

USA Karate

Athlete Selection Procedures

2027 Pan American Games

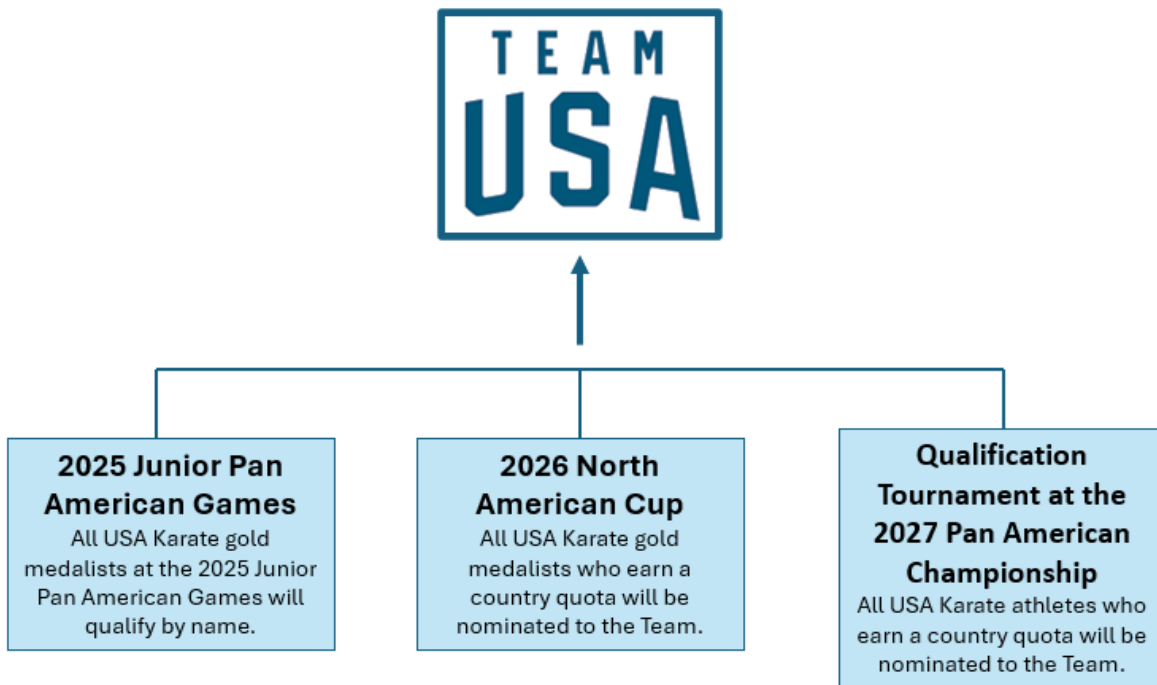
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SECTION 1: OVERVIEW

These procedures outline the pathway for nomination to the 2027 Pan American Games for USA Karate (NGB). The maximum Team size can be twelve (12) athletes, six (6) per gender; however final Team size will depend on earned Pan American Karate Federation quota. Pan American Karate Federation quotas are awarded by quota places to National Olympic Committee (NOC).

SECTION 2: SELECTION PROCESS DIAGRAM

The following provides a high-level overview of how athletes will be nominated to the Team:



Note: This diagram is for informational purposes only. In the event of a conflict between the diagram and any written section herein, the written sections will take precedent.

SECTION 3: ATHLETE REQUIREMENTS

1. Nationality/Passports Requirements:
 - Have a valid United States passport at the time of nomination that does not expire for six months after the conclusion of the 2027 Pan American Games (Games) (i.e. valid until January 20, 2028).

USA Karate

Athlete Selection Procedures

2027 Pan American Games

2. Minimum Panam Sport Requirements:
 - Abide by the rules in the Panam Sports Constitution, including nationality/citizenship requirements.
 - For additional information regarding an athlete who is a national of two or more countries, has changed his or her nationality or acquired a new nationality, refer to the [Panam Sports Constitution](#) (Article 34.4-7).
 - Abide by the Panam Sports Eligibility of Conditions Form/Conditions of Participation Form
3. Local Organizing Committee (LOC) Requirements:
 - Comply with all rules and policies implemented by the LOC.
4. Pan American Karate Federation (CF) Requirements:
 - Comply with all CF eligibility requirements which will be posted here once available: https://www.panamsports.org/en/documents/?doc_category=games
5. USOPC Requirements:
 - Comply with all USOPC rules applicable to the Games (e.g., Demonstrations).
 - Complete all USOPC Games Registration requirements by the stated deadline.
 - Comply with the USOPC Delegation Terms, including the Conduct Requirements, which will be made available here: <https://www.usopc.org/games-and-qualification>
 - Comply with the [USOPC Athlete Safety Policy](#) and the [U.S. Center for SafeSport Code](#) including education and training requirements.
 - Comply with the current [USOPC Background Check Policy](#).
6. USA Karate (NGB) Requirements:
 - Comply with the [NGB Athlete Agreement](#)
 - Comply with the [NGB Code of Conduct](#)
 - Comply with the [NGB Athletic Safety Policy Manual](#)
 - Athlete must be at least eighteen (18) years old as of January 31, 2027 to compete at the 2027 Senior National Team Trials (see Section 5).
 - Athlete must have an active NGB membership at the time of nomination. This includes a Level 4 membership for Elite Athletes, a completed and valid background check and SafeSport training.
 - Athlete does not have an active suspension from the U.S. Center for SafeSport that would make the Athlete ineligible to participate in the Games.
 - Athlete does not have an active sanction for an anti-doping rule/policy violation that would make the Athlete ineligible to participate in the Games.

USA Karate

Athlete Selection Procedures

2027 Pan American Games

SECTION 4: OTHER MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE TEAM

- Agree to be bound by and adhere to all Panam Sports, CF, World Karate Federation (WKF), WADA, USADA and USOPC anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures, as applicable. This includes participation in Out-of-Competition Testing and an agreement to be bound to the results management authority of the Panam Sports, CF, WKF, USADA, WADA or other Anti-Doping Organization as applicable.
- Meet all health and safety protocols, to include vaccine requirements and/or testing requirements set forth by the government, local laws, USOPC, CF and/or the LOC.

SECTION 5: EVALUATIVE EVENTS

Event names, dates and locations of all competitions, and camps to be used as part of the nomination process:

DATE(S)	DESCRIPTION/EVENT NAME
August 20 – 24, 2025	2025 Junior Pan American Games - Asunción, Paraguay
January 30, 2026 – February 1, 2026	2026 Senior National Team Trials - Denver, Colorado
June 20, 2026	2026 North American Cup - Montreal, Canada
January/February 2027	2027 U-21 National Team Trials
January 31 – February 1, 2027	2027 Senior National Team Trials – Denver, Colorado
March 24, 2027	Qualification Tournament (Last Chance Qualifier) at the 2027 Pan American Championship Senior PAG Qualifier Event, Mexico (Mexico, city and exact date TBA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The last chance qualifier that occurs the day prior to the 2027 Pan American Championships will be used as an Evaluation Event.</i>

Please note that the Senior National Team Trials will serve as the primary domestic ranking event for all subsequent international qualification opportunities for the calendar year.

Please see National Team Athlete Performance Subsidy document with funding guidelines here: [NTAPS](#)

USA Karate

Athlete Selection Procedures

2027 Pan American Games

SECTION 6: SELECTION PROCESS

Provide a step-by-step description of the selection process including an overview of the CF Qualification System.

6.1 TOTAL QUOTA PLACES:

The maximum Team size can be twelve (12) athletes, six (6) per gender; however final Team size will depend on earned CF quota. Please note that the athlete who earned a by-name quota at the 2025 Junior Pan American Games will not count against the total maximum Team size.

Events Include:

- Male Individual Kata
- Female Individual Kata
- Men's Kumite: -60kg, -67kg, -75kg, -84kg, +84kg
- Women's Kumite: -50kg, -55kg, -61kg, -68kg, +68kg

6.2 EVALUATION EVENT QUALIFICATION PATHWAY:

A) 2025 Junior Pan Am Games

Athletes were selected to compete in the 2025 Junior Pan American Games based on the selection procedures posted [here](#).

B) 2026 North American Cup Qualification Pathway

- Athletes qualified by name through the 2025 Junior Pan American Games are **not eligible** to compete in the 2026 North American Cup.
- The top two (2) finishers in each weight category at the 2026 Senior National Team Trials will be entered by USA Karate into the 2026 North American Cup. Qualification for the 2026 Senior National Team Trials can be found [here](#).
- If a top two (2) finisher in a weight category is unable or unwilling to compete at the 2026 North American Cup, the position will be offered to the highest placed eligible finisher, in rank order (#3-4), at the 2026 Senior National Team Trials.

C) 2027 U-21 National Team Trials

Athletes will qualify for the 2027 U-21 National Team Trials based on the selection process which will be posted [here](#) once available.

D) 2027 Senior National Team Trials

Athletes will qualify for the 2027 Senior National Team Trials based on the 2026 US Senior National Team Selection Process which will be posted [here](#) once available.

USA Karate

Athlete Selection Procedures

2027 Pan American Games

E) Qualification Tournament (Last Chance Qualifier) at the 2027 Pan American Championship

- Any category not qualified through the 2026 North American Cup will be eligible to qualify through this Last Chance Qualifier.
- Only one (1) USA Karate athlete may be entered in each weight category.
- USA Karate will enter the highest placed eligible finisher, in rank order (#1-4), from the 2027 Senior National Team Trials.

Please note that athletes qualified by name through the 2025 Junior Pan American Games and athletes qualified through the 2026 North American Cup are **not eligible** to compete in this Last Chance Qualifier.

6.3 NOMINATION TO THE TEAM:

A) 2025 Junior Pan American Games

- The USA Karate gold medalist from the 2025 Junior Pan American Games will qualify **by name** for the 2027 Pan American Games, in accordance with published Panam Sports qualification guidelines.
- If this athlete declines participation, the quota is forfeited and may not be reassigned.

B) 2026 North American Cup Qualification Pathway

- The gold medalist in each category at the North American Cup earns a **country quota** for the United States.
- USA Karate will nominate the gold medalist(s) to the 2027 Pan American Games Team in accordance with these Selection Procedures.
- If a nominated gold medalist is unable to participate in the 2027 Pan American Games, the quota will be offered to the highest placed eligible finisher, in rank order (#1-4), from the 2027 Senior National Team Trials.
- If the quota remains unfilled, the quota will be offered to the highest placed eligible finisher, in rank order (#1-4), at the 2027 U-21 National Team Trials.

C) Qualification Tournament (Last Chance Qualifier) at the 2027 Pan American Championship

- The top one (1) finisher at this Qualification Tournament will earn a **country quota**.
- If a USA Karate athlete earns a country quota, USA Karate will nominate that athlete to the 2027 Pan American Games Team in accordance with these Selection Procedures.
- If a nominated athlete is unable to participate in the 2027 Pan American Games, the quota will be offered to the highest placed eligible finisher, in rank order (#2-4), from the 2027 Senior National Team Trials.

USA Karate

Athlete Selection Procedures

2027 Pan American Games

- If the quota remains unfilled, the quota will be offered to the highest placed eligible finisher, (#1-4) at the 2027 U-21 National Championships.

In the event of a conflict between this overview and the CF Qualification System, the CF Qualification System will take precedent.

For more details, please refer to the CF Qualification System which will be posted [here](#) once available (see Qualification System Manual Lima 2027).

SECTION 7: DISCRETIONARY CRITERIA TO NOMINATE ATHLETES

7.1 RATIONALE FOR UTILIZING DISCRETIONARY SELECTION:

Not Applicable

7.2 DEFINE THE DISCRETIONARY CRITERIA TO BE USED:

Not Applicable

7.3 SELECTION COMMITTEE

Not Applicable

SECTION 8: MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION

Specify the location, schedule, and duration of all mandatory training and/or competition for athletes who are nominated to the Team.

It is anticipated that the athletes nominated to the Team will be required to participate in a mandatory training program in advance of the 2027 Pan American Games. Additional details including the specific dates and location will be shared with athletes a minimum of thirty (30) days in advance. The range in which the trainings will be held is February 1 – March 20, 2027.

While waivers for mandatory training will not be unreasonably withheld, all athletes nominated to the Team should arrange for appropriate time off from school, work or other obligations in advance. Waivers will primarily be granted for injury or other similar incapacity or for a personal/family emergency. Requests for a waiver must be submitted in writing to the USA Karate Director of Sport as far in advance as possible.

SECTION 9: DATE OF TEAM NOMINATION

Nomination of athletes, including any replacements/alternates will be announced to all athletes and submitted to the USOPC on or before the USOPC deadline. It is anticipated that the USOPC deadline

USA Karate

Athlete Selection Procedures

2027 Pan American Games

will be approximately one month in advance of the 2027 Pan American Games Sport Entries deadline.

SECTION 10: REMOVAL OF ATHLETES FROM THE TEAM

10.1 NGB JURISDICTION

NGB has jurisdiction over athlete nominees until athlete entries have been submitted by the USOPC to the LOC.

- a. An athlete who is nominated to the Team by NGB may be removed for any of the following reasons, as determined by NGB:
 - i. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete submits a written letter to the NGB CEO or Director of Sport requesting to voluntarily withdraw from the Team.
 - ii. Injury or illness. A physician (or medical staff) approved by NGB provides certification that the Athlete has a debilitating condition. If Athlete refuses to provide verification of their illness or injury by a physician (or medical staff), their injury will be assumed to be debilitating, and they may be removed from the Team.
 - iii. Failure to participate. Athlete does not participate in all Mandatory Training and/or Competition as defined in these procedures.
 - iv. Code of Conduct Violation. Athlete violates the [NGB Code of Conduct](#)
 - v. Athlete Agreement. Athlete violates a term in their signed [NGB Athlete Agreement](#)
 - vi. Non-compliance. Athlete does not meet the athlete eligibility requirements listed in Section 3 and Section 4 of these selection procedures.
- b. An Athlete may be removed as a nominee to the Team or from the Team if found to have violated CF, WKF, USADA, WADA, and/or USOPC anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures, the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code, the USOPC Athlete Safety Policy and NGB SafeSport policies, as applicable.

10.2 USOPC JURISDICTION

- a. Once Athlete entries have been submitted by the USOPC to the LOC, the USOPC has jurisdiction over the Team.
- b. USOPC's Delegation Conduct Requirements apply in addition to the NGB Code of Conduct. The Delegation Conduct Requirements in the USOPC Games Delegation Terms are specific to each Games and are made available during the Games registration process.
- c. The USOPC's Grievance Procedures and Hearing Process are found within the USOPC Dispute Resolution Policy and Hearing Procedures.
 - i. See www.usopc.org/governance/dispute-resolution for more information.

USA Karate

Athlete Selection Procedures

2027 Pan American Games

SECTION 11: SELECTION PROCESS IF ATHLETE VACANCY OCCURS PRIOR TO SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES BY NAME TO THE LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

11.1 Should a vacancy occur prior to submission of Entries by Name by the USOPC to the LOC, the replacement athlete will be nominated following the process outlined in Section 6.3 (B) or Section 6.3 (C) depending on how the athlete being replaced was initially nominated to the Team.

11.2 All replacement athletes must meet all requirements listed in Sections 3-4.

SECTION 12: SELECTION PROCESS IF ATHLETE VACANCY OCCURS AFTER SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES BY NAME TO THE LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

12.1 Should a vacancy occur after submission of Entries by Name by the USOPC to the LOC, if allowed, the replacement athlete will be nominated following the process outlined in Section 6.3 (B) or Section 6.3 (C) depending on how the athlete being replaced was initially nominated to the Team.

12.2 Any replacement of athletes must comply with these selection procedures in addition to Panam Sports, USOPC, and CF regulations including applicable Late Athlete Replacement (LAR) policies.

12.3 All replacement athletes must meet all requirements listed in Sections 3-4.

SECTION 13: RIGHT TO A HEARING

An athlete who is removed from the Team has the right to a hearing per the NGB's [Complaint and Hearing procedures](#) and the USOPC Bylaws, Section 9 (<https://www.usopc.org/governance/dispute-resolution>).

SECTION 14: REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

In addition to the USOPC Delegation Conduct Requirements, the following documents are required to be signed by an athlete as a condition of nomination to the Games:

- o [NGB Athlete Agreement](#)
- o [NGB Code of Conduct](#)

USA Karate

Athlete Selection Procedures

2027 Pan American Games

SECTION 15: DISCLAIMERS

These procedures are based on Panam Sports and CF rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in Panam Sports and/or CF rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes immediately. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to NGB.

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, pandemic, 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, pursuant to their resubmission to the USOPC.

SECTION 16: CONFLICT OF INTEREST

All individuals who developed these selection procedures (Section 21) must comply with the NGB's [Conflict of Interest Policy](#), to include completing and submitting a disclosure form consistent with the NGB's Conflict of Interest Policy.

Additionally, any person with a good faith belief that an individual who developed these selection procedures has a conflict of interest may report the alleged conflict of interest to the NGB Ethics Committee. Reports may also be made anonymously through the [USOPC's Integrity Portal](#). No individual shall retaliate in any way against a person who, in good faith, reports an alleged conflict of interest. In addition, the USOPC maintains a strict no retaliation policy that prohibits any employee, contractor, agent, volunteer, or member of the USOPC to take or threaten to take any action against an athlete for reporting information to or seeking assistance from the Office of the Athlete Ombuds.

SECTION 17: QUESTIONS REGARDING ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES

Athletes may contact the individuals listed below for information about these selection procedures.

Name: Brody Burns
Position: USA Karate Director of Sport
Email: bburns@usankf.org

Name: Elisa Au
Position: Team USA Athletes' Commission Representative
Email: eau@usankf.org

USA Karate

Athlete Selection Procedures

2027 Pan American Games

ATHLETE OMBUDS

The Team USA Athlete Ombuds serves as a safe, independent, confidential place for Team USA Athletes to seek advice about any sport-related rule, policy, or process; how to navigate raising or responding to concerns; or access legal and mental health resources.

Team USA Athletes may contact the Athlete Ombuds:

PHONE: (719) 866-5000

EMAIL: ombudsman@usathlete.org

WEBSITE: usathlete.org

SECTION 18: GRIEVANCES

The NGB Grievance Procedures can be found [here](#) (see Complaint and Hearing Procedures).

Section 9 of the USOPC Bylaws provides a process for an athlete to file a complaint with the USOPC against an NGB alleging that they have been denied, or threatened to be denied, with the opportunity to participate in a Protected Competition, as defined in the USOPC bylaws. Additional information on how to file a complaint can be found here: <https://www.usopc.org/governance/dispute-resolution>

SECTION 19: NON-RETALIATION

The USOPC and NGB have zero tolerance for retaliation against people who make good faith reports of potential ethical, policy, or legal violations, or who cooperate with investigations of those reports. That means no USOPC or NGB staff, Board or Committee member, or volunteer may threaten, harass, discriminate against, or take any negative employment or related action (e.g., discharge, demotion, suspension, negative review) on that basis.

- Individuals may report concerns to the NGB by following the NGB [Whistleblower Policy](#)
- Individuals may report concerns to the USOPC confidentially, or anonymously, online using the [USOPC Integrity Portal](#) or individuals may call the USOPC Integrity Hotline at 1-877-404-9935.
- Additional information can be found in the USOPC [Speak Up Policy](#).

SECTION 20: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

NGB will retain the approved Selection Procedures and all supporting documents, including scouting or evaluation forms, etc., and data from the selection process as required by the NGB's Records Retention Policy or for six months past the date of the Closing Ceremony of the 2027 Pan American Games, whichever is longer.

USA Karate

Athlete Selection Procedures

2027 Pan American Games

SECTION 21: DEVELOPMENT, APPROVAL & CERTIFICATION OF SELECTION PROCEDURES

The following committee of individuals developed these selection procedures.

NAME	ROLE
Brody Burns	Director of Sport
Sasha Gerritson	Team Leader & USA Karate Board Member
Elisa Au	Team USA AC Representative & USA Karate Board Chair
Will Gatch	AAC Committee Chair

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

POSITION	NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE
USA Karate Chief Executive Officer	Michael Cain	DocuSigned by: <i>Michael Cain</i> FAE25F347D6146F...	April 21, 2026 5:25:52 PM MDT

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

POSITION	NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE
Team USA Athletes Commission Representative*	Elisa Au	Signed by: <i>Elisa Au</i> 65E18C33E35E4A6...	April 16, 2026 5:34:25 PM MDT

* If the Team USA Athletes' Commission Representatives have delegated authority to another 10 Year Athlete Representative to sign the Selection Procedures, attach a letter from the Team USA AC Representative indicating the reason they have delegated authority.

* If, for some reason, a sport does not have an elected Team USA AC Representative, the NGB must designate a 10 Year Athlete from that sport to review and sign the Selection Procedures.

USA Karate

Athlete Selection Procedures

2027 Pan American Games

Revision History

Date	Revisions
April 16, 2026	Original document published

USA Karate

Athlete Selection Procedures

2027 Pan American Games

APPENDIX A – COMMONLY USED ACRONYMS

AAC – Athletes' Advisory Council

AC – Athletes' Commission

Act or TSOASA – Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act

APC – Americas Paralympic Committee

CAS – Court of Arbitration for Sport

Center or CSS – U.S. Center for SafeSport

CF – Continental Federation

IMS – Internally Managed Sport (sport managed by the USOPC)

IOC – International Olympic Committee

IPC – International Paralympic Committee

IF – International Federation

LOC – Local Organizing Committee

NGB – National Governing Body

NOC – National Olympic Committee

NPC – National Paralympic Committee

OCOG – Organizing Committee of the Olympic Games.

PAG – Pan American Games

Panam Sports or PASO – Pan American Sports Organization

PPAG – Parapan American Games

PSO – Paralympic Sport Organization

TEAM USA AC – Team USA Athletes' Commission (formerly USOPC AAC)

USADA – United States Anti-Doping Agency

WADA – World Anti-Doping Agency

USA Karate

Athlete Selection Procedures

2027 Pan American Games

APPENDIX B – GLOSSARY

Contingency means a future event or circumstance which is possible but cannot be predicted with certainty.

Delegation Event means the Olympic Games, the Paralympic Games, the Pan American Games, and the Parapan American Games.

Force Majeure means an event or effect that cannot be reasonably anticipated or controlled (e.g., hurricane, tornado, etc.).

Grievance Procedures means the process that enables an athlete to file a complaint with the NGB or USOPC.

Jurisdiction means the power or authority to make decisions and judgments.

Nominated means an athlete, coach or staff member whose name has been submitted to the USOPC by an NGB for participation in a Delegation Event.

Protected Competition means a Delegation Event or a Qualifying Competition.

Qualifying Competition means either of the following:

- i. **NGB Qualifying Competition:** Any competition or activity organized or approved by the NGB where the athlete's performance or results are considered in the published selection criteria to represent the United States in a Delegation Event.
- ii. **International Qualifying Competition:** Any international sport competition where (i) athletes represent the United States against athletes representing other nations, (ii) the NGB officially designates entrants, as required by the competition organizers, and (iii) athlete results or performance are included in the published criteria to qualify, or be selected, to represent the United States in a Delegation Event.

Selected means an athlete, coach or staff member whose name has been submitted by the USOPC to the LOC at the final submission date, as determined by the LOC.

USA Karate

Athlete Selection Procedures

2027 Pan American Games

APPENDIX C – ATHLETE RESOURCES

ATHLETE LEGAL AID

The purpose of the Athlete Legal Aid Program is to assist elite athletes without sufficient financial means to seek aid for fees and costs associated with legal representation or the proceeding itself with respect to claims before an anti-doping organization, NGB, CF, the U.S. Center for SafeSport, USOPC, IOC/IPC, Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), or other sport-related tribunal within the Olympic and Paralympic Movement.

WEBSITE: www.usopc.org/ombuds/athlete-legal-aid-program

ATHLETE OMBUDS

The Team USA Athlete Ombuds serves as a safe, independent, confidential place for Team USA Athletes to seek advice about any sport-related rule, policy, or process; how to navigate raising or responding to concerns; or access legal and mental health resources.

Team USA Athletes may contact the Athlete Ombuds:

PHONE: (719) 866-5000

EMAIL: ombudsman@usathlete.org

WEBSITE: usathlete.org

RAINN HOTLINE (formerly SAFESPORT HELPLINE)

RAINN, the National Sexual Assault Hotline, provides crisis intervention, referrals, and emotional support specifically designed for athletes, staff, and other SafeSport participants affected by sexual violence. Through this service, support specialists provide live, confidential, one-on-one support that is available 24/7. Individuals can call the Hotline at 1-800-656-4673 or visit <https://rainn.org/>.

TEAM USA ATHLETES' COMMISSION (Team USA AC) (Formerly Athletes' Advisory Council)

The Team USA AC is responsible for broadening communication between the USOPC and active athletes and serves as a source of input and advice to the USOPC Board of Directors.

WEBSITE: www.usopc.org/teamusa-athletes-commission

TEAM USA ATHLETE SERVICES

The USOPC helps support Team USA athletes from the start of their career to their retirement and beyond through direct funds, programs and services that help athletes excel in their day-to-day lives, on and off the field of play.

WEBSITE: www.usopc.org/athlete-benefits-and-resources

USA Karate

Athlete Selection Procedures

2027 Pan American Games

TEAM USA MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

For those in need of mental health support, USOPC Psychological Services is available at psychservices@usopc.org, or you can connect with a licensed mental health provider 24/7 through the USOPC Psychological Services Support Line at 719-866-2255. You can also visit www.usopc.org/mental-health for information about all available resources or complete our referral [link](#) to get connected.

USOPC DISPUTE RESOLUTION UNIT (DRU)

For Protected Competitions, USOPC's DRU oversees the administration of dispute resolution services to athletes and other members of NGBs for grievances under the USOPC's jurisdiction to ensure the complaints are heard in a timely and fair manner. For more information about this process, please visit the [dispute resolution website](#).

USOPC ETHICS AND COMPLIANCE

USOPC's Ethics and Compliance team is responsible for ensuring the USOPC and NGBs comply with the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act, their own bylaws and policies, and any other applicable laws or regulations. Any individual may report concerns confidentially, or anonymously, online using the [USOPC Integrity Portal](#) or individuals may call the USOPC Integrity Hotline at 1-877-404-9935 to report their concern over the phone.

USOPC SECURITY AND ATHLETE SAFETY REPORTING PORTAL

Athletes can report an incident of emotional, physical, or sexual misconduct, a violation of the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (MAAPP) or a general security incident or concern through the [Safety Reporting Portal](#). Athletes may also report to the USOPC over the phone at 719-866-3869.