

Bobsleigh CANADA Skeleton National Bobsleigh Program 2015/2016 Selection Process & Criteria

The following outlines the process **Bobsleigh CANADA Skeleton (BCS)** will follow in selecting athletes into the **National Bobsleigh Program (NBP)** for each level of IBSF competition for the 2015-16 competitive season. This Selection Process has been designed in support of BCS' mission to develop and sustain World and Olympic Champions.

BCS will utilize a combination of physical testing camps (dry-land and icehouse) along with an **Evaluation Race Series (ERS)** for the process of completing team selections. Athletes will earn ERS Points, which will ultimately assist in determining the circuit for which they begin to compete on during the 2015-16 season.

1. NBP - SELECTION PROCESS

A. ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to participate in the NBP – Selection Process, candidates must fulfill the following conditions:

- i. Athletes must be members in good standing with BCS and/or their respective provincial association;
- ii. Athletes must have a valid passport;
- iii. Athletes must meet the eligibility requirements to obtain a Canadian IBSF license;
- iv. Athletes must sign the current years BCS Athlete Agreement;
- v. No athlete will be entered into the NBP – Selection Process with positive results from anti-doping testing;
- vi. Returning athletes must have participated in all required NBP events throughout the off-season (unless authorized by BCS staff);
- vii. New athletes must be approved for participation by BCS in collaboration with the athlete's respective Provincial Sport Organization (PSO).

B. QUALIFYING STANDARD (QS)

QS1: Achieve the **BCS High Performance Athlete Selection – Bobsleigh 2015/2016**, attached as *Appendix A*.

C. EVALUATION RACE SERIES (ERS)

The ERS consists of two (2) races per discipline, **ERS Race 1** & **ERS Race 2** being held in Calgary and Whistler for a combined total of four (4) heats, over two (2) races over two (2) separate timeframes where **ERS Points** are earned.

ERS Race 1: Calgary - Participation is by Invitation Only.

- i. Eligibility:
 - 1) Open to all athletes.
- ii. Starting Order:
 - 1) The first race heat start order shall be by rank according to the Athletes previous seasons IBSF ranking.
 - 2) Athletes without an IBSF ranking are drawn at the end of the field;
 - 3) The second race heat start order shall be reverse order by rank according to the first race heat.

ERS Race 2: Whistler - Participation is by Invitation Only.

- i. Eligibility:
 - 1) Open to athletes who meet QS1.
- ii. Starting Order:
 - 1) The first race heat start order shall be by rank according to the final ranking from ERS Race 1;
 - 2) The second race heat start order shall be reverse order by rank according to the first race heat.

The ERS will be conducted in accordance with the current IBSF rules (where applicable), with any modifications to the ERS Rules to be announced at the pre-race meeting(s)/draw(s). Athletes are responsible for representing themselves at these meetings.

General race format will be as follows:

- i. Race draws will be held following the final training heats;
- ii. All equipment (sleds, runners, etc.) must conform to the current IBSF rules, pass the appropriate technical inspections and be available to the athlete for the entire season;
- iii. All crewmen participating in the ERS must be available to compete for the entire season;
- iv. Specific race protocols will be announced at the race draw, to reflect the race conditions (times, weather, etc.);
- v. Protests must be verbally made to a jury member within five minutes of the race ending, and must be submitted in writing within twenty minutes of the race conclusion, along with a \$100.00CAD protest fee.

D. ERS POINTS

ERS Points will be awarded in each of the ERS Races according to the following points table:

1 st	10 points
2 nd	6 points
3 rd	4 points
4 th	3 points
5 th	2 points
6 th	1 points

Bonus points will be awarded based on the average time of the top three places, with an additional 1/10th of a point being allocated for each 1/10th second ahead of the average time.

**Example: 1st – 115.30 2nd – 117.05 3rd – 117.45 = Average time is 116.60 seconds.
1st place finisher is 1.3 seconds ahead of the average time therefore receives an additional 1.3pts.**

Total combined ERS Points will be used to rank pilots. Based on rank and those considerations as outlined in the **NBP - Selection Criteria** documentation, pilots will have then achieved a position which will help to determine the competitive team / circuit they will be assigned.

In the event of a tie in total ERS Points, the pilots will be ranked based on the tied pilots' cumulative push time, over all four (4) race heats. The pilot with the lowest cumulative push time will be deemed to be the pilot of highest rank.

E. FINAL SELECTION

Upon completion of the ERS, the NBP – Head Coach, or designate, will nominate the list of eligible athletes to the Selection Committee. The Selection Committee will confirm the nominees, and ratify the team selection.

The Selection Committee will be comprised of:

- i. BCS Board Member (Committee Chair);
- ii. BCS Chief Executive Officer;
- iii. BCS High Performance Director;
- iv. Athletes Representative - Skeleton or designate;
- v. Independent participant.

**** If any named member is not available the High Performance Director may designate a replacement at his/her sole discretion.***

F. IBSF PARTICIPATION QUOTA

For the 2015-16 season, Canada has qualified the following participation quotas:

WORLD CUP: 2 x 2-Man (Men) / 3 x 2-Man (Women) / 2 x 4-Man (Men/Women)
NORTH AMERICAN CUP: 4 x 2-Man (Men) / 4 x 2-Man (Women) / 4 x 4-Man (Men/Women)
EUROPA CUP: 4 x 2-Man (Men) / 4 x 2-Man (Women) / 4 x 4-Man (Men/Women)

G. APPEALS - INTERNAL

Any dispute of the Selection Process may be dealt with through the BCS's Appeals Policy.

H. UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES

Fairness, equal opportunity and the desire to field the most competitive teams for international competition are the guiding principles of the NBP - Selection Process, which are based on the latest information available to BCS. Unforeseen, intervening circumstances (weather, budget, etc.) may occur.

- i. If a scheduled event cannot be held or must be interrupted, BCS will first try to re-schedule the event;
- ii. If a venue change is feasible, BCS will attempt to change the venue but will not guarantee funding for travel to the new venue;
- iii. If a venue change is not feasible, ranking will be based first on the portion of that event completed or if no portion has been completed, then ranking will be based on the discretion of the NBP - Head Coach.

2. NBP - SELECTION CRITERIA

BCS, at its sole discretion, reserves the right to:

- i. fulfill any combination of men & women of the qualified quotas on each of the circuits, WC, NAC, EC per the IBSF Participation Quota outlined in 1.F.***
- ii. rotate crewmen between pilots at any time as required;***
- iii. select alternate athletes (spares) as required.***

A. PRE-SELECTION ELIGIBILITY – WORLD CUP (WC) PILOT

A maximum of two (2) pilots (1 male & 1 female) that have met the following performance results may be eligible for Pre-Selection to the 2015-16 World Cup Team based on the following priority:

- #1. -- 1st Overall – 2014-15 IBSF Ranking
- #2. -- 2nd Overall – 2014-15 IBSF Ranking
- #3. -- 3rd Overall – 2014-15 IBSF Ranking
- #4. -- 1st Place – 2015 World Championships
- #5. -- 2nd Place – 2015 World Championships
- #6. -- 3rd Place – 2015 World Championships

Athletes eligible for Pre-Selection are required to confirm their health status as fit to compete through consultation with the BCS Integrated Services Team (IST). Ratification of Pre-Selection will be completed prior to the beginning of the ERS and subject to the approval of the Selection Committee.

B. NATIONAL TEAM - WORLD CUP (WC)

- i. WC Bobsleigh Team Eligibility

Athletes must meet their respective BCS NBP Push Standard as achieved in the Ice House during a BCS approved testing opportunity adhering to the BCS NBP Push Testing Protocols.

BCS NBP Push Standards

- 1) WC Pilots: Men ≤ 5.20sec, Women ≤ 5.60sec;
- 2) WC Crewmen: Men ≤ 5.15sec, Women ≤ 5.55sec.

ii. World Cup Pilot Selection

The **WC Bobsleigh Team** may consist of the maximum of two (2) x 2-Man men's pilots, three (3) x 2-Man women's pilots and two (2) x 4-Man men's/women's pilots as per the IBSF Participation Quota in 1.F. Consideration will be given to pilots who have met their respective BCS NBP Push Standard and are eligible for Pre-Selection or have participated in the NBP - Selection Process.

The following factors (in no particular order) will be considered along with any other factors deemed relevant by the NBP - Head Coach:

- 1) Pushing ability, as determined by physical testing results (dry-land and icehouse);
- 2) Future potential;
- 3) ERS results and qualitative assessments from Technical Staff;
- 4) Commitment to BCS World Cup and Olympic programs;
- 5) Attitude, Team Dynamics, Coach-ability, Mental Preparedness and Work Ethic;
- 6) Previous season's race results (where applicable).

iii. World Cup Crewmen Selection

Crewmen will be selected and assigned to teams in collaboration with the respective pilots following the ERS by the NBP - Head Coach. Consideration will be given to crewmen who have met their respective BCS NBP Push Standard.

The following factors (in no particular order) will be considered along with any other factors deemed relevant by the NBP - Head Coach:

- 1) Pushing ability, as determined by physical testing results (dry-land and icehouse);
- 2) Future potential;
- 3) Commitment to BCS World Cup and Olympic Programs;
- 4) Attitude, Team Dynamics, Coach-ability, Mental Preparedness and Work Ethic;
- 5) Past experience and results (when applicable).

iv. Injuries

Experienced athletes, who are injured or have long-term sickness before or after selection, will have their merit for team selection assessed by the NBP - Head Coach based on advice provided by the BCS IST. Once deemed fit to compete, the athlete's fitness will be reviewed at a date and venue specified by the NBP - Head Coach. The athlete will be expected to demonstrate the ability to achieve a minimum level of 90% of the athlete's personal best in officially recorded BCS testing. The NBP - Head Coach may use his discretion to set higher targets depending on the proximity to and the level of competition (i.e. closer to or higher levels of competition may result in higher targets being set).

C. NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM - NORTH AMERICAN CUP (NAC) / EUROPA CUP (EC)

The **NAC & EC Bobsleigh Team(s)** are selected by BCS with collaboration from the four PSO's: British Columbia Bobsleigh and Skeleton Association (BCBSA), Alberta Bobsleigh Association (ABA), Ontario Bobsleigh & Skeleton Association (OBSA), Bobsleigh Skeleton Québec (BSQ).

3. NBP - EQUIPMENT ALLOCATION

- A. Prior to the ERS, the NBP - Head Coach will allocate, per discipline, BCS sleds and runners to male or female pilots based upon the following objective criteria:
 - i. The top IBSF ranked pilot per discipline will receive first choice on sled allocation and runners;
 - ii. The second IBSF ranked pilot per discipline will receive second choice on sled allocation and runners, and this process will continue until all ranked pilots have been allocated a sled and runners;
 - iii. When male or female pilots are equally IBSF ranked, the NBP - Head Coach will use his/her discretion to allocate sleds and runners;
 - iv. After sleds and runners have been allocated to IBSF ranked pilots, any further allocation will be based on pushing ability as determined by physical testing results.

**** Runners, which are property of BCS, will be allocated by rank and shared between teams wherever possible.***

- B. Sleds and runners may be re-allocated after the ERS respective to the pilots ranking based on total ERS Points.
- C. At any given time, other allocations may occur if all pilots involved and the NBP - Head Coach are in agreement. If a sled is irreparably damaged, the NBP - Head Coach will reallocate sleds guided by the allocation criteria in **3.A.** Unless it is determined a better solution will avoid or cause the least disruption to the teams and also provide the best opportunity for international success.
- D. The NBP - Head Coach may withhold equipment from a pilot if, in his judgment, that pilot has a history of poorly maintaining BCS equipment or does not yet have the requisite driving skills to preserve the equipment in a reasonable manner.
- E. Athletes will not alter BCS sleds and runners without explicit, documented permission from the Head Coach and athletes may only allow inspection of BCS sleds or runners by BCS approved personnel.

APPENDIX A

HIGH PERFORMANCE ATHLETE SELECTION BOBSLEIGH - 2015/2016

