



USFSS

United States Federation of
Sleddog Sports

USFSS Athlete Selection Process

The goal of this document is to outline the process USFSS will use to select athletes from the United States to compete representing USFSS at ICF and IFSS Championship Events.

1. Selection Process Timeline

Applications will typically be accepted from May 1 through June 1 prior to the Championship event.

USFSS will target to announce the athlete selections during the first week of July prior to the Championship event.

Elite and Masters level athletes will apply per the timeline above. Athletes who are eligible for Masters will have the opportunity to apply for both Elite and Masters if they are willing to compete in either class, and will also be able to apply for just one or the other if they have a strong preference. The athlete selection committee will prioritize building the strongest Elite team from the eligible applicant pool regardless of athlete age, unless an athlete is only willing to compete in Masters and indicates that preference on their application.

2. Eligibility

To be eligible for selection to represent the USFSS at a WCH, an athlete must:

- Be a US Citizen or permanent resident. Citizenship and residency requirements of the organizing body must also be met.
- Be a USFSS member in good standing, with dues paid for the season prior to the Championship.
- Have a valid IFSS Driver Identification Number (DID), with the dues paid for the season during which the Championship will take place..

3. Criteria for Selection

USFSS will examine the following to determine athlete selection:

3.1 Athletes who have competed in at least three races during the prior dryland season.

1. Athletes are encouraged to compete in more than three races.
2. Athletes who have not met a minimum of three races, may be considered for selection if all slots are not filled by athletes who have met criteria.

3.2 Race results will be considered based on the following items:

1. Number of competitors in the event
2. Level of competition in the event
3. IFSS World Cup races will hold increased value for consideration
4. Athletes who have raced in at least one race outside of their home State will be given priority ranking

All applicants must be in good standing with USFSS and have no disciplinary sanctions standing against them. The selection committee will consider sportsmanship and sled dog community engagement.

Attempts will be made to consider the top three races, compare number of competitors, and overall level of competition in the event to make a team composed of the top athletes in each class. Other factors that will be considered include:

- Previous races and results and overall career consideration
- Previous representation of USFSS at World Championships
- No violations including any sanctions related to positive doping test or animal welfare violations.
- Applicants with a history of disciplinary actions against them may be excluded from consideration.
- Athletes with a history of being awarded slots and not filling them may be excluded from consideration for future events.



USFSS

United States Federation of
Sleddog Sports

4. Deadline

All applicants, preselected or not, must meet application deadlines. Exceptions to the application deadlines may only be made in extraordinary circumstances.

5. Communication

USFSS will communicate all information regarding the selection process through the USFSS website and Facebook page.

6. To Be Considered as an Athlete

Athletes interested in being a member of Team USA, to increase their odds of selection, should:

- Clarify which classes they are focused on, and compete regularly in the same class
- Compete at least three races
- Participate in IFSS World Cup events.
- Travel to races in other areas of the country
- Compete against the highest level of competition available
- Race competitors who have previously been selected to represent the USFSS
- Be a USFSS member annually

7. Ethics

USFSS Selection Committee members pledge to uphold a fair and unbiased process. For any class that a Selection Committee member, family member, or kennel partner is applying, that member may not vote on the final rankings. The remaining Selection Committee members may consult with the member who has a conflict for that class if that member is determined to have a valuable expertise in that class not possessed by the remaining Selection

Committee members, but the conflicted member must be careful to not unduly influence the Selection Committee in favor of source of the conflict of interest and should limit their consultation to factual information only.

While no such prohibition will be in place for friends, mentors/mentees, etc. of Selection Committee members, all Selection Committee members must be careful not to show any undue influence for the benefit of such individuals. Committee members should err on the side on unbiasedness and should abstain from voting on final rankings for any classes which they cannot form a completely unbiased opinion.

USFSS pledges to use sound reasoning and best judgment in making athlete selections. USFSS is solely responsible for athlete selection for Team USA. Questions regarding the selection process should be directed to the Selection Committee Chair. Any appeals of the Selection Committee's decision may be made to the USFSS President and will be heard by the USFSS Executive Committee, as per USFSS Bylaw XVI.



facebook.com/USFSS



usfss.usa@gmail.com



www.usfss.org