

MILANO CORTINA 2026 OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES
NOMINATION CRITERIA FOR LUGE EVENTS

NEW ZEALAND OLYMPIC LUGE ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

1. Application of this Nomination Criteria

- 1.1 **Status:** This Nomination Criteria is issued by the Board and shall take effect from 1 July 2024. This Nomination Criteria supersedes any previous correspondence, discussions and representations (whether written or oral) by New Zealand Luge regarding nomination and selection for the Games.
- 1.2 **Scope:** This Nomination Criteria applies to:
- (a) all Athletes wishing to be considered for nomination to the Games Team to compete in the Games in a Luge Event; and
 - (b) New Zealand Luge, including its Selectors, that wish to nominate Athletes to the NZOC to be considered for selection to the Games Team for the Games.
- 1.3 **Process:** Selection to the Games Team in a Luge Event is a three step process:
- (a) each Athlete must be eligible in accordance with clause 3 of this Nomination Criteria;
 - (b) New Zealand Luge nominates Athletes to the NZOC in accordance with this Nomination Criteria and the NZOC Nomination and Selection Regulation; and
 - (c) the NZOC selects Athletes to the Games Team in accordance with the NZOC Selection Policy and the NZOC Nomination and Selection Regulation.

2. Selectors

- 2.1 **Composition:** The Selectors have been appointed by the Board. The Selectors who will consider nomination of Athletes to the NZOC to be considered for selection in the Games Team are:
- Geoff Balme
Lorne Depape
Geraldine Duncan
- 2.2 **Change of Selectors:** The Board reserves the right to change a Selector at any time in its absolute discretion prior to the Nomination Date. In such case, Athletes will be notified in writing.

3. Eligibility

3.1 **Athlete Eligibility:** To be eligible to be nominated to the NZOC by New Zealand Luge, an Athlete must:

- (a) be on the New Zealand Luge long list for the Games; and
- (b) have returned a completed Athlete Application to the NZOC, in the form prescribed by the NZOC, by the following dates (“Application Date”):
 - i. no later than 5.00pm, 4 April 2025; or
 - ii. in exceptional circumstances, before 5.00pm, 6 August 2025 (or such extended date as agreed by the NZOC Board) where New Zealand Luge provides the NZOC with evidence that demonstrates that Athlete could not have been reasonably in contemplation on 4 April 2025; and
- (c) have returned a completed Athlete Agreement in the manner prescribed by the NZOC to the NZOC prior to the Nomination Date; and
- (d) be a member of New Zealand Luge or one of its affiliates; and
- (e) be a New Zealand citizen and have a New Zealand passport; and
- (f) be born before 1 July 2010; and
- (g) meet the Minimum FIL Olympic Qualification Standard requirements and any other additional requires set out in the FIL’s Qualification System for Milano Cortina 2026 Olympic Winter Games (“FIL Qualification System”); and
- (h) have demonstrated to the satisfaction of New Zealand Luge that they are not suffering any physical or psychological impairment that would prevent them from competing in the Games to the highest possible standard; and
- (i) have acted in such a manner so as not to bring the Athlete, the sport, New Zealand Luge or the NZOC into public disrepute; and
- (j) not be under investigation for any breach of any part of New Zealand Luge and/or FIL’s anti-doping regulations, the Sports Anti-Doping Rules and/or the NZOC Integrity Regulation; and
- (k) no later than 6 August 2025 (or such extended date as agreed by the NZOC Board), have provided their name and contact address details to the NZOC for the purpose of locating them for drug testing with Drug Free Sport New Zealand.

3.2 **Qualification:** New Zealand must qualify for places in a Luge Event(s) in accordance with the FIL Qualification System and/or FIL requirements for the Games. Qualification for a place in any Luge Event(s) by an Athlete (or group of Athletes) does not guarantee that Athlete (or group of Athletes) will be nominated or selected to compete in the Luge Event(s) at the Games.

3.3 **Nomination if Nomination Criteria Met:** Provided the requirements set out in clauses 3.1 and 3.2 are met, the Selectors shall nominate to the NZOC for consideration of selection, those Athletes it considers meet the Nomination Criteria set out below.

4. Nomination Criteria

4.1 **Nomination Criteria:** In considering any Athlete for nomination to the NZOC, the Selectors shall consider:

- (a) the Over-riding Nomination Criteria specified in clause 5.1; or
- (b) the Secondary Nomination Criteria specified in clause 5.2; and
- (c) the evidential requirements in clause 5.3; and
- (d) the Specific Nomination Factors specified in clause 5.4; and
- (e) any Extenuating Circumstances in accordance with clause 4.6 and 6.

4.2 **Relevance and Weighting:** The Selectors may determine the relevance and weight that they wish to place on any Specific Nomination Factor(s) and any Extenuating Circumstances(s) as they consider appropriate. No Specific Nomination Factor shall be weighed more or less significantly based on the order in which it appears in this Nomination Criteria unless expressly specified.

4.4 **Own Enquiries:** In considering the Specific Nomination Factors, the Selectors may make such enquiries of the Athlete, or other persons, as they set.

4.5 **Conditions:** In considering any results and performances of an Athlete at any Key Events and Trials, the Selectors may, but are not obliged to, take into account the conditions in which the results and performances were obtained such as, but not limited to, weather conditions and the strength of the field of competitors.

4.6 **Extenuating Circumstances:** In any decision regarding the nomination of Athletes to the Games Team, the Selectors may, in their sole discretion, take into account any Extenuating Circumstances in accordance with clause 6 below.

5. Over-riding Nomination Criteria, Secondary Nomination Criteria and Specific Nomination Factors

5.1 **Over-riding Nomination Criteria:** In determining whether or not to nominate an Athlete (or group of Athletes) to a Luge Event, the Selectors must be satisfied overall that the Athlete (or group of Athletes):

- (a) is or are competing in a Luge Event where a quota place at the Games has been qualified in accordance with the FIL Qualification System; and
- (b) is or are capable of achieving a top 16 placing in the Games in that Individual Luge Event, with the potential to win an Olympic Diploma (top 8 placing); and

- (c) has or have a track record of sufficient quality and depth that the Selectors believe demonstrates the nominated athlete(s) will be competitive at the Games and will perform to the level specified in clause 5.1(b) in that Luge Event(s).

5.2 **Secondary Nomination Criteria:** Where a quota place has been qualified at the Games in accordance with the FIL Qualification System, but where no athlete has met the overriding criteria in clause 5.1(b) and 5.1(c), then the Selectors may consider nominating an Athlete (or group of Athletes) to a Luge Event provided that the Selectors are satisfied overall that the Athlete has demonstrated they are capable of achieving an Olympic Diploma (top 8 placing) in a Luge Event at the 2030 Olympic Winter Games, provided they have a strong record of international competition of such quality and depth that the Selectors believe demonstrates the Nominated Athlete(s) will be competitive in the Luge Event at the Games.

5.3 **Evidence**

- (a) In determining whether or not the Athlete (or group of Athletes) satisfies the Over-riding Nomination Criteria for Luge Events in clause 5.1 or the Secondary Nomination Criteria for Luge Events in clause 5.2, the Selectors shall have regard to any one or more of the results and performances in the Luge Event at the following Key Events during the Qualification Period:

- 2024/25 & 2025/26 World Cup series
- 2024/25 Junior World Cup series
- 2025 World Championships
- 2024 and 2025 Junior World Championships

Note: An Athlete must compete in a minimum of three Key Events which must be outside of Oceania and at elite level (not at junior level), during the Qualification Period in order to be eligible for consideration.

5.4 **Specific Nomination Factors:** When considering the Over-riding Nomination Criteria or Secondary Nomination Criteria above, the Selectors may also take into account any one or more of the following factors about an Athlete within the Qualification Period:

- (a) any other performances or results in competitions / events in addition to the Key Events;
- (b) adequate fitness and a commitment to maintain a fitness and training programme as agreed with the applicable coach(es);
- (c) demonstrated good behaviour, including a commitment to training and attendance at training camps;
- (d) demonstrated compatibility with others in a team environment;
- (e) demonstrated compliance with the rules of events and competitions;

- (f) understanding and respect for the obligations that accompany being a member of a New Zealand team when competing at the Games, including respect for Games Team members;
- (g) willingness to promote New Zealand Luge in a positive manner;
- (h) demonstrated ability to take personal responsibility for self and their results;
- (i) proven ability to be reliable;
- (j) any other factor(s) which the Selectors reasonably considers to be relevant; and

6. Extenuating Circumstances

6.1 **Extenuating Circumstances:** In considering the nomination of Athletes in accordance with this Nomination Criteria, the Selectors may, in their sole discretion, give weight to any Extenuating Circumstances which may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (a) injury or illness;
- (b) travel delays;
- (c) equipment failure;
- (d) bereavement or personal misfortune; and/or
- (e) any other factors reasonably considered by the Selectors to constitute extenuating circumstances.

6.2 **Athlete to Advise:** Athletes unable to compete at Key Events, Trials, or other attendances required under this Nomination Criteria, must advise the President of the Extenuating Circumstances and reasons, in writing, with as much advance notice as possible and, ideally, at least seven (7) days prior to the commencement of the Key Event, Trial or other attendance. If the President is not notified of any Extenuating Circumstances in accordance with this Nomination Criteria, then the Selectors have no obligation to rely on such circumstances.

6.3 **Medical Certificate:** In the case of injury or illness, Athletes may be required by the President to provide a medical certificate and/or to undergo an examination by a health practitioner/s nominated by the President, and to provide that opinion and/or report to the Selectors. Any failure to agree to such a request may result in the Selectors being unable to consider the injury or illness as an Extenuating Circumstance.

6.4 **Case-by-Case:** In the case of any Extenuating Circumstance/s, the Selectors will make a decision on a case-by-case basis.

7. Nomination and Selection

- 7.1 **Nomination to NZOC:** New Zealand Luge will nominate Athletes (“Nominated Athletes”) and any Reserve Athletes to the NZOC by the Nomination Date.
- 7.2 **Nomination with Conditions:** New Zealand Luge may nominate an Athlete with any conditions, for example, conditions relating to recovery from injury or continuing to meet specified performance levels. If the conditions are not met to the satisfaction of the Selectors, they will not be eligible for selection, unless the NZOC decides to select the Nominated Athlete subject to those or other conditions.
- 7.3 **Selection by NZOC:** Selection to the Games Team by the NZOC will be made in accordance with the NZOC Nomination and Selection Regulation.

8. Appeal Procedure

- 8.1 **Non-Nomination Appeals:** An Athlete may appeal to New Zealand Luge against their non-nomination to the NZOC by New Zealand Luge provided that the Athlete:
- (a) is on the New Zealand Luge long list for the Games; and
 - (b) meets the eligibility criteria under clause 3 of this Nomination Criteria.
- 8.2 **Procedures for Non-Nomination Appeals:** Any appeal under clause 8.1 of this Criteria must be made in accordance with clause 13 of the NZOC Nomination and Selection Regulation.
- 8.3 **Procedures for Non-Selection Appeals:** If a Nominated Athlete is not selected by the NZOC, the Nominated Athlete may appeal the non-selection in accordance with clause 14 of the NZOC Nomination and Selection Regulation provided that the Nominated Athlete:
- (a) is on the New Zealand Luge long list for the Games; and
 - (b) meets the eligibility criteria under clause 3 of this Nomination Criteria.

9. Inconsistencies

- 9.1 **NZOC Nomination and Selection Regulation:** In the event there is any inconsistency between this Nomination Criteria and the NZOC Nomination and Selection Regulation, the NZOC Nomination and Selection Regulation shall prevail.
- 9.2 **FIL Qualification System:** If this Nomination Criteria imposes a higher qualification standard or a lesser number of participants than stated by the FIL Qualification System, this shall not be regarded as an inconsistency.

10. Amendments to this Nomination Criteria

- 10.1 **Prior to Nomination Date:** This Nomination Criteria may be amended or supplemented from time to time by the Board, before the Nomination Date, provided the NZOC has approved the amendment/s and supplement/s.
- 10.2 **Notice:** The Board will give as much notice as possible of any amendment/s or supplement/s made under clause 10.1 to this Nomination Criteria, to persons it considers may be affected by any such amendment/s or supplement/s.

11. Definitions

- 11.1 **Application Date** means the dates set out in clause 3.1(b) of this Criteria, by which Athletes must submit to the NZOC a completed Athlete Application in accordance with clause 8.3 of the NZOC Nomination and Selection Regulation.
- 11.2 **Athlete** means a person who wishes to be considered for nomination to the Games Team.
- 11.3 **Athlete Agreement** means the agreement that must be completed by any Athlete wishing to be considered for nomination and selection to the Games Team in accordance with clause 8.4 of the NZOC Nomination and Selection Regulation.
- 11.4 **Athlete Application** means the form set by the NZOC that must be completed by any Athlete applying to be nominated and selected to the Games Team.
- 11.5 **Board** means the Board of New Zealand Luge as constituted under the Constitution.
- 11.6 **Constitution** means the Constitution of New Zealand Luge.
- 11.7 **Extenuating Circumstances** means the inability to perform at an optimum level arising from one or more of the reasons set out in clause 6.1.
- 11.8 **FIL** means the International Luge Federation.
- 11.9 **Games** means the Games of the XXV Winter Olympiad to be held in Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy from 6 to 22 February 2026.
- 11.10 **Games Team** means the New Zealand Team at the Games selected in accordance with the NZOC Selection Policy for the Games.
- 11.11 **Key Events** means an international competition listed in clause 5.3.
- 11.12 **Luge Event** means one of the following events at the Games:

Men's Luge Events	Women's Luge Events	Mixed Events
Men's Singles	Women's Singles	Team Relay
Men's Doubles	Women's Doubles	

- 11.13 **New Zealand Luge** means New Zealand Olympic Luge Association Incorporated.
- 11.14 **Nominated Athlete** means an Athlete who has been nominated by New Zealand Luge to the NZOC for consideration of selection to the Games Team.
- 11.15 **Nomination Criteria** means the criteria made up of the Over-riding Nomination Criteria or Secondary Nomination Criteria and the Specific Nomination Factors, and is also referred to as “**this Criteria**”.
- 11.16 **Nomination Date** means on or before 18 January 2026 (and includes any alternative date as agreed between the NZOC and New Zealand Luge), by which New Zealand Luge must submit any Nominated Athletes to the NZOC.
- 11.17 **NZOC** means the New Zealand Olympic Committee Incorporated.
- 11.18 **NZOC Integrity Regulation** means the NZOC Integrity Regulation available at <http://www.olympic.org.nz/about-the-nzoc/governance-documents/>.
- 11.19 **NZOC Nomination and Selection Regulation** means the regulation of the NZOC relating to the nomination and selection process for all Olympic and Commonwealth games, including the Games, available at <http://www.olympic.org.nz/about-the-nzoc/governance-documents/>.
- 11.20 **NZOC Selection Policy** means the NZOC Selection Policy for the Games, available at <https://www.olympic.org.nz/games/milan-cortina-2026/selection/>.
- 11.21 **Over-riding Nomination Criteria** means the criteria set out in clause 5.1.
- 11.22 **Qualification Period** means the period between 1 July 2024 to 11 January 2026.
- 11.23 **President** means the President of New Zealand Luge and includes their nominee.
- 11.24 **Reserve Athlete** means a travelling and/or non-travelling reserve, as designated by the Selectors and in accordance with the FIL Qualification System and the Milano Cortina 2026 Sport Entry Manual.
- 11.25 **Secondary Nomination Criteria** means the criteria set out in clause 5.2.
- 11.26 **Specific Nomination Factors** means the factors listed in clause 5.4 which the Selectors may take into account when applying the Over-riding Nomination Criteria or Secondary Nomination Criteria.
- 11.27 **Selectors** means the selectors appointed by New Zealand Luge in accordance with clause 2 of this Nomination Criteria.