



***OVERVIEW RULE CHANGES
in force as of 1st of October, 2022***

Current Rules

10.6.8 Start

The start block may be stepped upon during the start procedure, but the rear edge may not be crossed.

The start line (the first timing point) must be clearly visible.

The entire team shall be present after the call to the start.

The starter clears the track by means of acoustic and optical signals. The team at the start must activate the timing device within 60 seconds.

The athletes can accelerate the sled by pushing it.

The help from the third party during the start procedure is prohibited.

New Rules

10.6.8 Start

The start block may be stepped upon during the start procedure, but the rear edge may not be crossed.

The start line (the first timing point) must be clearly visible.

The entire team shall be present after the call to the start.

The starter clears the track by means of acoustic and optical signals. The team at the start must activate the timing device within 60 seconds.

The athletes can accelerate the sled by pushing it.

The help from the third party during the start procedure is prohibited.

An exception to this is the women's monobob, where in case of need - in training - help from third parties can be used for the start procedure between the start block and the initial triggering of the timing.

Current Rules

4.2 – World Championships

The World Championships take place annually, with the exception of the Olympic year. Quotas are based on the current IBSF Ranking List.

The quotas for participation in the World Championships are as follows:

- Men:** Nations with 3 athletes in the Top 30: 3 starting places
Nations with 2 athletes in the Top 50: 2 starting places
Nations with 1 athlete in the Top 60: 1 starting place
- Women:** Nations with 3 athletes in the Top 25: 3 starting places
Nations with 2 athletes in the Top 35: 2 starting places
Nations with 1 athlete in the Top 45: 1 starting place

The defending Junior World Champion is also entitled to participate.

New Rules

4.2 – World Championships

The World Championships take place annually, with the exception of the Olympic year. Quotas are based on the current IBSF Ranking List.

The quotas for participation in the World Championships are as follows:

- Men:** Nations with 3 athletes in the Top 30: 3 starting places
Nations with 2 athletes in the Top 50: 2 starting places
Nations with 1 athlete in the Top 70: 1 starting place
- Women:** Nations with 3 athletes in the Top 25: 3 starting places
Nations with 2 athletes in the Top 35: 2 starting places
Nations with 1 athlete in the Top 55: 1 starting place

The defending Junior World Champion is also entitled to participate.

1. Same adaptation applies to rule point 4.5.1 World Cup

- Men:** Nations with 3 athletes in the Top 30: 3 starting places
Nations with 2 athletes in the Top 50: 2 starting places
Nations with 1 athlete in the Top 70: 1 starting place
- Women:** Nations with 3 athletes in the Top 25: 3 starting places
Nations with 2 athletes in the Top 35: 2 starting places
Nations with 1 athlete in the Top 55: 1 starting place

Clarification: As the Rule Change will come into force on October 1st 2022, the Quotas for the 2022/23 Season are based on the current International Skeleton Rules 2021.

2. Update of 4.5.2 (Intercontinental Cup) required as follows:

Men: Nations with 3 athletes in the Top 70: 3 starting places
Nations with 2 athletes in the Top 85: 2 starting places
All remaining nations with 1 athlete

Women: Nations with 3 athletes in the Top 55: 3 starting places
Nations with 2 athletes in the Top 70: 2 starting places
All remaining nations with 1 athlete

Clarification: As the Rule Change will come into force on October 1st 2022, the Quotas for the 2022/23 Season are based on the current International Skeleton Rules 2021.

Current Rules

8.6 Entries

- a) Prior to the deadline specified in the event announcement, the Members shall inform the Organizer of the competition online of the athletes to be entered in the competition.
- b) The name of the team captain shall be given to the Jury at the first team captains' meeting.
- c) The Members have the right to select the athletes that shall participate.
- d) The entry fees belong to the Organizer and amount to the value of € 25 per athlete.
- e) If the entry deadline specified in the event announcement is not observed, the entry can be accepted for a double entry fee.
- f) Entries may be withdrawn at any time. Already paid entry fees are non-refundable.
- g) Entry fees must be paid at the first team captains' meeting.

New Rules

8.6 Entries

- a) The name of the team captain, with email address, telephone number and accommodation details, must be provided at the time of the entry.
- b) The entries of the athletes for the races must be made online by the Members to the Organizer prior to the deadline specified in the announcement of the event.
- c) The entry fees belong to the Organizer and amount to the value of € 25 per athlete.
- d) Entries may be withdrawn at any time. Already paid entry fees are non-refundable.
- e) Entry fees must be paid as stated in the announcement of the event.
- f) If the entry of an athlete is not withdrawn by the first team captains' meeting, the entry fee must be paid in any case.

Current Rules

10.1 Official Training

[...]

10.1.2 Continental Championships, World Cup and Intercontinental Cup

Directly prior to the race, 3 days of official training with a minimum total of 6 official training heats shall be offered.

10.1.3 Junior World Championships, Europe Cup and North American Cup

Directly prior to the race, 3 days of official training with a minimum total of 6 official training heats shall be offered....]

New Rules

10.1 Official Training

[...]

10.1.2 Continental Championships, ~~and World Cup~~ ~~and Intercontinental Cup~~

Directly prior to the race, ~~3~~ **2** days of official training with a minimum total of 6 official training heats shall be offered.

10.1.3 Junior World Championships, ~~Intercontinental Cup~~, Europe Cup and North American Cup

Directly prior to the race, 3 days of official training with a minimum total of 6 official training heats shall be offered....]

Current Rules

10.2 Starting Order during Training

[...]

A training group shall not exceed 10 athletes.

The following starting order applies for events in which the official training takes place for 2 or 3 days:

- 1st day: from nation 1 to the end
- 2nd day: from the end to nation 1
- 3rd day: start order according to the IBSF Ranking List (men and women train separately)...

New Rules

10.2 Starting Order during Training

[...]

A training ~~group~~ **cooperation** shall not exceed 10 athletes.

There is no provision for training groups at Winter Olympic Games, as trainings are conducted separately by gender.

The following starting order applies for events in which the official training takes place for 2 or 3 days:

- 1st day: from nation 1 to the end
- 2nd day: from the end to nation 1
- 3rd day: start order according to the IBSF Ranking List (men and women train separately)...

Current Rules

10.16.1 Helmet

Wearing of a safety helmet is mandatory for all competitions, during both training and races. Only helmets whose shell and padding cover the head and at least the ear area are allowed. Each athlete who takes part in an IBSF Competition must wear a safety helmet approved by his / her National Federation.

Helmets with spoilers or protruding edges are not allowed.

The bottom edge of the helmet shell must maintain the shape of the helmets normally available on the market. Chin guards and clasps are not allowed to be positioned excessively low.

The chin guard, the visor and the hardware for attaching them are the only protruding elements allowed. These elements cannot, however, have aerodynamic coverings.

For safety reasons, all helmets must have a smooth surface.

A safety helmet

- has to be without any additionally attached aerodynamic elements or adhesive tape (except that used to fix the visor or the goggle strap), and
- one piece of adhesive tape is allowed on the chin guard with a maximum size of 50mm x 70mm.
- the helmet shell must not have any concave shape except for the recesses for the visor, and
- the padding may protrude a maximum of 3 cm below the shell.

Please see the drawing in article 12.12.

New Rules

10.16.1 Helmet

Wearing of a safety helmet is mandatory for all competitions, during both training and races. **It is the duty and the responsibility of the National Federations to comply with the safety standards.** Only helmets whose shell and padding cover the head and at least the ear area are allowed. ~~Each athlete who takes part in an IBSF Competition must wear a safety helmet approved by his / her National Federation.~~

Helmets with spoilers or protruding edges are not allowed.

The bottom edge of the helmet shell must maintain the shape of the helmets normally available on the market. Chin guards and clasps are not allowed to be positioned excessively low.

The chin guard, the visor and the hardware for attaching them are the only protruding elements allowed. These elements cannot, however, have aerodynamic coverings.

For safety reasons, all helmets must have a smooth surface.

A safety helmet

- has to be without any additionally attached aerodynamic elements or adhesive tape (except that used to fix the visor or the goggle strap), and
- one piece of adhesive tape is allowed on the chin guard with a maximum size of 50mm x 70mm.
- the helmet shell must not have any concave shape except for the recesses for the visor, and
- the padding may protrude a maximum of 3 cm below the shell.

Please see the drawing in article 12.12.

Requirements valid from the season 2023/2024 onwards

- **Helmet model must meet ASTM 2040 and EN 1077 (Class A) and be certified under both.**
- **In addition, the helmet model must pass an additional specific test under EN 1077 test methods, but at a higher test speed of 6.8 m/s.**

Current Rules

10.16.2 Shoes

The use of spikes on the shoes of the athletes is allowed for pushing the sled, as long as the spikes are arranged in brush form.

The maximum diameter of the spikes may not be greater than 1.5 mm, the spikes may not be longer than 5 mm and the minimum amount of spikes per shoe must not be less than 250.

Shoe coverings are prohibited.

New Rules

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The use of spikes on the shoes of the athletes is allowed for pushing the sled, as long as the spikes are arranged in brush form.

The maximum diameter of the spikes may not be greater than 1.5 mm, the spikes may not be longer than 5 mm and the minimum amount of spikes per shoe must not be less than 250.

With the exception of the spike plate the shoe must be commercially available and may not be modified.

Shoe coverings are prohibited.

The shoes may be checked by the IBSF at any time.

Current Rules

10.16.3 Clothing

Training and race suits with short pants and short sleeves are not allowed. No aerodynamic elements whatsoever may be attached either outside or under the race suit. If the Race suit has a hood attached, this must be worn completely or removed completely from the suit. The hood of the suit is not permitted to be tucked in, rolled, sewed into place or otherwise used in a fashion other than its intended purpose; to cover the athlete's head. Race suits must be manufactured from an uncoated textile. The race suits worn by the athletes can be checked and approved by the jury.

New Rules

10.16.3 Clothing

Training and race suits with shorts and short sleeves are not allowed. Racing suits shall conform to the natural shape of the body of the Athlete at any time. Insertion or attachment of forms or devices to create different shape is not permitted.

No aerodynamic elements whatsoever may be attached or inserted either outside or under the race suit to create a different shape is not allowed. The surfaces may not be plasticized.

Seams of the race suits and any clothing worn underneath such as undergarment, etc., may only exist in order to join the portions of the fabric parts and may not have any added materials, neither soft or rigid.

If the racing suit has a hood, it must be worn fully or removed entirely from the suit. It is not permitted to be tucked in, rolled, sewed into place or otherwise used in a fashion other than its intended purpose; to cover the athlete's head and neck.

Current Rules (SKN)

4.5 World Cup and Intercontinental Cup

Requirement for participation in the Continental Championships, World Cups and Intercontinental Cups:

Participation is allowed only for athletes who have taken part in, and been ranked in, a minimum of 5 IBSF competitions on a minimum of 3 different tracks in the course of the previous 24 months.

New Rules (SKN)

4.5 World Cup and Intercontinental Cup

Requirement for participation in the Continental Championships, World Cups and Intercontinental Cups:

Participation is allowed only for athletes who have taken part in, and been ranked in, a minimum of 5 IBSF competitions on a minimum of 3 different tracks in the course of the previous 24 months. **For athletes who participated in the previous Olympic Winter Games, in the sport of bobsleigh, the qualification is extended to 36 months.**

Current Rules (BOB)

4.5.3 Requirements for participation in the World Cups and Intercontinental Cups:

Participation is allowed only for pilots who have taken part in, and been ranked in, a minimum of 5 IBSF competitions on a minimum of 3 different tracks in the course of the previous 24 months. Participation only counts for the respective discipline (e.g. 2-woman bobsleigh counts only for 2-woman bobsleigh). If a pilot has fulfilled this qualification criteria by October 1st of the respective season, it remains valid for the entire current season.

New Rules (BOB)

4.5.3 Requirements for participation in the World Cups and Intercontinental Cups:

Participation is allowed only for pilots who have taken part in, and been ranked in, a minimum of 5 IBSF competitions on a minimum of 3 different tracks in the course of the previous 24 months. **For pilots who participated in the previous Olympic Winter Games, in the sport of bobsleigh, the qualification is extended to 36 months.** Participation only counts for the respective discipline (e.g. 2-woman bobsleigh counts only for 2-woman bobsleigh). If a pilot has fulfilled this qualification criteria by October 1st of the respective season, it remains valid for the entire current season.

Current Rule

10.2 Starting Order during Training

[...]

The starting order of the participating nations shall be drawn at the first team captains' meeting. If possible, the training is run according to "nation groups".

Exceptions a) World Championships and b) World Cup:

a) World Championships:

The starting order of the participating nations shall be drawn by the Technical Delegate at the end of the entry term and after the quota allocation and shall be communicated to both the Race Organizer and the participating nations prior to the first team captains' meeting. Nevertheless, the team captains have to be present at the first team captain meeting in person. If a nation is not present, or in case of a late entry, the athletes of the nation concerned shall automatically start at the end of the field during the first and second day.

b) World Cup:

The starting order of the participating nations shall be drawn by the World Cup coordinator at the end of the entry term and shall be communicated to both the Race Organizer and the participating nations prior to the first team captains' meeting. Nevertheless, the team captains have to be present at the first team captain meeting in person. If a nation is not present, or in case of a late entry, the athletes of the nation concerned shall automatically start at the end of the field during the first and second day....]

New Rules

10.2 Starting Order during Training

[...]

The starting order of the participating nations **will be drawn by the technical delegate/coordinator after the registration deadline shall be drawn at the first team captains' meeting**. If possible, the training is run according to "nation groups".

~~Exceptions a) World Championships and b) World Cup:~~

~~10.2.1 Olympic Games:~~

~~The starting order of the participating nations will be drawn at the first team captains meeting.~~

~~10.2.2 World Championships:~~

~~The starting order of the participating nations shall be drawn by the Technical Delegate at the end of the entry term and after the quota allocation and shall be communicated to both the Race Organizer and the participating nations prior to the first team captains' meeting. Nevertheless, the team captains have to be present at the first team captain meeting in person. If a nation is not present, ~~or in case of a late entry~~, the athletes of the nation concerned shall automatically start at the end of the field during the first and second day.~~

~~b) World Cup: 10.2.3 all other official IBSF races according to rule point 1.3:~~

~~The starting order of the participating nations shall be drawn by the ~~World Cup~~ coordinator at the end of the entry term and shall be communicated to both the Race Organizer and the participating nations prior to the first team captains' meeting. Nevertheless, the team captains have to be present at the first team~~

captain meeting ~~in person~~. If a nation is not present, ~~or in case of a late entry~~, the athletes of the nation concerned shall automatically start at the end of the field during the first and second day....]

Current Rule

10.6.3 Starting Order System

[...]

Olympic Winter Games, World Championships and Junior World Championships

In order of their IBSF Discipline Ranking position, the 10 best-placed pilots in the current IBSF Discipline Ranking List who are present will choose their start numbers to 13 for Men's Bobsleigh and Women's Bobsleigh. *(same applies for Men's and Women's Skeleton!)*

New Rules

10.6.3 Starting Order System

[...]

Olympic Winter Games, World Championships and Junior World Championships

In order of their IBSF Discipline Ranking position, the 10 best-placed pilots in the current IBSF Discipline Ranking List who are present will choose their start numbers to ~~13~~ 10 for Men's Bobsleigh and Women's Bobsleigh. **(same applies for Men's and Women's Skeleton!)**

BOB Material / 12.2.3.3.1 Steering mechanism

Current Rule

12.2.3.3.1 Steering mechanism

[...]

8) The bottom plate (14) is firmly bolted (15), with no free play, to both steel flanges (11a, 11b)....]

New Rules

12.2.3.3.1 Steering mechanism

[...]

8) The bottom plate (14) is firmly bolted (15), with no free play, to both steel flanges (11a, 11b). **Movement between (11a and 11b) is not allowed....]**

Current Rule

12.2.3.3.2 – Front Axle

[...]

- 1) The front axle (9) consists of a continuous, straight, circular steel tube manufactured from a single piece of steel having an outer diameter that is a minimum of 44 mm (2~ and 4-man bobs), which reduces to a minimum of 32 mm (2~ and 4-man bobs) to fit the bearing of the front runner carrier (17)....]

New Rules

12.2.3.3.2 – Front Axle

[...]

- 1) The front axle (9) consists of a continuous, straight, circular steel tube manufactured from a single piece of steel having a **diameter 45mm +/- 1mm** ~~outer diameter that is a minimum of 44 mm~~ (2~ and 4-man bobs), which reduces to a minimum of 32 mm (2~ and 4-man bobs) to fit the bearing of the front runner carrier (17)....]

Current Rule

12.2.3.3.2 – Front Axle

[...]

- 2) The 44 mm diameter portion of the axle must have a minimum wall thickness of 9 mm and a minimal length of 450 mm.
- 3) In its middle portion, the front axle (9) has a steel fastening plate (18) of no less than 7.5 mm in thickness that must be strongly welded (not screwed) to it and firmly bolted to the bottom plate (14) by at least 4 bolts with a core diameter of at least 6.3mm....]

New Rules

12.2.3.3.2 – Front Axle

[...]

- 2) The **45 mm +/- 1 mm** diameter portion of the axle must have a minimum wall thickness of 9 mm and a minimal length of 450 mm.
- 3) In its middle portion, the front axle (9) has a steel fastening plate (18) having **a width of 95 mm (+/-26 mm), a length of 70 mm (+/- 20mm) and a thickness of 9 mm (+/- 1,5 mm)**, that must be strongly welded (not screwed) to it and firmly bolted to the bottom plate (14) by at least 4 bolts with a core diameter of at least 6.5 mm. ...]

Current Rule

12.2.3.4 Rear Portion of the Frame

[...]

- 3) If the longitudinal members are made of tubing, they must remain open with no filling and have inspection holes with a minimum diameter of 8 mm located every 500 mm along the frame.....]
- 8) The minimum distance between the outermost points of full contact between the axle and the axle mount will be 165 mm.....]

New Rules

12.2.3.4 Rear Portion of the Frame

[...]

- 3) If the longitudinal members are made of tubing, they must remain open with no filling. ~~and have inspection holes with a minimum diameter of 8mm must be located 100 mm from the division box towards the rear axle as well as at the end of the rear portion of the frame, so that an inspection of the frame with a camera is possible. located every 500 mm along the frame.....]~~
- 8) The minimum distance between the ~~outermost points of full contact between the axle and the axle mount~~ bolt connections will be 165 mm. The axle must be firmly bolted to the axle mount. No movement between the axle and the axle mount is allowed.

Current Rule

12.2.3.4.2 Rear Axle

- 1) The rear axle (27) consists of a continuous, straight, circular steel tube manufactured from a single piece of steel having an outer diameter that is a minimum of 44 mm (2~ and 4-man bobs), which reduces to a minimum of 32 mm (2-man bob) and 34 mm (4-man bob) to fit the bearing (28) of the rear runner carrier (29).
- 3) The rear axle (27) must be firmly bolted or clamped to the rear frame (31) without any resilient or shock absorbing material in between. Horizontal bolts are not permitted.
- 5) The rear axle (27) can be bolted either above or below the rear frame (31) (2~ and 4-man bobs). ...]

New Rules

12.2.3.4.2 Rear Axle

- 1) The rear axle (27) consists of a continuous, straight, circular steel tube manufactured from a single piece of steel having an outer diameter that is **45 mm (+/- 1 mm) a minimum of 44 mm** (2~ and 4-man bobs), which reduces to a minimum of 32 mm (2-man bob) and 34 mm (4-man bob) to fit the bearing (28) of the rear runner carrier (29).
- 3) The rear axle (27) must be firmly bolted **or clamped** to the rear frame (31) without any resilient or shock absorbing material in between. Horizontal bolts are not permitted.
- 5) The rear axle (27) can be bolted either above or below the rear frame (31) (2~ and 4-man bobs). **The bolt connection has a minimum distance of 165 mm....]**

Current Rule

12.2.5.5 Freedom of Movement of Cowling relative to Frame

- 1) The movement of the cowling relative to the frame, allowed by the mounts of the cowling controlled by 12.2.5.4 and 12.2.5.6 must be limited to 5 mm in the downward direction by use of travel stops.
- 2) Irrespective of the suspension elements used within the context of 12.2.5.4 and 12.2.5.6, the travel of these suspension elements must be limited by hard travel stops of sufficient rigidity to guarantee effective limitation of cowling movement.
- 3) The forward travel stops limiting the vertical movement of the cowling must be fully positioned within the confines of 12.2.5.4. In case the travel stops are not an integral part of the mounting brackets, the forward travel stops must be completely positioned within 100 mm of most forward part of the rear part of the frame excluding the articulation bolt (12.2.5.4.2) (figure 23).
- 4) The rear travel stops must be mounted on or to the outside of the longitudinal frame member and completely within 120 mm forward and backward of the centerline of the rear axle. (12.2.5.4.3) (Figure 23).

New Rules

12.2.5.5 Freedom of Movement of Cowling relative to Frame

- 1) The movement of the cowling relative to the frame, allowed by the mounts of the cowling controlled by 12.2.5.4 and 12.2.5.6 must be limited to 5 mm in the downward direction by use of travel stops.
- 2) Irrespective of the suspension elements used within the context of 12.2.5.4 and 12.2.5.6, the travel of these suspension elements must be limited by hard travel stops of sufficient rigidity to guarantee effective limitation of cowling movement.
- 3) The forward travel stops limiting the vertical movement of the cowling must be fully positioned within the confines of 12.2.5.4. ~~In case the travel stops are not an integral part of the mounting brackets, the forward travel stops must be completely positioned within 100 mm of most forward part of the rear part of the frame excluding the articulation bolt (12.2.5.4.2) (figure 23).~~
Travel stops must be integral part of mounting bracket.
- 4) The rear travel stops must be mounted on or to the outside of the longitudinal frame member and completely within 120 mm forward and backward of the centerline of the rear axle. (12.2.5.4.3) (Figure 23).

Current Rules

12.2.6.3 Bumper Positions and Dimensions

- 3) The rear bumpers must have a minimum height of 50 mm (measurement taken vertically with regard to the standing surface) over a length of minimum 200 mm.
- 4) The centre of the front bumpers, referring to a length of 300 mm, must be at least 300 mm from the centre of the front axle (2~ and 4-man bobs).

New Rules

12.2.6.3 Bumper Positions and Dimensions

- 3) The rear bumpers must have a minimum height of 50 mm (measurement taken vertically with regard to the standing surface) over a length of minimum 200 mm.
 - The rear bumpers must not exceed a maximum length of 600 mm in the two-man/two-woman bob and 900 mm in the four-man bob (measured from the rearmost point of the bumper).
- 4) The centre of the front bumpers, referring to a length of 300 mm, must be at least 300 mm from the centre of the front axle (2~ and 4-man bobs).
 - The front bumpers may have a maximum length of 1000 mm (measured from the foremost point of the bobsled cowling).

The new wording of the rule changes is preliminary and is currently being finalized while respecting the purpose of the rule change.