.2. Athletes that have Pre-qualified, according to 1.3.2.1. of this document, will be awarded the first slots on the 2021 Fall National Team.
- 1.3.3.2.3. In addition to the Pre-qualified athletes, additional athletes will be selected to the Fall 2021 National Team through the Fall 2021 National Seeding Series of Races. Selections will be based on the results of these races and the application of the USLA [Seeding Process](#) policy. These races are tentatively scheduled for October/November 2021. These races must occur on at least two different tracks (most likely in Lake Placid and Park City, but they may occur on other tracks as scheduling permits). The [Seeding Process](#) policy will be used to rank all USLA athletes who have qualified for and entered at least one race of the National Seeding Series of Races. *[Athletes will first be notified of the intended dates of these races by July 15, 2021, but such dates are subject to change. Should a change occur, the athletes will be notified of such change as soon as feasible. The format of these races (as defined in our [Seeding Process](#) policy) will also be announced at this time].*

- 1.3.3.2.3.1. If a tie in points occurs from the Fall 2021 National Seeding Series of Races, these tiebreakers will break the tie:
  - 1.3.3.2.3.1.1. If one of the races occurs on the Beijing Olympic track, then the fastest single run from the race on the Beijing Olympic track will break the tie.
  - 1.3.3.2.3.1.2. If Point 1.3.3.2.3.1.1 does not break the tie, then the fastest runs for each race will be cumulated for each tied athlete, and then compared. The fastest cumulated result will break the tie.
  - 1.3.3.2.3.1.3. If Point 1.3.3.2.3.1.2 does not break the tie, then coaches' discretion (see Section 2 of this policy) will break the tie.
- 1.3.3.2.4. Athlete(s) that Pre-qualified for the Fall 2021 National Team will be entered in every international training opportunity and World Cup race during the Qualification Period (as defined by 1.2.1.3 of this document) provided they are not injured.
- 1.3.3.2.5. The ranked list of athletes/teams from the Fall 2021 National Seeding Series of Races will be used to select athletes that have not Pre-qualified.
  - 1.3.3.2.5.1. If no male athlete has Pre-qualified in Men's singles, then the top 4 men from the ranked list of Men's singles athletes from the Fall 2021 National Seeding Series of Races will be selected to the Fall 2021 National Team. If a male athlete has Pre-qualified, then the top 3 ranked men who are not Pre-qualified will be selected for the Fall 2021 National Team.
  - 1.3.3.2.5.2. If no female athlete has Pre-qualified in Women's singles, then the top 3 women from the ranked list of Women's singles athletes from the Fall 2021 National Seeding Series of Races will be selected to the Fall 2021 National Team. If a female athlete has Pre-qualified, then the top 2 ranked women who are not Pre-qualified will be selected for the Fall 2021 National Team.
  - 1.3.3.2.5.3. If no doubles team has Pre-qualified in Doubles, then the top 2 Doubles teams from the ranked list of Doubles teams from the Fall 2021 National Seeding Series of Races will be selected to the Fall 2021 National Team. If a Doubles team has Pre-qualified, then only the top ranked Doubles team who is not Pre-qualified will be selected for the Fall 2021 National Team.
- 1.3.3.2.6. The final position on the Fall 2021 National Team for Men's Singles, Women's Singles, and Doubles may be filled by coaches' discretion (see Section 2 of this policy).



- 1.3.3.2.6.1. Should the coaching staff not use discretion in Point 1.3.3.2.6 in a discipline, then the next ranked athlete/team in that discipline from the ranked list of athletes from the Fall 2021 National Seeding Series of Races will be selected to the Fall 2021 National Team.

### 1.3.3.3. **Tier System**

Pre-qualified athletes that do not “verify” according to 1.3.2.2 are still eligible to make the Olympic Team through this part of the process. Selection for nomination to the 2022 Olympic Luge Team will be based on the results each athlete/double’s team posts in the FIL sanctioned General Class World Cup races held during the Qualification Period (defined in 1.2.1.3) in line with the following:

- 1.3.3.3.1. There must be a minimum of six (6) ‘sleds entered’ in an applicable discipline for the race to count towards qualification for the Olympic Games. (*‘Sleds entered’ will be defined as those sleds beginning at least one run of a World Cup race, as well as those sleds beginning the qualifying run, as defined by the FIL IRO, that do not actually qualify for that same World Cup race.*)
- 1.3.3.3.2. Each FIL sanctioned General Class World Cup race result can only be used as a qualification race for a tier for the Olympics if the race is a two-run race. A World Cup must contest the normal two runs in order to be used for a qualification race for a tier. Sprint World Cup results will not be used for earning Tier rankings.
- 1.3.3.3.3. Definition of Tiers:  
When there are twenty-four (24) or more ‘sleds entered’ in doubles, twenty-eight (28) or more ‘sleds entered’ in women’s singles or thirty-two (32) or more ‘sleds entered’ in men’s singles, the following standards will apply:  
Tier A: at least one finish in the top five for men’s singles, women’s singles or doubles (**This will be called Tier A**)  
Tier B: – or – two finishes in the top ten for doubles, two finishes in the top thirteen for women’s singles, or two finishes in the top sixteen for men’s singles, all of which will be called **Tier B**  
Tier C: – or – one finish in the top ten and two additional finishes in the top thirteen for doubles, one finish in the top thirteen and two additional finishes in the top eighteen for women’s singles, or one finish in the top sixteen and two additional finishes in the top twenty-one for men’s singles, all of which will be called **Tier C**.
- 1.3.3.3.4. When there are more than five (>5), but less than twenty-four (<24) ‘sleds entered’ (See 1.3.3.3.1 for definition of ‘sleds entered’) in doubles, less than twenty-eight (<28) ‘sleds entered’ in women’s singles, and less than thirty-two (<32) ‘sleds entered’ in men’s singles, then the standard(s) that need(s) to be met will correspond to the following chart:

<u># of Entries</u>			<u>Race Result needed for Tier A Qualification</u>	<u>Tier B &amp; C: Maximum Race Result</u>		
<u>Doubles</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Men</u>		<u>Doubles</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Men</u>
6	6	6	2	3	3	3
7	7	7	2	3	3	3
8	8	8	2	4	4	4
9	9	9	3	4	4	4
10	10	10	3	5	5	5
11	11	11	3	5	5	5
12	12	12	4	6	6	6
13	13	13	4	6	6	6
14	14	14	4	7	7	7
15	15	15	5	7	7	7
16	16	16	5	8	8	8
17	17	17	5	8	8	8
18	18	18	5	9	9	9
19	19	19	5	9	9	9
20	20	20	5	10	10	10
21	21	21	5	10	10	10
22	22	22	5	11	11	11
22	22	22	5	11	11	11
23	23	23	5	12	12	12
23	23	23	5	12	12	12
24	24	24	5	13	13	13
24	24	24	5	13	13	13
24	25	25	5	13	14	14
24	25	25	5	13	14	14
24	26	26	5	13	15	15
24	26	26	5	13	15	15
24	27	27	5	13	16	16
24	27	27	5	13	16	16
24	27	28	5	13	17	17
24	27	28	5	13	17	17
24	28	29	5	13	18	18
24	28	29	5	13	18	18
24	28	30	5	13	18	19
24	28	30	5	13	18	19
24	28	31	5	13	18	20
24	28	31	5	13	18	20
24	28	32	5	13	18	21

1.3.3.3.4.1. Note: Any athlete or doubles team that “pre-qualifies” and “verifies” its spot on the 2022 Olympic Luge Team (1.3.2), will take up one of the available Olympic Team spots before any athlete or team that qualifies through this part of the process. Conversely, any athlete that “pre-qualifies” but fails to “verify” its spot on the 2022 Olympic Luge Team then joins the balance of the athletes on an equal basis for this part of the process. These athletes would no longer maintain a preferential position based on the “pre-qualification” standard that was achieved the prior year.

**1.3.4. Qualification for Nomination to the 2022 Olympic Luge Team**

At the end of the Qualification period (1.2.1.3), if more athletes/teams have qualified for the 2022 Olympic Luge Team through either the Pre-qualification / Verification process and/or

earned A, B or C Tiers according to the Tier System than the maximum allowable entrants in a specific Olympic event (according to 1.3.1 of this document), then the following will occur:

- 1.3.4.1. Any “Pre-qualified” athlete who is “Verified” will be the first level of athletes that qualify for the 2022 Olympic Luge Team.
- 1.3.4.2. Next, if the number of athletes/teams in Tier A is less than or equal to the entries still available, then everyone in Tier A will qualify for the Olympic Games. If entry spots remain unfilled after all Tier A athletes/teams have been considered, then the USLA will go to Tier B, and then to Tier C, in an attempt to fill remaining positions on the 2022 Olympic Luge Team.
- 1.3.4.3. However, if there are more athletes/teams eligible in a Tier than entries still available, those athletes/teams will then be ranked within their Tier using World Cup points (Sprint World Cup points will not be used for ranking athletes within the Tier).
  - 1.3.4.3.1. The first and highest level of ranking for Tier A will be the number of World Cup points earned from rankings where a medal was won.
  - 1.3.4.3.2. In the event a tie exists after implementing 1.3.4.3.1, the second level of ranking for Tier A, and the first and highest level of ranking for Tier B and C will be the number of World Cup points earned from rankings achieved in the highest Tier earned by the athlete/team. For the calculation of the World Cup points earned by an athlete in Tier C, the points of the single Tier B finish will be included in this total if so achieved.
  - 1.3.4.3.3. In the event a tie still exists after implementing 1.3.4.3.1 and 1.3.4.3.2, the final level of ranking for all Tiers will be the number of World Cup points achieved in the World Cups contested during the entire Qualification Period, excluding Sprint World Cup points.
- 1.3.4.4. Once the athletes/teams have been ranked into Tiers, and within their respective Tier, then this ranked list will be compared to the number of remaining Olympic Games race entries (still) available to USLA. With this ranking complete, the following will occur:
  - 1.3.4.4.1. There is one scenario where an exception to the process described in points 1.3.4.1-3 may apply and that is through the ‘Exceptional Circumstance’ clause as outlined in 2.1.7, in which case a race-off becomes necessary to determine a 2022 Olympic Luge Team nominee.
- 1.3.4.5. In the event an athlete(s) or team(s) petitions for consideration as a discretionary choice under the ‘Exceptional Circumstance’ clause in Section 2.1.7. of this document, and such request is granted, then the following described “race-off” will take place:

1.3.4.5.1. The bottom ranked of the tier-ranked athletes/teams will “race-off” against the athlete(s)/team(s) granted the ‘Exceptional Circumstance’ exemption in a format prescribed by the National Team Coaching Staff and be ranked by those results, with the top ranked athlete/team filling the remaining position on the 2022 Olympic Luge Team. This final ranking will be based on points earned from the “race-off”. If only one race is feasible, then there will be no ranking, as winner takes all. This “race-off” (format, location and timing) will be announced to the athletes and the USOPC as soon as possible if this “race-off” condition occurs. Athletes can expect any race-off to occur as part of the race week of the last World Cup held in the Qualification Period (defined in Point 1.2.1.3), whether the race-off occurs during that week’s Nation’s Cup or during that week’s World Cup even if it is a one-run race.

1.3.4.6. Finally, in the event that the number of spots earned by US athletes for 2022 Olympic Luge events has not been filled with tier-ranked nominees in men’s singles, women’s singles or doubles using the above described ranking and selection language – or – the tie-breaking procedures described above did not break a tie, and such a tie needs to be broken to determine the final nominee in men’s singles, women’s singles or doubles, then said athletes/teams that raced in the Qualification Period’s World Cup races and any other athletes selected by the National Team Coaching Staff due to ‘Exceptional Circumstances’, will “race-off” as described in 1.3.4.5.1.

### 1.3.5. **Olympic Games Start Positions**

1.3.5.1. Athletes that have qualified to become a nominee to the 2022 Olympic Luge Team in the singles event may only be entered in the singles competition, and possibly the singles discipline of the Team Relay event as well. Athletes that have qualified to become a nominee to the 2022 Olympic Luge Team in the doubles event may only be entered in the doubles’ competition, and possibly the doubles discipline of the Team Relay event as well. If an athlete qualifies to become a nominee to the 2022 Olympic Luge Team in both the singles discipline and the doubles discipline, then that athlete(s) may be entered in both the singles and doubles disciplines as outlined by the Olympic selection criteria in this policy.

#### 1.3.5.2. ***Team Relay***

1.3.5.2.1. Those U.S. athletes participating in the men’s singles, women’s singles, and doubles disciplines at the 2022 Olympic Games are eligible to be selected to compete in the Team Relay event.

1.3.5.2.2. Athletes that post the single fastest run from a race day or post the best finish rank in the 2022 Olympic Games men’s race, women’s race and doubles’ race will qualify to be selected by the coaching staff to be the participants for the Team Relay. The Olympic coaching staff will select, by discretion, the Team Relay participants from the athletes that have either posted the fastest run time in a

race day or posted the best finish rank. Besides the discretionary criteria in point 2.2, the Olympic coaching staff may also evaluate reaction start performance, ability of the athlete to drive from the Team Relay start, and the consistency of the athlete to drive from the Team Relay start height.

1.3.5.2.3. In the unlikely event a discipline's race in the Olympic Games is canceled, but the Team Relay event is still contested, then the National Team Coaching Staff will have the authority to select the US Team Relay participant(s) from the canceled events in line with the discretionary criteria outlined within this document in Section 2.

1.3.5.2.4. NOTE: If an athlete/doubles team, through this policy, qualifies to race in the Team Relay and either declines to compete or is injured, then another athlete that qualified to race in the Team Relay according to 1.3.5.2.2 will be selected. If no other athlete has qualified to race in the Team Relay according to 1.3.5.2.2, then the second fastest athlete/doubles team, as prioritized above, will be selected to be the replacement.

## **2. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION (if applicable)**

### **2.1. Provide rationale for utilizing discretionary selection (if any):**

Discretion will be used in the following areas:

- 2.1.1. Section 1.2.2.1 – Entry into the National Seeding Series of Races is limited by safety as determined by the Olympic Team nominated coaches present at the event as to whether an athlete can safely navigate the course without braking.
- 2.1.2. Section 1.3.3.2.3.1.3 – The Discretionary Committee will need to use discretion in this tie-breaker situation.
- 2.1.3. Section 1.3.3.2.6 – The Discretionary Committee may select the final spot in each discipline for the 2021 Fall National Team.
  - 2.1.3.1. In addition, after completion of the Fall 2021 National Seeding Series of Races in late October / early November of 2021, any “remaining” spots on the 2021 Fall National Team may be selected on a discretionary basis; provided, however, that the group eventually chosen to race in the 2021 Fall World Cup races will be comprised of at least three (3) men's singles competitors, three (3) women's singles competitors and two (2) doubles teams.
- 2.1.4. Section 1.3.5.2.2 – The Olympic coaching staff will determine selections for each discipline for the Team Relay event as outlined in 1.3.5.2.2.
- 2.1.5. Section 1.3.5.2.3 – In the unlikely event a discipline's race in the Olympic Games is canceled, but the Team Relay event is still contested, then the Olympic coaching staff will

have the authority to select the US Team Relay participants in line with the discretionary criteria outlined later in this document.

2.1.6. Section 4.1. – Concerning Replacement Athletes, discretion will be used by the Discretionary Committee to select the Replacement Athlete(s) if the objective criteria and an athlete’s willingness to participate in continued training (see Section 9) does not result in a top ranked replacement, using all previously described criteria.

2.1.7. Exceptional Circumstances – The Sport Program Director, the CEO, and the athlete representative approved by the AAC may also make a Discretionary Selection(s) in an exceptional circumstance whereby an athlete or team that has clearly proven in the past to be (a) medal contender(s), coupled with the exceptional circumstance(s), prohibits them from making the team by the selection process from 2020 and/or 2021 international results. The Sport Program Director, the CEO, and the athlete representative must be able to defend that, had it not been for an exceptional circumstance(s), the athlete(s) would have clearly made the team and by that athlete(s) not being nominated to the 2022 Olympic Luge Team, it would have a direct bearing upon obtaining the best qualified team for the Olympic Games. It will be the athlete(s) responsibility to 1) request consideration from USA Luge by email (mark@usaluge.org) under this clause before December ~~25, 9, 2021,~~ 2) detail in writing the Exceptional Circumstances leading to the request, and 3) be prepared for a quick response, that may likely involve a race-off within a short timeframe at a date, time and location of USA Luge’s sole choosing. If the request is a medical exceptional circumstance, then medical records may be required and the USLA Team Doctor will be consulted. This race-off will occur as part of the race week of the final World Cup contested in the Qualification Period, before January 10, 2022. ~~December 25, 2021.~~

2.1.7.1. NOTE: The Exceptional Circumstance deadline of December 25, 2021 is needed, because if the Exceptional Circumstance is approved, appropriate time is needed to arrange the required race-off during the final World Cup week contested in the Qualification Period.

2.1.8. After completion of all the World Cup races contested in the Qualification Period (as defined in 1.2.1.3) and the application of the objective criteria described above, should any “remaining” spots on the 2022 Olympic Luge Team still need to be filled, they will be made on a discretionary basis.

2.2. **List the discretionary criteria and explain how they will be used (if any):**

Specific items that will be reviewed to help with the discretionary decisions/selections are as follows, not in priority order, based on performances from 2018-2022 with more recent competitions carrying more weight:

- International Beijing Races and Training
- World Cup Races and World Championships
- Junior World Championships and Junior World Cup Races

- All Lake Placid and Salt Lake National Races and Training
- National Championships and Seeding Races
- Performance of the Start
- Commitment to Physical Training, in and out of Season

The Discretionary Committee, discussed in point 2.3, will evaluate, when contemplating discretionary selections, training times, race run times, finish results, start performance times, start performance ranks, run time consistency from run to run, and performance trajectory. If a discretionary selection is needed, the Discretionary Committee will review the information and select the athlete(s) that have the potential to perform best in the current or future Olympic Games.

**2.3. Provide the name of the committee that will be responsible for making discretionary selections, along with a complete list of the members' titles currently serving on the committee:**

The Discretionary Committee will be responsible for discretionary selections as referenced in many of the points listed in 2.1. There are some instances where a different panel of individuals may be responsible for a decision involving discretionary factors, as indicated above.

- National Team Head Coach
- National Team Coach
- National Team Coach
- Sports Program Director
- Athlete Representative (under 10 year athlete representative)
- Athlete Representative (10+ year athlete representative)

If more than two National Team Coaches are coaching with the Olympic Team, then the National Team Head Coach will appoint which two National Team Coaches will serve on the Discretionary Committee.

The US Luge Association's USOPC AAC Representative, USOPC AAC Alternate and the athlete representative(s) named to the USLA Board must select the Athlete Representatives to the Discretionary Committee according to Section 8.5.4 of the USOPC Bylaws. Athlete representatives may not be members to both the Discretionary Committee and to the National Team Committee.

The National Team Committee (see Section 11) shall have the right to review all discretionary selections in point 2.1, but only to the extent that it may grant its approval or disapproval based solely on its assessment as to whether or not the policies and procedures outlined in this document were followed correctly, and not on whether or not it simply agrees or disagrees with the discretionary decision.

**2.3.1. Specify the process that will be used to identify and handle any potential conflicts of interest involving a member of the committee.**

Any member of the selection committee that has a possible conflict of interest must either recuse him/herself or disclose it to the USLA's Ethics Committee prior to the start of the selection process. A conflict of interest exists when the committee member has a direct or indirect relationship, connection or affiliation, past or present, with an athlete in contention for the applicable team selection that could compromise the committee member's ability to participate in the selection process in an unbiased manner. If a conflict exists, USLA's Ethics Committee shall vet the conflict and make the final determination of whether that committee member must recuse him/herself from participating in discussions and/or voting. The Ethics Committee may determine that a committee member who has relevant and necessary information with respect to athlete performance, for example a national team coach or high performance director, may, if requested by the selection committee, provide such information to the committee so long as such information is provided in a fair and unbiased manner and the committee member with the conflict of interest does not vote toward the final decision. The committee member should not otherwise influence other members of the committee in the selection process.

Additionally, any person (including any potentially impacted athlete or coach of a potentially impacted athlete) with a good faith belief that a committee member has a conflict of interest may report the alleged conflict of interest to USLA's Ethics Committee. Reports may be made anonymously.

A recused individual shall be replaced in accordance with the USLA selection committee appointment process.

### **3. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES**

#### **3.1. Prior to entry by name to the Local Organizing Committee by the USOPC, USA Luge has jurisdiction over potential nominees.**

An athlete who is to be nominated to the Team by USA Luge may be removed for any of the following reasons, as determined by USA Luge:

- 3.1.1. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written letter to the USA Luge CEO/Executive Director.
- 3.1.2. Injury or illness as certified by a physician (or medical staff) approved by USA Luge. If an athlete refuses verification of his/her illness or injury by a physician (or medical staff) approved by USA Luge, his/her injury will be assumed to be disabling and he/she may be removed.
- 3.1.3. Failure to participate in Mandatory Training and/or Competition as defined in Section 9 of these procedures.
- 3.1.4. Violation of USA Luge's Code of Conduct ( <https://www.teamusa.org/usa-luge/become-a-member>).



An athlete who is removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per USA Luge's Bylaws (Article XXVI(b), Article XXIX and Article XXX) and the USOPC's Bylaws, Section 9.

Once athlete entries have been submitted to the Local Organizing Committee by the USOPC, the USOPC has jurisdiction over the Team, at which time, in addition to any applicable USA Luge Code of Conduct, the USOPC's Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures apply. The USOPC's Code of Conduct is included in the Games Forms made available prior to the respective Games; the USOPC's Grievance Procedures can be found at <http://www.teamusa.org/Footer/Legal/Governance-Documents>.

An athlete may be removed as a nominee to the Team or from the Team for an adjudicated violation of IOC, WADA, IF, USADA and/or USOPC anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures, as well as the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code, the USOPC Athlete Safety Policy and the USA Luge SafeSport Handbook, as applicable.

#### **4. REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES**

##### **4.1. Describe the selection and approval process for determining replacement athlete(s) should a vacancy occur:**

###### **4.1.1. Prior to submission of Entries by Name to the Local Organizing Committee, including any applicable group or committee:**

The results of the Tier System (found in point 1.3.3) will be used to nominate replacement athletes to the Team. If the number of entries for the Olympic Games event in question were filled based on the point where a Tier ended, then the athletes/teams in the next Tier will be ranked according to this policy to select the replacements. If there are no other athletes that meet all of the qualifying criteria and the training requirements outlined in Section 9, then a replacement may only be chosen on a discretionary basis, and only in line with the criteria spelled out in Section 2.

###### **4.1.2. After submission of Entries by Name to the Local Organizing Committee, including any applicable group or committee:**

Same as 4.1.1. provided it is in accordance with the IOC/LOC Late Athlete Replacement (LAR) policy.

#### **5. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

USA Luge will retain the approved Selection Procedures and all supporting documents, including scouting or evaluation forms, etc., and data from the selection process for six months past the date of the Closing Ceremony of the Games.

## **6. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**

In addition to the USOPC Code of Conduct, the following documents are required to be signed by an athlete as a condition of nomination to the Olympic Games and are included as attachments:

USLA's Code of Conduct – [www.teamusa.org/usa-luge/become-a-member](http://www.teamusa.org/usa-luge/become-a-member)

## **7. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES**

The USOPC approved Selection Procedures (complete and unaltered) will be posted/published by USA Luge in the following location(s):

7.1. USA Luge Web site: <https://www.teamusa.org/usa-luge/rules-and-policies>

These procedures will be posted as soon as possible, but not more than five business days following notice of approval by the USOPC.

## **8. DATE OF NOMINATION**

The Nomination of Athletes, including replacements, will be announced to all athletes and submitted to the USOPC on or before:

January 10, 2022

## **9. MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION**

Specify the location, schedule and duration of mandatory training and/or competition:

Athletes desiring to be selected to the 2022 Beijing Olympic Team may have modified training and competition schedules, different from the planned National Team schedule, in the 2020-2021 season and in the Qualification Period of the 2021-2022 season.

In the 2020-2021 season, the modified schedule may not include extra training prior to an event at a track where the 2021 World Championships or the Beijing Test Race/World Cup will take place, unless it is a part of a normally scheduled training with the team.

In the 2021-2022 season, the modified schedule may not include extra training prior to an event on a track where a Qualification Period (as defined by 1.2.1.3) race will take place, unless it is a part of a normally scheduled training with the team.

The athlete desiring a modified schedule must have a notification from the USLA's team doctor stating that an alternative plan is needed.

Nominated 2022 Olympic Luge Team members must participate on a USLA organized training and racing trip (likely to be the Winter of 2022 World Cup tour), to begin sometime after the completion of the Qualification Period (as defined by 1.2.1.3). The anticipated announcement for this trip will be

in the spring/summer of 2021, once the FIL finalizes its 2021-22 schedule. This trip will include the entire Official Olympic Team Staff, and the entire group will participate in training and/or racing from the beginning of this trip until the time the group completes its responsibilities in the Olympic Village.

All potential replacement athletes must continue to train in Park City or Lake Placid or other tracks, under USLA direction, until the date for the IOC's final submission of names has passed. Should a replacement athlete be in line to be nominated to the 2022 Olympic Luge Team, this person's/team's selection may only occur if they have maintained their eligibility to compete according to this document and the International Luge Federation's Beijing Qualification System.

## **10. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS**

Athletes must adhere to all IOC, WADA, IF, USADA and USOPC anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures, as applicable. This includes participation in Out-of-Competition Testing as required by the IOC, WADA, IF, USADA and USOPC rules, as applicable.

## **11. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES**

The following committee/group (include names and titles) was responsible for creating these Selection Procedures:

The USLA National Team Committee is the body responsible for vetting and approving these 2022 Olympic Team Athlete Selection Procedures for submission to the US Luge Association Board of Directors. The National Team Committee consists of the following:

### **Voting Members:**

Tim Wiley, Chairman  
Matthew Mortensen, Active Athlete Representative  
Renee Myers, Member Appointed by the Chairman  
Brian Martin, Member Appointed by the Chairman  
Fred Anderson, Natural Track Member Appointed by the Chairman

### **Non-voting Members:**

Mark Grimmette, Sport Program Director of the USLA (non-voting)  
Jim Leahy, Executive Director/CEO of the USLA (non-voting)

The USLA Board of Directors is responsible for the final approval of the Selection Procedures so that they can be submitted to the US Olympic & Paralympic Committee.

## **12. NGB BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES**

The USA Luge Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found at:  
<http://www.teamusa.org/USA-Luge/Rules-and-Policies>

## **13. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER**

These procedures are based on IOC and FIL rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in IOC or FIL rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes immediately. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to USA Luge. However, the selections are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances, and realistically may not have accounted for every possible contingency.

If any force of nature, or force majeure, should cause the alteration or cancellation of any of the selection events listed in this document, these selection procedures will be revised, pursuant to their resubmission to the USOPC.

#### 14. ATHLETE OMBUDS

The Athlete Ombuds Office provides cost-free, independent and confidential advice regarding athlete rights, grievance procedures and any other related guidance pertaining to selection procedures and can assist in mediating disputes between athletes and their NGB.

To contact the Athlete Ombuds Office:




PHONE: (719) 866-5000

EMAIL: [ombudsman@usathlete.org](mailto:ombudsman@usathlete.org)

WEBSITE: [www.usathlete.org](http://www.usathlete.org)

#### 15. NGB SIGNATURES

**I certify that I have read and understand the standards/criteria set by our IF and incorporated those standards/criteria into our Selection Procedures. I further certify that the information provided herein regarding Athlete Selection Procedures represents the method approved by USA Luge.**

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
NGB CEO	Jim Leahy	 Jim Leahy (Oct 15, 2021 23:12 MDT)	Oct 15, 2021
NGB Sport Program Director	Mark Grimmette	 Mark Grimmette (Oct 15, 2021 19:38 EDT)	Oct 15, 2021
USOPC Athletes' Advisory Council Representative*	Matthew Mortensen	 Matthew Mortensen (Oct 16, 2021 12:33 EDT)	Oct 16, 2021

\* If the USOPC AAC Representative has delegated authority to the Alternate AAC Representative to sign the Selection Procedures, attach a letter from the AAC Representative indicating the reason he/she has delegated authority.

\* Signature by the Athlete Representative constitutes that he/she has read and understands the Selection Procedures. If the Athlete Representative reads and does not agree with the Athlete Selection Procedures being submitted by USA Luge, he/she may submit those reasons in writing to his/her Sport Performance Team.

\* If, for some reason, a sport does not have an elected USOPC AAC Representative, the NGB must designate an athlete from that sport to review and sign the Selection Procedures.












# LUG 2022 WOG ATH AMENDED 10-8-2021

Final Audit Report

2021-10-16

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