

**2024 ARCTIC WINTER GAMES (AWG) TEAM ALASKA**  
**Ski & Snowshoe Biathlon Qualification Criteria and Procedures**

**1. General information**

- 1.1.** AWG 2024 will be held 2024 in MatSu Borough, Alaska. The biathlon competition is at Kincaid Park, Anchorage, Alaska.
- 1.2.** Age Eligibility: See AWG Ski or Snowshoe Biathlon technical package for race class ages.
  - 1.2.1.** Junior girls/boys (U18) as determined by the AWG Ski or Snowshoe technical package
  - 1.2.2.** Juveniles girls/boys (U15) as determined by the AWG Ski or Snowshoe technical package
- 1.3.** Athletes must comply with the Athlete Eligibility Policy in the AWG International Staging Manual.
- 1.4.** Arctic Winter Games Team Alaska (AWGTA) Ski and Snowshoe Biathlon Team Size is 10 each, with two athletes in each of four categories and two coaches—one male and one female. Total athlete positions are split between Statewide ) and Rural (also referred to as Western Interior Ski Association) as outlined below. Further clarification is provided later in this document.
 

- girl junior ski (x2)
  - boy junior Ski (x2)
  - girl juvenile Ski (x2)
  - boy juvenile ski (x2)
  - male ski coach
  - female ski coach
  - girl junior snowshoe (x2)
  - boy junior snowshoe (x2)
  - girl juvenile snowshoe (x2)
  - boy juvenile snowshoe (x2)
  - male snowshoe coach
  - female snowshoe coach
  - wax technician
- 1.5.** Ski & Snowshoe allocation for 2024 Team Alaska, AWG.

RACE CLASS	SLOTS	LOCATION	NOTES
Female Junior Ski	1	rural	rural selection criteria
	1	statewide system	Road selection criteria
Male Junior Ski	1	rural	WISA Selection criteria
	1	statewide system	Road selection criteria
Female Juvenile Ski	1	rural*	WISA selection criteria
	1	statewide system	Road selection criteria
Male Juvenile Ski	2	statewide *	Road selection criteria

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RACE CLASS	SLOTS	LOCATION	NOTES
Female Junior Snowshoe	1	rural	WISA selection criteria
	1	statewide	Road selection criteria
Male Junior Snowshoe	1	rural	WISA Selection criteria
	1	statewide	Road selection criteria
Female Juvenile Snowshoe	2	statewide *	Road selection criteria
Male Juvenile Snowshoe	1	rural*	WISA selection criteria
	1	statewide	Road selection criteria

- 1.5.1.** \*rural is allocated one Juvenile ski position and one Juvenile Snowshoe position. It is at rural's discretion how to allocate those positions between male and female athletes. Therefore, it varies from year-to-year how many male and female Juvenile positions are available to statewide athletes. **For 2024, rural has chosen one JUV (U15)female ski biathlete and one JUV (U15) male snowshoe biathlete.**
- 1.5.2.** Qualification will be based on tryout competition results. Tryout competitions will be held in accordance with the 2024AWG ski Biathlon Technical package developed by the AWG International Committee which shall regulate the sport. The detailed specifications may include age categories, events, competition formats, equipment requirements, etc. See: [www.awg.ca](http://www.awg.ca)
- 1.5.3.** For the AWG Ski Biathlon competitors will follow the biathlon technical package rules for rifle procedures during the trials.

## 2. How to tryout/apply:

- 2.1.** Rural (Western Interior Alaska): 2023 Western Interior Ski Association (WISA) Biathlon Championships conducted in March 2023. One biathlon race event is conducted at the WISA Biathlon Championships; or per approved alternate method if races are unable to be held. [www.wisaskiing.org](http://www.wisaskiing.org)
- 2.2.** Statewide : Two days of competition in Fairbanks and two days of competition in Anchorage during the 2023-2024 winter race season.
- 2.2.1.** Trials #1 & #2, Birch Hill, Fairbanks, 18-19 NOV 2023
- 2.2.2.** Trials #3 & #4, Kincaid Park, Anchorage, 7-8 JAN 2024

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- 2.2.3. Check the event calendar at [www.alaskabiathlonassociation.org](http://www.alaskabiathlonassociation.org) for trial date changes.
- 2.2.4. Usual local event fees and Range Safety certification required for trials races.
- 2.2.5. For the statewide competition any biathlete who resides in Alaska may compete in these trials.
- 2.3. For the trials, athletes will provide appropriate attire: skis, boots, poles, rifles, and ammunition.
- 2.4. All trials races will abide by a no floro wax policy. Athletes may use any wax of their choice as long as it abides by this policy.

### 3. Qualification Standards / Basis for Qualification

- 3.1. Rural (Western Interior Alaska): The highest eligible ranked male and female finishers of the spring 2023 WISA Biathlon Championships in each division will be named to the 2024 Team Alaska Ski Biathlon Team, regardless of their AWG age classes.
- 3.2. Statewide competitors: The remainder of the team will be named based upon competitors' rankings in the tryout competition . The AWG Team Alaska Biathlon Selections are based on total % back points accrued in the 4-race AWG Trials series using the USBA % back formula system below. Each day of racing will be considered a separate event and will be scored based upon the time and results for that day only.
  - 3.2.1. The highest scored competitor(s) will receive the ski biathlon slot and the next highest scored competitor(s) will receive the snowshoe biathlon slot.
  - 3.2.2. **USBA Percent-Back System.** An athlete's percent-back in a race is calculated using the following formula:  
  
**Athlete's Percent-Back =  $2 - (\text{Athlete's time} / \text{Average time of the top three finishers scored})$**   
  
If there are only two finishers that can be scored, the average of their times shall be used as the denominator in the formula above. If only one finisher can be scored, that athlete shall receive a percent-back of 100%.
    - 3.2.2.1. % back calculations will only include race times of Team Alaska eligible racers.
    - 3.2.2.2. Qualification races will match the individual competition format races outlined in the technical packet.

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- 3.2.2.3.** First hosting venue, races 1 and 2 of the series, will be Sprint and Individual, mass start or pursuit format in the order of the organizers choosing.
- 3.2.2.4.** Second hosting venue, races 3 and 4 of the series, will be Sprint and individual, mass start or pursuit format in the order of the organizers choosing.
- 3.2.3.** Usually all 4 races are conducted. However, due to weather or other problems, it is possible that less than 4 races will be held. The maximum number of each skiers' performances which will be counted toward selection are outlined below:
  - If 4 races are held, a ski athlete's best 3 of 4 results will be counted,
  - If 3 races are held, a ski athlete's best 2 of 3 results will be counted,
  - If 2 races are held, a ski athlete's best 2 of 2 results will be counted,
  - If 1 race is held, a ski athlete's best 1 of 1 results will be counted
  - If no races are held a team composition recommendation by the Discretionary Selection Committee will be forwarded to Team Alaska Chef de Mission for final approval.
- 3.2.4.** Tie breaking procedures will utilize these steps in the order listed below:
  - 3.2.4.1.** If there is a tie based upon point totals between AWG trials competitors, the mean shooting percent (%) of each competitor's scored races will determine the place winner.
  - 3.2.4.2.** If athletes are still tied, the tie will be broken based upon each athlete's best single shooting result percentage (%).
  - 3.2.4.3.** If athletes are still tied, the tie will be broken based upon each athlete's second best shooting result percentage (%).
  - 3.2.4.4.** If athletes are still tied, the tie will be broken based upon each athlete's third best shooting result percentage (%).
  - 3.2.4.5.** If athletes are still tied, the AWG Head Ski and Head Snowshoe biathlon coaches will use a coin flip to fill the final team position.
- 3.2.5.** No qualification races conducted: Clubs and coaches shall nominate athletes who they feel are candidates for the team. From these nominated athletes, a team composition will be recommended by the Discretionary Selection Committee per the criteria below which will be approved by ABA and then forwarded to Team Alaska Chef de Mission for final approval. Timeline for selection shall be communicated at least two (2) weeks prior the selection process being commenced.
  - 3.2.5.1.** Discretionary Selection Committee shall consist of:
    - Head AWG Ski Biathlon Coach

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- Head AWG Snowshoe Biathlon Coach
- A representative from each Club who wishes to nominate athletes.
- In the event of an even number of committee members based on the above criteria, a coach/club member from a neutral location, one not nominating athletes, shall be assigned to the committee to ensure an odd number of members to prevent the possibility for tie votes.

**3.2.5.2.** Discretionary Selection Criteria: The purpose of a discretionary choice is to ensure selection of the most competitive team. Creating watertight, finite criteria for discretionary choices is impossible, since by their very nature they are meant to account for the unanticipated circumstances, which inevitably elude the principles of objective criteria. The Discretionary Selection Committee will develop recommendations for Team Alaska and the Alaska Biathlon Association for discretionary selection of athletes based on the following factors:

**3.2.5.2.1.** History of performance in a specific competition type over the current and previous competitive seasons.

**3.2.5.2.2.** Recent positive trend of competition and training results or performance parameters, such as ski speed and shooting, indicating a potential for future success.

**3.2.5.2.3.** Recent decline in results or performance parameters such as ski speed and shooting performance (both in training and competition).

**3.2.5.2.4.** Ability to effectively contribute to a relay.

**4.** Final Qualification: All qualified athletes, plus an additional two alternates per category/gender, will be named at the conclusion of the final trials races. Please note the timing for WISA and statewide trials races vary, see below for details.

**4.1.** Fees: Any athletes qualifying for Team Alaska Biathlon will be required to pay an additional sport-specific fee to cover sport specific uniforms, ammo, and minor customs and misc fees. This fee is in addition to the general Team Alaska games cost.

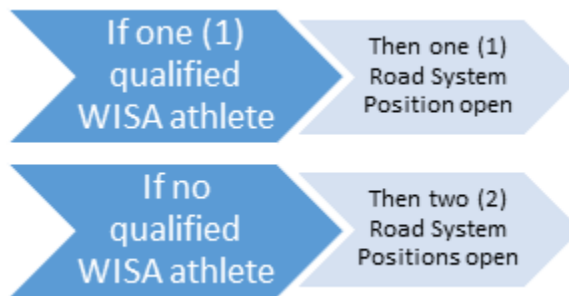
**4.2.** Rural (Western Interior Alaska, WISA) athletes: chosen per the criteria outlined in 3.1. Candidates must accept membership on the team, in writing via email, no later than November 1, of the same race season as the AWG.

**4.3.** statewide athletes: chosen per the criteria outlined in 3.2. Candidates must accept membership on the team, via email, no later than 24 hours after the final selection race. For the total number of positions available to statewide system Athletes, the following matrix for each applicable class and gender will apply:

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In classes where there is only one open statewide system position due to the qualification of a rural athlete, the highest-ranked athlete from the statewide system competitions will qualify. For the classes in which the rural athletes have not qualified, the first-ranked and second-ranked males and the first-ranked and second-ranked females from the statewide system tryout competitions will qualify.

- 4.3.1.** Accepting team nomination: These individuals must accept membership on the team, via e-mail *within 10 days* of the naming Team Alaska . Team acceptance shall be emailed to the AWG Head Coach.

- 4.3.1.1.** In the event an athlete is in a position to qualify for both Cross Country Skiing and Biathlon they must petition the Head Coaches for Team Alaska AWG Ski and Snowshoe Biathlon in writing within this 24 hour time period for an extension in the final decision so the alternate can be contacted for logistical purposes pertaining to uniforms, passports, etc. Athletes who decline their position after the 24 hour window will potentially be responsible for incidental fees associated with AWG.

- 4.4.** Naming of Alternates: a list of alternates for each category and gender will be named at both the rural and statewide Trials races. If a qualified athlete declines a position, it will be offered to the alternate in the order depicted below. The first alternate will have 48 hours to confirm or decline their position before the second alternate is asked, and so forth. In the event no alternates can be found, the Discretionary Selection Committee will use the discretionary principles outlined in 3.2.5.1 to select a candidate. A team will be finalized by **15 January 2024**.

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**4.5. Uncontested positions:**

- 4.5.1.** Any uncontested positions at the statewide trials Trials will follow the rural alternate list for that category/gender after trials have been completed.
- 4.5.2.** Any uncontested positions at the rural Trials will follow the statewide alternate list for that category/gender after trials have been completed.
- 4.5.3.** In the event a position cannot be filled by any above method, the Discretionary Selection Committee will attempt to fill the position using the discretionary selection process outlined in 3.2.5.1. If no suitable candidate can be found, the position may be left unfilled.

**4.6. Team Alaska determination is by the Biathlon Team Naming Committee (BTNC).**

- 4.6.1.** The BTNC is composed of the two Head AWG Biathlon coaches and a race official and/or technical delegate may also compose the BTNC. The race official and/or technical delegate will be nominated during the 1st coach meeting held for trials. At least two members will constitute a quorum.

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- 4.6.2.** Duties. The BTNC will compile results, quality control race scores, determine Team Alaska composition, query Team Alaska top athletes for team acceptance, announce/publish Team Alaska AWG Biathlon Teams, send biathlon Team Alaska names to the chef de mission and coordinate alternate selection with the Discretionary Selection Team should it be required to be formed.
- 4.6.3.** The BTNC will make a Team Alaska decision and announcement as soon as results are available after the last trials race final results and acceptance confirmed with the biathletes.
- 4.6.4.** The BTNC will function as the Jury of Appeals for the trial races.

## 5. Coaches

- 5.1.** Coaches will be selected by Team Alaska based upon the basic principles stated in the Arctic Winter Games Team Alaska Coach Selection Procedures and posted at [www.teamalaska.org](http://www.teamalaska.org)
- 5.2.** A coach selection preference:
  - 5.2.1.** for individuals who are actively coaching with an Alaskan biathlon club.
  - 5.2.2.** a coach selection preference for at least one coach from rural Alaska.

## 6. References

- 6.1.** IBU Events and Competition Rules. 2022. International Biathlon Union 2020. [www.biathlonworld.com](http://www.biathlonworld.com). <https://www.biathlonworld.com/inside-ibu/downloads>
- 6.2.** Arctic Winter Games homepage. <https://www.arcticwintergames.org/index.html>
- 6.3.** Biathlon Ski/Snowshoe- 2024 AWG Technical Package (note final technical package is pending approval).
- 6.4.** [Arctic Winter Games 2024](#). MatSu, Alaska, USA
- 6.5.** U.S. Biathlon Association Resources. <https://www.teamusa.org/US-Biathlon>
- 6.6.** Team Alaska Arctic Winter Games. [www.teamalaska.org](http://www.teamalaska.org).
- 6.7.** Western Interior Ski Association (WISA) Manual. <https://wisaskiing.org/>
- 6.8.** Western Interior Ski Association (WISA) AWG Selection Process. <https://wisaskiing.org/>

## 7. Arctic Winter Games Team Alaska Contact information - coordinates all AWG Sports

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