

United States *Luge* Association

ATHLETE OF THE YEAR AWARDS

This policy sets forth the manner in which the USLA will select from its membership, the Male Athlete of the Year – Artificial Track, the Female Athlete of the Year – Artificial Track, the Team of the Year – Artificial Track, the Junior Male Athlete(s) of the Year – Artificial Track, the Junior Female Athlete(s) of the Year – Artificial track, the Athlete(s) of the Year – Natural Track, the Junior Athlete(s) of the Year – Natural Track and the recipient of the Justin Matarese Award.

Shortly after the end of the season an election of “qualified” athletes will occur with the purpose of selecting one person or doubles team in each of the above respective named categories. “Qualified” athletes will be defined as any athlete who has competed in a USLA sanctioned race in the Junior, Youth, or Senior category in the just completed season.

Nominations will take place in the period between ninety (90) days and sixty (60) days prior to the USLA’s Annual Meeting. Nominations may be made by any qualified athlete. Additionally, the National Team Coaching Staff will be permitted one collective nomination in each of the above categories. Athletes are not permitted to nominate them self (themselves, in the case of a doubles team). The actual elections will take place in the period between sixty (60) days and thirty (30) days prior to the USLA’s Annual Meeting. For the purpose of this policy, any deadline set will mean the last date which something must be received in the USLA office, either by hand or by mail, with the voter’s signature written on the back of the envelope for verification purposes.

In the case of the Justin Matarese Award, three guidelines that must be followed are 1) the athlete must be between 11 and 16 years of age, 2) the athlete must have no more than two years of experience in luge, and 3) the athlete must be the one who's tried the hardest to improve.

Additionally, those staff personnel deemed appropriate by the Executive Director will also cast their ballot for one representative in each of the first seven above named categories. In the case of the Justin Matarese Award, only those developmental coaching staff personnel deemed appropriate by the Executive Director may cast a ballot.

The Executive Director will compare the two lists.

In the event that the submitted name/team in a specific category are the same on each list then that athlete/team will be declared the appropriately named Athlete(s) or Team of the Year or the recipient of the Justin Matarese Award.

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In the event that the submitted name/team in any of the first seven categories differ on each list, then the National Team Committee will be asked to break the tie for that category by a simple majority vote at its next opportunity. In the case of a difference on the lists for the Justin Matarese Award, the tie will be jointly broken by a member of the developmental coaching staff selected by the Executive Director, an Athletic Representative to the National Team Committee, and a member of the Matarese family.

The names of the Artificial Track Male, Female and Team Athlete(s) of the Year will be forwarded to the USOC when requested.

The Matarese family will provide a large perpetual trophy that will stay in the National Office of the U.S. Luge Association and will annually supply a plaque or other such appropriate trophy to that award's recipient.