

QUALIFICATION FOR THE ARMY NORDIC CHAMPIONSHIPS

GENERAL

- C.1 Qualification criteria are subject to regular review, depending on, amongst other factors, funding allocations. Every year exercise instructions will make clear the status of amendments to this Annex.

ELIGIBILITY

- C.2 Details concerning eligibility of individuals and teams wishing to race at the Army Nordic Ski Championships are contained in Rule 1.4.

QUALIFICATION – MALE TEAMS

- C.3 A maximum of 22 Regular Army unit teams may qualify for the Army Championships (Ex RUCKSACK). All teams, except for two "Ex Director's Jokers", qualify for the Army Championships on the basis of the results in the Qualifying Competitions at the two qualifying divisional championships, Exs SPARTAN HIKE and PIPEDOWN. One "Ex Director's Joker" (see para C.7 below) is selected from each qualifying championship.
- C.4 The divisional Qualifying Competitions are:
Biathlon Relay; Biathlon Sprint; XC Relay; XC Individual (Classic)
- C.5 The Patrol Race is not a Qualifying Competition, but its successful completion (i.e. not *hors concours* or disqualified) at divisional level is a pre-requisite for units to be allowed to compete at the Army Championships. It may well play a large part in the deciding of the "Ex Director's Joker".
- C.6 Since 1993 a "benchmark seeding system" has been used. The finishing place (see Annex A Rules A.2 & A.3) in the four Qualifying Competitions decides the position of a team when it is considered for qualification. To compensate for differences in the severity and speed of courses, the weather and the overall standard at the qualifying championships, the results from the current season's RAC/RA/AAC Championships are used as a benchmark; typically 15 - 20 teams, including guests, compete at these joint championships held immediately before the divisional championships.
- C.7 Traditionally some 12 or 13 of the benchmark teams have qualified for the Army Championships. The other 8 or 7 places went to teams who did not participate at the RAC/RA/AAC Championships, but who beat teams who did, thus giving the 20 qualified teams. However Chairman BANSC, or his nominated representative, considers the performance of all the benchmark teams at both the RAC/RA/AAC and their qualifying championships when selecting the 20 qualifying teams. When selection is not obvious and there is a need to differentiate between two or more teams at the qualifying championships, the internationally-accepted "percentage-behind-winner" system is used.
- C.7.1 The averages of the top three teams' total team finishing times in each of the four Qualifying Competitions at their respective championships are calculated and totalled.
- C.7.2 The total of each affected team's finishing times in all four Qualifying Competitions at their respective qualifying championships is calculated.
- C.7.3 C.7.2 is calculated as a percentage of C.7.1. The team(s) with the lowest percentage figure qualify.
- C.8 **The Ex Director's Joker.** One additional team from each qualifying championship may come forward to the Army Championships as "the Ex Director's Joker". This team may, for example, be:

- C.8.1 A team that has unexpectedly failed to qualify on performance due to exceptional injury, compassionate or disciplinary reasons.
 - C.8.2 The best placed of two or more teams in the Military Patrol Race or overall divisional nordic combination.
 - C.8.3 A team selected by the Ex Director for any other reason.
- C.9 **Notification of Results.** After each of the Qualifying Competitions the Ex Ski Secretary must communicate the results to the Army Championships Race Office (or to where notified by Chairman BANSC). Chairman BANSC, or his representative, will then inform the qualifying championships by the evening before their Patrol Race of the teams who have qualified by right. He will discuss potential "Jokers" with the Ex Director. Immediately following publication of their Patrol Race results, the qualifying championships must inform Chairman BANSC of their selection of the "Ex Director's Joker".
- C.10 **Teams not wishing to attend the Army Championships.** Teams not wishing, or not able, to attend the Army Championships are excluded from the qualification process. Qualifying championship ski secretaries must ascertain from team captains and inform Chairman BANSC, or his representative, at the earliest opportunity of those teams do not wish to attend the Army Championships.
- C.11 **Upholding of Standards.** In order to maintain the quality of the Army Championships, and to ensure that teams are not over-faced by the tougher and more technical standard of courses and thus endangered, Chairman Nordic may further restrict the number of teams that can qualify. However, there will be an "Ex Director's Joker" from each qualifying championship except in the most exceptional circumstances e.g. a large disparity in standard between the qualified teams and those not.

QUALIFICATION – MALE INDIVIDUALS

- C.12 **National Squad Skiers.** All current National Squad skiers, in the World and IBU Cup teams (but not National Development Squad), automatically qualify for the Army Championships by right. If these skiers did not compete at the qualifying championships, they may thus displace some members of a unit team who had qualified by performance for the Army Championships; those displaced skiers also qualify for the Army Championships, but see Rule 1.7.3 concerning the squad of 6.
- C.13 **Other Skiers.** "Good" skiers (usually an outstanding novice or junior prospect) from teams that have not qualified may be selected by Chairman Nordic in consultation with Ex ski secretaries. Additionally, "good" skiers over and above qualified teams' squad of 6 may be selected subject to budgetary considerations. See also Rule 1.4.4.

QUALIFICATION - WOMEN

- C.14 Up to 25 Regular Army females will be funded to compete in the Army Championships. Selection is based on individual performance: members of the National Squad, in the World Cup and European Cup teams (but not National Development Squad), automatically qualify by right; others based on their performances in a qualifying divisional championship.
- C.15 The divisional Qualifying Competitions are the Biathlon Sprint and the XC Individual.
- C.15.1 The first three Army women, discounting National Squad athletes, in each Qualifying Competition qualify automatically. This qualifies between 6 (if the first 3 are the same in both competitions, at 2 qualifying championships) and 12 (if none are the same) competitors.
- C.15.2 The remaining qualifiers, up to the total of 25 minus the number of National Squad athletes, are selected according to their percentage total time behind the average of the top 3 non-National Squad finishers in each Qualifying Competition at their qualifying championship.

- C.15.2.1 The averages of the finishing times of the first 3 non-National Squad finishers in each Qualifying Competition are totalled.
 - C.15.2.2 Other competitors' finishing times in both Qualifying Competitions are totalled. Anyone who completes only one Qualifying Competition will be allocated a default time in the other Qualifying Competition 33% behind the average of the first 3 non-National Squad finishers at their qualifying championship.
 - C.15.2.3 C.15.2.2 is calculated as a percentage of C.15.2.1. Competitors with the lowest percentage figure will qualify up to the funding limit, adjusted according to C.16 below as necessary.
- C.16 At the Army Championships qualified female athletes form Corps teams of 4 or 5 competitors; additional qualified competitors will compete as authorised and funded individuals. Each team must be led by an officer or warrant officer, not only for supervision, discipline and organisation, but also in the spirit and construct of the Military Patrol Race. Therefore, if a Corps has at least 4 qualified competitors by right or performance, but not including an officer or warrant officer, the first available officer or warrant officer from that Corps ranked according to C.15.2 above shall be selected. Chairman BANSC will decide how she shall be funded: as an additional competitor: as a replacement for the lowest qualifier from her Corps; or as a replacement for the lowest overall qualifier. The resulting Corps team shall still be formed of no more than 5 competitors.
- C.17 Corps that have only 3 qualified competitors by right or performance may self-fund (using private, non-public or corps/unit public funds) a fourth Corps authorised competitor from those overall ranked 26 – 30 in order to form a team for all competitions. At least one of these 4 competitors must be an officer or warrant officer. If these criteria can not be fulfilled, then the 3 qualifiers will compete as individuals, and any teams that they form for the Biathlon Relay, Biathlon Sprint, or Individual XC will be *hors concours*.

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