

USA Taekwondo
PRELIMINARY NOTICE TO THE ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES
2026 Para Taekwondo K44 Events
November 13, 2025

TO: Members of **USA Taekwondo**
FROM: **USA Taekwondo**
RE: Preliminary Notice to the Athlete Selection Procedures for the 2026 Para Taekwondo K44 Events

To provide as much information in a timely manner, USA Taekwondo (USATKD) is releasing this Preliminary Notice to the Athlete Selection Procedures for the 2026 Para Taekwondo K44 Events. This document is being written as a complement, and not a substitute to the Athlete Selection Procedures. Additional communication will be released by USATKD once the Athlete Selection Procedures have been completed.

A. Athlete Eligibility Criteria for Tryout Event:

- Athlete must be a national of the United States
- Athlete must have an active USATKD membership that does not expire before the conclusion of the event
- Athlete must be a holder of a 8 Geup to 1 Geup certificate or holder of a Para Taekwondo Dan certificate
- Athlete must hold a valid WT Global Athlete License for 2026
- Athlete must be 16 years or older by December 31, 2026.
- Athlete must comply with the [USATKD Code of Ethics](#) and [USATKD Athlete Safety Policy](#).
- Athlete must adhere to all USATKD, USADA, WADA, World Taekwondo (WT) and IPC anti-doping protocols, policies, and procedures including participation in Out-of-Competition Testing, if applicable.

B. Required Tryout Event:

It is intended that athletes being considered to represent Team USA in 2026 Para Taekwondo Events must participate in the event listed below.

EVENT NAME	DATE/LOCATION
2026 US National Team Trials	January 30 – February 1, 2026 – Tulsa, Oklahoma

- Registration and Team Trials information will be posted online at <https://www.usatkd.org/2026-U-S-NATIONAL-TAEKWONDO-TEAM-TRIALS>
- Athletes interested in participating in the open Team Trials will need to contact Eric Wining, Director of National Teams at ewining@usatkd.org, no later than January 2, 2026 to be registered for the event.
- Athletes will be added to the [Sport80](#) registration system.
- All athletes hoping to represent Team USA in 2026 Para Taekwondo K44 Events should arrange for appropriate time off from school, work or other obligations to compete in the 2026 US National Team Trials. Waivers will primarily be granted for injury or other similar incapacity or for a personal/family emergency. Requests for a waiver must be submitted in writing to the Director of National Teams as far in advance as possible.

Divisions contested at Team Trials

Women's Divisions	Men's Divisions
47kg	58kg
52kg	63kg
57kg	70kg
65kg	80kg
+65kg	+80kg

C. Athlete requirements following 2026 US National Team Trials:

Athletes who win their division at the 2026 Para Taekwondo Team Trials will be named to the 2026 Para Taekwondo K44 National Team.

2026 Para Taekwondo National Team members and runner-up athletes will be required to attend the 2026 US Open Taekwondo Championships in Las Vegas, Nevada, March 5 – 8, 2026. National Team members will also be required to attend, at minimum, one other WT G-Level event.

Athletes named to the 2026 Para Taekwondo National Team and the runner-up for each division will be required to attend three (3) of four (4) quarterly training camps held in the United States and train with the national team coaches and team. Once the World para Taekwondo competition calendar is posted online, <https://www.worldtaekwondo.org/calendar/event-calendar/list?typeCd=PT&detailsKey=&year=2025&q=>, the USATKD High Performance staff will determine international tournaments and schedule training camps around these competitions. Athletes will be informed through email the dates and location of each camp.

Athlete must be [internationally classified](#) in an eligible Sport Class with a Sport Class Status of (i) Confirmed; or (ii) Review with a Fixed Review Date of 2026 or later

- If an athlete is not yet [internationally classified](#), the athlete must be classified at the 2026 US Open Taekwondo Championships in Las Vegas, Nevada, March 4 – 8, 2026. WT Para Taekwondo Athlete Classification rules can be found at <https://www.worldtaekwondo.org/inside/main>.

D. Anticipated 2026 Para Taekwondo Events:

It is anticipated that 2026 Para Taekwondo National Team members (and the runner-up athletes at Trials if allowed) will represent Team USA at the following events.

Athletes that win at the 2026 Team Trials will be named to the 2026 Para National Team, these athletes will represent USA at the World Para Taekwondo Championships and the 2026 Pan American Championships. If allowed within the World Taekwondo and Pan American Taekwondo Union rules and policies, the runner-up for each division will also represent the USA at the World Para Taekwondo Championships and the 2026 Para Pan American Championships.

If the winner of the 2026 US Team Trials fails to classify by the US Open or is not classified by World Taekwondo, and if the runner-up is classified, this athlete will move to the National Team spot for 2026. The third place finisher at the 2026 US Team Trials will then move to the runner-up spot, as long as they are classified.

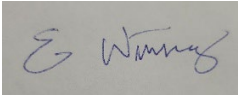
Other WT G-Level events will be identified once the calendar is published on the World Taekwondo [website](#). National Team members and runner-up athletes must participate in at least one other WT G-Level event in 2026.

EVENT NAME	DATE/LOCATION
2026 World Para Taekwondo Championships	
2026 Pan American Championships	
2026 WT G-Level events	The WT calendar can be found here

E. Disclaimer:

This preliminary notice is based on the WT rules and regulations as presently known and understood for the 2026 competition season. The information in this notice is provided to assist athletes with their training and competition planning and is subject to change upon approval of the USATKD Athlete Selection Procedures for the competitions listed above. Once complete, the Athlete Selection Procedures will be posted at <https://www.usatkd.org/team-selection-procedures>

For questions regarding the 2026 Para Taekwondo Team Trials, please contact Eric Wininger, Director of National Teams, (ewininger@usatkd.org).

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
Director of National Teams	Eric Wininger		11/13/2025
USATKD Athlete Representative	Alex Lee	<i>Alex Lee</i>	11/11/2025