

USA FENCING
ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES
2024 OLYMPIC GAMES
June 23, 2023

1. SELECTION SYSTEM

1.1. Provide the minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for selection to the Team:

1.1.1. Nationality/Passport requirements:

Athlete must be a national of the United States at the time of selection.

Athlete must hold a valid U.S. passport that will not expire for six months after the conclusion of the Games.

1.1.2. Minimum International Olympic Committee (IOC) standards for participation:

Any competitor in the Olympic Games must be a national of the country of the National Olympic Committee (NOC) which is entering such competitor. For additional information regarding an athlete who is a national of two or more countries, has changed his or her nationality or acquired a new nationality, refer to the Olympic Charter (Rule 41).

1.1.3. Minimum International Federation (IF) standards for participation (if any):

- All athletes must comply with the Athlete Eligibility requirements as set forth in Section C of the Qualification System – 2024 – International Fencing Federation (FIE) – Fencing guide found [HERE](#).

1.1.4. Other requirements (if any):

- Athlete must be a current member of USA Fencing and in good standing at the time of selection.
- Athlete must successfully complete all Games Registration requirements by stated deadline.
- Any athlete age 18 or older will be required to undergo a background screen in accordance with the current [USOPC Background Check Policy](#).
- Any athlete age 18 or older as of the Closing Ceremony will be required to remain current with the U.S. Center for SafeSport's

education and training requirements in accordance with the [USOPC Athlete Safety Policy](#).

1.2. Tryout Events:

The Qualification System – 2024 – International Fencing Federation (FIE) – Fencing guide can be found [HERE](#).

The information below describes how USA Fencing will select athletes to fill the quota places for each weapon Team qualified as described in the Qualification System.

Should USA Fencing fail to qualify a weapon Team as described in the Qualification System, individual athletes can qualify by name as described in the Qualification System (individual qualification).

1.2.1. Event names, dates and locations of all trials, competitions, and camps to be used as part of the selection process:

Designated events will be listed in the [22/23 & 23/24 Designated International Calendars](#) when international calendars are available (likely Summer, 2023).

1.2.2. Describe how athletes qualify for the events listed in 1.2.1.:

The top 12 athletes on each USA Fencing National Points standings list as of the regular entry date will be selected for each competition. A full explanation of this selection process can be found in Chapter 4 of the [USA Fencing Athlete Handbook](#).

1.3. Step-by-step description of the selection process for these Games (include maximum Team size):

The selection criteria for each weapon is posted [HERE](#). The top three (3) athletes on the National Senior Team Point Standings for each weapon as of the selection date will be nominated to the 2024 Olympic Team for the individual and team competitions.

The athlete ranked fourth on the National Senior Team Point Standings for each weapon as of the selection date may be nominated to the 2024 Olympic Team as the Replacement Athlete in the team event only.

The National Coach may propose an alternate Replacement Athlete within 10 business days of the selection date.

The National Coach must clearly demonstrate the ability of the proposed alternate Replacement Athlete to perform at a high level, specifically in international senior team events. Evidence may include bout sheets from previous senior-level international competitions. Junior and Cadet results will not be considered for these purposes. Team event performance will be given more weight than individual senior results.

The proposed alternate Replacement Athlete must:

1. Be ranked in the top 8 of the National Senior Team Point Standings as of the selection date, **OR**
2. Have previously competed in the Olympic Games in a team or individual event, **OR**
3. Have previously competed in the Senior World Championships in a team event.

The alternate Replacement Athlete will be recommended by the National Coach and approved only with a majority vote of the panel composed of the following:

1. National Coach for the opposite gender in the same weapon (if conflicted, a National Coach from another weapon will serve)
2. USA Fencing Chief of Sport Performance
3. A non-conflicted* retired Olympian from the same gender and weapon
4. Chair of the USA Fencing Athlete Council. If the Chair is currently competing in the weapon and gender of the proposed replacement, a non-conflicted* member of the Athlete Council will replace them. The member will be chosen by a majority vote of the Athlete Council. An ex-officio member shall be eligible to serve.
5. A non-conflicted* USA Fencing representative to the USOPC Athletes' Advisory Council. If this is not possible, a second member of the USA Fencing Athlete Council will be selected as described in number 4 above.

2. **DISCRETIONARY SELECTION (if applicable)**

Refer to section 1.3 above.

2.1. Rationale for utilizing discretionary selection (if any):

USA Fencing may use discretionary criteria to select an alternate Replacement Athlete in order to increase its medal potential in the team event.

2.2. Define the discretionary criteria to be used (if any):

Refer to section 1.3 above.

- 2.3. Name of the committee that will be responsible for making discretionary selections, along with a complete list of the members' titles:

Refer to section 1.3 above.

- 2.3.1. Process that will be used to identify and handle any potential conflicts of interest involving a member of the committee:

All members of the selection committee must comply with the USA FENCING's conflict of interest policy, to include completing and submitting a disclosure form for review by the USA FENCING's Ethics Committee prior to convening the committee.

Any member of the selection committee who has an actual, possible, or perceived conflict of interest must disclose it to the USA FENCING's Ethics Committee prior to the start of the selection process and/or recuse him/herself from the review process and/or voting. A conflict of interest exists when a personal, family, financial, professional, club, team or business interest of the committee member poses a direct or indirect relationship, connection, or affiliation, past or present, with an athlete in contention for the applicable team selection that could compromise the committee member's ability to participate in the selection process in an unbiased manner. If a conflict exists, the USA FENCING's Ethics Committee shall review the conflict and determine the committee member's level of involvement (e.g., whether that committee member must recuse him/herself from participating in discussions and/or voting). For example, if it is determined that a committee member must recuse him/herself from voting, the Ethics Committee may still determine that a committee member who has relevant and necessary information with respect to athlete performance, for example a national team coach or high performance director, may, if requested by the selection committee, provide such information to the committee so long as such information is provided in a fair and unbiased manner and so long as the committee member with the conflict of interest does not vote toward the final decision. The committee member must not otherwise influence other members of the committee in the selection process.

Additionally, any person (including any potentially impacted athlete or coach of a potentially impacted athlete) with a good faith belief that a committee member has a conflict of interest may report the alleged conflict of interest to USA FENCING's Ethics Committee. Reports may be made anonymously. No committee member shall retaliate in any way against a person who, in good faith, reports an alleged conflict of interest.

Any recused individual shall be replaced in accordance with the USA FENCING selection committee appointment process.

3. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES

- 3.1. Prior to submitting athlete entries to the USOPC, USA FENCING has jurisdiction over potential nominees.

An athlete who is nominated to the Team by USA FENCING may be removed for any of the following reasons, as determined by USA FENCING:

- 3.1.1. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written letter to USA FENCING CEO/Executive Director.
- 3.1.2. Injury or illness as certified by a physician (or medical staff) approved by USA FENCING. If an athlete refuses verification of his/her illness or injury by a physician (or medical staff) approved by USA FENCING, his/her injury will be assumed to be disabling and he/she may be removed.
- 3.1.3. Failure to participate in Mandatory Training and/or Competition as defined in Section 9 of these procedures.
- 3.1.4. Violation of the USA Fencing's [Code of Conduct](#).

An athlete who is removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per USA Fencing's Bylaws, Section 7.81 and the USOPC Bylaws, Section 9.

- 3.2. Once athlete entries have been submitted to the Local Organizing Committee by the USOPC, the USOPC has jurisdiction over the Team, at which time, in addition to any applicable USA FENCING Code of Conduct, the USOPC's Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures apply. The USOPC's Code of Conduct is included in the Games Forms made available prior to the respective Games; the USOPC's Grievance Procedures can be found at:

www.teamusa.org/Footer/Legal/Governance-Documents

- 3.3. An athlete may be removed as a nominee to the Team or from the Team for an adjudicated violation of IOC, IPC, Panam Sports, APC, WADA, IF, USADA and/or USOPC anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures, as well as the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code, the USOPC Athlete Safety Policy and USA FENCING's SafeSport policies, as applicable.

4. REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES

- 4.1. Describe the selection and approval process for determining replacement athlete(s) should a vacancy occur:

- 4.1.1. prior to submission of Entries by Name to the Local Organizing Committee, including any applicable group or committee:

Should an athlete selected to compete in the individual event choose not to compete or become injured, the athlete ranked 4th on the National Senior Team Point Standings for the weapon with the vacant position as of the selection date will be selected for the individual event (see section 1.3.). If the 4th ranked fencer is also the previously selected Replacement Athlete, the process to select the next Replacement Athlete will be used as described in 1.3 above.

- 4.1.2. after submission of Entries by Name to the Local Organizing Committee, including any applicable group or committee:

See 4.1.1 above.

5. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

USA FENCING will retain the approved Selection Procedures and all supporting documents, including scouting or evaluation forms, etc., and data from the selection process for six months past the date of the Closing Ceremony of the Games.

6. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

In addition to the USOPC Delegation Code of Conduct Requirements, the following documents are required to be signed by an athlete as a condition of nomination to the Olympic Games (include as attachments or provide links):

n/a

7. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES

The USOPC approved Selection Procedures (complete and unaltered) will be posted/published by the USA FENCING in the following public location(s):

- 7.1. USA FENCING Web site: www.usafencing.org

These procedures will be posted as soon as possible, but not more than five business days following notice of approval by the USOPC.

- 7.2. Other: n/a

8. DATE OF NOMINATION

Nomination of athletes, including replacements, will be announced to all athletes and submitted to the USOPC on or before:

June 7, 2024

9. MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION

Specify the location, schedule and duration of mandatory training and/or competition:

n/a

10. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS

Athletes must adhere to all IOC, IPC, Panam Sports, APC, WADA, IF, USADA and USOPC anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures, as applicable. This includes participation in Out-of-Competition Testing as required by the IOC, IPC, Panam Sports, APC, WADA, IF, USADA and USOPC rules, as applicable.

11. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES

The following committee/group (include names and titles) was responsible for creating these Selection Procedures:

[Sport Performance Resource Team](#)

[USA Fencing Athlete Council](#)

12. USA FENCING BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

The USA FENCING Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found at:

<https://www.usafencing.org/by-laws>

<https://www.usafencing.org/fencesafe-policy>

13. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER

These procedures are based on IOC, IPC, Panam Sports, APC, as applicable, and/or FIE rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in IOC, IPC, Panam Sports, APC, as applicable, and/or FIE rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes immediately. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to USA FENCING. However, the selections are always subject to unforeseen,

intervening circumstances, and realistically may not have accounted for every possible contingency.

If any force of nature, or force majeure, should cause the alteration or cancellation of any of the selection events listed in this document, these selection procedures may require revisions, pursuant to their resubmission to the USOPC.

14. ATHLETE OMBUDS OFFICE

The Athlete Ombuds Office provides cost-free, independent and confidential advice regarding athlete rights, grievance procedures and any other related guidance pertaining to selection procedures and can assist in mediating disputes between athletes and their USA FENCING.

To contact the Athlete Ombuds Office:

PHONE: (719) 866-5000

EMAIL: ombudsman@usathlete.org

WEBSITE: www.usathlete.org

15. USA FENCING SIGNATURES

I certify that I have read and understand the standards/criteria set by our IF incorporated those standards/criteria into our Selection Procedures. I further certify that the information provided herein regarding Athlete Selection Procedures represents the method approved by USA FENCING.

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
USA FENCING President or CEO/Executive Director	Phil Andrews		07/14/2023
Nat. Team Coach, Head Coach, or Nat. Program Director	Kate Reisinger		07/14/2023
USOPC Athletes' Advisory Council Representative*	Katharine Holmes		07/15/2023

* If the USOPC AAC Representative has delegated authority to the Alternate AAC Representative to sign the Selection Procedures, attach a letter from the AAC Representative indicating the reason he/she has delegated authority.

* Signature by the Athlete Representative constitutes that he/she has read and understands the Selection Procedures. If the Athlete Representative reads and does not agree with the Athlete Selection Procedures being submitted by the USA FENCING, he/she may submit those reasons in writing to his/her USOPC Sport Performance Team.

* If, for some reason, a sport does not have an elected USOPC AAC Representative, the USA FENCING must designate an athlete from that sport to review and sign the Selection Procedures.