

UNITED STATES *LUGE* ASSOCIATION

SENIOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM For Kunstbahn

This policy creates an environment where athletes must meet a minimum competition standard in order to qualify to race in the World Championships each year they are contested (usually the three non-Olympic years).

The following described standards must be met in the World Cup races preceding that season's World Championships, hereinafter referred to as the "qualification period". It is contemplated that the assessment of whether or not an athlete has met the necessary standards will be based on the results of at least four (4) World Cup races contested during the same season that the World Championships in question are being contested. It is not contemplated that all athletes must have the opportunity to race in each event; only that USA Luge will base its decisions on the results from at least four (4) World Cup races. In the event that the sports staff wishes to use less than four (4) World Cup races for the evaluation contemplated by this paragraph, they may only do so upon the approval of the National Team Committee (NTC), but only after the NTC has received a timely request by the staff (timely being defined as occurring before August 31).

There must be a minimum of six (6) 'sleds entered' in an applicable discipline for the race to count towards qualification for the World Championships.

When there are eighteen (18) or more 'sleds entered' in doubles, twenty-four (24) or more 'sleds entered' in women's singles or thirty (30) or more 'sleds entered' in men's singles, then the standard is one finish in the top five (**This will be called Tier A**) – or – two finishes in the top nine for doubles, two finishes in the top nine for women's singles, or two finishes in the top eleven for men's singles, all of which will be called **Tier B** – or – one finish in the top nine and two additional finishes in the top ten for doubles, one finish in the top nine and two additional finishes in the top twelve for women's singles, or one finish in the top eleven and two additional finishes in the top fifteen for men's singles, all of which will be called **Tier C**.

When there are more than five (>5), but less than eighteen (<18) 'sleds entered' in doubles, less than twenty-four (<24) 'sleds entered' in women's singles, and less than thirty (<30) 'sleds entered' in men's singles, then the standard(s) that need(s) to be met will correspond to the following chart:

# Of <u>Entries</u>	Race Result Needed for Tier A <u>Qualification</u>	Tier B & C: Maximum Race Result Permitted To Be Used Against Tier B and Tier C Qualification Definitions		
		<u>Doubles</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Men</u>
6	2	3	3	3
7	2	3	3	3
8	2	4	4	4
9	3	4	4	4
10	3	5	5	5

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# Of <u>Entries</u>	Race Result Needed for Tier A <u>Qualification</u>	Tier B & C: Maximum Race Result Permitted To Be Used Against Tier B and Tier C Qualification Definitions		
		<u>Doubles</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Men</u>
11	3	5	5	5
12	4	6	6	6
13	4	6	6	6
14	4	7	7	7
15	5	7	7	7
16	5	8	8	8
17	5	8	8	8
18	5	9	9	9
19	5	9	9	9
20	5	10	10	10
21	5	10	10	10
22	5	10	11	11
23	5	10	11	11
24	5	10	12	12
25	5	10	12	12
26	5	10	12	13
27	5	10	12	13
28	5	10	12	14
29	5	10	12	14
30	5	10	12	15

‘Sleds Entered’ will be defined as those sleds beginning at least one run of a World Cup race plus those sleds beginning the ‘qualifying run’ (*as defined by the FIL*) that do not actually qualify for that same World Cup race.

Note: Athletes/Teams that are injured, to the point where he/she/they have to miss a race (as determined by the USLA’s Certified Athletic Trainer, and with an appeal possible to the USLA’s Head Team Physician) during the qualification period, will be allowed to carry over his/her/their Tier status from the prior year if it is higher than his/her/their current year Tier status.

If, at the end of the qualification period, more athletes/teams have met the qualification standards specified above than the maximum allowable entrants in a specific event, then the following will occur:

Athletes/Teams will first be grouped according to their Tier status including the athletes/teams carrying over a Tier status from the previous year due to injury. However, in order for the injured athlete/team to continue on in the process, or any athlete/team for that matter, he/she/they must be cleared to resume competing by the USLA’s Certified Athletic Trainer (with an appeal possible to the USLA’s Head Team Physician) prior to the World Championship competition.

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Once the athletes/teams are grouped according to their Tier, then the number of athletes/teams in Tier A will be compared to the number of race entries available to the USLA. If there are less athletes/teams in Tier A than entries available, then everyone in Tier A will qualify for the World Championships. Should this happen, the USLA will then go to Tier B, and then to Tier C to try to fill out the World Championship Team before exercising any discretion allowable under this policy.

At any time, should the number of athletes/teams in a Tier exceed the number of race entries remaining for the World Championship, then the athletes/teams in only that Tier will be ranked.

The first and highest level of ranking will be the number of finishes achieved in their qualifying Tier during the qualifying events (specified by the coaching staff, but a minimum of all the fall races)(an athlete/team carrying over their Tier ranking from the prior season due to injury will be credited with zero (0) Tier finishes).

In the event of a tie using the first level of ranking, the second level of ranking will be the number of World Cup points achieved in only the events where the athlete/team earned their highest Tier ranking (an athlete/team carrying over their Tier ranking from the prior season due to injury will be credited with zero (0) points).

In the event of a tie using the first two levels of ranking, the third level of ranking will be the number of World Cup points achieved through the full qualifying period schedule (an athlete/team carrying over their Tier ranking from the prior season due to injury will be credited with zero (0) points).

Once the athletes are ranked within their Tier, then the number of athletes/teams in that Tier will be compared to the number of World Championship race entries still available to USLA.

With this ranking complete, up to all but one spot for each event will be filled with the highest ranked athletes within the Tier in question.

If two or more athletes are still remaining with that same Tier ranking, then they will “race-off” and be ranked in a manner prescribed by the coaching staff with the top ranked athlete(s)/team(s) being used to fill out the remaining race entries. This race-off (format, location, and timing) will be announced as soon as possible after this “tie” condition creates itself, even if it is early in the qualification period.

Should the above qualification criteria fill out or exceed the maximum roster per discipline for the World Championships, then no discretionary picks will be allowed.

However, should this qualification criteria not fill out the maximum roster per discipline for the World Championships, then discretion, as outlined below, may be used to fill out, but not exceed, the available slots. It will not be mandatory to invoke any discretion or fill out the roster per discipline for the team (i.e. Team size may remain less than the maximum allowable entrants).

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Discretionary picks, within the context of this policy, may only come from the following groups of athletes, but will always center upon the USLA's basic premise for discretion - Who has the ability to do best at the next Olympic Games ?:

Any Senior Team athlete who missed World Cup races that season due to injury.

Any Senior Team athlete who finished in first, second, or third place in a World Cup race in the previous season.

Any Junior National Team athlete.

Any first year Senior Team athlete or Graduating Junior.

USA Luge Senior World Cup and World Championship Team Qualification Criteria for the 2008-2009 Season

(This procedure is in lieu of our standard World Championship policy (#30-02.4K) while keeping the Tier levels of that policy intact)

Doubles:

A Tier = 1 top 5 B Tier = 2 top 9 C Tier = 1 top 9, and 2 top 10

- Mark Grimmette and Brian Martin, Matthew Mortensen and Preston Griffall, and Chris Mazdzer and Jayson Terdiman will participate in a race-off series to be held in Lake Placid on October 21, 23 and 25. Christian Niccum and Dan Joye are exempt from the race-off series based on being the USA's overall World Cup standing leader in doubles from 2007-08.
- The top two teams after the race-off (along with Niccum and Joye) will qualify to attend the Whistler Training Week as well as the Igls, Sigulda and Winterberg World Cup races (all hereinafter referred to as the 'Fall 2008 trip').

Women Singles:

A Tier = 1 top 5 B Tier = 2 top 9 C Tier = 1 top 9, and 2 top 12

- Julia Clukey, Kate Hansen, Megan Sweeney, Ashley Walden, Anastasia Young and Courtney Zablocki will participate in a race-off series to be held in Lake Placid on October 21, 23 and 25. Erin Hamlin is exempt from the race-off series based on being the USA's overall World Cup standing leader in women's singles from 2007-08.
- The top three women after the race-off (along with Hamlin) will qualify to take part in the full Fall 2008 trip.

Men Singles:

A Tier = 1 top 5 B Tier = 2 top 11 C Tier = 1 top 11, and 2 top 15

- Robby Huerbin, Trent Matheson, Chris Mazdzer, Joe Mortensen and Bengt Walden will participate in a race-off series to be held in Lake Placid on October 21, 23 and 25. Tony Benshoof is exempt from the race-off series based on being the USA's overall World Cup standing leader in men's singles from 2007-08.
- The top three men after the race-off (along with Benshoof) will qualify to take part in the full Fall 2008 trip.

Applicable to All:

- For the three races on the 21st, 23rd, and 25th of October, each athlete will take three runs in which only the top two runs will be counted. Points will be awarded for each race within each athlete's event based upon the USLA's Seeding Policy, and after the three races the points will be totaled, with the athlete or team earning the most points being ranked first, and so on, within their event.

Fall 2008 Senior World Cup and World Championship Team Qualification Criteria
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- The athlete(s) or team that does not qualify for the Fall 2008 trip will remain in Lake Placid to train and then have the opportunity to qualify for the World Championships, as well as the Calgary and Whistler World Cup races, at a race-off tentatively scheduled for the end of January.
- If any athlete(s) or team(s) achieve a full World Championship Tier Ranking (A, B, or C) during the Fall 2008 trip, he/she or they will earn the right to travel back to Europe in early January for the January World Cup races, as well as travel to Canada in February to race in the Calgary and Whistler World Cup races (in addition to racing in the World Championship), *with one exception*. If all four men (or all four women, or all three doubles teams) earn a Tier Ranking and at least one athlete has a B or C Tier Ranking, then the lowest ranked of the athletes will not receive any of the benefits specified in this bullet point, and, instead, will return to Lake Placid to train and then have the opportunity to qualify for the World Championships, as well as the Calgary and Whistler World Cup races, at a race-off tentatively scheduled for the end of January. Tie breakers will be, in order after A Tier ranked athletes (who are guaranteed the benefits specified in this bullet point): those athletes who achieved a full B Tier ranking; those athletes with only one part of a B Tier ranking; those athletes who achieved a full C Tier ranking; those athletes with two parts of a C Tier ranking; those athletes who achieved only one part of a C Tier ranking; the highest placing in a World Cup; and finally, the combined time of all three World Cup race runs contested during the Fall 2008 trip (six total runs).
- Should no doubles team (or woman, or man) participating on the Fall 2008 trip achieve a full World Championship Tier Ranking (A, B, or C), then the highest ranked doubles team (or woman, or man), based upon the Fall 2008 overall World Cup point standings at the end of the Fall 2008 trip, will travel back to Europe in early January for the January World Cup races, as well as travel to Canada in February to race in the Calgary and Whistler World Cup races (in addition to racing in the World Championship). If there is a tie in points, then the doubles team (or woman, or man) with the highest points from their (or her, or his) best race will rank ahead. If the tie needs to be further broken, then the combined time of all three World Cup race runs contested during the Fall 2008 trip (six total runs) will be added together with the lowest aggregate time ranking ahead.
- Any athlete(s) or team who does/do not achieve a full World Championship Tier A Ranking (A, B, or C), or does not qualify under the third or fourth bullet point above under Doubles, Women Singles, or Men Singles, will return to Lake Placid to train and then have the opportunity to qualify for the World Championships, as well as the Calgary and Whistler World Cup races, at a race-off tentatively scheduled for the end of January.
- In the event that an athlete or team that is exempted from the October race-off series does not slide in any of the race-off events, no other athlete or team will receive an exemption, and no other parameters of this policy will change.
- The coaching staff maintains the right to add athletes by discretion at any point during this process, except that no coaching staff selection may displace anyone who qualified for any event listed above through any phase of this process.