



BSF NIGERIA

2023/2024 Athlete Selection Criteria for Skeleton

The Bobsled & Skeleton Federation of Nigeria (BSFN) athlete selection process encompasses a number of phases and events such as but not limited to combine tests, National Team Trials and prior ice experience. The Team Selection committee and coaching staff will use the criteria for selecting athletes to represent BSFN in IBSF competitions.

Team Selection Committee Defined: The BSFN National Team Selection committee will be comprised of the following individuals:

1. Director of Skeleton
2. BSFN Head Coach
3. BSFN Assistant Head Coach

Goal and guiding principles of the athlete selection criteria for the sport of Skeleton

It is the goal of this criteria to ensure BSFN puts forth the most competitive skeleton athletes in the pursuit of competition medals at all levels. In keeping with this goal, BSFN will ensure the most competitive athletes are selected for all racing circuits. An emphasis will be placed on optimizing the success of our current teams and development for future Olympic and World Championship success of BSFN athletes. In addition, prospective National Team selection will be contingent on an athlete's ability to uphold the best attitude, discipline, and positive representation of BSFN and the country of Nigeria.

1. BSFN ATHLETE PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY

In order to participate in a BSFN program, an athlete:

- a. Must be a member in good standing with BSFN;
- b. Must abide by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), and IBSF anti-doping requirements;
- c. Must meet all Nigeria Olympic Committee (NOC), IBSF and BSFN eligibility requirements for representing Nigeria in international competition;
- d. Must complete and return the BSFN physical/waiver, BSFN registration documents, Anti-doping forms, and Code of Conduct prior to participation in any BSFN event.
- e. Must adhere to all rules and regulations established by the International Bobsleigh & Skeleton Federation (IBSF).

2. BSFN NATIONAL TEAM ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY

The Bobsled & Skeleton Federation of Nigeria National Skeleton Team is defined as athletes named to the National Team by the selection committee to compete in approved sanctioned IBSF competitions and Olympic Games. The National Team will be the only athletes eligible to receive support for their competition and training development. In addition to the Participant Eligibility requirements above (Section 1), these are the criteria that each athlete must complete to be eligible for the selection to the Nigerian National Team:

- a. The athlete must have a current official BSFN virtual combine test results submitted during the required window
- b. The athlete must participate in the National Team Trials

3. NATIONAL TEAM QUALIFICATION AND SELECTION CRITERIA

The Nigeria National Skeleton Team is defined as athletes officially named to the National Team per IBSF World Cup, North America's Cup, and Europe Cup quota by the BSFN skeleton selection committee. Pending funding availability, these athletes will be eligible to have their transportation, accommodations, and competition/training fees covered by BSFN. There are three (3) primary criteria that will be used to select the members of the team:

- a. The Athlete must have a current official BSFN virtual combine test result submitted during the required window



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- b. All returning and new athletes will be invited to participate in the National Team Trials (also referred to interchangeably as the National Push Championships) based on their performance in the virtual combine test. **The cost of this participation will be at the expense of the athlete.**
- c. Any athletes who have already had experience with training or competing in an IBSF sanctioned race or approved BSFN training on ice will automatically receive 100 points towards their final selection score.

4. NATIONAL TEAM QUOTA & SELECTION SPOTS

BSFN will select athletes in the sport of skeleton according to the following quotas:

- a. Skeleton Athletes
 - 1. The number of skeleton athletes selected to the National Team will be two (2) male skeleton athletes and two (2) female athletes
- b. National Team Sled 1 and Sled 2 Selections
 - 1. Athletes must be named to the National Team by the Selection Committee in order to compete in any IBSF sanctioned event. Only in unforeseen extreme circumstances and with approval by the Selection Committee can a non-National Team member race in an IBSF sanctioned event.
 - 2. Athletes are expected to enter competitions in the highest level of fitness and prepared for competition as determined by the Head Coach.
- c. The Team Selection Committee may identify one or more National Team alternates. Additional athletes may be added to the alternate pool if the situation warrants.

5. BSFN POINTS SYSTEM

The BSFN selection committee will determine the final BSFN Ranking of each athlete prior to the start of the upcoming season via total tally of available points in the following categories:

	VIRTUAL COMBINE POINTS	NATIONAL TEAM TRIALS/ NATIONAL PUSH CHAMPIONSHIPS POINTS	NATIONAL TEAM TRIALS COMBINE (if applicable)	PRIOR ICE EXPERIENCE
TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS	500	100	700	100
POINTS BREAKDOWN	<u>Scored Through the following events:</u> -15m split -45m sprint -30m fly -Shot Throw -Standing Long Jump	1 st place = 100 2 nd place = 80 3 rd place = 60 4 th place = 50 5 th place = 40 6 th place = 30 7 th place = 20 8 th place & below = 10 Waiver points = 50 or 100	<u>Scored Through the following events:</u> -15m split -45m sprint -30m fly -Shot Throw -Standing Long Jump -Power Clean -Squat	If YES = Full Points If No = Zero Points



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6. OLYMPIC SEASON SKELETON TEAM REVIEW

To ensure that the Nigeria Skeleton athletes have the strongest team possible in international competition, the minimum standards found below must be met. If any athlete does not meet the performance standards below, their position will be up for review. In order to cause the least interruption to the program, these reviews will take place at Christmas break, and continental breaks for travel (North America to Europe, etc).

a. Skeleton Athlete:

1. Must maintain successful completion of 85% of their scheduled/entered race or their position will be up for review.
2. If a skeleton athlete does not meet the above standards and a change is necessary, the Team Selection Committee may select the replacement athlete via the Discretionary Selection Criteria detailed below (in no particular order):
 - i. Current IBSF world ranking;
 - ii. Successful international competition results from the past two seasons;
 - iii. Current Nigeria National Team Trials results;
 - iv. Current BSFN Combine results;
 - v. Emerging athletes from the National Development Team currently competing in IBSF competitions
 - vi. Waiver granted.
3. Skeleton athletes not previously named to the National Team may be added to the National Team by the selection committee at any time, if needed.
4. If a change is deemed necessary, the Team Selection Committee may select the replacement athletes via the Discretionary Selection Criteria in Section 6.a.2.

7. NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM SELECTION:

a. Skeleton Athlete Selection for Europe Cup (EC) & North American Cup (NAC)

1. The Nigeria National Development Team is composed of athletes that
 - i. live in the diaspora or in Nigeria
 - ii. have been licensed as BSFN athletes in the past or
 - iii. have participated in an approved IBSF sanctioned event
 - iv. Did not qualify as National Team Sled 1 or Sled 2
 - v. Or ultimately has been approved for a waiver to be considered to the national development team after completing a virtual combine
2. These athletes will be competing on the NAC and EC tours.
3. Opportunities to compete in EC, and NAC events will be based on the BSFN coaching staff and Director of Skeleton's discretion. The coaching staff may alternate opportunities between EC and NAC based on continuing performances over the season. If a team/athlete declines a spot at an event, that spot may be offered to the next available athlete.

b. Race Entries: For EC and NAC races, the BSFN coaching staff will use discretionary selection based upon the criteria below (in no particular order):

1. Current IBSF world ranking;
2. Successful international competition results from the past two seasons;
3. Current Nigeria National Team Trials results;
4. Current BSFN Combine results;

c. Upon approval athletes named to the National Development Team will be authorized to participate in sanctioned IBSF races and training camps **at their own expense**. BSFN will support these developmental teams with any applicable fee waivers or reimbursements extended to the federation from the IBSF or as available through any BSFN financial overflow that is not allocated to National Team athletes.



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- d. Any National Development Team self-funded athletes wishing to participate in IBSF sanctioned events under BSFN must adhere to all required eligibility terms and must submit their desire to compete for BSFN in writing prior to the start of the season

8. EQUIPMENT RENTAL & ALLOCATION

- a. BSFN Sled/Runners & Allocations/Rentals: The BSFN equipment will be allocated on coaching staff discretion based upon:
 1. Current International Ranking;
 2. Past season's results;
 3. Current combine test results;
 4. National Team Trials results;
 5. Future potential;
 6. Responsibility to care for equipment;
 7. Emerging athletes named to the National Development Team
 8. Current BSFN ranking;
 9. Driving experience;
 10. Olympic athletes from the previous Olympic Games.
- b. BSFN owned or rented equipment will not be allocated to athletes who fail to possess the requisite skills to use the equipment, which will be evaluated by the coaching staff. The Head Coach may withhold equipment from an athlete if, in their judgment, that athlete has a history of maintaining equipment poorly or does not yet have the requisite driving skills to preserve the equipment in a reasonable manner.
- c. The coaching staff is not required to allocate all available sleds.
- d. All BSFN owned equipment must be accompanied by a technician or must have access to a sled expert in the event that repairs must be made.
- e. BSFN owned sleds may be allocated for WC, NAC and EC only if coaching and technical repair is available.
- f. At any given time, other allocations may occur if the Head Coach decides it will improve one or all of the following: international results, sled testing, runner testing.
- g. If a sled is irreparably damaged, the Head Coaches will reallocate sleds guided by the system above unless the coaches determine a better solution that will result in the least disruption to the teams and also provide the best opportunity for international success.
- h. Equipment will only be provided to athletes that support BSFN sponsors with sponsor marks on the sleds and equipment / apparel used at the competition venue, and/or as directed by BSFN.
- i. BSFN owned sleds and BSFN runners may not be altered by an athlete without written permission from the BSFN Head Coach.
- j. Athletes who purchase their own equipment must be cleared through BSFN Director of Skeleton and adhere to any required BSFN sponsorship representation on equipment

9. PARTICIPATION, WAIVERS, REMOVAL, AND REPLACEMENT

- a. Participation: Athletes are required to participate in events for which they are qualified, are named to, and to which they commit. When an athlete does not attend a race and/or leaves a position vacant, they can negatively affect the chances for Nigeria to qualify the maximum number of spots in an IBSF competition. Thus, any athlete who does not attend a race for which they have been selected, they will be assessed a \$100 fine which must be paid before the next competition. The BSFN President, along with the Head coach and Director of Skeleton, will determine, on a case by case basis, if that athlete's circumstances merit reinstatement to their race opportunities, or if some or all of their races are to be re-allocated to other athletes.
- b. Extreme Circumstances waiver: The Extreme Circumstances waiver pertains to unforeseen circumstances that include, but are not limited to a crash, runner or sled damage, personal situations, etc. The waiver will



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only be used for an extreme circumstance that will be determined by the Team Selection Committee for races and National Team Trials.

1. All waiver requests for BSFN events must be submitted to the Director of Skeleton via hard copy or email as soon as reasonable. In order for an athlete to submit an exemption request they must have completed a virtual combine for the current season. Following receipt, the Team Selection Committee will review such request for approval or denial. The Waiver Committee will make a decision and provide a written copy of the approval or denial of the waiver to the athlete within fourteen (14) days. If an athlete is granted a waiver approval, they may receive the following outcomes:
 - i. If they have competed in the most recent Winter Olympic Games, or World Championships, they will be granted an automatic maximum of 100 points in the National Team Trials/National Push Championships category
 - ii. If they have compete in *any* Winter Olympic Games or World Championships, they will be granted a maximum of 50 points in the National Team Trials/National Push Championships category
 - iii. If they have not competed in the most recent Winter Olympic Games or any World Championships, they *will not* receive the automatic points allocation, however, if their final BSFN ranking is amongst the top quota allotted for national team or developmental team selection, they will be granted the earned position based on ranking.
 - iv. They may also be granted a spot on the national developmental team pending a written exemption form for consideration
- c. Removal of Athletes: An athlete may be removed from any team for any of the following reasons:
 1. Voluntary withdrawal: Athlete must submit a written letter or email to the Head Coach. In the event of a disabling illness or injury to an athlete, the athlete must be examined by a legally licensed physician that is BSFN approved. Should an athlete refuse injury/illness verification by a physician or a BSFN approved physician, then their injury or illness will be assumed to be disabling and they will be replaced. Medical staff at any track at which an athlete is competing can, in the interest of safety, prevent an injured athlete from competing at that event, should they deem that athlete unsafe.
 2. Code of Conduct violation: In the event of an excessive or serious violation of the athlete Code of Conduct, an athlete could be removed from a race series or dismissed from the federation. An athlete who may be removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to appeal to the Nigeria Athletes Commission.
 3. Anti-Doping violation: An athlete may be removed from any team at any time for violation of IOC, WADA, IBSF, and/or Nigeria National Anti-Doping Committee (NADC) antidoping protocol, policies and procedures. In such instances, the adjudication process will be managed through the NADC.
- d. Replacement of Athletes: The Team Selection Committee will select replacement athletes to the National Team per the Athlete Selection Criteria. An athlete who replaces another athlete does not automatically assume the rank of the replaced athlete.

10. ATHLETE'S RIGHT TO COMPETE

- a. Should an athlete feel his/her right to compete has been withheld, BSFN will help arrange for a grievance procedure for him/her to seek a fair hearing and relief.
- b. If you have any questions regarding your opportunity to compete that are not answered by BSFN, you may contact the Nigeria Athletes Commission President. This position is currently filled by Olumide Oyedeji at olumide.oyedeji@olympian.org.



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11. SAVING CLAUSE

The procedures above are based on IOC, IBSF and BSFN rules and regulations as presently published. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in IOC, IBSF or BSFN rules and regulations will be distributed to all athletes as soon as possible. The desire to field the most competitive teams for international competition are the guiding principles and will determine the administration of the selection criteria. The National Team Selection Criteria are based on the latest information available to BSFN. However, these criteria are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances (weather, budget, scheduling, war, etc.) and no doubt have not accounted for every possible contingency. In which case, the BSFN staff will administer changes with the utmost reverence for fairness, respect of athletes and for honor of the sport. If a scheduled event cannot be held or must be interrupted, BSFN will first try to reschedule the event. Second, BSFN will try to change the venue but will not guarantee funding for travel to the new venue. Finally, if a venue change is not feasible, ranking will be based first on the portion of that event completed or if no portion has been completed, then ranking will be based on the most recent BSFN National Rankings. These Selection Criteria come into force as of the date of their approval by the BSFN coaching staff, Director of Skeleton and BSFN President and supersede all previous criteria. BSFN reserves the right to change the selection criteria prior to the start of each competition season based on schedules, coaching, logistics, finances, and other limiting factors. The rules in these criteria will be interpreted by the coaching staff, Director of Skeleton along with BSFN President in the way in which they were intended.

12. CRITERIA DISTRIBUTION

1. This document shall be available to all athletes at: The BSFN website: www.bsfnigeria.com; and
2. Will be e-mailed to the athletes who competed in the prior season.