USA Taekwondo
Athlete Selection Procedures
WT Grand Prix Series and Grand Prix Final

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Note: *These procedures are based on the World Taekwondo Standing Procedures for Grand Prix in force as of March 19, 2025, and supersede the USATKD Selection Process for World Taekwondo Grand Prix Series dated July 25, 2022.*

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This document sets out how USA Taekwondo (USATKD) selects the athletes who fill the starting spots available to the United States at World Taekwondo (WT) Grand Prix Series and Grand Prix Final events. It applies to every Grand Prix Series and Grand Prix Final held during the LA28 Olympic qualification period and remains in effect until replaced. Grand Prix Challenge events are governed by their own WT event outlines and are not covered here.

2. WHY A USATKD SELECTION IS REQUIRED

Grand Prix events are invitation only. Under the WT Standing Procedures for Grand Prix, each Grand Prix Series field is limited to 31 athletes per weight category, selected by WT from the WT Olympic Ranking and Grand Prix Challenge results, and each Grand Prix Final field is limited to 16 athletes per weight category, made up of the six finalists from that year's Grand Prix Series events and the top ten athletes in the November WT Olympic Ranking. In both cases a country may enter no more than two athletes per weight category from among the athletes WT has selected. Athletes who qualified for a Grand Prix Series through a Grand Prix Challenge do not count against that limit.

Whenever three or more U.S. athletes fall within the eligible range in a weight category, USATKD must decide which two will be entered. Starting spots are not automatically awarded to the highest ranked U.S. athlete, because the WT Olympic Ranking for each Olympic weight category includes points earned in the WT weight divisions immediately above and below it. For example, the Olympic men's -68kg ranking can include points earned at -63kg, -68kg and -74kg. The division in which an athlete's points were earned, and the strength of competition faced, therefore have to be weighed in order to make the decision in the fairest possible way.

3. SELECTION COMMITTEE

Starting spots are awarded to the individual athletes with the highest predicted finish at the specific event for which selection is being made, as determined by a selection committee made up of the USATKD Director of National Teams, the USATKD Coaching Director and the USOPC Athlete Representative. The committee decides by majority vote. A member with a conflict of interest in respect of a candidate athlete, such as serving as that athlete's personal coach, shall disclose it and recuse from that decision, and the USATKD CEO will appoint a replacement for that decision that preserves athlete representation on the committee.

4. SELECTION STANDARD

The highest predicted finish is determined in the discretion of the selection committee, taking into account the following, not necessarily ranked by importance and no single point of which is controlling:

1. WT World and Olympic Rankings at the time the selection decision must be made.

2. The weight category in which the athlete earned his or her ranking points, and in particular whether the athlete will be fighting up a weight because of the consolidation of weight categories at Grand Prix events.
3. The quality of the competitions and fields in which points were earned. Higher finishes in fewer, stronger international events may be a better predictor of future finishes than modest finishes accumulated across many events or in national competition.
4. Head-to-head results against other candidates or, where the committee considers it appropriate, results against common opponents.
5. The general trend of performances, where improvement in recent history may be more of an indicator of future success than flat or declining performances.
6. Results at earlier Grand Prix events in the current series, including whether an athlete has already secured a Grand Prix Final place as a Grand Prix Series finalist.

Where the committee determines that the predicted finishes of two or more athletes are not materially different, it may allocate the available starting spots to different athletes at different Grand Prix events.

5. TIMING, NOTIFICATION AND REPLACEMENT

USATKD will make its selection decision for each event before the applicable WT confirmation deadline and will notify all candidate athletes in writing. Athletes within the eligible range must confirm their availability to USATKD when requested; an athlete who does not confirm by the stated deadline will not be considered for that event. Athletes should be aware that under WT rules a confirmed athlete who does not compete will not be invited to the next event of that type.

If a selected athlete withdraws or is unable to compete, the committee will select a replacement from the remaining eligible U.S. athletes using the standard in Section 4, subject to the WT rules on wait lists and replacements in force for the event.

If WT amends its Grand Prix procedures, the WT rules in force for the event control and this document will be applied consistently with them.

6. DEVELOPMENT, APPROVAL AND CERTIFICATION OF SELECTION PROCEDURES

The following committee of individuals developed these selection procedures.

Name	Role
Stephen Lambdin	Chief Performance Officer
Paul Green	Coaching Director
Alex Lee	Team USA AC 10-Year Athlete Representative

The following individual approved these selection procedures and, through their signature, certifies that the procedures comply with the standards and criteria set by the IF. The following individual further certifies that the information provided herein regarding Athlete Selection Procedures represents the method approved by USA Taekwondo and that these selection procedures will be posted on the USA Taekwondo website.

Position	Name	Signature	Date
USA Taekwondo Chief Executive Officer	Steve McNally	Steve McNally	9/27/2026

The following individual affirms that they read and understand the selection procedures.

Position	Name	Signature	Date
Team USA Athletes' Commission Representative	Alex Lee	Alex Lee	09/25/2026

Revision History

Date	Revisions
July 25, 2022	Original document published (Grand Prix Series)
September 28, 2026	Updated to the WT Standing Procedures for Grand Prix (March 19, 2025), added Grand Prix Final, revised selection committee and signatories, reformatted to the 2026 USA Taekwondo Brand Guidelines