

USA-TAEKWONDO
ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES
2025 WORLD TAEKWONDO CHAMPIONSHIPS (WUXI, CHINA; OCTOBER 24-30, 2025)
KYORUGI
10/07/24

1. SELECTION SYSTEM

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

1.1.0. 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 World Championships.

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

- World Taekwondo (WT); Rules of Competition, Article 4. Contestants, Section 1, WT Rules of Competition.
- Must be a citizen of the United States of America.
- Holder of Taekwondo Dan certificate issued by the Kukkiwon
- Must hold a current WT Global Athlete License (Note: athletes must also hold a 2025 WT Global Athlete License before the tryout events outlined in section 1.2.)
- Must be born on/or before 31 December 2007 (at least 17 years of age)

1.1.2. Other requirements

- Athlete must be a USATKD member in good standing at the time of selection and throughout the 2025 World Taekwondo Championships.
- Athlete must compete in the Senior Black Belt division.
[USATKD Rules of Competition.](#)
- Athlete must successfully complete all registration requirements by stated deadlines.
- Any athlete aged 18 or older will be required to undergo a background screening in accordance with the current [USATKD Background Check Policy](#).
- Any athlete aged 18 or older as of the 2025 World Taekwondo Championships 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:

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

a) 2025 U.S. National Team Trials (January 17-19, 2025; Portland, OR)

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

There are two paths to qualifying for the 2025 U.S. National Team Trials:

a) International Pathway

There are several pathways via international competition that an athlete may use to qualify for the 2025 U.S. National Team Trials. An athlete may qualify by meeting any of the following criteria:

i. Nomination to the 2024 U.S. Olympic Team. These Selection Procedures can be found here:

[2024 U.S. Olympic Team Athlete Selection Procedures.](#)

ii. Rank in the Top 20 of the respective division of the WT World Rankings as of the January 1, 2025, rankings. Athletes earn WT World Ranking points at WT international events classified by the following:

1. G-1 events: open entry

2. G-2 events: open entry

3. G-10 events:

-2024 World Taekwondo Grand Prix Final: qualification through WT invitation only (see WT Grand-Prix Standing Procedure at:

[WT Grand Prix Standing Procedures](#)

4. G-20 events:

-2024 Olympic Games: athletes qualified in accordance with published selection procedures:

[USATKD Team Selection Procedures](#)

iii. Obtain International Dominant Athlete Designation by USATKD.

a. To obtain International Dominant Athlete designation an athlete must place 1st at two, or more, WT G level events, plus 1 other medal at minimum during the 2024 calendar year. (A 2 Gold medal, and 1 medal of any color/finish minimum)

iv. Medal at the 2024 U.S. Open (2/16/24 – 2/18/24)

v. International Athletes transferring MNAs

Any athlete transferring from another Member National Association (MNA) to Team USA that meets one or more of the requirements for qualification for the 2025 U.S. National Team Trials listed above during the 2024 calendar year or have competed at the 2024 Olympic Games will be eligible to compete at the 2025 U.S. Team Trials.

Please note: International athletes intending to compete for Team USA must have relevant approved releases from original MNA prior to the registration deadline for the 2025 U.S. National Team Trials, as well as a current, valid U.S. Passport. Any athlete transferring from another MNA must meet the minimum participation requirements outlined above in section 1.1 and must be a U.S. citizen by the 2025 U.S. National Team Trials registration deadline.

b) Domestic Pathway

There are several pathways via national competition that an athlete may use to qualify for the 2025 U.S. National Team Trials. An athlete may qualify for the trials by meeting any of the following criteria:

- I. The athlete was nominated to the 2024 U.S. National Team. These Selection Procedures can be found here:
[2024 U.S. National Team Selection Procedures](#)
- II. Rank #1 in the respective division of the USATKD National Rankings as of the January 2025 rankings.
- III. Obtain National Dominant Athlete designation by USATKD.
 - a. To obtain National Dominant Athlete designation, an athlete must finish the year as 1st place in 3 out of 4 of the following: 2024 U.S. Open, 2024 U.S. National Championships, 2024 U.S. Final Championships, and/or #1 in the USATKD National Rankings as of 1/01/25.
- IV. Win any medal at any of the USATKD Majors:
 - U.S. Open (Reno, NV; 2/16 – 2/18/24)
 - U.S. National Championships (Ft. Worth, TX; 7/6/24)
 - U.S. Final Championships (Tulsa, OK; 9/20/24)*The qualification process for the U.S. National Championships, and the U.S. Final Championships can be found in the National Team Pathways found here: [Senior Sparring Pathways](#).
- V. Any 16 or 17 year old junior athlete that meets the criteria to qualify for the U.S. National Team Trials, via the Junior Sparring Pathways ([found here](#)), will qualify to compete in the senior division if they meet any one of the following in 2024:
 - 2024 Domestic and/or International Dominant Athlete Status
 - 2024 U.S. Final Championship Gold Medalist
 - 2024 U.S. Open Gold Medalists
 - 2024 U.S. National Team Member

Please Note: Junior athletes are required to compete at the 2024 U.S. National Championships, as stated in the Junior Sparring pathways document.

1.2.3. Step-by-step description of the selection process for the 2025 World Taekwondo Championships (include maximum Team size):

USATKD may send a maximum of sixteen (16) quota places [eight (8) males and eight (8) females] to the 2025 World Taekwondo Championships. All quota places earned are allocated by WT to USATKD. Defined in a-c. below are the processes identified by USATKD for selecting athletes to fill available quotas.

The quotas for the 2025 World Taekwondo Championships will be filled by the winners of their respective weight categories at the 2025 U.S. National Team Trials and named to the 2025 U.S. National Team.

2025 U.S. National Team Trials (January 17-19, 2025; Portland, OR)

I. Automatic Quota

If a division has an athlete ranked in the top 6 of the January 1st, 2025, WT World Rankings, that athlete will be named to the 2025 U.S. National Team automatically. This will supersede all the criteria on the International and Domestic Pathway listed above.

Should more than one athlete in each weight category meet the minimum criteria (See 1.2.2.), there will be a 2025 U.S. National Team Trial (January 17-19, 2025; Portland, OR) to determine the team nominated for the 2025 World Taekwondo Championships. See 1.3 for details, except in the following case:

- a. If 1 athlete is ranked in the top 6 of the WT World Rankings as of the January 1st, 2025, rankings, they will be automatically named to the 2025 World Taekwondo Championships Team and be the 2025 National Team member.

Please note: Should an athlete meet criteria 1.2.4.1.a, the division will be contested at the 2025 U.S. Team Trials to determine the alternate athlete for the division.

Please note: Should an athlete meet criteria 1.2.3.1 and receive an automatic appointment to the 2025 World Championships Team, any athletes also registered for the same weight category will be notified as soon as possible via email, and will be given the opportunity to change weight divisions. Responses must be sent via email to Eric Wininger at e.wininger@usatkd.org.

- b. If 2 athletes are ranked in the top 6 of the WT World Rankings, the 2025 U.S. National Team Trials will use a best of 3 format to determine the winner, and nominee to the National Team, and the 2nd place athlete will be the considered the alternate.

- c. If 3 or more athletes are ranked in the top 6 of the WT World Rankings, the 2025 U.S. National Team Trials will use a round robin format to determine the nominee to the 2025 U.S. National Team, as well as the alternate team member.

Please note: Any international athlete transferring MNAs to compete for USATKD is ineligible to automatically qualify for the National Team spot via a Top 6 WT Rankings finish found above in 1.2.3.1.

II. Schedule

The 2025 National U.S. Team Trial Senior competition schedule will be split into two competition days:

-DAY 1 - Friday, January 17th, 2025:

Female: -49kg, -57kg, -67kg, +73kg

Male: -58kg, -68kg, -80kg, +87kg

-DAY 2 - Sunday, January 19th, 2025:

Female: -46kg, -53kg, -62kg, -73kg

Male: -54kg, -63kg, -74kg, -87kg

**Athletes will be required to weigh in the day prior to their competition day, in keeping with USATKD & WT standards.*

III. Athlete Division Selection

Due to both the WT World & Olympic ranking reset Senior Athletes competing at the 2025 U.S. National Team Trials will be permitted to choose to compete in the division in which they qualified based on the criteria found in 1.2.3, OR they may choose to compete in the division ONE above or ONE below their qualified division.

Example: Athlete A has qualified for the 2025 U.S. Team Trials in F-49kg. Athlete A may register for and compete at the event in F-46kg, F-49kg, OR F-53kg. An athlete may only register for ONE weight category and must meet all registration deadlines.

Below is an example chart of divisions an athlete could select based on the division they qualified in:

| DIVISION QUALIFIED | ELIGIBLE TO CONTEST | DIVISION QUALIFIED | ELIGIBLE TO CONTEST |
|--------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| F-46KG | F-46KG F-49 | M-54KG | M-54KG M-58KG |
| F-49KG | F-46KG F-49KG F-53KG | M-58KG | M-54KG M-58KG M-63KG |
| F-53KG | F-49KG F-53KG F-57KG | M-63KG | M-58KG M-63KG M-68KG |
| F-57KG | F-53KG F-57KG F-62KG | M-68KG | M-63KG M-68KG M-74KG |
| F-62KG | F-57KG F-62KG F-67KG | M-74KG | M-68KG M-74KG M-80KG |
| F-67KG | F-62KG F-67KG F-73KG | M-80KG | M-74KG M-80KG M-87KG |
| F-73KG | F-67KG F-73KG F+73KG | M-87KG | M-80KG M-87KG M+87KG |
| F+73KG | F-73KG F+73KG | M+87KG | M-87KG M+87KG |

Rationale: Due to USATKD’s concerns about athlete safety regarding healthy weight cuts, weight management sustainability, and the numerous athletes that failed to successfully weigh in at the 2024 Pan American Championships, the first year of a new Olympic quad athletes will have the opportunity to change their division at team trials to encourage athletes to choose the division they will pursue leading into 2028. This will only be offered at the 2025 U.S. National Team Trials (the first Team Selection of the new Olympic cycle), and not future team trials within the cycle unless otherwise specifically noted.

IV. Olympic Division Priorities

USATKD’s intent in preparation for the 2028 Olympic Games is to prioritize the Olympic Weight Categories for athlete development. This means that USATKD will be investing considerable focus and resources in the “heavier” World Ranking categories that make up each Olympic category.

(E.g. Females: -49kg, -57kg, -67kg, +73kg; Male -58kg, -68kg, -80kg, +87kg).

To increase the competitive capability of Team USA at the upcoming 2025 World Championships, USATKD will implement a change for the 2025 U.S. National Team Trials:

- I. Any athlete that takes second place in a division on Friday, January 17th, (Female: -49kg, -57kg, -67kg, +73kg; Male: -58kg, -68kg, -80kg, +87kg) will be given the opportunity to enter and compete on Sunday, January 19th, (Female: -46kg, -53kg, -62kg, -73kg; Male: -54kg, -63kg, -74kg, -87kg) in a division ONE above or ONE below the division in which they had a second-place finish.

For example: Athlete A finishes 2nd place on 1/17/25 in the F-57kg division. They will be allowed to enter either the F-53kg or the F-62kg category on 1/19/24, as both F-53kg and F-62kg are ONE division above or below F-57kg should they accept the invitation.

Please note:

If a second place finishing athlete on DAY 1 (1/17/25) accepts the invitation into a division contested on DAY 2 (1/19/25) they will be required to weigh in for next division the day prior to the second competition.

A second place finishing athlete on DAY 1 (1/17/25) that accepts an invitation to compete on DAY 2 (1/19/25) cannot contest multiple divisions on the second day, and must confirm participation, and declare their DAY 2 weight division upon completion of the DAY 1 competition. Weight changes will not be allowed on Saturday (1/18/25).

An official confirmation of intent to compete on DAY 2 MUST be given to Eric Winger, on site at the conclusion of DAY 1.

If an athlete qualified for DAY 2 via a second-place finish on DAY 1 wins a weight category on the second day of competition, they will vacate the Alternate athlete position from DAY 1 and will be assigned to the next highest finisher in the original division that lost to the winner of the category.

Below is an example chart of the divisions a second place finishing athlete on DAY 1 could contest on DAY 2:

| 2ND PLACE FINISH DAY 1 | ELIGIBLE TO CONTEST DAY 2 |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| F-49KG | F-46KG F-53KG |
| F-57KG | F-53KG F-62KG |
| F-67KG | F-62KG F-73KG |
| F+73KG | F-73KG |

| 2ND PLACE FINISH DAY 1 | ELIGIBLE TO CONTEST DAY 2 |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| M-58KG | M-54KG M-63KG |
| M-68KG | M-63KG M-74KG |
| M-80KG | M-74 M-87KG |
| M+87KG | M-87KG |

Rationale: Based on data from the previous 3 Olympic Games, 84% of the available 96 potential medals were earned by athletes who showed consistency in international performance in the heavier of the two divisions that comprised each Olympic weight category. Using this data, and the performance of Team USA at major international competitions over the prior 4 years, USATKD staff has determined that the focus for the next Olympic cycle should reflect results.

V. Format & Seeding

- a. The 2025 U.S. National Team Trials will follow a single elimination bracket format except in the following circumstances:

- If there are four or less athletes in a division, that division will be round robin.
 - If there are only two athletes in a division, that division will be a best of 3 match format. This includes a bracket where there is more than one top 6 WT World Ranked Athlete.
- b. The 2025 U.S. National Team Trials will use the following seeding:
1. 2024 Olympic Athlete
 2. WT Ranking Top 20 Athlete
 3. 2024 U.S. National Team Member
 4. International Dominant Athlete
 5. Domestic Dominant Athlete
 6. 2024 U.S. Open Gold Medalist
 7. 2024 U.S. Final Gold Medalist
 8. U.S. Taekwondo National Championship Gold Medalist
 9. #1 USATKD Ranked Athlete
 10. 2024 U.S. Open Silver Medalist
 11. 2024 U.S. Final Silver Medalist

*All other seeds will be filled in with qualified athletes based on their USATKD ranking.

*If there are multiple international dominant athletes or WT event medal winners, the WT Kyorugi World Rankings will be used to determine the higher seed. All other athletes will move down in seed based off the number of international dominant athletes or WT event gold medalist.

*If there is not a qualified athlete to fill a seed, the lower seeds will move up to the next highest seed.

*A second place finishing athlete on DAY 1 (1/17/25), that accepted an invitation and is contesting a division on DAY 2 (1/19/25) will be seeded based on the above criteria in the specific division they are contesting.

E.g. A top 20 WT World Ranked athlete at F-49kg contesting F-53kg would receive the seeding based on the F-53kg category, and not F-49kg, etc. The only exception is a 2024 Olympic Team Member.

2. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION (if applicable)

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

N/a

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

N/a

- 2.3. Name of the committee that will be responsible for making discretionary selections, or other decisions/recommendations directly impacting athletes in the selection process, along with a complete list of the members' titles:

N/A

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

Any member of the selection committee that has a possible conflict of interest must either recuse him/herself or disclose it to the USA Taekwondo Ethics Committee by contacting CEO Steve McNally via email at Smcnally@usatk.org or the Director of Athlete Affairs Sherman Nelson at Snelson@usatk.org, prior to the start of the selection process. A conflict of interest exists when the committee member has 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 Taekwondo Ethics Committee shall vet the conflict and make the final determination of whether that committee member must recuse him/herself from participating in discussions and/or voting. The Ethics Committee may 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 staff, 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 the committee member with the conflict of interest does not vote toward the final decision. The committee member should 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 Taekwondo's Ethics Committee. Reports may be made anonymously.

A recused individual shall be replaced in accordance with the NGB selection committee appointment process.

3. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES

- 3.1. Prior to submitting athlete entries by name to the WT, the NGB/PSO has jurisdiction over potential nominees.

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

- 3.1.1. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written letter to Steve McNally, the USATKD CEO/Executive Director via email (smcnally@usatkd.org).
 - 3.1.2. Injury or illness as certified by a physician (or medical staff) approved by USATKD. If an athlete refuses verification of his/her illness or injury by a physician (or medical staff) approved by USATKD his/her injury will be assumed to be debilitating 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 [USATKD Code of Ethics](#).
 - 3.1.5. Non-compliance with the eligibility requirements listed in Section 1.1. of these selection procedures.
 - 3.1.6. If NGB/PSO has any other specific reason for removal, list it here.
N/A
- 3.2. An athlete may be removed as a nominee to the Team or from the Team for an adjudicated violation of World Taekwondo, 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 USATKD Code of Ethics, 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:

The USATKD HP Team shall nominate the alternate athlete (second-place finish at the 2025 U.S. National Team Trials) as the replacement athlete per criteria found in section 1.2.3 section I.
 - 4.1.2. After submission of Entries by Name to the Local Organizing Committee, including any applicable group or committee:

The USATKD HP Team shall nominate the alternate athlete (second-place finish at the 2025 U.S. National Team Trials) as the replacement athlete per criteria found in section 1.2.3 section I.

5. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

USATKD 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 2025 World Championships.

6. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

The following documents are required to be signed by an athlete as a condition of selection to the 2025 World Taekwondo Championships:

2025 USATKD U.S. National Team Athlete Agreement
USA Taekwondo Code of Ethics and other policies:
[USATKD Code of Ethics.](#)

7. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES

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

7.1. NGB/PSO Web site: <https://www.usatkd.org/team-selection-procedures>

7.2. Other: N/A

8. DATE OF NOMINATION

Nomination of athletes, including replacements, will be announced, and submitted to the WT following the completion of the 2025 U.S. National Team Trials on January 20th, 2025, and before the WT's registration deadline for the 2025 World Championships.

9. MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION

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

A mandatory U.S. National Team World Championships Prep Camp (date TBD) will be held for the U.S. National Team at the National Academy in Charlotte, NC, prior to the 2025 World Taekwondo Championship. USATKD will provide at least 30 days' notice to all selected athletes regarding this training camp. Information will be shared with athletes via email's provided in their National Team paperwork filled out after the conclusion of the 2025 U.S. National Team Trials.

The camp will have mandatory weigh check requirements and standards throughout, with a final weight check occurring prior to travel to the competition. These weight requirements will

be given to athletes with their National Team Athlete Agreement following the completion of the 2025 U.S. National Team Trials.

10. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS

Athletes must adhere to all 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 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:

Director of Athletic Development: Stephen Lambdin

Associate Director of National Teams: Eric Wininger

Director of Athlete Affairs: Sherman Nelson

USOPC AAC Rep: Jaysen Ishida

USATKD AAC Chair: Carissa Fu

12. NGB/PSO BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

The USATKD Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found at:

[USATKD Bylaws.](#)

13. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER

These procedures are based on WT rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in WT rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes immediately. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to USATKD. However, the selection criteria 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,

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 NGB/PSO.

To contact the Athlete Ombuds Office:

PHONE: (719) 866-5000

EMAIL: ombudsman@usathlete.org

WEBSITE: www.usathlete.org

15. NGB/PSO SIGNATURES

I certify that I have read and understand the standards/criteria set by our IF and 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 USATKD.

| Position | Print Name | Signature | Date |
|--|-----------------|------------------------|------------|
| USATKD CEO/Executive Director | STEVE MCNALLY | <i>Steve McNally</i> | 10/01/2024 |
| Director of Athletic Development; HP Team | STEPHEN LAMBDIN | <i>Stephen Lambdin</i> | 10/01/2024 |
| USOPC Athletes' Advisory Council Representative* | JAYSEN ISHIDA | <i>Jaysen Ishida</i> | 10/04/2024 |

* 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 they have delegated authority.

* Signature by the Athlete Representative constitutes that they have read and understand the Selection Procedures. If the Athlete Representative reads and does not agree with the Athlete Selection Procedures being submitted by the NGB/PSO, they may submit those reasons in writing to their USOPC Sport Performance Team.

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