

USA TAEKWONDO

U.S. NATIONAL TEAM PATHWAY

2025-2026



ELITE SPARRING ATHLETES

CADETS
(Black Belts)



2025 ELITE ATHLETES

CADET 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

CADETS & JUNIORS MUST PARTICIPATE AT THE 2025 U.S. TKD NATIONALS & MEET 2026 U.S. TEAM TRIALS QUALIFICATIONS IN ORDER TO RECEIVE AN INVITE TO TEAM TRIALS

2025 U.S. National Team members DO NOT automatically qualify for the 2026 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. NATIONAL TKD 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 THE 2026 U.S. TEAM TRIALS:

ALL ATHLETES MUST PARTICIPATE AT THE 2025 U.S. NATIONAL TKD CHAMPIONSHIP

-AND-

ALL ATHLETES WHO FINISH IN THE QUARTERFINALS 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

DOMESTIC DOMINANT ATHLETE

2025 U.S. NATIONAL TEAM MEMBER (January Team Trials Winner)

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).



2025 ELITE ATHLETES

CADET BLACK BELTS

DOMESTIC PATHWAY

TO QUALIFY TO BE A DOMESTIC DOMINANT ATHLETE

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

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)



FEB 14-16
RENO, NEVADA

FOR BLACK BELT
ATHLETES ONLY



JULY 23-27
ONTARIO, CA



SEPT 05-07
DAYTONA BEACH, FL



2025
EVENTS

U.S. TKD MAJOR EVENTS



2025 ELITE ATHLETES

CADET BLACK BELTS

COMPETITION FORMAT

The 2026 USATKD Team Trials competition format will be a single elimination bracket.

If there are four or less athletes in a division, that division will be round robin.

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

Athletes may enter the fight off in the division they qualified in or athletes may move up one weight division from the division they qualified in.

TEAM TRIAL SEEDING INFORMATION

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

SEEDING INFORMATION

All other seeds will be completed with qualified athletes based on their USATKD ranking, including athletes that change weight divisions from where they qualified in and aged up athletes.

If there are two athletes with the same ranking points, athletes will be randomly seeded.

If there is not a qualified athlete to fill a seed, the lower seeds will move up to the next highest seed.



2025 ELITE ATHLETES

CADET BLACK BELTS

AGING UP YOUTH ATHLETES

ALL ATHLETES MUST PARTICIPATE AT THE 2025 US TAEKWONDO NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

AND

11 YEAR OLD YOUTH ATHLETES AGING UP QUALIFY TO COMPETE AS A CADET AT THE 2026 USATKD TEAM TRIALS IF ONE OF THE FOLLOWING HAS BEEN EARNED IN 2025:

- 2025 DOMESTIC DOMINANT ATHLETE
- 2025 US OPEN GOLD MEDALIST
- 2025 US TAEKWONDO NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS GOLD MEDALIST
- 2025 US FINAL GOLD MEDALIST

AGING UP CADET ATHLETES

ALL ATHLETES MUST PARTICIPATE AT THE 2025 US TAEKWONDO NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

AND

14 YEAR OLD CADET ATHLETES AGING UP QUALIFY TO COMPETE AS A JUNIOR AT THE 2026 USATKD TEAM TRIALS IF ONE OF THE FOLLOWING HAS BEEN EARNED IN 2025:

- 2025 DOMESTIC DOMINANT ATHLETE
- 2025 US OPEN GOLD MEDALIST
- 2025 US TAEKWONDO NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS GOLD MEDALIST
- 2025 US FINAL GOLD MEDALIST
- 2025 NATIONAL TEAM MEMBER (January Team Trials Winner)