



BRITISH BIATHLON UNION (BBU) **SELECTION POLICY 2009 – 10**

(This is not Olympic Winter Games Selection Policy)

GBR National Selection Races 2009

1. National Selection races for Men and Women will be held in Östersund SWE 18 - 22 Nov 09. These are open to all members of the National Squad and invited members of the National Development Squad (NDS). "Any other" GBR National (UK passport holders) may apply to compete, but must pre-register with the Sec Gen BBU (info@britishbiathlon.com) by 03 Nov 09 and must include records of their "biathlon career".
2. The BBU will arrange travel and accommodation for Members of the National Squad during on-snow training and the Selection phase. This travel and accommodation may be subsidised, but there is no guarantee. Annual BBU insurance is valid for National Squad members, but not for any other athlete. The NDS Coach will arrange travel and accommodation for the NDS athletes, but there will be no financial or any other support. "Any other" GBR National must make their own arrangements and there is no financial or any other support from the BBU.
3. After the final Section Race on 22 Nov 09 the BBU Selection Committee¹ will select the World Cup (WC) and IBU Cup teams until Christmas. Whilst the overall performance in the three Selection Races will be the most important factor in Selection, "first past the post" is not, and never has been the only GBR consideration. Other factors will include, inter alia, performances during summer training; age; potential; force majeure e.g. illness / injury (both in summer training and during Selection). The decision of the Committee is "final"; there are no appeals.
4. Athletes selected for either WC or IBU Teams will become members of the "National Team" from 23 Nov 09. They will be supported (with priority going to the WC Team) financially and logistically by the BBU, as far as possible until the end of the season or until they are de-selected. Athletes selected must sign the BBU "Athletes' Contract" which legally binds them to an acceptance of certain National & International protocols e.g. Anti-Doping, disciplinary, training and media rules etc. Athletes not selected must return to their Regimental teams or personal training under their own arrangements and at their own expense.

International Biathlon Union (IBU) Trimesters

5. The Biathlon WC competitive season is divided into three Trimesters:

First:	WC 1, 2 & 3 (i.e. before Christmas),
Second:	WC 4, 5 & 6 (i.e. after Christmas until start of Olympic Winter Games (OWG)).
Third:	WC 7, 8 & 9 (i.e. including OWG until end of season)

Qualification for World Cup

6. An athlete is "**qualified**" for WC as a consequence of his / her results in the 2008 – 09 season. The IBU updates their records every October as very occasionally the previous seasons results may change a little due to a disciplinary or doping ban, imposed well after the publication of the original results. *Currently, only the following GBR athletes are WC qualified: Men - Allanson, Beyer, Jackson, Kane, Laponder; Women – Fowler, Walker.*

¹ The BBU Selection Committee for WC & IBUC 2009 – 10 is Eddy Lowe, Performance Director (Chairman)*; Walter Pichler, Head Coach*; Mark Goodson, Secretary General. (* denotes will be in Östersund during the Selection phase). This is not the same Committee that will select the 2010 NDS, details of which will be promulgated during the British Champs Jan 10.

7. To remain qualified for WC the athlete must record at least one result in the Trimester in which they last competed in WC, which is “**Under 20%**” behind the average time of the first 3 athletes in a WC Individual or Sprint competition. If they lose qualification they must move down to IBU Cup until they record an “Under 20%” which then re-qualifies them for WC Cup. This re-qualification takes effect immediately and an athlete can be promoted from IBU Cup to WC in mid Trimester.

GBR Start Places – World Cups 2009 - 10

8. As a result of finishing in 22nd place (Men) and 24th place (Women) in the 2008 – 09 Nations Cup (NC), GBR is allowed to **start** 4 qualified Men and 2 qualified Women in each WC Individual & Sprint competition in the 2009 -10 season. If 5 men are qualified then 5 will normally be selected for each WC, especially if there is a Relay, to allow for injury / illness etc. If 3 women are qualified then 3 will normally be selected for each WC; hopefully at least 4 women will be qualified and thus GBR can compete in the Women’s Relay. To compete in any WC Relay all four athletes must be qualified.

GBR Start Places – IBU Cups 2009 - 10

9. There is no specific “**qualification**” for the IBU Cup. Athletes will be selected for the GBR IBU Cup Team as a result of the Selection races or because they are added to the Team following the British Championships in Ruhpolding 28 Jan – 02 Feb 10, or because they are a WC athlete seeking re-qualification for the WC. GBR can start up to 7 men and 7 women in each IBU Cup Individual & Sprint competition but it is most unlikely that more than 4 of either sex will be selected. There are no “Junior” IBU Cups, thus Juniors compete in the Senior competition or in designated Regional Cups – if these are held in the 2009 - 10 season.

Olympic Winter Games (OWG) Selection

10. The British Olympic Association / BBU Selection Policy for the OWG Vancouver 2010 is published separately on the BBU web site: www.britishbiathlon.com. Only one man who meets the BOA Olympic Qualifying Standard (OQS) is guaranteed selection for the OWG. Only one woman who meets the OQS will also be selected, but only providing GBR is re-allocated a Start Place by the IBU by 23 Jan 10.

GBR Aims & Aspirations 2009 - 10

11. The minimum aim for GBR Men is to maintain the 2008 – 09 Nations Cup (NC) final position of 22nd place with improvement to 21st being highly a desirable aspiration. For GBR Women the aim is to improve by at least one position from the current 24th place. The “stretch target” for 2013 is to qualify 4 Men and 4 Women for the OWG in Sochi 2014.

12. To achieve the Aim it is possible that an athlete (who may even have been the GBR # 1) at the start of the WC Trimester but fails to record “Under 20%” in the first two WCs of the Trimester, could be deselected from the third WC in order to gain re-qualification in the third IBU Cup of the Trimester. If he / she did this then they would be able to start (if selected) in the first WC of the following Trimester. The Selection Committee will always take into account the needs of the Team against the requirements to score NC points as well as any impact this situation may have on the possibility of Olympic qualifying etc for the athlete concerned.



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For the Board of the BBU
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