



AUSTRALIAN BIATHLON

**AUSTRALIAN BIATHLON TEAM
AND
AUSTRALIAN DEVELOPMENT TEAM**

SELECTION POLICY 2015-16

12 May 2015

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1.	Background	1
1.2.	Eligibility for Selection	1
2.	TEAM SELECTION	1
2.1.	Selection Committee	1
2.2.	Selection Criteria for the Australian Biathlon Team.....	2
2.3.	Selection Criteria for the Australian Biathlon Development Team	3
2.4.	General	4
3.	SELECTION CRITERIA FOR ENTRY INTO IBU EVENTS	4
3.1.	Selection Criteria for entry into World Cup and World Championship Events..	4
3.2.	Selection Criteria for entry into IBU Cup and OECH.....	4
3.3.	Selection Criteria for entry into IBU Junior Cup and Alpen Cup.....	4
3.4.	Selection Criteria for entry into YJWCH	5
3.5.	Skiing up.....	6
3.6.	Selection for the Winter University Games	6
3.7.	Summer IBU Events.....	7
3.8.	Selection for the 2016 Winter Youth Olympic Games	7
3.9.	General	7
4.	EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES	7
4.1.	AB Discretion.....	7
5.	JURISDICTION AND APPEALS	7
5.1.	General	7
5.2.	Grounds of Appeal	8
5.3.	Appeal process	8
5.4.	Function of the Appeals Panel.....	8
5.5.	Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).....	9
6.	NON PARTICIPATION IN OVERSEAS COMPETITION.....	10
6.1.	Australian Biathlon Athlete Agreement.....	10
7.	AMENDMENTS	10
8.	CORRESPONDENCE.....	10
9.	DEFINITIONS.....	10

AUSTRALIAN BIATHLON TEAM AND AUSTRALIAN DEVELOPMENT TEAM SELECTION POLICY 2015-2016

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

- 1.1.1. Australian Biathlon (AB) has adopted this Selection Policy for the purposes of selection of athletes for admission to the Australian Biathlon Team and the Australian Biathlon Development Team and for entry into International Biathlon Union events (**IBU events**).
- 1.1.2. This policy covers the period 1 Jul 2015 to 30 Jun 2016. This policy may be reviewed as specified in Section 7.
- 1.1.3. This Policy is adopted as a By-Law of AB.

1.2. Eligibility for Selection

- 1.2.1. In order to be selected for the Australian Biathlon Team or Australian Development Team each athlete must:
 - a. be an Australian citizen;
 - b. be a current financial member of AB;
 - c. meet the current selection criteria outlined in section 2;
 - d. have observed and continue to observe the provisions of AB's Constitution, its by-laws and all resolutions made by the AB Committee;
 - e. at all times have acted in such a manner so as not to bring the athlete, the sport of biathlon or AB into disrepute;
 - f. be turning 16 years or older in the calendar year of selection;
 - g. have undergone medical assessment in accordance with AB requirements; and
 - h. have signed the Australian Biathlon Athlete Agreement .

2. TEAM SELECTION

2.1. Selection Committee

- 2.1.1. The AB Selection Committee shall number 3 in total, shall be appointed by the AB General Committee and shall generally consist of AB members with relevant experience but may include a non-AB member with specific relevant expertise. The Selection Committee is to meet at the end of the Australian domestic winter season to consider results, review applications and is to make recommendations to the General Committee for endorsement.
- 2.1.2. The Selection Committee may also meet at other times on an ad-hoc basis to attend to Selection matters referred by the AB General Committee.
- 2.1.3. In considering the applications, the Selection Committee is to be guided by the following:

- a. Applicants for selection are not to be present during discussions or voting about their selection.
 - b. Parents or coaches of athletes seeking selection should not be members of the selection committee, but if included shall abstain from voting on selection of their associated athlete.
 - c. Members unable to attend a meeting are to provide their nominations in writing via email or other means with their nominations to be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.
- 2.1.4. Except where otherwise specified in this Policy, where there are more eligible athletes than places available for selection (eg University Games), the Selection Committee is to rank athletes based on their results in AB Championship or International races for the preceding 12 months.

2.2. Selection Criteria for the Australian Biathlon Team

2.2.1. No athletes are pre-qualified to the Australian Biathlon Team. All athletes seeking selection to the Australian Biathlon Team are required to participate in the 2015 AB Championship races.

2.2.2. Eligible Events

- a. For the purposes of this Selection Policy, the eligible classes of competition in which an athlete must compete in the 2015 AB Championship Races to be considered for Selection to the Australian Biathlon Team (**ABT Eligible Events**) as follows:

(1) Any AB Men’s or Women’s Open or U21 event.

2.2.3. To be eligible for selection into the Australian Biathlon Team an athlete must have competed in ABT Eligible Events in the 2015 AB Championship Races and met the following requirements:

- a. have signed the Australian Biathlon Athlete Agreement , subject to the exception in section 6.1 below;
- b. met the Minimum Shooting Standard; and
- c. Either

(1) achieved two results not more than 15% behind the combined average results of the first two placegetters in the ABT Eligible Event; and

Achieved two results not more than 15% behind the average results of the first three placegetters in a Qualifying International Event obtained in the 2014-15 year in either the Open or Junior age class or the age class appropriate to the athlete in that year;

OR

(2) Competed at Qualifying International Events in the Northern Hemisphere 2015-16 season and achieved one result within the corresponding Qualifying Percentage of the average of the first three placegetters in Open or Junior age class.

- 2.2.4. Athletes in the Junior Class who satisfy the requirements of section 2.2.3 in all respects excepting only the required results at Qualifying International Events shall be eligible for selection to the Australian Biathlon Development Team.

2.3. Selection Criteria for the Australian Biathlon Development Team

- 2.3.1. There are two pathways for selection to the Australian Biathlon Development Team:
- a. Satisfaction of the requirements in section 2.2.4; or
 - b. Satisfaction of the requirements in sections 2.3.2 to 2.3.4 below.
- 2.3.2. Eligible Events
- a. For the purposes of this Selection Policy, the eligible classes of competition in which an athlete must compete in the 2015 AB Championship Races to be considered for Selection to the Australian Biathlon Development Team (**ABDT Eligible Events**) are as follows:
 - (1) Any AB Men's or Women's U19 or U17 event.
- 2.3.3. To be eligible for selection into the Australian Biathlon Development Team an athlete must have competed in ABDT Eligible Events in the 2015 AB Championship Races and met the following requirements:
- a. have signed the Australian Biathlon Athlete Agreement , subject to the exception in 6.1 below;
 - b. met the minimum Shooting Standard;
 - c. are at least 16 years of age as at 31 December 2015; and
 - d. Either
 - (1) achieved two results not more than 15% behind the average results of the first two placegetters in the in the ABDT Eligible Event; or
 - (2) Competed at a Qualifying International Events in the Northern Hemisphere 2015-16 season and achieved one result within the corresponding Qualifying Percentage of the average of the first three placegetters in either the Youth or Youth II (not Youth I) class; or
 - (3) obtained a result in the top 50% of the field in the Youth category at the most recent YJWCH.
- 2.3.4. An Athlete who competes in a Youth I Qualifying International Event may have the result of that competition included for the purposes of section 2.3.3 d. (2) or section 3.4.2 only under the following circumstances:
- a. The Youth I competition is conducted concurrently with a Youth II competition at the same time and on the same course over the same distance; and
 - b. AB merges the results of the Youth I and Youth II competitions and recalculates % behind on the basis of the merged results; and

- c. AB determines that the Athlete finished within the Qualifying Percentage of the average of the top three finishers in the merged results.

2.4. General

- 2.4.1. If an athlete is not selected into the Australian Biathlon Team or the Australian Biathlon Development Team prior to the 2015-16 Northern Hemisphere season and seeks to qualify under sections 2.2.3 c (2) or 2.3.3 d (2) (each a **relevant subclause**) the athlete must apply in writing immediately to the Executive Officer for entry into the Australian Biathlon Team or Australian Biathlon Development Team as appropriate and entry into the corresponding level of IBU races if an athlete meets the standard required in the relevant subclause. The application is to include evidence of results achieved.

3. SELECTION CRITERIA FOR ENTRY INTO IBU EVENTS

Entry by AB of an athlete into any IBU event using the IBU race entry system shall only occur in accordance with this section 3 and in all cases is subject to the IBU rules and any specific event competition rules in force.

3.1. Selection Criteria for entry into World Cup and World Championship Events

- 3.1.1. Subject to the availability of a Nation Cup quota or wildcard for a World Cup start the AB may, as advised by the Selection Committee, enter athletes into IBU World Cup events who are members of the Australian Biathlon Team and have met current IBU World Cup criteria in place at the time.
- 3.1.2. If the number of qualifying athletes exceeds the number of World Cup quota places available the Selection Committee shall allocate in its absolute discretion the available World Cup race starts to the athletes following consultation with the athletes and the appointed 2015-16 AB World Cup Coach and based on, inter alia, the following criteria:
 - a. Equity for all qualifying athletes (each qualifying athlete is entitled to a reasonable opportunity to participate in the available events);
 - b. Cost (each qualifying athlete should bear a reasonable share of the available events involving greater travel costs);
 - c. The current and potential performance of the qualifying athletes;

3.2. Selection Criteria for entry into IBU Cup and OECH

- 3.2.1. The AB may, as advised by the Selection Committee, enter athletes into IBU Cup and OECH events who are members of the Australian Biathlon Team.

3.3. Selection Criteria for entry into IBU Junior Cup and Alpen Cup

- 3.3.1. The AB may, as advised by the Selection Committee, enter athletes into
 - a. IBU Junior Cup events,
 - b. Alpen Cup events or
 - c. any biathlon event requiring entry by AB of an athlete using the IBU race entry system not specifically addressed elsewhere in this Section 3

3.3.2. Athletes seeking entry into events under section 3.3.1 must satisfy the following criteria:

- a. Are financial members of AB;
- b. meet the IBU requirements to participate in that event; and
- c. have signed the Australian Biathlon Athlete Agreement .

3.4. Selection Criteria for entry into YJWCH

3.4.1. Subject to the number of YJWCH quota places available, AB may, as advised by the Selection Committee, enter athletes into YJWCH events who meet the following requirements:

Either

- a. Are members of the Australian Biathlon Team or Australian Biathlon Development Team who are Junior class athletes; and

Competed at Qualifying International Events in the Northern Hemisphere 2015-16 season and achieved one result within the corresponding Qualifying Percentage of the average of the first three placegetters in Junior age class

OR

- b. Are members of the Australian Biathlon Development Team who are Youth class athletes; and

Competed at Qualifying International Events in the Northern Hemisphere 2015-16 season and achieved one result within the corresponding Qualifying Percentage of the average of the first three placegetters in Youth or Youth II (not Youth I) age class.

3.4.2. An Athlete who competes in a Youth I Qualifying International Event may have the result of that competition included for the purposes of section 3.4.1. b. only under the circumstances specified in section 2.3.4.

3.4.3. If the number of qualifying athletes exceeds the number of YJWCH quota places available the Selection Committee shall rank the qualifying athletes based on the athletes' best four results as follows:

- a. Two results, expressed as the % behind the average results of the first two placegetters in ABDT Eligible Events in the 2015 AB Championship Races; and
- b. Two results, expressed as the % behind the average results of the first three placegetters in Qualifying International Events in the Northern Hemisphere 2015-16 season;

3.4.4. The athlete is to nominate the results to be included to satisfy section 3.4.3 above and is to provide documentary evidence of each result to AB.

3.4.5. The Selection Committee shall calculate for each eligible athlete the simple average of the results from the four events provided to AB in accordance with sections 3.4.3 and 3.4.4.

- 3.4.6. The Selection Committee shall rank the eligible athletes in ascending order of their average result calculated in section 3.4.5. The athlete with the lowest % behind average shall be ranked first, and so on until all eligible athletes have been ranked.
- 3.4.7. In the event of a tie, the athlete with the best shooting accuracy from their results in the four events used for calculating the average in section 3.4.5 shall be ranked higher than the other athlete(s).
- 3.4.8. The Selection Committee shall determine the allocation of YJWCH races to qualifying athletes in accordance with the athletes' rank as determined in sections 3.4.6 and 3.4.7.

3.5. Skiing up

- 3.5.1. Subject to the IBU rules and specific event competition rules in force, a Youth II Class Athlete shall only be entered into a Junior event if the athlete has achieved a result in the top 50% of the field in Youth or Youth II class (not Youth I class) at a Qualifying International Event.
- 3.5.2. Subject to the IBU rules and specific event competition rules in force, a Youth II or Junior Class Athlete shall only be entered into an IBU Cup event if the athlete has achieved a result in the top 50% of the field in Junior Class at a Qualifying International Event.

3.6. Selection for the Winter University Games

- 3.6.1. The World University Winter Games or Winter Universiade are held every 2 years under the banner of the International University Sports Federation (FISU). To compete in the University Games, athletes must meet the University Games definition for being an eligible athlete. While no FISU events are scheduled for 2015-16, there may be events of a similar stature which AUS athletes wish to participate in.
- 3.6.2. The AB may, as advised by the Selection Committee, endorse athletes who competed in ABT or ABDT Eligible Events (as appropriate corresponding to the athlete's age) in the 2015 AB Championship Races and meet the following criteria:
 - a. Are financial members of AB;
 - b. meet any IBU requirements to participate in that event;
 - c. achieved two results not more than 15% behind the combined average results of the first two placegetters in the ABT or ABDT Eligible Event; and
 - d. have signed the Australian Biathlon Athlete Agreement .
- 3.6.3. Selected Winter Universiade athletes will need to make themselves available for designated training camps prior to the games unless other suitable training and competition arrangements have been made in the upcoming Northern Hemisphere season.

3.7. Summer IBU Events

- 3.7.1. Athletes who have qualified as members of the Australian Biathlon Team as at the end of any European biathlon season are eligible to participate in IBU Summer Biathlon events in the following European summer.

3.8. Selection for the 2016 Winter Youth Olympic Games

The AOC approved selection policy for the 2016 Winter Youth Olympic Games is contained in the document ‘Australian Olympic Committee (AOC) Australian/Victorian Biathlon Association Incorporated (AB) Guidelines for Nomination & Selection to 2016 Australian Youth Olympic Team–Biathlon’ published on the AB website under Admin | Documentation and Procedures.

3.9. General

- 3.9.1. For IBU Cup ongoing participation, Rule 16.2.1 of IBU Event and Competition Rules applies.
- 3.9.2. Application for approval to race in any IBU Event must be made through the Executive Officer prior to the IBU’s cut-off date for entry by name on the IBU Entry database.

4. EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES

4.1. AB Discretion

- 4.1.1. In considering the selection criteria, consideration may be given by the AB General Committee to extenuating circumstances. Extenuating circumstances will only be considered in exceptional circumstances where the athlete has entered the event and where the athlete has applied to the AB General Committee for exemption through the Executive Officer as soon as the disability or extenuating circumstance is apparent. The athlete’s application must be supported with details of the extenuating circumstances, medical certificates as appropriate and evidence of ongoing continuation in training. The application must be lodged with the Executive Officer by 25 July 2015. The AB General Committee decision is final.
- 4.1.2. In deciding whether to select an athlete to an Australian Team due to extenuating circumstances, the AB may seek input from advisors, such as the National Team sports medical advisors on the ability of the athlete to participate in team activities and the likelihood of the athlete to return to the same level achieved previously.
- 4.1.3. In the case of illness or injury, athletes may be required to undergo a medical examination by a doctor or doctors appointed by AB at their own expense.

5. JURISDICTION AND APPEALS

5.1. General

- 5.1.1. The AB General Committee has sole and absolute discretion to determine whether athletes have met the requirements of this Selection Policy.

5.2. Grounds of Appeal

- 5.2.1. An athlete may appeal against a failure of the Selection Committee to comply with the procedures set down in this policy. That is, an appeal may only be made on the procedural grounds not on the merits of a particular selection decision.

5.3. Appeal process

- 5.3.1. Any appeal against a decision of the Selection Committee must be made within 7 days of the public announcement of the decision. Appeals made after 7 days of the public announcement of the decision shall not be considered.
- 5.3.2. Any appeal must be lodged in writing with the AB General Committee via the Executive Officer and the appeal must be accompanied by a non-refundable fee of \$250. Appeals not accompanied by the specified fee shall not be considered.
- 5.3.3. The appeal must set out:
- a. The decision of the Selection Committee in question;
 - b. the grounds on which the appeal is made; and
 - c. the reasons or circumstances supporting the alleged grounds of appeal.
- 5.3.4. Appeals that do not set out the information specified in section 5.3.3 shall not be considered.
- 5.3.5. The AB General Committee shall be entitled to direct that an athlete who lodges an appeal will be responsible for all or some of the costs associated with the hearing of any appeal.
- 5.3.6. The AB General Committee is to appoint an Appeals Panel, generally of three AB members. Any panel member who was party to the original decision is ineligible to be a member of the Appeals Panel. Any person with any involvement with the athlete concerned is ineligible to be a member of the Appeals Panel. The AB General Committee may choose to appoint to one of the Appeals Panel positions a lawyer, in the place of an AB member.
- 5.3.7. The Executive Officer must immediately forward the appeal documents to the Appeals Panel.

5.4. Function of the Appeals Panel.

- 5.4.1. The Appeals Panel has no power of selection or reselection. The Appeals Panel may review the matter(s) set out in the appeal and may (as appropriate) dismiss the matter or refer it back to the Selection Committee for re-consideration.
- 5.4.2. The Appeals Panel shall, as soon as practical after receiving the appeal documents under section 5.3.2, investigate and consider the matter and shall within 7 days of receiving such notice, determine whether the matter:
- a. should be dismissed, because in its determination, it is trifling in nature or has no merit; or warrants further review and determination in accordance with this Policy;
 - or
 - b. should be referred back to the Selection Committee, because in its determination, the selection was not made in accordance with this Policy.

- 5.4.3. If the Appeals Panel determines the matter warrants further review under section 5.4.2. a., it shall as soon as practicable, having regard to the timing of selection and proximity of relevant events, serve a notice in writing on the aggrieved party, the Selection Committee and the AB General Committee :
- a. stating that the aggrieved party may address the Appeals Panel as soon as practicable, being not earlier than 4 days from the date of the notice;
 - b. stating the date, place and time of that meeting; and
 - c. informing the aggrieved person that he or she may do any one or more of the following:
 - (1) attend that meeting (personally or by his or her representative, not being legally trained or qualified); or
 - (2) give the Appeals Panel, no later than 24 hours before the time of that meeting, a further written statement setting out relevant information surrounding the appeal.
 - d. The Appeals Panel may conduct a meeting convened in accordance with section 5.4.3 b. (or any adjournment) in such manner as it sees fit, including by electronic means, but shall:
 - (1) give to the aggrieved party and the Selection Committee every opportunity to be heard;
 - (2) give due consideration to any written statement by the aggrieved person;
 - (3) allow the aggrieved person to be present along with his or her adult representative (not being legally trained or qualified); and may
 - (4) request or require the aggrieved person or any other witness to attend the meeting or provide such evidence as is available.
 - e. Following consideration of all information which the Appeals Panel considers relevant and which is available, the Appeals Panel shall arrive at a finding. A decision of the Appeals Panel may be by a majority decision.
 - f. The Appeals Panel shall notify the AB Executive Officer of its finding as soon as practicable.
 - g. If the Appeals Panel considers the ground(s) alleged by the aggrieved person to be satisfied, it may direct that the Selection Committee again consider the selection of the relevant squad, team or individual.
 - h. The Selection Committee shall comply with any direction of the Appeals Panel.
 - i. Any further selection decision of the Selection Committee under the direction of the Appeals Panel shall be final, and no other further appeal shall be available to the aggrieved person in respect of that selection decision.

5.5. Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS)

- 5.5.1. Athletes who are not satisfied with a decision reached under sections 5.3 and 5.4 may seek to have their non-selection lodged with the CAS Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) for arbitration. CAS only has jurisdiction over selection matters for

OWG unless both parties agree for CAS to have jurisdiction for other events. For AB selection matters that CAS does not have jurisdiction over, before the AB will agree to arbitration, the applicant must agree to bear the costs of all parties.

6. NON PARTICIPATION IN OVERSEAS COMPETITION

6.1. Australian Biathlon Athlete Agreement

- 6.1.1. A member selected for the Australian Biathlon Team or Australian Biathlon Development Team who decides not to travel overseas and compete, is not required to sign the Australian Biathlon Athlete Agreement . That member may purchase the Team uniform and be acknowledged as an Australian Biathlon Team or Australian Development Team member.
- 6.1.2. Notwithstanding the athlete is not competing overseas, the athlete is expected to abide by the Australian Biathlon Team Member Obligations and Code of Behaviour.
- 6.1.3. Athletes who have not signed the Australian Biathlon Athlete Agreement shall not be entered into IBU Events.

7. AMENDMENTS

- 7.1.1. AB may amend this Selection Policy:
 - a. at any time prior to 1 July 2015; or
 - b. at any time if the IBU, AOC, FISU or other similar body change their criteria during the currency of the document or it becomes a requirement of these bodies.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence in relation to selection under this Policy is to be directed to the AB Executive Officer at <mailto:biathlon.selection@gmail.com>. Selection policy-related correspondence to any other person or address shall be deemed as not received by AB.

Applications for approval to race in any IBU Event must be made through the Executive Officer.

9. DEFINITIONS

AB or **Australian Biathlon** means the Australia/Victorian Biathlon Association Inc.

AB Championship races means each of the following:

1. Victorian Individual Championships 25/26 July 2015;
2. Victorian Sprint Championships 25/26 July 2015;
3. Australian Individual Championships 15/16 August 2015;
4. Australian Sprint Championships 15/16 August 2015; and
5. includes any replacement or re-scheduled race held in the 2015 Australian winter season and notified to the AB membership as a Championship race.

Australian Biathlon Athlete Agreement means the Australian Biathlon Athlete Agreement for the time being in force.

Competition Rules means the AB Competition Rules for the time being in force.

Extenuating circumstances means circumstances beyond the control of the athlete and which may include, but are not limited to; injury, illness or personal bereavement.

IBU Events means in this selection policy any IBU competition event for which an AB member athlete is to be registered by AB in its role as the relevant Nation Federation and using the IBU’s on-line entry system.

Junior means the class of athletes defined as U21 in the AB Competition Rules for the time being in force.

Minimum Shooting Standard: to meet the Minimum Shooting Standard means that:

1. in the 2015 Australian Winter Competitions the athlete has achieved in at least one Eligible Event the specified minimum shooting accuracy;
2. in the Qualifying International Events in the Northern Hemisphere 2014-15 season that the athlete nominates for selection under this Policy the athlete has achieved in at least one event the specified minimum shooting accuracy; and
3. in the Qualifying International Events in the Northern Hemisphere 2015-16 season that the athlete nominates for selection under this Policy the athlete has achieved in at least one event the specified minimum shooting accuracy.

Where

- i. shooting accuracy is calculated as [Number of Targets hit/Number of shots fired], expressed as a percentage and based on official final results published by the IBU, the relevant Race Organising Committee or the AB National Race Secretary as appropriate; and
- ii. the specified minimum shooting accuracy for each age class is set out in the table below:

Class	Minimum Shooting Accuracy¹
Athletes competing in Open Class	60%
Athletes competing in Junior Class	50%
Athletes competing in U19 and U17 classes	40%

¹ It is AB’s objective that the Minimum Shooting Accuracy standards shall, in time, reflect the standards necessary for success in international competition. The standards in the table above shall be reviewed each year towards achieving this objective.

OECH means the IBU Open European Championships.

Open means the class of athletes defined as Open in the AB Competition Rules.

OWG means Olympic Winter Games.

Qualifying International Event (QIE) means:

Any World Cup, World Championship, YJWCH, IBU Cup, OECH, Continental Championship, Continental Cup or IBU Junior Cup event; or

A National selection race for any nation with a World Cup Nations Cup ranking in the corresponding gender in the sixteenth place or better as at the European biathlon season end in the prior year.

All Alpen Cup, Swiss Cup and Italia Cup races are Qualifying International Events.

Local or Regional races are not Qualifying International Events.

A National selection race for any nation with a World Cup Nations Cup ranking in the corresponding gender between the seventeenth place and twenty-second place as at the European biathlon season end in the prior year will only be considered to be a QIE with the prior agreement of AB. An athlete wishing to use such an event as a selection event must submit a written application to the Executive Officer. To receive consideration the application must be received no less than 7 days prior to the event.

Qualifying Percentage means:

For all World Cup, World Championships or YJWCH event: 20%

For all IBU Cup, OECH, Continental Championship or Continental Cup event: 15%

For all Junior IBU Cup events: 20%

For all Alpen Cup, Swiss Cup and Italia Cup events: 15%.

For a National Selection Race:

- (a) For any nation with a World Cup Nations Cup ranking in the corresponding gender in the sixteenth place or better: 15%.
- (b) For any nation with a World Cup Nations Cup ranking in the corresponding gender between the seventeenth and the twenty-second places: 10%.

Results means official final results published by the IBU, the relevant Race Organising Committee or the AB National Race Secretary as appropriate;

YJWCH means the IBU Youth/Junior World Championships.

Youth means the class of athletes defined as Youth Men and Youth Women in IBU Event and Competition Rules Chapter 3 art. 1.2.3.

Youth II means the class of athletes defined as U19 in the AB Competition Rules.

Youth I means the class of athletes defined as U17 in the AB Competition Rules

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