

Bobsleigh CANADA Skeleton National Skeleton Program 2017/18 Selection Process & Criteria

The following outlines the process **Bobsleigh CANADA Skeleton (BCS)** will follow in selecting athletes to the World Cup Skeleton Team (WCST) and Intercontinental Continental Cup Skeleton Team (ICCST) as part of the **National Skeleton Program (NSP)** for the 2017/18 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 a **Selection Race Series (SRS)** for the process of completing team selections. Athletes will earn SRS Points, which will ultimately assist in determining the circuits for which they begin to compete on during the 2017/18 season.

1) NSP - SELECTION PROCESS

A) ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to participate in the NSP – Selection Process, including the SRS, candidates must fulfill the following conditions. The candidate must:

- i) be members in good standing of BCS and/or their respective provincial association;
- ii) have paid all outstanding fees and/or be current according to a pre-agreed payment plan for any such fees;
- iii) have a passport valid for a period of at least 6 months beyond the end of the upcoming competitive season;
- iv) meet the eligibility requirements to obtain a Canadian IBSF license;
- v) not have positive result(s) from anti-doping testing;
- vi) demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the NSP-Head Coach, sufficient on-ice sliding proficiency; and
- vii) have participated in all required NSP events throughout the off-season (unless an exemption is granted, in advance and in writing, by the BCS High Performance Director).

B) SELECTION RACE SERIES (SRS)

The SRS consists of four (4) races, **SRS Race 1, SRS Race 2, SRS Race 3** and **SRS Race 4** being conducted in Whistler and Calgary for a combined total of eight (8) heats, over four (4) races over two (2) separate timeframes where **SRS Points** are earned.

	SRS Race #1	SRS Race #2	SRS Race #3	SRS Race #4
Planned location	Whistler	Whistler	Calgary	Calgary
Start Order Heat 1	By rank according to each athlete's previous season's IBSF ranking.	By rank according to the final ranking from SRS Race 1.	By rank according to each athlete's previous season's IBSF ranking.	By rank according to the final ranking from SRS Race 3.

Start Order Heat 1 continued	Athletes without an IBSF ranking will be drawn at the end of the field.		Athletes without an IBSF ranking will be drawn at the end of the field.	
Start Order Heat 2	Reverse order by rank according to the first race heat for each SRS Race.			

Please note: "By rank" means by highest rank first i.e. athlete(s) who finish first, then second, then third etc.

C) CONDUCT OF THE SRS

The SRS will be conducted in accordance with the current IBSF rules (where applicable), with any modifications to the SRS 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) Specific race protocols will be announced at the race draw, to reflect the race conditions (times, weather, etc.); and
- iv) 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 CAD protest fee.

D) SRS POINTS & ATHLETE RANKING

SRS Points will be allocated in accordance to the World Cup Competition - IBSF Points System as per current IBSF rules at the time of the SRS. Each race will be weighted at the standard (x1) WC points.

Total combined SRS Points will be used to determine athletes' rank based on SRS results for the purposes of section 3).

In the event of a tie in total SRS Points, the athletes rank based on SRS results will be determined by each of the tied athlete's cumulative push time, over all eight (8) race heats. The athlete with the lowest cumulative push time will be deemed to be the athlete of highest rank.

E) UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES

Fairness, equal opportunity and the desire to field the most competitive teams for international competition are the guiding principles of the NSP - 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; and/or
- 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 NSP-Head Coach.

2) **IBSF PARTICIPATION QUOTA**

For the 2017/18 season, Canada has qualified the following participation quotas:

Circuit	Men's Quota	Women's Quota
World Cup (WC)	3	3
Intercontinental Cup (ICC)	3	3
North American Cup (NAC)	4	4
Europa Cup (EC)	2	2

BCS, at its sole discretion, reserves the right to fulfill any combination of men & women of the qualified quotas on each of the circuits: WC, ICC, NAC, EC.

3) **NSP - SELECTION CRITERIA**

A) FINAL SELECTION PROCESS

Upon completion of the SRS, the NSP-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 - Bobsleigh; and
- v) Independent participant.

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

B) NSP - WORLD CUP SKELETON TEAM (WCST) SELECTION

The **WCST** may consist of the maximum of the allocated WC quota spots as per section 2).

i) WCST Eligibility:

To be eligible to be selected to the WCST, candidates must fulfill the following conditions:

- (1) sign the current years BCS Athlete Agreement;
- (2) have paid all outstanding fees and/or be current according to a pre-agreed payment plan for any such fees;
- (3) be eligible to compete on the WC Circuit under the current IBSF rules; and
- (4) meet their respective WCST Push Standard at any of the *BCS Push Testing Opportunities* between April 1 of the current year and the beginning of the official training of SRS Race 1; specifically:

(a) WCST Push Standards:

Men \leq 4.85sec

Women \leq 5.25sec

ii) WCST Pre-Selection Eligibility:

A maximum of two (2) athletes (1 male & 1 female) that have met the following performance results may be eligible for Pre-Selection to the 2017/18 WCST based on the following priority:

- (1) - 1st Place – 2017 World Championships
- (2) - 2nd Place – 2017 World Championships
- (3) - 3rd Place – 2017 World Championships
- (4) - 1st Overall – 2016/17 IBSF Ranking
- (5) - 2nd Overall – 2016/17 IBSF Ranking
- (6) - 3rd Overall – 2016/17 IBSF Ranking

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 by the High Performance Director prior to the beginning of the SRS.

iii) WC Quota Allocations:

In accordance with the WC quota places qualified by Canada as per section **2**), per discipline, the NSP-HC shall nominate the following athletes to the Selection Committee:

- (1) For each discipline in which BCS fills three (3) quota places:

- (a) WC Position 1 - designated to an athlete eligible for Pre-Selection, otherwise designated to the highest ranked athlete based on SRS results;
- (b) WC Position 2 - if WC Position 1 is designated to an athlete through Pre-Selection, WC Position 2 shall be designated the highest ranked athlete based on SRS results, otherwise it shall be designated to the second highest ranked athlete based on SRS results; and
- (c) WC Position 3 - designated by BCS, at its sole discretion, to any athlete at any time, otherwise if WC Position 1 is designated to an athlete through Pre-Selection, WC Position 3 shall be designated to the second highest ranked athlete based on SRS results, otherwise it shall be designated to the third highest ranked athlete based on SRS results.

- (2) For each discipline in which BCS fills two (2) quota places:
 - (a) WC Position 1 - designated to an athlete eligible for Pre-Selection, otherwise designated to the highest ranked athlete based on SRS results; and
 - (b) WC Position 2 - designated by BCS, at its sole discretion, to any athlete at any time, otherwise if WC Position 1 is designated to an athlete through Pre-Selection, WC Position 2 shall be designated to the highest ranked athlete based on SRS results, otherwise it shall be designated to the second highest ranked athlete based on SRS results.
- (3) For each discipline in which BCS fills one (1) quota place:
 - (a) WC Position 1 - designated to an athlete eligible for Pre-Selection otherwise it shall be designated by BCS, at its sole discretion, to any athlete at any time, otherwise it shall be designated to the highest ranked athlete based on SRS results.

C) NSP - INTERCONTINENTAL CUP SKELETON TEAM (ICCST)

The **ICCST** may consist of the maximum of the allocated ICC quota spots as per section **2**).

- i) ICCST Eligibility:

To be eligible to be selected to the ICCST, candidates must fulfill the following conditions:

 - (1) sign the current years BCS Athlete Agreement;
 - (2) have paid all outstanding fees and/or be current according to a pre-agreed payment plan for any such fees;
 - (3) be eligible to compete on the ICC Circuit under the current IBSF rules;
 - (4) meet their respective ICCST Push Standard at any of the *BCS Push Testing Opportunities* between April 1 of the current year and the beginning of the official training of SRS Race 1; specifically:
 - (a) ICCST Push Standards:
Men \leq NA
Women \leq NA
- ii) ICC Quota Allocations:

In accordance with the ICC quota places qualified by Canada as per section **2**), per discipline, the NSP-HC shall nominate the following athletes to the Selection Committee:

 - (1) For each discipline in which BCS fills three (3) quota places:
 - (a) ICC Position 1 – designated to the remaining highest ranked athlete, after WC Positions are designated, based on SRS results;
 - (b) ICC Position 2 – designated to the remaining highest ranked athlete, after ICC Position 1 is designated, based on SRS results; and

- (c) ICC Position 3 – designates by BCS, at its sole discretion, to any athlete at any time, otherwise it shall be designated to the remaining highest ranked athlete after ICC Position 2 is designated, based on SRS results.
- (2) For each discipline in which BCS fills two (2) quota places:
 - (a) ICC Position 1 – designated to the remaining highest ranked athlete, after WC Positions are designated, based on SRS results; and
 - (b) ICC Position 2 – designated by BCS, at its sole discretion, to any athlete at any time, otherwise it shall be designated to the remaining highest ranked athlete, after ICC Position 1 is designated, based on SRS results.
- (3) For each discipline in which BCS fills one (1) quota place:
 - (a) ICC Position 1 – designated by BCS, at its sole discretion, to any athlete at any time, otherwise it shall be designated to the remaining highest ranked athlete, after WC Positions are designated, based on SRS results.

D) NORTH AMERICAN CUP (NAC) / EUROPA CUP (EC) TEAMS

The **NAC and EC Teams** are selected by BCS on a per race basis with collaboration from the PSOs: British Columbia Bobsleigh and Skeleton Association (BCBSA), Alberta Bobsleigh Association (ABA), Ontario Bobsleigh & Skeleton Association (OBSA), Bobsleigh Skeleton Québec (BSQ). Ultimately the selection lies at the discretion of BCS.

E) IN SEASON RE-ALLOCATION

BCS may re-allocate designated Positions (WC / ICC / NAC / EC) at certain times in the 2017/18 season. For avoidance of doubt, all competitive results may be taken into consideration for the purposes of In Season Re-Allocation.

F) BCS DISCRETION

BCS shall consider using discretion in accordance with this **2017/18 Selection Process & Criteria** in the event of circumstances such as but not limited to:

- i) Injury or long term sickness resulting in missed *BCS Push Testing Opportunities* and/or SRS Race(s) and/or IBSF Competitions and/or other events;
- ii) In the event of a tie that is not broken by section **1)d)** herein;
- iii) "Acts of God" - adverse weather conditions or other external factors resulting in modified or cancelled *BCS Push Testing Opportunities* and/or SRS Race(s);
- iv) "IBSF Rulings" - decisions made by the IBSF which impact the nations rankings or athlete results or qualification standards; and/or
- v) Such other circumstances and/or events that in the determination of the Selection Committee and/or NSP-Head Coach, as appropriate, warrants the use of discretion, as set out in section **3)** herein.

G) APPEALS - INTERNAL

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