

## **Athlete Stipend Criteria**

### Olympic:

January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026

Monthly Stipends will be awarded to athletes based on meeting the criteria below. Athletes may receive only one Monthly Stipend (Elite, Tier 1, Tier 2, or Tier 3) and will receive the highest level of funding that he or she qualifies for. Achievement of a funding benchmark will qualify the athlete for twelve (12) months of funding or otherwise stated. The list of athletes for Athlete Stipends will be submitted at the end of the month by Sports Org for payment on or about the 31st of the month, starting January 31, 2026. Results must be achieved in the Olympic or World Weight Classes, below.

| Olympic Weight Class – Male | Olympic Weight Class – Female |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| -58kg                       | -49kg                         |
| -68kg                       | -57kg                         |
| -80kg                       | -67kg                         |
| +80kg                       | +67kg                         |

| Classification | World Weight Class - Male | World Weight Class - Female |
|----------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Fin            | -54kg                     | -46kg                       |
| Fly            | -58kg                     | -49kg                       |
| Bantam         | -63kg                     | -53kg                       |
| Feather        | -68kg                     | -57kg                       |
| Light          | -74kg                     | -62kg                       |
| Welter         | -80kg                     | -67kg                       |
| Middle         | -87kg                     | -73kg                       |
| Heavy          | +87kg                     | +73kg                       |

Minimum eligibility requirements for athletes to qualify for Athlete Stipends and other resources:

- Must be a current USA Taekwondo member in good standing.
- Must be currently training full-time and competing in World Taekwondo (WT) sanctioned competitions.
- Must be a US citizen in good standing or a Permanent Resident with the intention of attaining US citizenship before the next Olympic Games.

**Elite Tier Monthly Stipends:**

Eligibility to receive USATKD Elite Tier Monthly Stipends is based on achieving one of the following benchmarks:

|                                       |               |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| 2025 World Championship Gold Medalist | \$3,000/month |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|

NOTE: Funding will begin the same month as the stipend-earning performance and will qualify the athlete for twelve (12) months of funding.

**Tier 1 Monthly Stipends:**

Eligibility to receive USATKD Tier 1 Monthly Stipends is based on achieving one of the following benchmarks:

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| 2025 World Championships Silver or Bronze Medalist  | \$2,500/month |
| 2026 World Taekwondo (WT) Grand Prix Gold Medalist  | \$2,500/month |
| Two or more WT Grand Prix Medals in a calendar year in 2026 (for example, 2 or more medals between January-December 2026) | \$2,500/month |

NOTE: Funding will begin the same month as the stipend-earning performance and will qualify the athlete for twelve (12) months of funding.

**Tier 2 Monthly Stipends**

Eligibility to receive USATKD Tier 2 Monthly Stipends is based on achieving one of the following benchmarks:

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| 2026 WT Grand Prix Silver or Bronze Medalist                | \$2,000/month |
| Three or more WT G6 or higher quarterfinal finishes in 2026 | \$1,750/month |
| Two or more WT Grand Prix Challenge Medals in 2025          | \$1,750/month |

NOTE: Funding will begin the same month as the stipend-earning performance and will qualify the athlete for twelve (12) months of funding.

**Tier 3 Monthly Stipends**

Eligibility to receive USATKD Tier 4 Monthly Stipends is based on achieving the following benchmarks:

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| 2025 WT Under 21 World Championship Gold Medalist              | \$1,750/month |
| 2025 WT Under 21 World Championships Silver or Bronze Medalist | \$1,500/month |

NOTE: The 2025 Under 21 World Championships medalist funding will begin the same month as the stipend-earning performance and will qualify the athlete for six (6) months of funding.

## **Tier 4 Performance Incentive Stipends**

Eligibility to receive USATKD Tier 3 performance incentive stipend is based on achieving the following benchmark:

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| 2026 Pan American Championships Gold Medalist      | \$2,500 |
| 2026 WT President's Cup – Pan Am Gold Medalist     | \$1,000 |
| 2026 US Open Taekwondo Championships Gold Medalist | \$500   |

NOTE: Athletes will receive a one-time payment for achieving a performance incentive.

### **Paralympic:**

Athletes may only receive only one Monthly Stipend (Elite, Tier 1, Tier 2) and will receive the highest level of funding that he/she qualifies for.

Results must be achieved in the Paralympic weight divisions below:

| Paralympic K44 Weight Class – Male | Paralympic K44 Weight Class – Female |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| -58kg                              | -47kg                                |
| -63kg                              | -52kg                                |
| -70kg                              | -57kg                                |
| -80kg                              | -65kg                                |
| +80kg                              | +65kg                                |

Elite Tier: World Taekwondo Ranking of 1-5  
(\$800/month)

Funding will begin the same month as the stipend-earning performance and will qualify the athlete for four (4) month of funding. The ranking will be reviewed on January 1, May 1, and September 1.

Tier 1: 2026 Para Pan American Championships Gold Medal (\$600/month)

Funding will begin the same month as the stipend-earning performance and will qualify the athlete for twelve (12) months of funding.

Tier 2: 2026 Para Pan American Championships Silver/Bronze Medal  
(\$300/month)

Funding for the Para Pan Championships will begin the same month as the stipend-earning performance and will qualify the athlete for twelve (12) months of funding.

**EXHIBIT B**  
**EAHI Criteria**

Olympic:

USA Taekwondo has been allocated 8 EAHI slots for 2026. To be eligible for EAHI, an athlete must:

1. Meet the USOPC's Team USA eligibility requirements at the time the slot is being offered. <https://www.usopc.org/TeamUSA-Eligibility>
2. Athletes must win one of the eight Olympic weight divisions at the 2026 US Team Trials, January 30 – February 1, 2026, or have earned a Wild Card to the 2026 Pan American Taekwondo Championships in one of the eight Olympic weight divisions.
  - a. For the women's divisions athletes must participate in either 49kg, 57kg, 67kg, or +67kg.
  - b. For the men's divisions athletes must participate in either 58kg, 68kg, 80kg, or +80kg.

Slots will be allocated in February in the following priority order:

1. One athlete per Olympic weight division will be offered EAHI.
2. If there are multiple athletes in an Olympic weight division that meet the eligibility criteria above, the athlete with the highest [World Taekwondo Olympic](#) February ranking, in that weight division, will be offered EAHI.

Once a slot has been offered, an athlete will have 30 days to complete enrollment. If they do not complete enrollment within 30 days, they will forgo their eligibility.

Athletes who are unable to qualify for EAHI due to unforeseen circumstances may have the opportunity to apply for slots through the USOPC's hardship process.

Paralympic:

| Paralympic K44 Weight Class – Male | Paralympic K44 Weight Class – Female |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| -58kg                              | -47kg                                |
| -63kg                              | -52kg                                |
| -70kg                              | -57kg                                |
| -80kg                              | -65kg                                |
| +80kg                              | +65kg                                |

The winner of each weight division at the 2026 US Team Trials in Tulsa, Oklahoma, January 30 – February 1, 2026, will earn an EAHI spot for 2026. The winner of the division must be ranked in the top 20 on December 31, 2025. Three spots will go to an athlete in a men’s division and two spots will go to an athlete in a women’s division. The three spots will go to the three men’s divisions with the highest ranked athlete in the World Taekwondo K44 Kyorugi rankings on December 31, 2025. The two spots will go to the women’s divisions with the highest ranked athlete in the World Taekwondo K44 Kyorugi rankings on December 31, 2025.