

## **BIATHLON CANADA 2023-24 TRAINING TEAMS PLAN**

February 24, 2023

### **Introduction:**

The purpose of this document is to define the criteria for athletes to be selected to a National Training Team. A National Training Team (Training Team) is a group of athletes that will train together between May 1, 2023 and March 31, 2024. The “training season” will be defined as being between May 1, 2023 and October 31, 2023. The “competition season” will be defined as being between November 1, 2023 and March 31, 2024. The nature of the commitment (i.e. camp based vs. centralized) is dependent on the Training Team and will be defined in the “Training Teams and Selection Criteria” section below.

**NOTE:** The ability for Biathlon Canada to offer centralized/camp-based Training Teams is dependent on budget. Therefore, positions described below may not be filled due to budgetary considerations.

Reference document: 2023-2024 ATHLETE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM SELECTION CRITERIA (AAP).

Eligibility: Each Training Team defines specific eligibility requirements; however, all athletes must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- The athlete must be a Canadian Citizen.
- The athlete must be a member, in good standing, with Biathlon Canada.
- The athlete must abide by the Biathlon Canada Code of Conduct, policies, procedures, and guidelines.

### **Training Team Selection Process**

Training Team selections will be made by the High Performance Working Group (HPWG), which is composed of the Biathlon Canada CEO (Heather Ambery) and the Director of Development and High Performance (Tyson Wellock) with Biathlon Canada Board of Directors oversight. Decisions will be informed by advisors to the HPWG. The HPWG may decide who to contact depending on the decision being made and the individuals involved in the decision.

- Potential advisors (this list is non-exhaustive): Biathlon Canada National Team Coaches, Tour Coaches, Sport Development Manager, Training Centre coaches, Club coaches, athlete representatives, IST members etc. NOTE: The HPWG reserves the right to contact whomever necessary in order to make the best decision.

Starting on or before April 21st, 2023 the HPWG will contact athletes for positions on selected teams starting with the Senior National Training Team and finishing with the National Youth Junior Team. Athletes will be given a minimum of four business days to provide their acceptance so that all teams can be confirmed by April 28th, 2023.

Upon acceptance of their position, athletes will sign the 2023-2024 Athlete Agreement and complete an athlete information sheet.

## 1. SENIOR NATIONAL TEAM:

<b>Number of Athletes:</b>	A maximum of twelve athletes: six (6) men and six (6) women. Biathlon Canada reserves the right to leave vacant positions unfilled based on the strategic high-performance objectives of Biathlon Canada. Additionally, Biathlon Canada reserves the right to create an internal two-tiered system (ex: A-team and B-Team) in order to best prepare athletes to compete at the international level.
<b>Environment:</b>	Centralized at the National Training Centre in Canmore, Alberta.
<b>Staffing:</b>	Staff assigned: Biathlon Canada Coaching Staff, Technical Equipment Staff and Integrated Services Staff.
<b>Program:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training based in Canmore, AB.</li> <li>• Training camps and activities will be planned throughout the training season in different locations as required.</li> <li>• An individualized Year Training Plan (YTP) will be provided to each athlete.</li> <li>• Athlete monitoring, testing and assessment driven by Biathlon Canada's Gold Medal Profile.</li> </ul>
<b>Cost:</b>	To be defined once budget is confirmed
<b>Eligibility:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Athletes to train at the National Training Centre in Canmore from May 1 to November 1, 2023 under the leadership and direction of Biathlon Canada coaching staff. Alternate training arrangements must be approved by the High Performance Working Group (HPWG).</li> </ul>
<b>Selection Criteria</b>	<p>Men:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Athlete achieving the best AAP SR Carding Criteria</li> <li>• Athlete achieving the second-best AAP SR Carding Criteria</li> <li>• Athlete achieving the third-best AAP SR Carding Criteria</li> <li>• Positions 4-6: Discretionary Selection (as per the definition below)</li> </ul> <p>Women:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Athlete achieving the best AAP SR Carding Criteria</li> <li>• Athlete achieving the second-best AAP SR Carding Criteria</li> <li>• Athlete achieving the third-best AAP SR Carding Criteria</li> <li>• Positions 4-6: Discretionary Selection (as per the definition below)</li> </ul>

## 2. NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM:

<b>Number of athletes:</b>	A maximum of fourteen (14) athletes: seven (7) men and seven (7) women, with the possibility to add additional athletes in order to meet the strategic high-performance objectives of Biathlon Canada.
<b>Environment:</b>	A Training Camp based Team.
<b>Staffing:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coaching Staff of Training Centre or Home Coach, working in collaboration with a member of the Biathlon Canada coaching staff.</li> </ul>
<b>Program:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up to 3 training camps/activities will be planned throughout the training season in different locations as required. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The cost will be a maximum of \$500 per athlete, per camp, which will cover all Training Camp fees and domestic travel.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Yearly Training Plan (YTP) to be developed with the assistance of the Biathlon Canada Coaching Staff.</li> <li>Athlete monitoring, testing and assessment driven by Biathlon Canada's Gold Medal Profile. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Baseline physiological testing for all athletes.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Cost:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be defined once budget is confirmed.</li> </ul>
<b>Eligibility:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Junior Athletes and First- and Second-Year Senior Athletes as defined by the International Biathlon Union-Events and Competition Rules, Section 1.3 for the 2023-2024 Season. Years of birth 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, and 2004.</li> </ul>
<b>Selection Criteria</b>  Described in rank order i.e. as soon as the quota of athletes is reached, no further positions will be offered.	1. Athletes born in 2000 – 2004 with 2 X Top 50 individual finishes at Olympic Winter Games (OWG), World Championships, World Cup or 2 X Top 8 individual finishes at IBU Cup or a combination of the above.
	2. Athletes born in 2002 – 2004 with 1 X Top 5 individual finish at Junior IBU Cup, Youth Olympic Games or Junior World Championships.
	3. Athletes born in 2002 – 2004 with 2 X Top 65 individual finishes at OWG, World Championships, World Cup or 2 X Top 25 individual finishes at IBU Cup.
	4. Athletes born in 2000 – 2001 with 2 X Top 65 individual finishes at OWG, World Championships, World Cup or 2 X Top 25 individual finishes at IBU Cup.

	5. Athletes born in 2000 – 2004 with 1 X Top 20 individual finish at IBU Cup, Junior World Championships, Youth Olympic Games or Junior IBU Cup.
	6. Athletes born between 2000-2004 who qualify for either an IBU World Cup or IBU Cup Tour.
	7. Athletes born between 2002-2004 who qualify for the 2023 Youth/Junior World Championships Biathlon Canada team.
	8. Discretionary Selections based on 2022-23 current results considering: IBU events (World Cup, IBU Cup, Junior Cup, JYWCH etc.), Biathlon Canada November Trials; Biathlon Canada January Trials, Canada Winter Games, and Biathlon Canada National Championships.
	9. Discretionary Selection.

### 3. NATIONAL YOUTH and JUNIOR TEAM:

<b>Number of athletes:</b>	A maximum of fourteen (14) athletes: seven (7) men and seven (7) women.
<b>Environment:</b>	A Training Camp based Team.
<b>Staffing:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coaching Staff of Training Centre or Home Coach. Supported by Biathlon Canada Head Coach.</li> </ul>
<b>Program:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 training camps, one on snow and one during the summer or fall. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentations from IST approved providers.</li> <li>Testing which can also be incorporated into the athletes' Daily Training Environment (DTE).</li> </ul> </li> <li>Athlete monitoring, testing and assessment driven by Biathlon Canada's Gold Medal Profile.</li> </ul>
<b>Cost:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be defined once budget is confirmed.</li> </ul>
<b>Eligibility:</b>	First-Year Junior Athletes and Youth Athletes as defined by the International Biathlon Union-Events and Competition Rules, Section 1.3 for the 2023-2024 Season. Year of birth 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008.
<b>Selection Criteria</b>  Described in rank order i.e. as soon as the quota of athletes is reached, no further positions will be offered.	1. Athletes born in 2004 – 2007 with 2 X Top 50 individual finishes at OWG, World Championships, World Cup  or  2 X Top 8 individual finishes at IBU Cup or a combination of the above.
	2. Athletes born in 2004 – 2007 with 1 X Top 5 individual finish at Junior IBU Cup, Youth Olympic Games or Youth/Junior World Championships.
	3. Athletes born in 2005 – 2007 with 2 X Top 65 individual finishes at OWG, World Championships, World Cup or 2 X Top 25 individual finishes at IBU Cup
	4. Athletes born in 2004 with 2 X Top 65 individual finishes at OWG, World Championships, World Cup or 2 X Top 25 individual finishes at IBU Cup
	5. Athletes born in 2004 – 2007 with 1 X Top 20 individual finish at OWG, World Championships, World Cup, IBU Cup, Youth/Junior World Championships, Youth Olympic Games or Junior IBU Cup.

	6. Athletes born in 2005-2008 who are selected for any 2022-2023 IBU Cup Tour.
	7. Athletes born between 2005-2008 who are selected for any 2022-2023 Junior IBU Cup Tour.
	8. Athletes selected for the 2023 World Youth Junior Championships in the Youth category.
	9. Discretionary Selections based on 2022-23 current results considering: IBU events (World Cup, IBU Cup, and Junior Cup, JYWCH etc.), Biathlon Canada November Trials; Biathlon Canada January Trials, Canada Winter Games, and National Championships .
	10. Discretionary Selection.

If there are fewer remaining positions on a team than athletes meeting a specific criteria within a Ranking Order, those athletes will be ranked accordingly (for example, should more than one athlete meet Criteria 7 for the National Youth and Junior Team, this section describes how athletes would be ranked within that criteria):

- A. Ranked by best individual placing at OWG, World Championships, World Cup, IBU Cup, Youth/Junior World Championships, Youth Olympic Games or Junior IBU Cup (in this order) that qualified the athlete for the Ranking Order.
- B. If tied, ranked by next-best individual placing at OWG, World Championships, World Cup, IBU Cup, Youth/Junior World Championships, Youth Olympic Games or Junior IBU Cup (in this order) that qualified the athlete for the Ranking Order.
  1. If neither athlete has a second result that qualifies them for a Ranking Order the next best result in the competition (such as the Youth/Junior World Championships) in which the athletes qualified for the Ranking Order will be determined.
  2. If two athletes are still tied after both results that qualified the athletes for the Ranking Order, the best finish in the highest level of competition both athletes competed in will be used.

**Discretionary Selection** -Biathlon Canada will make team selection decisions in consideration of any or all of the following (*NOTE: the order of the following bullet points do not imply order of importance. The relevance and or weighting of any of these points will be dependent on the situation and decision at hand*):

- Current and historical results including but not limited to: IBU International competitions, North American Open (NorAm), Canada Winter Games, National Championships, Trials, and Domestic races;
- Demonstrated ability to meet Biathlon Canada's *Objectives of the High Performance Program 2023-2024* and potential to meet long-term objectives of Olympic, World Cup, or World Championship medals through 2026, 2030 and beyond;
- Fit with the appropriate competition level for the athlete's long-term development;
- Strategic long-term athlete development;
- Selection process impacted by illness, injury or force majeure;
- Recent improvements in performance parameters, such as shooting performance or ski speed;
- Recent decline in performance parameters, such as shooting performance or ski speed;
- Ability to effectively contribute to a relay performance;
- Competition field size and quality;
- Athlete behavior and compliance to [Biathlon Canada Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines](#).

NOTE:

Should no athletes meet established criteria for a position, or should an athlete decline selection, the HPWG may:

- Fill the position as a discretionary selection; or,
- Leave the position unfilled.

The HPWG may choose not to fill an available position based on Biathlon Canada budget considerations and overall long-term athlete development strategy.