Biathlon Alberta Shooting Stars Team Selection Criteria

(2025-26 Race Season)

Biathlon Alberta has established selection criteria governing the composition and selection of a Biathlon Alberta Development Team, the 'Shooting Stars', to establish a high-performance training team in Alberta. This team will have access to training opportunities with a variety of athletes and coaches across the province focused on improving their fundamental skill development and overall racing performance. The program objectives are:

- to offer collective development opportunities for athletes and coaches;
- to create better collaboration, growth, and skill development centred around ski technique and shooting skills;
- to build a provincial network of teams, expertise, and resources to help grow biathlon in Alberta.

These objectives are guided by the ultimate goal of building strong, happy, healthy athletes.

The Biathlon Alberta Shooting Stars Team will be composed of selected athletes to a maximum of up to 26 athletes.

Selected Athletes are defined in the following way:

a) 4 Youth Men and 4 Youth Women
b) 4 Senior Boys and 4 Senior Girls
c) Up to 10 additional spots can be used for discretionary selection (based on Biathlon National Championships performance, season-long performance, or coach nominations). Ideally, we strive for gender equity on the Shooting Stars Squad. Biathlon Alberta Reserves the right to limit team size regardless of percentage due to fiscal limitations.

Eligibility

All athletes must be Alberta division members of Biathlon Canada in good standing and racing for Alberta-based clubs. Athletes eligible for selection to Team Alberta are those who compete in the categories outlined in the table below and have not graduated from high school. Athletes who compete out of their respective age class (race-up) at selection events will be classified in the category they competed in for the selection ranking purposes.

Qualifying Competitions

The six events included below are the qualifying competitions for the Shooting Stars Team. Results from other competitions (such as World Youth Junior Championship Trials, Westerns, and Nor-Am's) may be considered for athletes nominated for selection by their club coach. Only individual competition results will be considered as selection events.

2025/26 Biathlon Alberta Selection/ Race Requirement by Category			
	Competition	**Date**	**Location**
1	**Calforex Cup 1**	Nov 29-30	Canmore
2	**Calforex Cup 2**	Jan 10- 11	Grande Prairie
3	**Calforex Cup 3**	Jan 24-25	Camrose
4	**Calforex Cup 4**	Feb 21-22	Hinton
5	**Calforex Cup 5**	Feb 28 - Mar 1	Edmonton
6	**Biathlon Nationals**	Mar 24 - 29	Canmore

Selection Process for Team Alberta

Relative Performance Ranking

Relative Performance will be used to rank athletes for each qualifying competition. This will be determined by an athlete's finish time compared to the fastest finish time by an Alberta athlete in their respective category.

Example:

Fastest Alberta Finish Time = 20:15 min; Athlete B Finish Time = 22:59 min

*Relative Performance for Athlete B = ((20*60)+15)/((22 * 60)+59) = 88.11%*

(percentages rounded to 2 decimal places)

Selection lists will be created based on an athlete's mean Relative Performance. Results from an athlete's best 50% + 1 qualifying competitions will be used to determine their mean Relative Performance. If 7 or fewer qualifying competitions are held during the season (e.g. due to weather cancellations), then every result will count towards an athlete's Relative Performance.

Selection of Automatic Qualifiers

The top 4 athletes in the Relative Performance Rankings in each of the following categories (Youth Men, Youth Women, Senior Boys, Senior Girls) will automatically qualify for the Shooting Stars. If an automatic qualifier does not wish to be a part of the Shooting Stars team, their spot will go to the next highest ranking athlete in that respective category.

Discretionary Selection

Subsequent spots on the Shooting Stars Team will be filled through discretionary selection. Relative Performance Rankings will be used to allocate discretionary spots. Athletes competing in U17 Prone, U17 Standing and Youth categories at the Biathlon National Championships will also be eligible for discretionary selection. Lastly, eligible athletes that fail to automatically qualify may be nominated as a discretionary athlete by club coaches. Nominated athletes will be considered based on Relative Performance Rankings, age, and year in development. To be considered, a nomination must be sent in writing to the Executive Director of Biathlon Alberta (E.D.) at gm@biathlon.ca according to the timeline outlined below.

Timeline

2025/26 Shooting Stars Selection Timeline	
Date	**Deadline**
29-Mar	Naming of Automatic Qualifiers
03-Apr	Deadline for Coaches to submit Discretionary Nominations
06-Apr	Deadline for Automatic Qualifiers to confirm team status
10-Apr	Confirmation of Final Team

Appeals

The selection process is subject to the Biathlon Alberta Dispute Resolution Policy. Any appeals will need to be submitted within 7 days of posting, to the E.D. at gm@biathlonalberta.ca.

Force Majeure

The Selection Committee, comprised of the Provincial Coach, Director of Athlete development, and Director of Operations of Biathlon Alberta, will consider claims of "force majeure" if an athlete has a justifiable and unavoidable reason for missing selection races, such as documented illness or act of "force majeure". A written application for "force majeure" must be made by the athlete or their legal guardian within one week of the missed selection event. The letter must describe the circumstances that caused the athlete to miss the competition and include a letter from a physician if the claim is for medical reasons. In considering a claim of "force majeure" the Selection Committee will consider performances from other competitions, training camps, or time trials to make an informed decision.