



## **BRITISH BIATHLON UNION (BBU)** **SELECTION POLICY 2011-2012**

***This is NOT the Selection Policy for the Youth/  
Junior Olympic Winter Games Innsbruck 2012***  
*(see separate Policy)*

### **GBR National Selection Races 2011**

1. GBR National Selection races for both Men and Women will be held in Norway or Sweden (venue tbc) 16 - 20 Nov 11. 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 01 Nov 11 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 is unlikely to be subsidised. The NDS Coach will arrange travel and accommodation for any NDS athletes; "any other" GBR National must make their own arrangements. There is no financial or any other support from the BBU for either NDS or "other" athletes. Annual BBU insurance is valid for National Squad members, but not for NDS or "other" athletes.
3. After the final Section Race on 20 Nov 11 the BBU Selection Committee<sup>1</sup> will select the GBR Teams for World Cup (WC) and IBU Cup until Christmas. Whilst the overall performance in the three Selection Races will be an 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 to the BBU. (This does not affect any statutory rights to Appeal to the UK Sports Dispute Resolution Panel or the Court for Arbitration in Sport).
4. Athletes selected for either WC or IBU Teams will become members of the "National Team" from 21 Nov 11. 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 (if they have not already done so) 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) – incl IBU Cup 1, 2 & 3.
Second:	WC 4, 5 & 6 (i.e. after Christmas) – incl IBU Cup 4 & 5.
Third:	WC 7, 8 & 9 (i.e. after British Champs) – incl IBU Cup 6, 7 & 8

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<sup>1</sup> The BBU Selection Committee for WC & IBU Cup 2011 – 12 is Eddy Lowe, the BBU Sport Director (Chairman, who has a "Casting Vote"); Mark Goodson the BBU Sec Gen, and, BBU Team Coaches: Walter Pichler & Marc Walker.

### Qualification for WC & IBU Cup: “Percentages”

- "Percent" is the % behind the average of the first 3 in the race in Individual or Sprint.

6. WC Qualification. An athlete must be a maximum 15% behind in an IBU Cup race in order to qualify for WC. The athlete keeps their qualification until they start in a WC. Once the athlete starts in WC they must then be a maximum 15% behind in WC at least once in the Trimester in order to start in WC the following Trimester.<sup>2</sup> However, if they do not keep their WC qualification they re-gain it as soon as they achieve a maximum 15% result in that following Trimester. (E.g. athlete could lose WC qualification in WC 3 and then regain it at IBU Cup 4 meaning they can start in WC 5. Equally, a non-qualified athlete could qualify in IBU Cup 1 and then compete in WC 1).

7. IBU Cup Qualification. An IBU Cup athlete must record at least one maximum 30% behind in the Trimester in which they start IBU Cup, in order to start IBU Cup the following Trimester. If they do not, they must miss an entire Trimester before being allowed back into IBU Cup.

8. World Championships (WCH), Youth /Junior World Championships (Y/JWCH), European Championships. The qualification for WCH is maximum 20% behind in either WC or IBU Cup (minimum once in the 2011–12 season) up until the registration date for the WCH (approx 12 Feb 12 – tbc). Selection for the Y/J WCH (under 21 on 31 Dec 11) will be made on merit following the British Champs. It is not intended to enter the 2012 European Champs.

9. Relay. To compete in a WCH or WC Relay (Men, Women or Mixed) the athlete must be qualified to compete in WCH / WC as an Individual.

### IBU Quota: GBR Start Places – World Cups 2011-12

10. As a result of finishing in 23<sup>rd</sup> place (Men) and 26<sup>th</sup> place (Women) in the 2010–11 WC Nations Cup (NC), GBR is allowed to register 4 and **start** 2 qualified Men and register 3 (4 if there is a relay) and **start** 1 qualified Women in each WC Individual & Sprint competition in the 2011 - 12 season. To compete in any WC Relay all four athletes must be qualified.

### IBU Quota: GBR Start Places – IBU Cups 2011-12

11. As a result of finishing in 10<sup>th</sup> place (Men) and 20<sup>th</sup> place (Women) in the 2010–11 IBU Cup NC, GBR is allowed to register 6 and **start** 5 qualified Men and register 5 and **start** 4 qualified Women in each IBU Cup Individual & Sprint competition in the 2011 - 12 season. There are no “Junior” IBU Cups, thus any selected Juniors compete in the Senior competition.

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<sup>2</sup> Subject to confirmation by IBU in Oct 11, the following “bring forward” WC Trimester 1 qualification from the 2010–11 season:

Men: Allanson, Beyer, Gibson, Gorbald, Jackson, Kane, Laponder, Woolley. Women: Jones

All other athletes who competed for GBR in 2010–11 are qualified for IBU Cup Trimester 1, except Dunnett.

### **“Playing the Percentage Game”**

12. The current IBU Quota and Percentages system has only been used for one season. There is no doubt that GBR “played the system well” in 2010-11, which has resulted in very encouraging IBU Cup NC quotas for 2011–12. However a number of Nations who realistically should have finished ahead of GBR (and thus have more start places in 2011–12) failed to “understand the system”. They are unlikely to make the same mistake again, and it will thus be important for the GBR Selection Committee to be flexible and switch athletes from WC to IBU Cup, especially towards the end of a Trimester. Examples:

- a. *The GBR # 1 is required to compete in IBU Cup rather than WC in order to gain maximum points in IBU Cup NC, with perhaps the # 4, who realistically has no hope of going under 15% in WC, moving to WC and “sacrificing” their WC qualification for the next Trimester.*
- b. *The GBR # 1 at the start of the WC Trimester fails to record “Under 15%” in the first two WCs of the Trimester and thus could be deselected from the third WC in order to gain re-qualification in the third IBU Cup of the Trimester.*

### **Race by Race Selection**

13. Whichever of the two National Coaches is managing the WC or IBU Cup Team for a specific event is generally responsible for making on Race by Race selection. However, in order to “play the correct Percentage Game” (Para 12), he must obtain confirmation of the other 2 members of the Selection Committee (Sport Director & Sec Gen).

### **GBR Aims & Aspirations 2011-12**

14. The minimum aim for GBR Men is to maintain the 2010–11 NC final position of 23<sup>rd</sup> place with improvement to 21<sup>st</sup> being highly a desirable aspiration. For GBR Women the aim is to improve by at least one position from the current 26<sup>th</sup> place. The “stretch target” for 2013-14 is to qualify 4 Men and 4 Women for the Olympic Winter Games (OWG) in Sochi 2014. This is achieved by finishing in the top 20 on NC points at the 2012 & 2013 WCH, whilst each athlete must be individually qualified under the BOA Olympic Qualification System (OQS) to be published in approx November 2012.<sup>3</sup>



Mark Goodson  
Sec Gen  
For the Board of the BBU

11 Jul 11

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<sup>3</sup> The IBU OQS for 2010 was 2 x results under 20% in the season of and / or the season prior to the OWG; the BOA OQS was stricter at 15%, and will not be easier for 2014. As a result of the NC points scored in the WCH 2008 & 2009 GBR had an OWG 2010 quota of only one man and, on reallocation, one woman.