

USA TAEKWONDO

U.S. NATIONAL TEAM PATHWAY

2025-2026



ELITE SPARRING ATHLETES

SENIORS
(Black Belts)



2025 ELITE ATHLETES

SENIOR BLACK BELTS

U.S. TKD QUALIFYING EVENTS



**USATKD STATE
EVENT CALENDAR**
GOTO: USATKD.ORG
- OR -
LOG INTO:
SPORT:80

MAY COMPETE AT UP
TO A MAX OF
2 STATE EVENTS

WEST

MAY 08-10
SALT LAKE CITY, UT

EAST

MAY 16-18
RICHMOND, VA

MAY COMPETE AT 1 OR
BOTH AMERICAN OPEN
EVENT/S (EAST/WEST)

U.S. TKD MAJOR EVENTS



FEB 14-16
RENO, NEVADA

FOR BLACK BELT
ATHLETES ONLY

JULY 23-27
ONTARIO, CA

SEPT 05-07
DAYTONA BEACH, FL

**2025
EVENTS**



2025 ELITE ATHLETES

SENIOR BLACK BELTS

U.S. TKD QUALIFIERS



TO QUALIFY FOR A USATKD STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS:

USATKD STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS ARE OPEN EVENTS FOR ALL ATHLETES

USATKD MEMBERSHIP IS REQUIRED.

ANY TAEKWONDO COLOR OR BLACK BELT ATHLETE MAY COMPETE AT ANY 2 (TWO) USATKD SANCTIONED STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS.

USATKD ATHLETES EARN USATKD RANKING POINTS.

TO QUALIFY FOR THE AMERICAN OPEN EVENT:

USATKD AMERICAN OPEN EVENTS ARE OPEN EVENTS FOR ALL ATHLETES (USATKD MEMBERSHIP IS REQUIRED)

ANY TAEKWONDO COLOR OR BLACK BELT ATHLETE MAY COMPETE.

ATHLETES MAY CHOOSE TO PARTICIPATE AT 1 -OR- ALL AMERICAN OPEN EVENTS.

USATKD ATHLETES EARN USATKD RANKING POINTS.

U.S. TKD NATIONALS



TO QUALIFY FOR THE U.S. NATIONAL EVENT:

EARN A MEDAL (GOLD, SILVER, OR BRONZE) AT A USATKD STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

-OR- PARTICIPATE AT ANY AMERICAN OPEN EVENT

2025 U.S. National Team members DO NOT automatically qualify for the 2025 U.S. National Championships.

U.S. TKD SEASON FINAL



TO QUALIFY FOR THIS EVENT:

EARN A MEDAL AT ONE OF THE 2025 U.S. AMERICAN OPEN EVENTS (GOLD, SILVER, OR BRONZE).

-OR- EARN A MEDAL AT THE 2025 U.S. TKD NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP (GOLD, SILVER OR BRONZE).

-OR- TOP 8 HIGHEST USATKD RANKED ATHLETES

-DID NOT QUALIFY THROUGH AN AMERICAN OPEN OR NATIONALS

-BASED ON AUGUST 1 RANKINGS

-GOING DOWN TO THE 25TH RANKED ATHLETE IN DIVISION

2026 U.S. TEAM TRIALS

TO QUALIFY FOR 2026 U.S. TEAM TRIALS: ALL ATHLETES WHO MEDAL AT ANY OF THE FOLLOWING EVENTS:

- 2025 U.S. OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP
- 2025 U.S. TAEKWONDO NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP
- 2025 U.S. SEASON FINAL

#1 USATKD RANKED ATHLETE AS OF 12/31/25

TOP 20 WORLD TAEKWONDO WORLD KYORUGI RANKED ATHLETE AS OF 12/31/25

INTERNATIONAL DOMINANT ATHLETE

DOMESTIC DOMINANT ATHLETE

2025 U.S. NATIONAL TEAM MEMBER (JANUARY TRIALS WINNER)

UNDER 21 NATIONAL TEAM MEMBER

IMPORTANT: To register & compete at the 2025 U.S. TKD Nationals and/or the 2025 U.S. Season Final - United States citizenship documentation is required for the following divisions: World Class Black Belt Cadet & Junior (Poomsae & Sparring), World Class Black Belt Senior (Sparring), All Black Belt Masters (Poomsae).



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MAY 08-10
SALT LAKE CITY, UT

EAST

MAY 16-18
RICHMOND, VA

MAY COMPETE AT UP
TO A MAX OF
2 STATE EVENTS

MAY COMPETE AT 1 OR
BOTH AMERICAN OPEN
EVENT/S (EAST/WEST)

DOMESTIC PATHWAY TO QUALIFY FOR DOMESTIC DOMINANT ATHLETE

WIN 3 of 4 of these USATKD Majors &
become a Domestic Dominant Athlete



FEB 14-16
RENO, NEVADA

JULY 23-27
ONTARIO, CA

SEPT 05-07
DAYTONA BEACH, FL

2025
EVENTS

FOR BLACK BELT
ATHLETES ONLY

U.S. TKD MAJOR EVENTS

INTERNATIONAL PATHWAY TO QUALIFY FOR INTL DOMINANT ATHLETE

WIN 3 medals at World Taekwondo
G-Rated Events:

- 2 GOLD Medals
- Any 1 other Medal

-OR-

Be ranked in the Top 20 of the
World Taekwondo WORLD
Kyorugi Rankings (as of 12/31/25)

A WT bracket must have at least 4 athletes
from 4 different countries for the medal to
count toward the international path.

Completed Results/Brackets must be emailed to
Eric Winger at ewinger@usatkd.org.



2025 ELITE ATHLETES

SENIOR BLACK BELTS

TEAM TRIAL COMPETITION FORMAT

The USATKD Team Trial competition will consist of one single elimination bracket.

If there are four (4) or less athletes in a division, the division will be round robin. Including a bracket where there is more than one Top 6 World Taekwondo ranking athletes.

If there are only two athletes in a division, that division will be the best two out of three matches.

Including a division where there are two athletes ranked in the Top 6 of the World Taekwondo ranking.

Athletes must compete in the division they qualify in.

TOP 6 RANKED ATHLETE

The Top 6 ranked athletes (as of 12/31/2025) automatically earns the 2026 US National Team member spot.

TWO WT RANKED ATHLETES

The Two (2) Top 6 ranked athletes (as of 12/31/2025) in the World Kyorugi ranking will compete for the 2026 USATKD National Team member spot.

The winner will be named the 2026 US Taekwondo National Team member. The second place athlete will be named the alternate.

All other athletes qualified in this division will compete in a separate bracket. The first and second place winners will be considered the third and fourth place finishers.



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COMPETITION FORMAT

Any athlete that takes second place in an Olympic weight division on the first day of competition (Female: -49kg, -57kg, -67kg, +67kg; Male: -58kg, -68kg, -80kg, +80kg) will be given the opportunity to enter and compete on the third day of competition (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.

A second place finishing athlete on Day 1 that accepts an invitation to compete on Day 2 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 in between competition days.

TEAM TRIAL SEEDING INFORMATION

- Seed 1: 2025 World Taekwondo Top 20 World Kyorugi Athlete
- Seed 2: 2025 US National Team Member
- Seed 3: International Dominant Athlete
- Seed 4: Domestic Athlete
- Seed 5: 2025 US Open Gold Medalist
- Seed 6: 2025 US Final Gold Medalist
- Seed 7: 2025 US Taekwondo National Championship Gold Medalist
- Seed 8: #1 USATKD Ranked Athlete (as of 12/31/2025)
- Seed 9: 2025 US Open Silver Medalist
- Seed 10: 2025 US Final Silver Medalist
- Seed 11: 2025 US Taekwondo National Championship Silver Medalist

SEEDING INFORMATION

All other seeds will be completed with qualified athletes based on their USATKD ranking.

If there are multiple international dominant athletes or WT event medalist, 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.