

ARCTIC WINTER GAMES 2026



Ski & Snowshoe Biathlon Qualification Criteria and Procedures

for

Team Alaska

2026 ARCTIC WINTER GAMES (AWG) TEAM ALASKA
Ski & Snowshoe Biathlon Qualification Criteria and Procedures



1. General information

1.1. AWG 2026 will be held in Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, Canada. Age Eligibility: See AWG Ski or Snowshoe Biathlon technical package for race class ages.

1.1.1. Junior girls/boys (U18) as determined by the AWG Ski or Snowshoe technical package

1.1.2. Juvenile girls/boys (U15) as determined by the AWG Ski or Snowshoe technical package

1.2. Athletes must comply with the Athlete Eligibility Policy in the AWG International Staging Manual.

1.3. 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) | ○ girl junior snowshoe (x2) |
| ○ boy junior Ski (x2) | ○ boy junior snowshoe (x2) |
| ○ girl juvenile Ski (x2) | ○ girl juvenile snowshoe (x2) |
| ○ boy juvenile ski (x2) | ○ boy juvenile snowshoe (x2) |
| ○ male ski coach | ○ male snowshoe coach |
| ○ female ski coach | ○ female snowshoe coach |
| | ○ wax technician |

1.4. Ski & Snowshoe allocation for 2026 Team Alaska, AWG.

RACE CLASS	SLOTS	LOCATION	NOTES
Female Junior Ski	1	rural	rural selection criteria
	1	statewide system	Road selection criteria

Qualification -Biathlon Ski & Snowshoe-2026 Approved by AWGTA on _____

2026 ARCTIC WINTER GAMES (AWG) TEAM ALASKA

Ski & Snowshoe Biathlon Qualification Criteria and Procedures

RACE CLASS	SLOTS	LOCATION	NOTES
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
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

1.4.1. *Rural is allocated one Juvenile ski position and one Juvenile Snowshoe position. It is at the WISA's (rural) 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 2026, WISA will decide at the end of OCT 2025.**

1.4.2. Qualification will be based on tryout competition results. Tryout competitions will be held per the AWG 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

1.4.3. 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): Western Interior Ski Association (WISA) Biathlon Championships conducted in March 2025. One biathlon race event is Qualification -Biathlon Ski & Snowshoe-2026 Approved by AWGTA on _____

2026 ARCTIC WINTER GAMES (AWG) TEAM ALASKA

Ski & Snowshoe Biathlon Qualification Criteria and Procedures

conducted at the WISA Biathlon Championships, or per approved alternate method if races cannot be held. www.wisaskiing.org

- 2.2. Statewide: Two days of competition in Fairbanks and two days in Anchorage during the 2025-26 winter race season.

2.2.1. **Trials #1 & #2, Birch Hill, Fairbanks, 22-23 NOV 2025**

2.2.2. **Trials #3 & #4, Kincaid Park, Anchorage, 6-7 DEC 2025**

2.2.3. Check the event calendar at www.alaskabiathlonassociation.org for trial date changes.

2.2.4. Usual local event fees and Range Safety certification are required for trial races.

2.2.5. For the statewide competition, any biathlete residing in Alaska is eligible to compete in these trials.

- 2.3. For the trials, athletes will provide the necessary attire, including skis, boots, poles, rifles, and ammunition.

- 2.4. All trial races will abide by a no-fluorinated wax policy. Athletes may use any wax of their choice as long as it abides by this policy.

2.4.1. At the race director's discretion, a group wax session will be held at a specific time/date and location.

2.4.2. At the race director's discretion, a specific race wax type may be used for all racers' skis.

2.4.3. If a group wax and/or race wax application is implemented, the race skis may be secured before race day and only released at a time before the race starts.

3. Qualification Standards / Basis for Qualification

- 3.1. Rural (Western Interior Alaska): The highest eligible-ranked male and female finishers of the spring 2025 WISA Biathlon Championships in each division will be named to the 2026 Team Alaska Ski Biathlon Team, regardless of their AWG age classes.

- 3.2. Statewide competitors: The remainder of the team will be named based on 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 on 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:

2026 ARCTIC WINTER GAMES (AWG) TEAM ALASKA

Ski & Snowshoe Biathlon Qualification Criteria and Procedures

Athlete's Percent-Back = $2 - (\text{Athlete's time} / \text{Average time of the top three finishers scored}) * 100$

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's eligible racers.
- 3.2.2.2.** Qualification races will match the individual competition format races outlined in the technical packet.
- 3.2.2.3.** The 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 organisers' choosing.
- 3.2.2.4.** The 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 organisers' choosing.
- 3.2.3.** Usually, all 4 races are conducted. However, due to weather or other unanticipated issues, fewer than 4 races may be held. The maximum number of each skier's performances that will be counted toward selection is 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 the Team Alaska Chef de Mission for final approval.
- 3.2.4.** Tie-breaking procedures will utilise 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 on each athlete's best single shooting result percentage (%).
 - 3.2.4.3.** If athletes are still tied, the tie will be broken based on each athlete's second-best shooting result percentage (%).
 - 3.2.4.4.** If athletes are still tied, the tie will be broken based on 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.

2026 ARCTIC WINTER GAMES (AWG) TEAM ALASKA

Ski & Snowshoe Biathlon Qualification Criteria and Procedures

3.2.5. No qualification races conducted: Clubs and coaches shall nominate athletes whom 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. The timeline for selection shall be communicated at least two (2) weeks before the selection process is commenced.

3.2.5.1. The discretionary Selection Committee shall consist of:

- Shall be the same persons as the Biathlon Team Naming Committee.
- Two AWG Snowshoe/Ski Biathlon Coaches
- A race official or TD

3.2.5.2. Discretionary Selection Criteria: The purpose of a discretionary choice is to ensure the 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 the 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 trends in competition and training results or performance parameters, such as ski speed and shooting, indicate a potential for future success.

3.2.5.2.3. The 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.

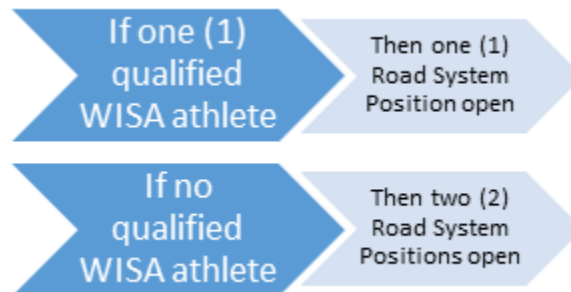
4. Final Qualification: All qualified athletes, plus an additional two alternates per category/gender, will be named after the final trial races. Please note the timing for WISA and statewide trials races varies; see below for details.

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.

2026 ARCTIC WINTER GAMES (AWG) TEAM ALASKA

Ski & Snowshoe Biathlon Qualification Criteria and Procedures

- 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 the statewide system Athletes, the following matrix for each applicable class and gender will apply:



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 of 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 these 24 hours for an extension in the final decision, so the alternate can be contacted for logistical purposes about uniforms, passports, and funding. Generally, extensions are not approved due to short planning timelines.

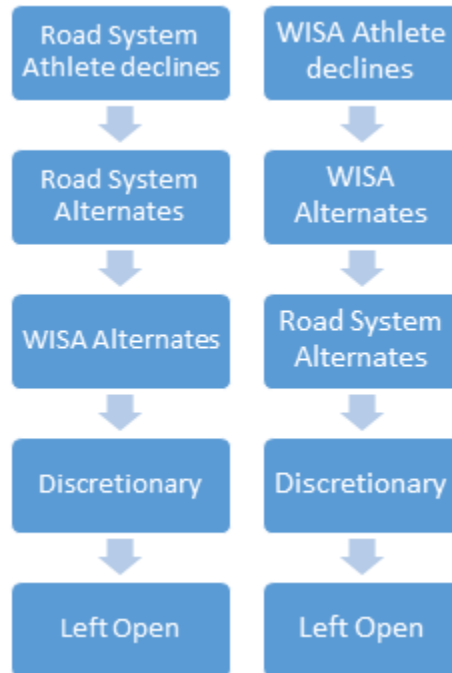
- 4.3.1.2.** Athletes who decline their position after the 24-hour window will potentially be responsible for incidental fees associated with AWG.

- 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
- Qualification -Biathlon Ski & Snowshoe-2026 Approved by AWGTA on _____

2026 ARCTIC WINTER GAMES (AWG) TEAM ALASKA

Ski & Snowshoe Biathlon Qualification Criteria and Procedures

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 **20 December 2025**.



4.5. Uncontested positions:

- 4.5.1. Any uncontested positions at the statewide 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 of the above methods, the Biathlon Team Naming Committee (BTNC) will attempt to fill the position using the discretionary selection process outlined in 3.2.5.1. Every attempt will be made to fill the position with a qualified biathlete. If no suitable candidate can be found, the position may be left unfilled.

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

2026 ARCTIC WINTER GAMES (AWG) TEAM ALASKA

Ski & Snowshoe Biathlon Qualification Criteria and Procedures

- 4.6.1.** The BTNC is composed of the two Head AWG Biathlon coaches and a race official and/or technical delegate. 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.
- 4.6.2.** Duties. The BTNC will compile results, quality control race scores, determine Team Alaska composition, decide discretionary selection, 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 are 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
- 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. 2026. International Biathlon Union 2026. 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- 2026 AWG Technical Package (note the final technical package is pending approval).
- 6.4.** [Arctic Winter Games 2026](#). Whitehorse, YT, Canada
- 6.5.** U.S. Biathlon Association Resources. <https://www.teamusa.org/US-Biathlon>
- 6.6.** Team Alaska Arctic Winter Games. www.teamalaska.org.
- 6.7.** Western Interior Ski Association (WISA) Manual. <https://wisaskiing.org/>

Qualification -Biathlon Ski & Snowshoe-2026 Approved by AWGTA on _____

2026 ARCTIC WINTER GAMES (AWG) TEAM ALASKA

Ski & Snowshoe Biathlon Qualification Criteria and Procedures

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

Chef de Mission: Chef de Mission: Sarah Frampton, Executive Director

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Email: sarah@teamalaska.org

Board of Directors Email: president@teamalaska.org

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