

UNITED STATES LUGE ASSOCIATION

Reference: # 30-08.6B

NTC Chair Frank Masley

Date: August 8, 2002

SEEDING PROCESS

PURPOSE - To provide a method to rank eligible luge athletes for the purpose of National Team Selection or for whatever use deemed necessary by the USLA.

ELIGIBILITY - Athletes will be seeded in all three Olympic disciplines; Men's Singles, Women's Singles, and Doubles.

To be eligible to be seeded in the Senior division an athlete must meet all of the following criteria:

1. Be a "senior" as defined in the FIL rule book or be a "junior", who will become a "senior" by the close of the following FIL sports year.
2. Be eligible to compete on the next U.S. Olympic Team (Kunstbahn only). The U.S. Olympic Committee requires all U.S. Olympic Team members to be U.S. citizens at the time the official Olympic entry is submitted to the IOC. Therefore, only U.S. citizens may try out for the U.S. Olympic Team. By extension, only U.S. citizens may try out for any Artificial Track or Natural Track National Team unless the conditions listed as follows are met:

Non-citizens of the U.S. are only eligible to try out for the National Luge Teams of the U.S. in the quadrennial that their five-year waiting period for citizenship is due to expire. They are also required to have established Permanent Residency, as defined by the Immigration Laws of the U.S., prior to trying out for any team.

3. Be cleared to race from their respective start by the general consensus of the coaching staff present. Clearance may only be given to a competitor if that competitor is safely getting down the course, on a consistent basis, with no braking, during training prior to the race.
4. A minimum of three (3) athletes or teams, in each respective event, must start for the race to be eligible to be counted as a seeding race.

To be eligible to be seeded in the Junior or Youth division an athlete must meet all of the following criteria:

- 1.) Be a "junior" or "youth" as defined by the various age classes of the FIL rule book or be an athlete who will become a "junior" or "youth" by the close of the following FIL sports year.
- 2.) Competitors who compete in Junior or Youth Seeding Races must belong to one of the following age groups:

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NOTE: In conformance with the FIL rule book the "Year of the Event" will be defined as follows for this policy: For events taking place at any time during the Sports Year (the "Sports Year" is defined by the FIL as July 1 of one year to June 30 of the next year) the event will be considered as taking place in the second half of the sports year (for example, an October 2002 event or a March 2003 event would both be considered a 2003 event).

Jr. Doubles: Athletes must be born between January 1 of the year of the event minus 19 and December 31 of the year of the event minus 14 (Athletes born between January 1 of the year of the event minus 20 and December 31 of the year of the event minus 20 may compete for the title but will not be eligible to receive any points).

Junior: Athletes must be born between January 1 of the year of the event minus 19 and December 31 of the year of the event minus 17 (Athletes born between January 1 of the year of the event minus 20 and December 31 of the year of the event minus 20 may compete for the title but will not be eligible to receive any points).

Youth A: Athletes must be born between January 1 of the year of the event minus 16 and December 31 of the year of the event minus 14 (Athletes born between January 1 of the year of the event minus 17 and December 31 of the year of the event minus 17 may compete for the title but will not be eligible to receive any points).

Youth A racers may compete in Junior events at any time.

Youth B: Athletes must be born between January 1 of the year of the event minus 13 and December 31 of the year of the event minus 12 (Athletes born between January 1 of the year of the event minus 14 and December 31 of the year of the event minus 14 may compete for the title but will not be eligible to receive any points).

Youth B racers may compete in Youth A events at any time.

Youth C: Athletes must be born on or after January 1 of the year of the event minus 11 (Athletes born between January 1 of the year of the event minus 12 and December 31 of the year of the event minus 12 may compete for the title but will not be eligible to receive any points).

The start height for each junior or youth class will be set at each track prior to the first official training run.

3.) See rule #3, #4, and #5 above under Senior division eligibility.

RANKING OF ATHLETES - Eligible athletes will be awarded points on the basis of their results in selected seeding races. In doubles events, points will only be awarded on a team basis, not an individual basis. The highest finishing eligible athlete or team (lowest aggregate time) will be placed first, the second highest, second, and so on and then awarded points according to the table which follows. A separate ranking will be issued in each of the three disciplines listed above based on the total number of points earned in each discipline during the seeding races. The highest total of points rank first, the second highest total of points rank second and so on. An athlete or team need only compete in a single seeding race in order to be ranked.

AWARDING OF POINTS:

PLACE	POINTS	PLACE	POINTS	
1	100	11	10	
2	80	12	8	21st to final
3	65	13	7	finisher - 1 point
4	53	14	6	
5	43	15	5	Disqualified -
6	35	16	4	0 points
7	28	17	3	
8	22	18	2	Did not finish -
9	17	19	1	0 points
10	13	20	1	

TIE - BREAKING: - FINAL RANKING LIST: - In the event a tie occurs in points during the final ranking for any discipline, the following criteria will be used, in the order stated, until the tie is broken:

1. The highest finish for any individual seeding race will rank ahead.
2. The best official run, as recorded in the official results, during any seeding race will rank ahead.
3. The least number of seeding races competed in during the seeding races ranks ahead.
4. As decided by the National Team Selection Committee.

TIE - BREAKING: INDIVIDUAL RACES: - In the event of a tie in the aggregate time at the end of a race, the following criteria are to be used, in the order stated, until the tie is broken:

1. The applicable rules, if any, governing ties in the FIL rule book.
2. The single best run of one competitor will be compared with the single best run of all other tied competitors and the individual who had the fastest run will be placed highest.

The next individual with the next fastest run will be placed next highest, and so on.

TRAINING: - While recognizing that the "national" training environment is different than that encountered in the international arena, the following principles will be followed in establishing the training schedule for seeding races:

1. The three days before an event will be termed as "official" training days.
2. For these three days, training groups will be determined by random draw.
3. For these three days, the training groups will be rotated so that each group gets, as close as possible, equal training time on both a "prepared" track and "unprepared" track. In the absence of a clear interpretation of what is a "prepared" or "unprepared" track, then the athletes will be broken into three groups and the training day will be broken into three training sessions, with each group sliding in a different session on each day so that each group will have trained in each possible session at the end of the three days.
4. There will be a pre-determined number of runs, including a "systematic" run if so requested in advance.
5. All training run times, with available split times, will be posted in a common location for all competitors to review.
6. A separate "doubles only" session will be held at the end of the second and third days of training. For these "doubles only" sessions, points 4) and 5) above will apply.