

Fall 2009 Race-Off Format

- Bengt Walden (men's singles), Erin Hamlin (women's singles) and Mark Grimmette & Brian Martin (doubles) are *pre-qualified* under the rules of USA Luge's 2010 Olympic Luge Team Selection Process and, as such, will be entered (barring an injury) in every World Cup race through the Lillehammer World Cup, which currently represents the end of the Fall World Cup schedule, provided each of them independently continues to meet the 'other' team requirements, such as passing the fall physical test.
- In addition to the pre-qualified athletes referenced above, the next highest ranking athlete(s) from the 2009 US National seeding points in each luge event will be entered (barring an injury) in the first two World Cup races of the fall, currently scheduled for Calgary, Canada and Igls, Austria, provided each of them independently continues to meet the other team requirements, such as passing the fall physical test. These athletes are Tony Benshoof (men's singles), Julia Clukey (women's singles) and Christian Niccum & Dan Joye (doubles).
- There will be four (4) races scheduled as follows:

2 Races in Lake Placid Oct 21 & 23*

1 Race in Park City Nov 7 (note, the race in Park City for the women and doubles may take place from the bob and skeleton start, and not the customary women and doubles start)

1 Race in Whistler Nov 15

(all dates are approximate, and the Whistler race is the most tentative of the four as it will be taking place on a non-US track, during an international training week, within our training session, where the conditions can not always be to our satisfaction – the coaching staff on site will make the final decision on dates and whether a race is feasible or not)

Points will be distributed for each race according to the USLA Seeding Process policy; however, those athletes referenced above in either of the first two bullet points of this document are required to race (barring an injury), but will not receive points.

**Athletes will receive points according to the USLA Seeding Process policy for each race in Lake Placid. However, after the points are totaled from these first two races, and the reduction of one man and one woman has been made as outlined below, the remaining athletes with points will see those points divided in half (without any rounding off) with this new number being the number of points that will subsequently be added to the points from the Park City and Whistler races outlined below (this is being done to more evenly weight the three races and make them of near 'equal' value).*

- The field for each discipline for the two **Lake Placid** races will be as follows:
 - 6 MEN: *Bengt, Tony, Robby Huerbin, Chris Mazdzer, Trent Matheson, and Joe Mortensen*
 - 8 WOMEN: *Erin, Julia, Megan Sweeney, Ashley Walden, Stacey Young, Courtney Zablocki, Kate Hansen, and Emily Sweeny*
 - 3 DOUBLES: *Grimmette/Martin, Niccum/Joye, and Matt Mortensen/ Preston Griffall*

- At the conclusion of the two Lake Placid races the following athletes will travel to **Park City**:
The top 5 MEN – *Bengt, Tony and the then current top 3 with points*
The top 7 WOMEN – *Erin, Julia and the then current top 5 with points*
3 DOUBLES – *No Team will be eliminated*
 - At the conclusion of the Park City race, the following athletes will travel to **Whistler** and participate in the Whistler International Training Week.
The top 4 MEN – *Bengt, Tony and the then current top 2 with points*
The top 6 WOMEN – *Erin, Julia and the then current top 4 with points*
3 DOUBLES – *No Team will be eliminated*
 - At the conclusion of the Whistler race, the following athletes will travel to **Calgary** and **Europe**.
The top 4 MEN – *No additional man will be eliminated*
The top 5 WOMEN – *Erin, Julia and the then current top 3 with points*
3 DOUBLES – *No Team will be eliminated*
 - Additionally, at the conclusion of the Whistler race, the two (2) women with the then most points from all three* races will be entered in at least the first two World Cup races of the fall (along with Erin and Julia). The woman with the least amount of then current points will compete in the first two Nations Cup races (per the 2010 Olympic Luge Team Selection Process, which takes over from this point forward).
- Tie breakers at any point in the process:
1. Total Cumulative Points from the races (If after Lake Placid, two races. If after Park City, two* races, and if after Whistler, three* races).
 2. Highest Finish from the Whistler race (if we are at the point in the process where it has taken place), or the highest finish from the Park City race (only if we are at the point in the process where it has taken place but we have not yet been to Whistler), or the highest finish from the Lake Placid races (only if we are at the point in the process where they have taken place but we have not yet been to Park City or Whistler).
 3. Single fastest run from the Whistler race (if we are at the point in the process where it has taken place), or the single fastest run from the Park City race (only if we are at the point in the process where it has taken place but we have not yet been to Whistler), or the single fastest run from the Lake Placid races (only if we are at the point in the process where they have taken place but we have not yet been to Park City or Whistler).
- At the conclusion of the second World Cup race of the fall (currently scheduled for Igls, Austria), any woman (except Erin) that has not achieved *at least* one part of a B tier qualification will enter in a race-off with the athlete who competed in the first two Nations Cup races to determine the balance of USA Luge's four women's entrants for the last two World Cup races in the fall. It is possible this race will take place with little or no training at the beginning of the Altenberg WC week (currently scheduled as the third of the fall World Cup races (this is per the 2010 Olympic Luge Team Selection Process)).