

Letter from the International Competition Committee regarding
Discretionary Selection of Athletes to B Team and Dec WC Team

1) Possible Additional B Team Nominations (Men and Women) after
Jericho Rollerski Races, Aug 8, 9, 2009

The National Team staff wanted to have the ability to add athletes to the "B" Team during the training season. The August Rollerski races were a good mid-training season point to look for progress in training and in race performance. The staff felt that leaving open the possibility of additional B team positions would allow hard work and good performances during the training season to be rewarded. Seeing as the more expensive (travel intensive) part of the season is the fall and early winter, "B" team status will still be very beneficial in the fall.

The rollerski races will be scored using the USBA Percent back method, with both races being scored and points added up and ranked. Staff will be looking for performances that equal or exceed current A team and B team athletes. Other measures of performance such as ski speed during the rollerski races and performance during training over the past few months (shooting test percentages, Time Trials) may also be considered. No single objective measure will be used.

The ICC feels that our coaching staff needs the flexibility to look at a number of parameters in making a limited number of discretionary national "B" team nominations. The discretionary selection is meant to take into account long term and short-term success of the association and take into account many variables that may be difficult to measure.

2) Discretionary Selection for the 5th position on Men's Dec WC
Team

The National Team staff felt it would be important to have 5 men on the Dec WC. The World Cup results, high ski speed, and potential high placing of a men's relay were factors in assigning 5 start positions for the men's Dec WC team. By the previously published Olympic criteria, we have filled the first 4 positions using World Cup points ranking. As stated in criteria, "A 5th man will be selected through coaches' discretion by staff proposal and ICC approval. Decision will be made at the end of October 2009. Staff will take into account results from the rollerski races in Jericho and Soldier Hollow, as well as training progress through the end of the Soldier Hollow training camp."

As stated, both the Jericho and Soldier Hollow races will be considered. The rollerski races at Soldier Hollow in October will be scored using the USBA Percent back method, with best 2 of 2 races being added up for each athlete and ranked. The Soldier Hollow Races for men will be on Oct 19 (Individual) and Oct 22 (Sprint). The Soldier Hollow results will be weighted more heavily than the Jericho results. Other measures of performance such as ski speed during the rollerski races and performance during training over the past few months (shooting test percentages, Time Trials) may also be considered.

3. Rationale for 3 Women's DEC WC positions versus 5 Men's DEC WC positions

The Primary rationale for having 3 women's and 5 men's spots for Dec WC was based on WC results and potential for medals in the Relay. On the men's side, both T.Burke and J. Hakinnen pre-qualified for the Olympics with two (or more) top 15 results. J. Teela had a third place finish in Vancouver, and Lowell Bailey had significant WC Points (121). On the women's side, there were three WC points scoring results, H. Johnson, L.Barnes, S. Studebaker, and all three women who scored WC points were nominated to the Dec WC Team. No other women scored WC points and the minimum team size of 2 had been satisfied.

The decision for taking a 5th man was primarily based on the fact that the Men's Relay has shown potential for a top 3 Olympic result over the past two seasons. Staff felt that having an additional man on the DEC WC was important in order to insure we would have 4 healthy men to race the DEC relays in case of sickness or injury. Having relay race experience is clearly important for both the veterans and the younger athletes who might be called on to race the Olympic Relay.