

**USA Taekwondo (USATKD)**  
**ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES**  
**2023 Parapan American Games**  
**Para Taekwondo**  
**July 14, 2023**

**1. SELECTION SYSTEM.**

1.1. Provide the minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for selection to the 2023 Parapan American Games team (the Team):

- Nationality/Passport requirements:

Athlete must be a national of the United States at the time of nomination by USATKD.

Athlete must hold a valid U.S. passport that will not expire for six months after the conclusion of the 2023 Parapan American Games (the Games).

- Minimum International Paralympic Committee (IPC), World Taekwondo (WT) standards for participation:

Any competitor in the Parapan American Games must be a national of the country of the National Paralympic Committee (NPC) which is entering such competitor. 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 Americas Paralympic Committee bylaws (Chapter 2.4.12 of the IPC Handbook).

- Minimum World Taekwondo (WT), Pan American Taekwondo Union (PATU):

To be eligible for section by an NPC, athletes must:

- Hold a valid WT Athlete License for 2023;
- Be internationally classified in an eligible Sport Class with a Sport Class Status of (i) Confirmed; or (ii) Review with a Fixed Review Date of 2024 or later\*;
- Hold a WT recognized Taekwondo Dan; and
- Be at least sixteen (16) years of age by December 31, 2023

\*In relation to criterion 2 above, NPCs are permitted to provisionally select athletes with a Sport Class Status of (i) New; (ii) Review; and (iii) Review with a Fixed Review Date of 2023 or earlier, subject to such athletes attending an Evaluation Session prior to or during the Games (including any required in-

competition Observation Assessment).

- Other requirements (if any):
  - Athlete must successfully complete all Games Registration requirements by stated deadline.
  - Any athlete age 18 or older will be required to undergo a background screen in accordance with the current [USOPC Background Check Policy](#)
  - Any athlete aged 18 or older as of the Closing Ceremony will be required to remain current with the U.S. Center for SafeSport's education and training requirements in accordance with the [USOPC Athlete Safety Policy](#).
  - Athlete must be a member in good standing of the USATKD and World Taekwondo at the time of nomination.
  - At the time of selection, an athlete must have a WT International Classification with an international sport class status of R-Review, FRD-Fixed Review Date or C-Confirmed, or if there has been no opportunity for the athlete to undergo international classification evaluation, the athlete must be evaluated by USATKD medical and/or Paralympic staff and determined likely to classify in the sport class in which he/she would be qualified for the Team; provided that athletes without an international sport class status are allowable for submission on the official team entry into this competition. A description of sport-specific classification requirements and current athlete sport class status can be found here: [http://www.worldtaekwondo.org/para-wt/para\\_mdf\\_fpa.html](http://www.worldtaekwondo.org/para-wt/para_mdf_fpa.html)

## 1.2. Tryout Events:

- 1.2.1. Provide the event names, dates and locations of all trials, events and camps to be used as part of the selection process.
  - 1.2.1.1. Para Taekwondo Camp (November 27 - December 3, 2022)
  - 1.2.1.2. Para Taekwondo Qualification Tournament (March 2023)
- 1.2.2 Describe how athletes qualify for the events listed in 1.2.1:
  - 1.2.2.1 All athletes in the USA Para Taekwondo development pool will be invited to attend the camp.
  - 1.2.2.2 All athletes who participated in the Para Taekwondo Camp and meet the Para Taekwondo Qualification Tournament eligibility criteria will be nominated for the tournament unless the athlete already qualified for the Games.

1.3. Step-by-step description of the selection process for these Games (include maximum Team size):

Allocation of Qualification Slots:

The qualification slot is allocated to the NPC not to the individual athlete. An athlete may only obtain a maximum of one (1) qualification slot for their NPC.

Maximum Quota Allocation per NPC:

An NPC can be allocated a maximum of ten (10) male qualification slots and a maximum of ten (10) female qualification slots for a total of twenty (20) qualification slots with a maximum of two (2) slots per medal event.

Maximum Entry Per NPC:

An NPC can enter a maximum of two (2) eligible athletes per medal event. NPCs may only enter an athlete in a medal event in which they have achieved a qualification slot.

- Exceptions may be granted through a Bipartite Commission Invitation.

Qualification System:

The 2023 Santiago Parapan American Qualification Guide can be found at

<https://www.paralympic.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/Santiago%202023%20qualification%20regulations.pdf>

Team Selection:

NPC quota slots for the 2023 ParaPan American Games will be awarded based on the 2023 World Ranking List as of January 2023 and results from the Para Taekwondo Qualification Tournament in March 2023. While NPCs may earn quotas at these events, USATKD intends to nominate the athlete who secures the quota for the US to the 2023 Parapan American team provided the athlete meets the eligibility criteria defined in these procedures.

Athletes will be named to the Team according to the below:

A. World Para Taekwondo Paralympic Ranking List:

- The top four (4) ranked male athletes from the Pan American region as of January 2023 in the K44 Sport Class per medal event obtain one (1) qualification slot for their NPC.
- The top two (2) ranked female athletes from the Pan American region as of January 2023 in the K44 Sport Class per medal event each obtain one (1) qualification slot for their NPC.
- An NPC can only obtain one (1) qualification slot per medal event through this allocation method.
- An athlete who earns a qualification slot for USATKD via the World Para Taekwondo Rankings as of January 2023 will be nominated to the Team.

B. Para Taekwondo Qualification Tournament (March 2023):

- If an athlete does not qualify for the Games via the Rankings List, an athlete may qualify via the Para Taekwondo Qualification Tournament.
- Athletes who are nationally ranked in the top ten (10) of their weight class may be nominated by USATKD to compete.
- Two (2) athletes may be entered per medal event, except in medal events where USATKD has already been awarded a qualification slot via the World Taekwondo Rankings. In this case, only one (1) athlete may be entered for that medal event in the qualification tournament.
- An athlete who earns a gold or silver medal at the Para Taekwondo Qualification Tournament will earn a qualification slot for USATKD and will be nominated for the Team.

C. Bipartite Commission Invitation Allocation:

In the case of a Bipartite Commission Invitation, the slot is allocated to the individual athlete, not the NPC.

- USATKD may, but is not required to, submit an application for a Bipartite slot for an athlete who has not qualified for the Games.
- If USATKD submits for Bipartite slot consideration, athletes who were nationally ranked in the top ten (10) and who participated in the Para Taekwondo Qualification tournament will be considered.
- If there are more athletes than Bipartite slots available, USATKD will utilize the discretionary criteria detailed in Section 2 to determine which athletes will be nominated for a Bipartite slot.
- Bipartite slots will be awarded at the sole discretion of the IPC and WT. If a Bipartite slot is awarded to a USATKD athlete, USATKD will nominate the athlete to the Team.

## 2. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION

### 2.1. Provide rationale for utilizing discretionary selection:

USATKD shall use discretionary selection criteria should an athlete need to be replaced as described in Section 4 or if there are more eligible athletes than Bipartite slots available as described in Section 1.3 (c).

### 2.2. List the discretionary criteria and explain how they will be used (if any):

The Discretionary Selection Committee will nominate athletes based on their overall capabilities, performance, and projected development rather than a single competition result.

The Selection Committee will consider the athlete's World Taekwondo ranking points in addition to the other past performance metrics listed below (not in priority order):

- Medals won;
- Quality and quantity of matches;
- Opponents fought;
- Protector scoring system (PSS) and statistical data; and
- Percentage of matches won/lost

In addition, the Selection Committee will consider the following performance-related factors (list is not in priority order):

- The athlete(s) experienced an injury, illness or another personal factor that impeded maximal performance or prevented the athlete from competing in relevant competitions.
- The athlete was reclassified and represents a potential medal in the new sport class or weight category.
- The athlete(s) experience equipment failure, weather, interference, or other external factors, either natural or caused by others, at a relevant event, that impeded what otherwise likely would have been a qualifying result.
- The athlete demonstrates a trend of improving performance in international competition.
- The availability of an open start right for the athlete's sport class/weight category.
- The athlete is capable of producing a medal-earning performance, based on past results.
- The athlete, despite age or competing a relatively short time in the sport, has a performance trajectory that is favorable to future international success.

The Discretionary Selection Committee may call for, and give appropriate weight to, any evidence related to the performance metrics and factors listed above which they believe may assist them in their selection decision, including detailed statistical information from USOPC performance analysis and/or others.

- 2.3. Provide the name of the committee that will be responsible for making discretionary selections, along with a complete list of the members' titles currently serving on the committee:

2024 Parapan Games Selection Committee

- Director of High Performance, USA Taekwondo
- Para Taekwondo Head Coach, USA Taekwondo
- Athlete Representative

2.3.1. Process that will be used to identify and handle any potential conflicts of interest involving a member of the committee:

All members of the selection committee must comply with USATKD's conflict of interest policy, to include completing and submitting a disclosure form for review by USATKD's ethics committee prior to convening the committee.

Any member of the selection committee who has an actual, possible, or perceived conflict of interest must disclose it to the USATKD ethics committee prior to the start of the selection process and/or recuse him/herself from the review process and/or voting. A conflict of interest exists when a personal, family, financial, professional, club, team or business interest of the committee member poses a direct or indirect relationship, connection, or affiliation, past or present, with an athlete in contention for the applicable team selection that could compromise the committee member's ability to participate in the selection process in an unbiased manner. If a conflict exists, the USATKD ethics committee shall review the conflict and determine the committee member's level of involvement (e.g., whether that committee member must recuse him/herself from participating in discussions and/or voting). For example, if it is determined that a committee member must recuse him/herself from voting, the ethics committee may still determine that a committee member who has relevant and necessary information with respect to athlete performance, for example a national team coach or high performance director, may, if requested by the selection committee, provide such information to the committee so long as such information is provided in a fair and unbiased manner and so long as the committee member with the conflict of interest does not vote toward the final decision. The committee member must not otherwise influence other members of the committee in the selection process.

Additionally, any person (including any potentially impacted athlete or coach of a potentially impacted athlete) with a good faith belief that a committee member has a conflict of interest may report the alleged conflict of interest to USATKD's ethics committee. Reports may be made anonymously. No committee member shall retaliate in any way against a person who, in good faith, reports an alleged conflict of interest.

Any recused individual shall be replaced in accordance with the USATKD selection committee appointment process.

### **3. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES**

3.1. Prior to entry by name to the Local Organizing Committee by the USOPC, USATKD has

jurisdiction over potential nominees.

An athlete who is nominated to the Team by USATKD may be removed for any of the following reasons, as determined by USATKD:

- Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written letter to the USATKD Para Head Coach.
- Injury or illness as certified by a physician (or medical staff) approved by USATKD. If an athlete refuses verification of his/her illness or injury by a physician (or medical staff) approved by USATKD, his/her injury will be assumed to be disabling and he/she may be removed.
- Failure to participate in Mandatory Training and/or Competition as defined in Section 9 of these procedures.
- Violation of the USATKD Code of Conduct
- Non-compliance with the eligibility requirements listed in Section 1.1. of these selection procedures.
- Removal by the IPC/IF of the event in which the athlete qualified for the team from the medal event program of the Games.
- A change in the athlete's sport class(es) following team selection, such that:
  - The athlete's qualifying performance would not have qualified him/her for the team; and/or
  - The athlete is deemed Not Eligible (NE) by the IPC/IF.

An athlete who is removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per USATKD Bylaws (USATKD: <https://www.usatkd.org/v2-resources/bylaws>) and the USOPC Bylaws, Section 9.

- 3.2. An athlete may be removed as a nominee to the Team or from the Team for an adjudicated violation of IPC, APC, WADA, WT, USADA and/or USOPC anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures, as well as the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code, the USOPC Athlete Safety Policy and USATKD SafeSport policies, as applicable.

#### **4. REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES**

- 4.1. Describe the selection and approval process for determining replacement athlete(s) should a vacancy occur:
- 4.1.1 Should a vacancy occur prior to submission of Entries by Name to the Local Organizing Committee, USATKD will select the next highest ranked athlete from the World Rankings List who is eligible for the event.
- 4.1.1.1 If USATKD does not have any remaining athletes with a world ranking, the Discretionary Selection Committee will determine if a replacement

athlete should be nominated based on the criteria outlined in Section 2.

- 4.1.2 Should a vacancy occur after submission of Entries by Name to the Local Organizing Committee, WT will allocate qualification slots via the Bipartite Commission Invitation Allocation method.
- 4.1.3 All replacement athletes must meet all requirements listed in Section 1.1.

## 5. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

USATKD will retain the approved Selection Procedures and all supporting documents, including scouting or evaluation forms, etc., and data from the selection process for six months past the date of the Closing Ceremony of the Games.

## 6. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

In addition to the USOPC Code of Conduct, the following documents are required to be signed by an athlete as a condition of nomination to the Parapan American Games (include as attachments or provide links):

- USATKD Code of Ethics - <https://www.usatkd.org/v2-resources/code-of-ethics>

## 7. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES

The USOPC approved Selection Procedures (complete and unaltered) will be posted/published by USATKD in the following public location(s):

- 7.1. USATKD Website: <https://www.usatkd.org/>

These procedures will be posted as soon as possible, but not more than five business days following notice of approval by the USOPC.

## 8. DATE OF NOMINATION

Nomination of athletes, including replacements, will be announced to all athletes and submitted to the USOPC on or before: **August 30, 2023**

## **9. MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION**

Athletes will be notified 30 days prior to Prep Camps/Events. These camps/events will be posted on the Para page of the USATKD website and on the Official Instagram of USA Para Taekwondo as well as emailed to the athletes.

## **10. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS**

Athletes must adhere to all IPC, APC, WADA, WT, USADA and USOPC anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures, as applicable. This includes participation in Out-of-Competition Testing as required by the IPC, APC, WADA, WT, USADA and USOPC rules, as applicable.

## **11. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES**

The following committee/group (include names and titles) was responsible for creating these Selection Procedures:

- Adriana Gonzales - USATKD Para Director Head Coach
- Eric Wininger - USATKD High Performance Team
- Briana Salinaro - USATKD Para AAC

## **12. NGB/PSO BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES**

The USATKD Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found at:

<https://www.usatkd.org/v2-resources/bylaws>

## **13. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER**

These procedures are based on IPC, APC, as applicable, and/or WT rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in IPC, APC, as applicable, and/or WT rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes immediately. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to USAKD. However, the selections are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances, and realistically may not have accounted for every possible contingency.

If any force of nature, 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.

**14. ATHLETE OMBUDS OFFICE**

The Athlete Ombuds Office provides cost-free, independent and confidential advice regarding athlete rights, grievance procedures and any other related guidance pertaining to selection procedures and can assist in mediating disputes between athletes and their NGB/PSO.

To contact the Athlete Ombuds Office:


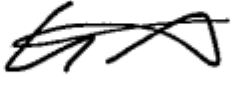

PHONE: (719) 866-5000

EMAIL: [ombudsman@usathlete.org](mailto:ombudsman@usathlete.org)

WEBSITE: <https://www.usopc.org/athlete-ombuds>

**15. NGB/PSO SIGNATURES**

**I certify that I have read and understand the standards/criteria set by our IF and/or CF (PPAG) and incorporated those standards/criteria into our Selection Procedures. I further certify that the information provided herein regarding Athlete Selection Procedures represents the method approved by USA Taekwondo.**

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
USA Taekwondo President or CEO/Executive Director	Steve McNally		July 25, 2023
Nat. Team Coach, Head Coach, or Nat. Program Director	Adriana Gonzales		July 25, 2023
USOPC Athletes' Advisory Council Representative*	Brianna Salinaro		July 25, 2023

\* If the USOPC AAC Representative has delegated authority to the Alternate AAC Representative to sign the Selection Procedures, attach a letter from the AAC Representative indicating the reason he/she has delegated authority.

\* Signature by the Athlete Representative constitutes that he/she has read and understands the Selection Procedures. If the Athlete Representative reads and does not agree with the Athlete Selection Procedures being submitted by the NGB/PSO, he/she may submit those reasons in writing to his/her USOPC Sport Performance Team.

\* If, for some reason, a sport does not have an elected USOPC AAC Representative, the NGB/PSO must designate an athlete from that sport to review and sign the Selection Procedures.