



**USATF™**

**2025**

***USATF PARA TIER & TPP  
RESOURCE GUIDE***

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## 2025 Para Tier & TPP Resource Guide

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### DEFINITIONS

1. "2024": The following dates include the 2024 season:
  - a. Term 2- August 1, 2024 through November 30, 2024
2. "2025": The following dates include the 2025 season:
  - a. Term 1 – January 1, 2025 through August 3, 2025
  - b. Term 2- August 4, 2025 through December 31, 2025
3. "2026": The following dates include the 2026 season:
  - a. Term 1- January 1, 2026 through June 30, 2026
  - b. Term 2- July 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026
4. "Athlete Stipend": Previously referred to as Direct Athlete Support or DAS
5. "EAHI": Elite Athlete Health Insurance
6. "IF": an International Federation
  - a. ATH – [World Para Athletics \(WPA\)](#)
7. "NGB": National Governing Body.
8. "USADA": The U.S. Anti-Doping Agency
9. "Guide": For the purposes of these procedures (except as noted throughout), guides will be considered athletes.
10. "USATFP": USA Track & Field Para (formerly U.S. Paralympics Track & Field or USPTF)
11. "Team, Para Tier Program, Para Tier & TPP": Para Tier & Talent Protection Program (TPP) (formerly National Team). References of this definition include former U.S. Para Track & Field National Team. All references of Tier & TPP within this document are specific to Para.



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## PROGRAM GOALS

Our primary focus in 2025 is to support athletes who are hopefuls for LA2028 with a greater emphasis of support being placed on athletes who are on the 2025 Tier & TPP. Our focus will include identifying and beginning to bridge the gaps where athletes have retired and/or where we do not have elite competing athletes in certain events. We will focus on supporting athletes who have at least 90% of the A standard to ensure they have international classification opportunities at 2025 Grand Prix competitions.

We will host Para National Championships in 2025 which will serve as our selection event for 2025 WPA World Championships. We will continue to prioritize the health and well-being of our athletes while maintaining an environment focused on accountability and performance on the field of play by our athletes.

While we prepare to for LA2028, we will continue to pursuit talent identification, coaching education, athlete development and tech and innovation in various areas. Our focus will be placed on a smooth transition into the USA Track & Field system for high performance athletes first.

## 2025 PARA TIER PROGRAM CRITERIA

To qualify for Tier status in 2025, Paralympic athletes must meet at least one of the following criteria:

Athletes who meet at least one of the criteria below will be automatically nominated to the 2025 Tier program in January 2025.

1. Athletes who earned an individual medal at the 2024 World Championships or 2024 Paralympic Games.
2. Athletes who finished 4th or 5th at the 2024 Paralympic Games, subject to the following parameters:
  - a. If the finals included 7 or less athletes or the event was a final only event, the 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> place finish must place the athlete in the top 50% rounded up of the final round.
  - b. For all T11 and T12 events on the track athletes who finished 4<sup>th</sup> at the Paralympic Games will be eligible for the Para Tier program.
3. Athletes who finished 4th at the 2024 World Championships, subject to the following parameters:
  - a. If the finals included 7 or less athletes or the event was a final only event, the 4<sup>th</sup> place finish must place the athletes in the top 50% rounded up of the final round.
  - b. For all T11 and T12 events on the track athletes who finish 4<sup>th</sup> will be eligible for the Para Tier program.
4. Athletes who obtained a 2024 A or B standard (Appendix A) in Term 2 (August-November) of 2024.
5. Athletes who obtained a 2025 A or B standard (Appendix A) between January 1, 2024 and November 30, 2024.
6. For medal events with combined classifications, athletes who obtained a verified World Para Athletics World Record in 2024 in an event on the 2028 LA Paralympic Games Medal Program. The record must place the athlete first in the World Rankings overall for the medal event in combined events.
7. Guide athletes and athlete assistants who are assigned to an athlete nominated to the team on January 1, 2025. The guide athlete or athlete assistant may only be selected if the guide athlete or athlete assistant works with the athlete in the event that placed that athlete on the 2025 Para Tier program.
8. Guide athletes who are confirmed to our guide athlete pool will be nominated to the team on January 1, 2025.

Athletes who meet at least one of the criteria below will be automatically nominated to the 2025 Para Tier program in the month following the criteria being met:

1. Athletes who earn an individual medal at the 2025 World Championships.
2. Athletes who obtain a 2025 A or B standard.

3. Athletes who obtained a verified World Para Athletics World Record in 2025 in an event on the LA28 Paralympic Games Medal Program. The record must place the athlete first in the
4. World Rankings overall for the medal event in medal events with combined classifications. \*\*World Records for 2025 will not be awarded until the release of the LA28 program. \*\*
5. Guide athletes or athlete assistants who are assigned to an athlete nominated to the team in 2025 in the event that placed the athlete in the Para Tier program.

Athletes who are nominated to the Para Tier program will be separated into different tiers. The tiers will determine stipend and resource eligibility.

- Athletes nominated to the 2025 Para Tier or Para , will be added to the USADA Registered Testing Pool and will be responsible for remaining compliant with all policies and procedures, required by USADA.
- Athletes nominated to the 2025 Para Tier or Para TPP must be compliant with USATF Athlete Safety Policies, USATF Code of Conduct, USATF Para Tier & Para TPP agreement & relevant paperwork to receive benefits as a Para Tier or Para TPP athlete.
- Prior to being nominated to the Para Tier or Para TPP program, athletes **must have undergone an international classification evaluation and hold an international Paralympic-eligible sport class** (with the exception of the TPP) as per the current WPA master list, hold a current athlete license for Para Athletics from WPA, and obtain a USATF membership prior to being added to the Para Tier or Para TPP program. Please note, guide athletes do not undergo international classification evaluation but must meet WPA and USATF membership requirements to fulfill guide role for specified athlete in the Para Tier or TPP. Please note, athletes who are not internationally classified are not eligible for EAHI. More information on licensing and classification can be found at:
  - [Licensing for World Para Athletics](#)
  - [Classification Information](#)
  - [International Classification Evaluation Opportunities](#)

## 2025 Para Tier & TPP Standards

2025 Standards (Attachment A) are based on the following:

- National A Standard – Average of the third-best performance (mark or time) from the WPA’s three most recent major international competitions (Paralympic Games & World Championships). Results from the final round are utilized unless noted.
  - A Standard = (Paris World Championships 3<sup>rd</sup> place mark + Kobe World Championships 3<sup>rd</sup> place mark + Paris Paralympic Games 3<sup>rd</sup> place mark)/3
- National B Standard – Average of the fifth-best performance (mark or time) from the WPA’s three most recent major international competitions (Paralympic Games & World Championships) Results from the final round are utilized unless noted.
  - B Standard = (Paris World Championships 5<sup>th</sup> place mark + Kobe World Championships 5<sup>th</sup> place mark + Paris Paralympic Games 5<sup>th</sup> place mark)/3

## Standards Exceptions

Exceptions in the calculation of standards were factored for events where there were not five (5) marks available for the specific event in the final round of competition, or for events that were not contested at previous World Championships or the Paralympic Games.

All exceptions are noted in Attachment A along with 2025 Standards.

## Program Tiers

Athletes who are nominated to the Para Tier program will be separated into different Tiers. The Tiers will determine stipend and resource eligibility.

**Para Tier 1 (\$1350/month)** – Athletes who earned an individual medal at the 2024 World Championships, 2024 Paralympic Games, or athletes who obtained a verified World Record in 2024 in an event on the 2024 Paris Games Medal Program. The record must place the athlete first in the World Rankings overall for the medal event. Athletes who earn an individual medal at the 2025 New Delhi World Championships will be moved to Tier 1 beginning November 2025.

**Para Tier 2 (\$1000/month)** – Athletes who achieved the 2025 A Standard at a World Para Athletics approved event between January 1, 2024 and November 30, 2024 or athletes who placed 4<sup>th</sup> (criteria 3 & 4) at the Paris Paralympic Games.

**Para Tier 3 (\$600/month)** - Athletes who achieved the 2025 B Standard at a World Para Athletics approved event between January 1, 2024 and November 30, 2024, or athletes who earned a 2024 A or B standard in Term 2 2024, or athletes who placed 5<sup>th</sup> at the Paris Paralympic Games (criteria 3 & 4) will be nominated as Tier 3.

## Para Talent Protection Program Criteria (\$100/month):

To qualify for the 2025 TPP, athletes must meet all of the following criteria:

- Athletes who finished top 8 in their respective medal event(s) at the 2024 World Championships or the 2024 Paralympic Games. The mark must place the athlete in the top 70% of overall athletes who started the competition.
- Athletes who were in Tier 1, Tier 2 or Tier 3 at the end of term 2 2024 and did not meet the requirements to remain in Tier 1, Tier 2 or Tier 3 at the start of 2025.
- Be an athlete selected for the Universal Relay Team pool in 2025 who is not currently in the Tier program.
- An athlete who has met an A or B standard but is not yet internationally classified. (Athlete must be nationally classified. Provisional classifications will be considered case by case)
- An athlete who has obtained a 2025 A or B standard not at a WPA approved competition. (the competition in which the standard was obtained must be approved by Director before TPP status is awarded).
- Athletes who are named to the 2025 World Championships team via objective criteria (ranking list) in an event on the LA28 Paralympic Games program.

- Guide athletes or athlete assistants who are assigned to an athlete nominated to the TPP in 2025 in the event that placed the athlete in the TPP.

### **Guide Athletes and Athlete Assistants**

All guide athletes and athlete assistants assigned to a Para Tier program athlete, by Director, will be added to the team. They will also receive the same level of pay as their assigned athlete if they guide or assist the athlete in the event in which that athlete was added to the Para Tier program. Additional athletes in our guide pool may be named to the Para Tier program. Para Tier status for our guide pool will be at the discretion of the Director, however most guide pool athletes will receive Tier 3 status. All running guide athletes regardless of assignment must provide proof of performance and meet certain standard criteria in an individual event.

\*\*Eligible events must be included in the LA28 Paralympic Games program. Marathon standards can only be met based on a top 5 ranking at on the Abbott Series marathon leader board. [Abbott World Marathon Majors Elite Leaderboards](#). \*\*

\*\*In the event the LA28 program is not available at the time of announcing the Para Tier program, the Paris 2024 program will be used. Adjustments will be made to the Tier & TPP program as needed following the release of the LA28 program. \*\*

\*\*Athletes must obtain a wind legal standard at a WPA approved competition to be considered for Tier 1, 2 and 3. Athletes may be asked to confirm implement weights, MASH height, etc. \*\*

### **Para Tier System Notes**

If an athlete is removed from Tier 1, Tier 2, or Tier 3 at the end of Term 1 and then obtains an A or B standard in Term 2, they will be nominated to the Team utilizing the criteria for athletes nominated throughout 2025.

Athletes can only be nominated to Tier 1 status after January 1, 2025 if at least one of the following criteria is met:

- Athlete obtains a WPA verified World Record at a competition held between January 1, 2025 and November 30, 2025 in medal events that are on the 2028 Los Angeles Paralympic Games program, the World Record mark must place the athlete first overall in the event if the event is combined with more than one classification.
- Athletes wins a Gold, Silver or Bronze medal in an individual event at the 2025 WPA World Championships.

### **Removal from the Para TPP for athletes who have never been nominated to the Para Tier Program (Tier 1, 2 or 3).**

Athletes who are named to the TPP who have never been nominated to the Tier program (Tier 1, 2 or 3) are only eligible to be nominated to the TPP for a maximum of six (6) terms or three (3) years (does not have to be consecutive). These TPP athletes who fail to advance to Tier 1, 2 or 3 will no longer be eligible to be nominated to TPP after they have exhausted their six term or three-year eligibility and must obtain a standard to be added to the Tier program in the future.

## **Removal from the Para TPP for athletes who have previously been nominated to the Para Tier program (Tier 1, 2, or 3).**

Athletes who have previously been nominated to the Tier program for Tier 1, 2 or 3 for any period of time (including one term) and are added to the TPP will be eligible to remain in the TPP for a maximum of four (4) terms or two years (does not have to be consecutive). These athletes must obtain an A or B standard after their eligibility is exhausted to be added to the Tier program in the future.

### **2026 Para TIER CRITERIA**

To qualify for Para Tier status on January 1, 2026 athletes must meet at least one of the following criteria:

1. Athletes who earn a Gold, Silver or Bronze medal at 2025 New Delhi World Championships in an event on the 2028 Los Angeles Medal Program.
2. Athletes who obtain a 2026 National Team A or 2026 National Team B standard at a WPA approved competition between January 1, 2025-November 30, 2025.
3. Athletes who obtain a 2025 National Team A or National Team B standard between August 5, 2025-November 30, 2025.

To qualify for Para Tier status during 2026 athletes must meet at least one of the following criteria:

1. Athletes who obtain a 2026 National Team A or 2026 National Team B standard at a WPA approved competition between January 1, 2026-November 30, 2026.
2. Athletes who obtain a verified World Record in an event on the LA28 Games program. The record must place the athlete first overall in the respective medal event.

**\*\*Additional criteria may be added at the sole discretion of USATF Paralympics Director.\*\***

**\*\*Eligible events must be included on the 2028 Los Angeles Paralympic Games Program. T52/53/54 marathon standards for Para Tier program selection in 2025 may only be met at Abbott Series Marathon events.\*\***

### **DISCRETIONARY CRITERIA**

We may choose to implement discretionary criteria to select additional athletes for the Para Tier & TPP who have not met the objective criteria.

Discretionary nominations, if any, may be based on a variety of factors, including consideration of competition results outside of the (12-month) selection period and data analytics of individual and relay events, to ensure that we are investing in the most qualified athletes with the greatest potential of winning Paralympic Games medals. The following factors will be considered when considering an athlete for discretionary selection:



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- An athlete has a documented long-term injury that prohibited the athlete from training & competing between January 1, 2024 and the time of discretionary selection. Athlete who has a documented long-term injury must be listed in the top 5 of the World Rankings in 2023, 2024 or 2025 World Rankings or must have obtained a minimum of 90% of the A standard between 2023 and the time of discretionary selection. Medical documentation will be required.
- Tier & TPP athletes impacted by Games event program changes to provide an opportunity to obtain a standard in an eligible Games event for their respective classification.

Athletes are only eligible to be selected to the Para Tier program by discretion once per quadrennium (e.g. 2024-2028). A maximum of three (3) athletes per gender may but are not required to be selected to the Para Tier & TPP by discretion in 2025.

Discretionary nominations for the Para Tier & TPP, along with tier level (Tier 1, 2, 3 or TPP) and term length, will be determined by a panel to include relevant USATF high performance staff, medical staff and at least two Para athlete representatives approved by Para Track & Fields AC representative.

There will one application period for discretionary applications. The application deadline is:

- Application opens June 25, 2025, and will close June 30, 2025 at 11:59pm Mountain Time.

It is not required that any athletes are selected by the discretionary process. To apply for discretionary selection to the Para Tier program an application link will be posted at the following link during the application open period. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered for any reason. <https://www.teamusa.org/usparatrackandfield/athlete-and-sport-information>

## 2025 PARA TIER & TPP RESOURCES

### **Athlete Stipend**

Stipend paid by USOPC to Tier athletes after completing required paperwork through Teamworks and USOPC portal.

### **Competition Support**

Funding (on a reimbursement basis) for outdoor competitions. All competitions must be WPA approved to be eligible for reimbursement. Athletes may use funds for domestic or international competitions. Athletes can expect reimbursement approximately six weeks after expenses are submitted and approved.

### **Training Support**

Funding (on a reimbursement basis) for athletes who live and train more than 100 miles from their declared personal coach on a regular basis.

### **Chula Vista Resident Program**

Full time coaching support, facility access, meal access and housing support for select athletes at the Chula Vista Elite Athlete Training Center.



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### **Chula Vista Rotation Program**

Short term access at Chula Vista Elite Training Center for Tier, TPP and emerging elite athletes. Support may be on or off campus and includes access to medical, nutrition, meals, strength & conditioning and coaching observation as needed.

### **Prize Money**

Tier & TPP athletes or athletes who become Tier & TPP eligible at National Championships are eligible to receive prize money at the 2025 USATF Para National Championships.

### **Operation Gold**

Support paid by USOPC. In non-Paralympic years, Operation Gold Awards are limited to one award per athlete in a program year in the respective sport; athletes who qualify for more than one award automatically receive the higher award. Individuals must finish in one of the top eight places, while teams must finish in one of the top six places at the qualifying event in order to qualify for Operation Gold Awards in non-Paralympic years, provided individuals/teams finish among the top 50% of the individuals/teams who started the event.

For purposes of Operation Gold, a team is defined as three or more athletes (pairs are awarded at the same rate as individual athletes).

*NOTE: For Paralympic sports with a discipline or event that is not included on the program of the upcoming Paralympic Games, that discipline or event will not be eligible for Operation Gold. However, if a Paralympic sport has a revolving program for the Paralympic Games (i.e., an event is taken from the program one quad but is added back to the program the next quad), that event or discipline will remain eligible for Operation Gold at the approved qualifying event.*

### **Enhanced Operation Gold Event**

The USOPC has designated the following elite-level events as part of its expanded Enhanced Operation Gold program. USA will assist in the management of the Enhanced Operation Gold program for the designated events listed below.

#### **NGB performance-based bonuses:**

- 2025 USATF Para National Championships

Performance based bonuses for these identified Enhanced Operation Gold events will be distributed by USOPC directly to qualified athletes as outlined in section for Prize Money.

### **Equipment Support**

Funding (on a reimbursement basis) for training and competition specific equipment will be provided. This does not include clothing items used for training and competition. Eligible equipment items may include: spikes, throwing shoes, running shoes, racing gloves, tires, supplies for personal starting blocks, ice vests, recovery items, competition specific equipment and implements. This may not be an exhaustive list. Athletes are encouraged to reach out to [parainfo@usatf.org](mailto:parainfo@usatf.org) for pre-approval of any items not listed as ineligible items will not be reimbursed.

### **Para National Championships Travel Support**

Travel allocation to USATF Para National Championships for all Tier & TPP athletes who compete at this competition. Athletes who are named to the WPA Senior World Championships Team not meeting the criteria of a Tier & TPP athlete are also eligible for this travel allocation.

### **Coaching Stipend**

USATF will pay a coaching stipend to declared coaches of eligible Tier program athletes. The athletes declared coach must be on the USATF Coaches' Registry. Eligible coaches will receive a payment of \$300/month, paid on a quarterly basis following the declaration of the coach by an eligible athlete.

### **World Championships Coaching Travel Support**

All Tier & TPP athletes who are named to the named to the 2025 WPA Senior World Championships team will receive support to assist in their declared coach to travel to World Championships.

### **Elite Athlete Health Insurance**

EAHI will be offered to Tier & TPP athletes with a \$0 premium (athlete will be responsible for paying taxes on value of insurance). General medical care, plus injuries that do not occur at a practice or competition. Athlete can see local, in-network physician for a 10% co-pay, no deductible, \$1,500 out of pocket maximum (individual). Injuries that occur during practice or competition are subject to a \$25,000 sport accident deductible but is offset by USATF sport accident coverage that is part of your USATF membership and cost-free care can be obtained through USOPC National Medical Network.

### **Para Medical Reimbursement**

Athletes are eligible for reimbursements for medical expenses not covered by EAHI such as chiropractic, massage, vision, etc. Athletes may contact Para staff at [Parainfo@usatf.org](mailto:Parainfo@usatf.org) to confirm reimbursement eligibility as needed. All reimbursement request and receipts will be submitted via Teamworks app.

### **USOPC National Medical Network**

Access to no-cost or very low-cost care through USOPC's network of providers around the U.S.

### **Meet Medical Support**

Medical support at key domestic and international opportunities by USATF and/or USOPC medical staff. Eligible athletes will be contacted directly prior to the competition with treatment information.

### **Mental Health Support**

Access to USOPC mental health services (urgent and non-urgent) at no cost.

### **Performance Services Support**

Tier & TPP athletes can receive support through USOPC dietician and strength & conditioning

coaches. Athletes should reach out to [parainfo@usatf.org](mailto:parainfo@usatf.org) to begin the process.

### **USOPC Athlete Benefits & Resources**

Access to resources including career & education, marketing resources, confidential advising, financial support, etc. <https://www.usopc.org/athlete-benefits-and-resources>

### **Emerging Athlete**

Athletes who meet the Emerging standard during 2025, at a WPA approved event, **may** be invited to participate in selected program activities as outlined below. Invitation is at the discretion of USATF.

### **Supplemental Athlete Support (SAS)**

Funding an athlete is eligible for not including their monthly stipend. SAS may include competition support, special event support, travel support, etc. Athletes eligible for SAS should reach out to Sherrice or Tanner to verify if their SAS reimbursements will be approved in advance. SAS amounts are outlined in this resource guide.

### **World Championship Support Reimbursement**

Athletes who are not on the 2025 Tier & TPP program and are named to the 2025 WPA World Championships Team will be eligible for reimbursement support to cover travel, competition, equipment and medical expenses as they prepare for World Championships. The reimbursement eligibility period includes August 4, 2025 through October 5, 2025 which includes the date of selection through the end of World Championships. Athletes must provide receipts for all reimbursement requests and should contact [parainfo@usatf.org](mailto:parainfo@usatf.org) to preapprove purchase eligibility.

## **2025 PARA COMPETITION SUPPORT**

USATF Para Tier, TPP, Emerging Elite and Development athletes may be supported for travel to competitive competitions in 2025 through SAS. The goal of this program is to support athletes to compete at approved Grand Prix competitions, high level domestic para or able-bodied

competitions and provide an opportunity for emerging elite & development athletes to receive international classification at Grand Prix competitions.

All Para Tier & TPP athletes are eligible to receive support as outlined in this guide. Emerging

Elite & Development athletes who have a standard of 90% and higher and need international classification in 2025 may be eligible to receive full or partial financial support to attend a Grand Prix competition.

Eligible athletes may submit reimbursement request up to the amount outlined in this guide.

Eligible athletes may be eligible to receive full or partial funding for the following competitions in 2025. Eligible athletes will be notified in advance of entry deadlines. Travel and housing

accommodations may be booked through USATF unless otherwise pre-approved at least 6 weeks prior to travel. Competitions include:

- Approved meets for Chula Vista resident athletes
- Cali Grand Prix
- Jalisco Grand Prix
- Mt. Sac Relays
- Drake Relays
- Desert Challenge Games
- Olomouc Grand Prix

Athletes can submit eligible expenses, not to exceed your 2025 allocated competition support amount. USATF may choose to reduce your amount of eligible expenses that you can claim in the event you are funded in any way for competition travel (excluding travel support for World Championships & National Championships). All competition support reimbursements will only be approved if the competition was WPA approved, and the athlete was licensed at the time of competition.

Chula Vista resident program athletes are not eligible for SAS reimbursements for competitions unless approved in advance in writing by athletes assigned coach and Director.

Tier & TPP athletes who move to a higher Tier status prior to August 4, 2025 are eligible to receive their new Tier status SAS amount. Athletes who move to a higher Tier status after August 4, 2025 may request an additional SAS amount by emailing Sherrice at [parainfo@usatf.org](mailto:parainfo@usatf.org) within 15 days of their Tier status increase.

New athletes named to the Tier & TPP program regardless of Tier status after May 31, 2025 are only eligible to receive up to \$1,000 SAS and 50% of other eligible benefits with the exception of the athlete stipend and personal coach stipend listed in the athlete financial support chart below. Athletes named to the Tier & TPP program after May 31, 2025 may request an exception to the decreased SAS amount by emailing Sherrice at [parainfo@usatf.org](mailto:parainfo@usatf.org).

Any SAS funds not utilized by September 26, 2025 will be automatically forfeited by each Tier & TPP athlete, with the exception of Tier & TPP athletes who enter and compete in Abbott Series Marathon events in 2025.

Athletes eligible for competition support reimbursements can review the reimbursement forms and guide in Teamworks or may request information by emailing Tanner at [parainfo@usatf.org](mailto:parainfo@usatf.org).

## Athlete Financial Support Chart

	<u>Athlete Stipend</u>	<u>SAS</u>	<u>Equipment Reimbursement</u>	<u>Coaching Travel Reimbursement</u>	<u>Nationals Support</u>	<u>PCA Nationals Support</u>	<u>Personal Coach Stipend</u>	<u>PCA Support</u>	<u>Medical</u>
Tier 1	\$1,350.00	\$5,000	\$500	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$500	\$300	\$1,500	\$1,000
Tier 2	\$1,000.00	\$4,000	\$500	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$500	\$300	\$1,500	\$1,000
Tier 3	\$600.00	\$3,000	\$500	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$500	\$300	\$1,500	\$1,000
Guide	Varies	\$500	\$500	\$0	\$1,000	\$500	\$300	\$0	\$1,000
TPP	\$100.00	\$2,000	\$500	\$0	\$1,000	\$500	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,000

### 2025 PARA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS TRAVEL SUPPORT

All Para Tier & TPP athletes who compete at 2025 Para National Championships will receive a travel allocation to assist with the costs of competing at National Championships. Athletes who are named to the 2025 Senior World Championships Team will also be eligible for this funding. For 2025, the travel allocation amount will be \$1,000.

Tier & TPP athletes must be entered into the competition prior to posted entry deadlines to be eligible for the travel support.

#### Housing & Travel

- Athletes are responsible for booking their own travel and housing for Para National Championships.
- USATF will provide an opportunity for Para Tier & TPP athletes to book into a discounted housing block, at the athletes' expense.
- Eligible athletes will receive an email to book through the USATF housing block.
- The housing block will be offered to Para Tier & TPP athletes and their declared coach and registered medical provider first.
- Rooms will be released after the posted deadlines and will be made available to all other competition participants.

#### Travel Funding Distribution

Athletes who qualify for funding will receive their travel allocation via direct deposit. Payment may take up to 45 days to receive following National Championships. Athletes will not need to submit a reimbursement form or receipts to receive their National Championships funding. Funding will be submitted and approved following the completion of competition assuming the athlete traveled to and competed in National Championships.

Please note that all travel funding payments will be reported to the IRS as reportable income and are subject to federal, state and local income tax. Since no taxes are withheld by USATF, you may have tax liability at the time you file your tax return, and you may want to consider setting aside funds for this purpose. If the amount of reportable income including all stipends,

prize money, etc. is \$600 or more cumulative during a tax year, USATF will issue a 1099 NEC. Receipts for travel may qualify for deductions against this reported income. Please contact a tax advisor for further information. USATF is not offering tax advice, but recipients of USATF funding and benefits are advised to retain their own tax professionals to receive guidance regarding tax implications.

## 2025 COACHING SUPPORT

### Coaching Stipend

Each athlete will have an opportunity to designate their personal coach after being named to the Tier program. Coaches will be paid by the schedule below for Term 1 and Term 2. Athletes who wish to declare a new personal coach at any point must do so at least 7 days prior to the payment processing date noted below by emailing Tanner at [Parainfo@usatf.org](mailto:Parainfo@usatf.org). Athletes who change their coach in the middle of the payment cycle will not receive payment for their new coach within that cycle, if a coach has already been paid for the current payment period.

Coaches of athletes named to the Tier program throughout 2025 will receive a prorated amount if the athlete is named to the Tier program in the middle of a payment cycle. To be eligible for Term 2 payments (payment 3 & 4) the coach's athlete must maintain Tier athlete status for Term 2 as outlined in the Tier Criteria and Resource Guide.

Payment 1: January-March (Payments processed February 24 or after completion of paperwork and listed on the USATF Coaches' Registry)

Payment 2: April-June (Payments processed May 5)

Payment 3: July-September (Payments processed August 11)

Payment 4: October-December (Payments processed November 10)

\*\*Payments are approved on process date (assuming compliance with paperwork) however payments may take up to 45 days to be received by coach\*\*

For USATF to process a stipend for a designated coach, the coach must have met all requirements under the USATF coaches registry. Full details on the coaches registry can be found at the following link. <https://www.usatf.org/programs/coaches/coaches-registry>

In addition to the requirements, the coach must have a valid W-9, or equivalent for international coaches, on file with USATF.

### World Championships Travel Support

USATF will partially support travel and housing for Tier & TPP coaches of athletes who are named to the 2025 WPA Senior World Championships Team (New Delhi, India). All coaches will be responsible for obtaining session tickets for their athletes competition. This includes coaches who receive personal coach credentials as competition venue access is not covered by the credential.

WPA limits the number of personal coach credentials allowed at a World Championships and the



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allocation is based on team size. Priority for personal coach credentials will be considered based on the following criteria (not in priority order):

1. Athlete percentage to the A standard from 2025 National Championship results
2. Number of events the declared coaches athletes will be competing in at World Championships
3. Number of athletes declared coach has competing at World Championships.
4. Priority of athlete warm up needs in venue warm up areas. (For example, track coaches may be prioritized over jumps and throws coaches due to warmups for jumps and throws mainly occurring on the field of play prior to competition)

Complete information for this program will be sent to declared coaches of eligible athletes following National Championships.

## **PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE SUPPORT**

### **World Record Bonus**

USATF will provide a world record bonus incentive program for eligible athletes. World record bonuses will be awarded only for events on the 2028 Los Angeles Paralympic Games program and based on results from WPA approved competitions. Indoor events are not eligible for the world record bonus at this time. Two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) will be awarded for each world record after it has been ratified and published by WPA on the 2025 WPA world records list. Athletes may only collect one world record bonus per competitive event between January 1, 2025 and December 31, 2025. (i.e., athlete X can only receive one world record bonus payment for the Men's T35 100m, but athlete X will receive an additional payment if the world record is ratified in the Men's T35 200m). Relay world record bonuses will be split and paid to each of the four athletes establishing the World Record (\$625/person/relay event).

### **Prize Money**

Prize money will be awarded to National Team athletes and coaches based on results compared to the 2025 National A standard (Appendix A) at WPA approved competitions as follows:

### **National Championships Prize Money**

Para National Championships prize money amounts will be announced with the National Championships information packet.

Eligible results must meet a minimum of 90% of the National Team A standard to be awarded prize money.

## **ADDITIONAL SUPPORT**

### **Primary Care Assistant (PCA) Support**

Athletes in the following sport classes are eligible to receive an additional \$1,500 in Term 1 to be utilized for a personal care assistant to attend domestic competitions. Payments for a personal



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care assistant will be made on a reimbursement basis only and must be pre-approved by Director, Paralympics at least four (4) weeks prior to the start of competition when possible. Requests for pre-approval must be submitted in writing via email to Sherrice. Eligible sport classes include, T/F 11, T/F 12, T/F 13, T/F 20, T/F 31, T/F 32, T/F 51, T/F 52. Athletes who do not have an eligible sport class but believe they need PCA assistance must contact Sherrice to make a request.

### **2025 WPA World Championships Team Training Support**

Athletes who are not members of the 2025 Tier & TPP, who are nominated to and meet all the requirements to be named to the 2025 WPA World Championships team will be eligible for a training support reimbursement. The purpose is to help support training, competitions, equipment purchases, sports medicine, and travel needs leading up to the 2025 WPA Championships. Athletes are eligible to receive up to a maximum of \$1,000 reimbursement for eligible expenses between August 4, 2025-October 5, 2025. Eligible expenses may include the purchase of competition equipment, medical support (i.e. massage, adjustments, acupuncture), competition entry and competition travel support. Athletes may email us at [parainfo@usatf.org](mailto:parainfo@usatf.org) to verify approval prior to purchase.

## **ADDITIONAL PARA RESOURCES**

**Para Tier & TPP athletes MAY be eligible for the following benefits** – all athlete support recommendations submitted by USATF are subject to USOPC Sport Performance approval:

1. [USOPC Elite Athlete Health Insurance Program](#)
2. [USOPC Athlete Career & Education Program](#)
3. [Mental Health & Mental Performance Resources](#)
4. [Athlete Marketing Resources](#)
  - [Athlete Marketing Platform](#)
5. Confidential Advising – [Team USA Athlete Ombuds](#)

### **2025 Chula Vista Rotation Program**

Tier & TPP athletes who wish to train at Chula Vista should contact Sherrice for additional information. On campus rotation options are limited in 2025.

### **2025 Sports Medicine Resources:**

#### **USOPC Elite Athlete Health Insurance (EAHI)**

EAHI is offered to all Tier & TPP athletes. Covered athletes can use this insurance with a local provider, with costs of 10% co-pay in-network (United Healthcare), 30% co-pay out-of-network, and yearly max out of pocket of \$1,500. There is no premium, unless covering a spouse or children. Athlete will receive a 1099 form to pay income tax on the value. There is no deductible except for sport accident injuries. Sport accident injuries may be covered by USATF sport accident insurance or visits to USOPC National Medical Network (see below).

Athletes must complete a questionnaire when a claim is file with EAHI or the claim may be



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denied. Eligible athletes will be notified when they become eligible. If you have questions about EAHI you can reach out to [medical@usatf.org](mailto:medical@usatf.org) or [EAHI@usopc.org](mailto:EAHI@usopc.org).

### **USOPC National Medical Network**

Available at no cost to Tier, TPP & Chula Vista athletes. Includes treatment with USOPC partner medical groups at or near their training center sites in Colorado Springs (primary location), Chula Vista and Lake Placid as well as other partner locations in the U.S. Contact [medical@usatf.org](mailto:medical@usatf.org) or [parainfo@usatf.org](mailto:parainfo@usatf.org) to receive more information on the National Medical Network.

### **USATF Sport Accident Medical Coverage**

This insurance coverage is free to all USATF members. It covers sport accident injuries that occur at USATF competitions and regular practice. Coverage for elite athletes of up to \$25,000 (\$5,000 for physical therapy) with a \$200 deductible with no co-pay. First medical expense for a covered injury must occur within 30 days of the injury and a claim must be filed within 90 days of the injury. It does not cover chronic injuries, only acute injuries at USATF sanctioned events or practices. **Athletes must be a member at the time of the injury to be covered.**

### **International Travel Medical Insurance**

Automatic coverage for all Tier & TPP athletes, either through USOPC, EAHI or USATF policies. Athletes do not need to pre-report travel dates or register. This includes coverage for care when traveling internationally, as well as medical evacuation coverage. The plan includes no deductible and no co-pay. You can activate using the information on the back of your EAHI insurance card or via the support line number which is available in Teamworks for eligible athletes.

### **Mental Health, Sport Psychology, Nutrition & Sleep**

Eligible athletes will receive phone or in-person counseling available through USATF and USOPC providers at no cost to the athlete. Contact [parainfo@usatf.org](mailto:parainfo@usatf.org) to request care or reach out

directly to the USOPC mental health hotline at 719-866-2255 or the online mental health & performance registry at the following link. <https://www.usopc.org/mental-health>

### **USOPC Short Term Medical Program**

Athletes who qualify and are approved in advance will have access to basic rehabilitation services and cost-free housing and meals at the Colorado Springs Olympic & Paralympic Training Center. Athletes can contact us at [parainfo@usatf.org](mailto:parainfo@usatf.org) to start the process.

### **Emerging Athletes**

2025 Emerging standards (Attachment A) are based on marks that are 15% off of the National Team A standards for track and jumps events and 25% for throws events.

Athletes nominated to the Emerging Team must be internationally classified by WPA OR nationally classified and **hold a Paralympic-eligible sport class** as per the WPA master list or



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USOPC Classification database for Para Track & Field and hold a current season license from WPA. Athletes must be in good standing with USATF, WPA, USADA, etc. to be nominated to the emerging team. Athlete must obtain a USATF membership prior to nomination to the emerging team. Please note, sport class status of national provisional will not be accepted for emerging team status.

Athletes who have been previous members of the USA Track & Field Tier & TPP are not eligible for nomination to the Emerging Team.

### **Emerging Athlete Benefits**

The emerging athlete program and its benefits will be re-evaluated in 2025.

## **2025 OPERATION GOLD**

The Operation Gold qualifying event for Paralympic Track & Field is the 2025 WPA World Championships in New Delhi, India

In a Paralympic Games year, teams and individuals must place in the top-three at the Paralympic Games to qualify for Operation Gold Awards; multiple Operation Gold Awards can be received if an athlete has multiple top-three finishes at the Paralympic Games.

In non-Paralympic years, Operation Gold Awards are limited to one award per athlete in a program year in the respective sport; athletes who qualify for more than one award automatically receive the higher award. Individuals must finish in one of the top eight places, while teams must finish in one of the top six places at the qualifying event in order to qualify for Operation Gold Awards in non-Paralympic years, provided individuals/teams finish among the top 50% of the individuals/teams who started the event.

For purposes of Operation Gold, a team is defined as three or more athletes (pairs are awarded at the same rate as individual athletes).

*NOTE: For Paralympic sports with a discipline or event that is not included on the program of the upcoming Paralympic Games, that discipline or event will not be eligible for Operation Gold. However, if a Paralympic sport has a revolving program for the Paralympic Games (i.e., an event is taken from the program one quad but is added back to the program the next quad), that event or discipline will remain eligible for Operation Gold at the approved qualifying event.*

### Paralympic Sport Payment Schedule

Place	1st Year of Quad	2nd Year of Quad	3rd Year of Quad	Paralympic Games Year (Paralympic Games Only)
<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	\$6,250	\$6,250	\$7,500	\$37,500
<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$6,250	\$22,500
<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	\$4,375	\$4,375	\$5,000	\$15,000
<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	\$3,750	\$3,750	\$4,375	
<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	\$3,125	\$3,125	\$3,750	
<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	\$3,125	\$3,125	\$3,750	
<b>7<sup>th</sup></b>	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	
<b>8<sup>th</sup></b>	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	

#### Enhanced Operation Gold Event

The USOPC has designated the following elite-level events as part of its expanded Enhanced Operation Gold program. Sports Org will assist in the management of the Enhanced Operation Gold program for the designated events listed below.

#### NGB performance-based bonuses:

- 2025 World Para Athletics Championships

Performance based bonuses for these identified Enhanced Operation Gold events will be distributed by USOPC directly to qualified athletes as outlined in section for Prize Money.



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## Attachment A

### **2025 USA Track & Field Para Standards**

The current 2025 Standards and further details can be found at the following link:

<https://www.usparatf.org/athlete-and-sport-information>

*\*\*Standards will be updated following the release of the combined LA28 medal event program from World Para Athletics.\**

