

USA Judo
PRELIMINARY NOTICE TO THE ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES
2028 Olympic Games
January 20, 2026

TO: Members of **USA Judo**
FROM: **USA Judo**
RE: Preliminary Notice to the Athlete Selection Procedures for the 2028 Olympic Games

To provide information in a timely manner, USA Judo is releasing this Preliminary Notice to the Athlete Selection Procedures for the 2028 Olympic Games (Games). This document is being written as a complement, and not a substitute to the 2028 Olympic Games Athlete Selection Procedures. Additional communication will be released by USA Judo once the Athlete Selection Procedures have been approved by the USOPC.

A. Anticipated Athlete Eligibility Criteria:

- Athletes must have been born on or before 31 December 2013, as validated by the passport used for accreditation registration.
- Athletes must comply with all International Judo Federation (IJF) eligibility requirements which will be posted [here](#) (See Qualification).
- Athletes must be a national of the United States and hold a valid U.S. passport that will not expire for six months after the conclusion of the Games.
- Athletes must adhere to all USA Judo, USADA, USOPC, WADA, IJF and IOC anti-doping protocols, policies, and procedures including participation in Out-of-Competition Testing, if applicable.
- Athletes must comply with the [USOPC Background Check Policy](#) and [USOPC Athlete Safety Policy](#).

B. International Federation Qualification System Overview:

- The 2028 Olympic Games Qualification Systems Manual for Judo has been published here (See Qualification): <https://www.olympics.com/ioc/documents/olympic-games/los-angeles-2028-olympic-games>.

C. Anticipated Qualification Pathway

Tier 1 – Direct Qualification

- Per the 2028 Olympic Games Qualification Systems Manual, for each of the seven female and seven male weight categories, the 17 highest-ranked athletes in the IJF World Ranking List of the Olympic qualification period will directly qualify by name in their weight division for the Games.
- If only one US athlete is ranked within the Top 17, he/she will be nominated to the Olympic Team (Team).

- If two athletes are ranked in the Top 17, they will compete in a best-of-three head-to-head matchup with the winner nominated to the Team and the other athlete as the first alternate.
- If three or more athletes are ranked in the Top 17, the process outlined in the full Athlete Selection Procedures for the Olympic Games will be followed.

Tier 2 – 2028 Olympic Trials

- Athletes who are not nominated to the Team via Direct Qualification will be nominated based on the 2028 USA Judo Olympic Trials.
- It is anticipated that a total of 8 male and 8 female athletes per weight division will qualify to compete at Olympic Trials based on their participation in the Evaluation Events in Section D.
- Additional information regarding the qualification pathway for Olympic Trials will be outlined in the full Athlete Selection Procedures for the Olympic Games.

D. Anticipated Evaluation Events:

It is intended that athletes being considered for nomination to the 2028 Olympic Games may be evaluated on their performance at any of the below listed events. Please note that additional Evaluation Events will be added as dates and locations are confirmed. However, additional USA Judo events are not expected to be added in advance of the 2026 USA Judo President's Cup.

EVENT NAME	DATE/LOCATION
2026 – 2028 IJF Junior and Senior Events	15 June 2026 – 12 June 2028
2026 USA Judo President's Cup	November 2026
2027-2028 USA Judo National Events	TBD 2027 - 2028
2028 USA Judo Olympic Trials	TBD 2028

The schedule of 2026 – 2028 IJF Junior and Senior Events will be posted [here](#). It is the responsibility of each athlete to regularly check the calendar of events to ensure they are aware of all schedule changes.



Once complete, the Athlete Selection Procedures for the USA Judo events listed above will be posted at <https://www.usajudo.com/athletes/seniors/selection-procedures>.

E. Disclaimer:

This preliminary notice is based on the IJF rules and regulations as presently known and understood for the 2028 Olympic Games. 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 USA Judo Athlete Selection Procedures for the 2028 Olympic Games. Once complete, the

approved Athlete Selection Procedures will be posted at
<https://www.usajudo.com/athletes/seniors/selection-procedures>.

For questions about the 2028 Olympic Games selection process, please contact Ed Liddie, Director of High Performance (Eddie.Liddie@usajudo.us) or Alex Bates, High Performance Manager (Alex.Bates@usajudo.us).

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
USA Judo Director of High Performance	Ed Liddie		1/20/2026
Team USA Athletes' Commission Representative	Angelica Delgado		1/20/2025