

USA TAEKWONDO

KYORUGI Athlete Selection Procedures

2026 Pan American Championships

- Publication Date: October 16, 2025

Amended 10/17/25: clarification added around athletes transferring MNA's.

Amended 11/3/25: Revised automatic qualification to World Rankings to match originally established criteria through National Pathways.

Amended 12/19/25: Revised Procedures to maximize quota availability through country and PATU Wildcard quota.

Amended 1/5/26: Clarified that the latest WT rules will be used at the 2026 Team Trials, excluding the electronic gloves.

SECTION 1: OVERVIEW

These procedures outline the pathway for selection to the 2026 Pan Am Championships (Date & Location TBD) in KYORUGI.

The maximum team size is 16 ATHLETES (8 MALE/8 FEMALE). **This does not include athletes qualified via PATU Wildcard invitations. Updated 12/19/25.**

SECTION 2: ATHLETE REQUIREMENTS

1. Nationality/Passports Requirements:
 - Have a valid United States passport by February 1st, 2026 that does not expire for six months after the conclusion of the 2026 Pan American Championships.
2. LOC Requirements:
 - Comply with all rules and policies implemented by the LOC.
3. WORLD TAEKWONDO (WT) Requirements:
 - Must be a citizen of the United States of America.
 - Must be a holder of Taekwondo Dan certificate issued by the Kukkiwon.
 - Must hold a valid 2026 WT Global Athlete License.
 - Must be a minimum of 17 years old or turning 17 years old in the 2026 calendar year.
4. National Governing Body (NGB) Requirements:
 - Comply with the USATKD Athlete Agreement.
 - Comply with the [USATKD Code of Ethics](#).
 - Comply with the [USATKD SafeSport Policy](#).
 - Athlete must be a USATKD member in good standing.
 - Athlete does not have an active suspension from the U.S. Center for SafeSport that would make the Athlete ineligible to participate at the 2026 Pan American Championships.
 - Athlete does not have an active sanction for an anti-doping rule/policy violation that would make the Athlete ineligible to participate at the 2026 Pan American Championships.
 - Athlete must compete in the World Class Black Belt division and hold a taekwondo Dan certificate

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issued by Kukkiwon or World Taekwondo (Article 4.1.3).

SECTION 3: OTHER MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE TEAM

- Meet the U.S. Center for SafeSport's education and training requirements in accordance with the [USOPC Athlete Safety Policy](#) if you will be 18 or older on the day after the Closing Ceremony.
 - Agree to be bound by and adhere to all WT, USATKD, 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 WT, USAT, WADA, USADA, 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, WT, USATKD and/or the Local Organizing Committee.

SECTION 4: EVALUATIVE EVENTS

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

DATE(S)	DESCRIPTION/EVENT NAME
Jan 30 th to Feb. 1 st , 2026	2026 U.S. National Team Trials

SECTION 5: SELECTION PROCESS

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

The 2026 Pan American Championship Team will be determined by the winners of the Senior World Class black belt division at the 2026 U.S. National Team Trials, Jan. 30th to Feb. 1st, Tulsa, OK). This team will represent Team USA at the upcoming 2026 Pan American Championships (Date & Location TBD).

5.1 TOTAL QUOTA PLACES:

The maximum team size can be 16 ATHLETES (8 MALE/8 FEMALE). The 2026 Pan American Championships is a World Weight Division competition.

CLASS	MALE	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

5.2 EVALUATION EVENT QUALIFICATION PATHWAY:

Athletes can qualify for the 2026 U.S. National Team Trials (Jan. 30th – Feb. 1st, 2026; Tulsa, OK) via any one of the following ways:

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1. 2025 U.S. National Team members that competed at the 2025 World Taekwondo Championships (Oct. 24th-30th, 2025; Wuxi, China).

The 2025 World Championships Selection Procedures can be found [here](#).

2. 2025 U21 U.S. National Team members that competed at the 2025 U21 World Taekwondo Championships (Dec. 3rd-6th, 2025; Nairobi, Kenya)

The 2025 U21 World Championships Selection Procedures can be found [here](#).

3. Rank in the Top 20 World Taekwondo Sparring Rankings in the respective division as of 1/1/26.

The WT World Rankings can be found [here](#).

The WT World Ranking Bylaws can be found [here](#).

4. Rank #1 Ranked Athlete in the USATKD National Sparring Rankings in the respective division as of 1/1/26.

USATKD National Sparring Rankings can be found [here](#).

USATKD National Sparring Rankings rules can be found [here](#).

5. International Dominant Athlete Status

An athlete is declared an International Dominant Athlete when an athlete wins TWO (2) WT G-Rated Event Gold medals, plus ONE (1) G-Rated Event medal of any other color in the respective division for 3 total medals. These events must meet minimum WT criteria for full-ranking point status (4 countries; minimum 8 participants in the weight category).

The WT World Ranking bylaws, including WT Event Grading guidelines, can be found [here](#).

6. National Dominant Athlete Status

An athlete is declared a Domestic Dominant Athlete when any athlete wins at least 3 of the following 4 events in the respective division:

- a. 2025 U.S. Open Championships (G2) (Feb. 14th-16th, 2025; Reno, NV)

- b. 2025 U.S. National Championships (Jul. 23rd-27th, 2025; Ontario, CA)

Qualification guidelines for the 2025 U.S. National Championships can be found [here](#).

- c. 2025 U.S. Season Final (Sep. 5th-7th; Daytona Beach, FL)

Qualification guidelines for the 2025 U.S. Season Final can be found [here](#).

- d. #1 In the USATKD Sparring Athlete Rankings (as of 12/31/25).

USATKD National Sparring Rankings can be found [here](#).

USATKD National Sparring Rankings rules can be found [here](#).

7. Medal at any of the following events:

- a. 2025 U.S. Open Championships (G2) (Feb. 14th-16th, 2025; Reno, NV)

- b. 2025 U.S. National Championships (Jul. 23rd-27th, 2025; Ontario, CA)

Qualification guidelines for the 2025 U.S. National Championships can be found [here](#).

- c. 2025 U.S. Season Final Sep. 5th-7th; Daytona Beach, FL)

Qualification guidelines for the 2025 U.S. Season Final can be found [here](#).

8. Athlete's Aging Up from Juniors

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Any 16- or 17-year-old junior athlete that meets the criteria to qualify for the 2026 U.S. National Team Trials, via the Junior Sparring Pathways ([Found here](#)), will qualify to compete in the Senior World Class Black Belt divisions if they meet any one of the following in 2025:

Please note: Juniors are required to have competed at the 2025 U.S. National Championships to be eligible for the 2025 U.S. National Team Trials in any division.

- a. 2025 U.S. Junior National Team Member
- b. International Dominant Athlete Status
- c. Domestic Dominant Athlete Status
- d. 2025 U.S. National Championship Gold Medal
- e. 2025 U.S. Final Gold Medal
- f. 2025 U.S. Open Gold Medal

9. Transferring International MNA Athletes

Any athlete transferring from another Member National Association (MNA) to Team USA that meets one or more of the requirements for qualification for the 2026 U.S. National Team Trials listed above during the 2025 calendar year or have medaled at the 2025 World Taekwondo Championships will be eligible to compete at the 2026 U.S. National Team Trials.

International athletes intending to compete for Team USA must have relevant approved releases from their original MNA prior to the registration deadline for the 2026 U.S. National Team Trials, as well as a current, valid U.S. Passport. Any athlete transferring MNAs must meet the minimum participation requirements outlined above in sections 2 & 3.

5.3

NOMINATION TO THE TEAM:

1. Athletes that are Top 6 Ranked in the WT *Olympic* World Rankings (as of 1/1/2026 WT January *Olympic* World Rankings) will be automatically nominated to the 2026 Pan American Championship Team in the WT World Weight division to which their points are assigned.

11/3/25 Revision. Please note: This was corrected to World Rankings to match the original pathways released earlier in 2025. Find the original pathways here:

https://assets.contentstack.io/v3/assets/blteb7d012fc7ebef7f/blt2e0b510c0273e887/68b8425bbfa11f841aa1604c/Senior_Sparring_2026_Pathways_Updated_9.3.25.pdf

If any athlete automatically qualifies for the team, the respective division will be contested to determine the Alternate Athlete. The Alternate Athlete will compete at the 2026 Pan American Championships should the automatically qualified athlete be unable to compete.

If there are two athletes ranked in the Top 6 of the WT Rankings (as of 1/1/2026) in the respective division, then the athletes will compete in a “Best of 3” competition system.

If there are 3+ athletes ranked in the Top 6 of the WT Rankings (as of 1/1/2026) in the respective division, then the athletes will compete in a “Round Robin” competition system.

Any athlete qualified for Team Trials in a weight category with one, or more, Top 6 WT Ranked athletes,

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remaining will be competing to determine remaining order of finish after the Top 6 athletes. These athletes will be given the opportunity to change divisions (up or down one division) to contest for a primary spot prior to the registration deadline.

Please note: Athletes transferring from another MNA are not eligible for automatic qualification to the 2026 Pan American Championships Team as outlined in this section. Updated 10/17/25.

2. If no athlete automatically qualifies for the 2026 Pan American Championships via the WT *Olympic* World Rankings, then the winners of each respective Senior World Class Black Belt weight division at the 2026 U.S. National Team Trials will be nominated to the 2026 Pan American Championship team.
3. **Update Regarding PATU Wildcards and the 2026 U.S. Team Trials:**

To maximize USA Taekwondo (USATKD) participation at the 2026 Pan Am Championships (May 8th, 2026; Brazil), the following protocol will be used regarding the 2026 Senior National Team Trial (Jan 30th – Feb 1st, 2026; Tulas, OK) winners and PATU Wildcard holders:

If an athlete securing the 2026 U.S. National Team spot through a Top 6 WT Ranking OR winning the Team Trials holds a PATU Wildcard:

1. USATKD will utilize both the country quota place for National Team entry as well as the quota provided by the Wildcard.
2. The next highest finishing Athlete (Alternate) will be entered to compete at the 2026 Pan Am Championships alongside the PATU Wildcard holder, should the PATU Wildcard holder win.
 - Should there be multiple PATU Wildcards in a single division, the remaining country quota would fall to the next highest finisher. For example, if both the winner (1st place), and alternate (2nd place), have PATU Wildcards the remaining country quota would fall to the 3rd place athlete.

There will be a “bronze medal” repechage match to determine the 3rd place finisher, in divisions with 4 or more athletes.

Clarification notes:

- While the Alternate will represent the USATKD at the 2026 Pan Am Championships, this selection is for tournament entry only. The Alternate does not assume the official title or status of “2026 U.S. National Team Member.”
- Athletes with PATU Wildcards are not required to win, or compete, at the 2026 U.S. National Team Trials to be entered for participation at the 2026 Pan Am Championships via their Wildcard.
- Please note that an athlete qualified automatically to the 2026 U.S. National Team via a Top 6 WT World Ranking is not the same as a PATU Wildcard.

Updated 12/19/25.

2026 U.S. National Team Trials Format

Please note: The 2026 new WT Rules adopted at the last WT Council meeting will be used at the 2026 U.S. National Team Trials. Daedo Gen3 (excluding the e-gloves) will be the PSS for the competition.

1. The Senior World Class Black Belt categories will take place over two days:

1. Senior Competition Day 1 (Friday, Jan. 30th, 2026):

Men's 58kg, 68kg, 80kg, and +80kg

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Women's 49kg, 57kg, and +73kg

2. Senior Competition Day 2 (Sunday, Feb. 1st, 2026)

Men's 54kg, 63kg, -74kg and -87kg

Women's 46kg, 53kg, 62kg, and 67kg

Athletes who make it to the Semi-final round on Day 1 (1/30/26), **but DO NOT win**, will be eligible to contest the division one above OR one below on Day 2 (2/1/26). **Athletes that win a National Team spot on Day 1 are ineligible to contest a division on Day 2.** Athletes that meet this criterion please note:

- Athletes are required to inform the Director of National Teams (Eric Winingier) of their intent to compete on the second day of senior competition (2/1/26) prior to leaving the competition and fill out the required form, that will be provided following their match that day, to accept their invitation.
- Athletes that accept the invitation to contest a division on the second day of the senior competition **MUST** weigh-in for that day's division on 1/31/26.
- Athletes that accept the invitation to contest a division on the second day of senior competition cannot change weight divisions after they have made their official choice.
- Athletes that accept the invitation to contest a division on the second day of senior competition can only contest **ONE** division.
- Athletes that accept the invitation to contest a division on the second day of senior competition will be seeded based on the results in the respective second day of senior competition's division they are contesting.
- Should an athlete decide to contest the heavier division native to their Olympic Category and fail to make the Semi-Finals they will not be eligible for the second day of senior competition.

Please see this chart as a guide for which division a medalist on day 1 would be able to contest on day 2:

MALE DIVISIONS		FEMALE DIVISIONS	
DAY 1 DIVISION	DAY 2 DIVISION	DAY 1 DIVISION	DAY 2 DIVISION
58KG	54KG 63KG	49KG	46KG 53KG
68KG	63KG 74KG	57KG	53KG 62KG
80KG	74KG UNDER 87KG	67KG	62KG UNDER 73KG
87KG	UNDER 87KG	73	UNDER 73KG

If there are only 2 athletes in a division, then the division will follow a “Best of 3” competition system.

If there are only 3, or 4 athletes, then the division will follow a “Round Robin” competition system.

If there are 5, or more, athletes in a division then the division follow a “Single Elimination Bracket” competition system.

There will be a “bronze medal” repechage match to determine finishing order in divisions with 4 or more athletes.

Updated 12/19/25.

Team Trials Seeding

Senior World Class Black Belt Divisions will be seeded via the following:

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1. 2025 Top 20 World Ranked Athlete (as of 1/1/26)
2. 2025 U.S. National Team Member
3. 2025 U21 U.S. National Team Member
4. 2025 International Dominant Athlete
5. 2025 U.S. Open Gold Medalist
6. 2025 Domestic Dominant Athlete
7. 2025 U.S. Final Gold Medalist
8. 2025 U.S. National Championship Gold Medalist
9. USATKD #1 National Ranked Athlete (as of 1/1/26)
10. 2025 U.S. Open Silver Medalist
11. 2025 U.S. Final Silver Medalist
12. 2025 U.S. National Championship Silver Medalist

- All other seeds beyond this list will be completed with USATKD Rankings.
- If there are multiple international dominant athletes, WT World Rankings (as of 12/31/25) will be used to determine the higher seed.
- If there is no athlete qualified to fill a seed, the lower seeds will move up to the next highest seed.

SECTION 6: DISCRETIONARY CRITERIA TO NOMINATE ATHLETES

6.1 RATIONALE FOR UTILIZING DISCRETIONARY SELECTION:

N/A

6.2 DEFINE THE DISCRETIONARY CRITERIA TO BE USED:

N/A

6.3 SELECTION COMMITTEE

N/A

SECTION 7: MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION

Specify the location, schedule, and duration of all mandatory training and/or competition that will be considered in Team selection.

There will be no mandatory training camps for the 2026 Pan American Championship team.

SECTION 8: DATE OF TEAM NOMINATION

NGB will nominate the Team following the conclusion of the 2026 U.S. National Team Trials (Jan. 30th – Feb. 1st, 2026; Tulsa, OK)

SECTION 9: REMOVAL OF ATHLETES FROM THE TEAM

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9.1 NGB JURISDICTION

- a. NGB has jurisdiction over the 2026 Pan American Championship team. An athlete who is nominated to the Team may be removed for any of the following reasons, as determined by NGB:
 - i. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete submits a written letter to Eric Wininger, the USATKD Associate Director of National Teams requesting to voluntarily withdraw from the Team. Submissions must be sent to ewininger@usatkd.org.
 - 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: <https://www.usatkd.org/v2-resources/code-of-ethics>
 - 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 2 and Section 3 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 WADA, WT, USADA and/or USOPC anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures, the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code, the USOPC Athlete Safety Policy and the NGB SafeSport Policy, as applicable.
- c. Non-compliance with the eligibility requirements listed in Section 2.4.

SECTION 10: SELECTION PROCESS IF ATHLETE VACANCY OCCURS PRIOR TO SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES BY NAME TO THE LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

10.1 Should a vacancy occur prior to submission of Entries by Name to the Local Organizing Committee, the alternate (2nd place finisher in the respective Senior World Class Black Belt division at the 2026 U.S. National Team Trials) will be offered the vacant spot to compete at the 2026 Pan American Championships.

Should the second-place finisher decline their invitation, the position will be offered to the bronze medalist (3rd place finisher) from Team Trials that lost to the eventual gold medal winner, and then to the bronze medalist who lost to the alternate. Should all medalists decline the invitation, USATKD will not field a representative in that division.

10.2 All replacement athletes must meet all requirements listed in Sections 2-3.

SECTION 11: RIGHT TO A HEARING

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

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SECTION 12: REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

The following documents are required to be signed by an athlete as a condition of nomination to the 2026 Pan American Championship Team:

- [USATKD Code of Ethics](#)
- USATKD Athlete Agreement

SECTION 13: DISCLAIMERS

These procedures are based on WT rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in WT 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.

SECTION 14: CONFLICT OF INTEREST

All members of the Selection Committee (Section 6.3) and all individuals who developed these selection procedures (Section 21) must comply with the USATKD Conflict of Interest Policy, to include completing and submitting a disclosure form consistent with the USATKD Conflict of Interest Policy before convening the committee.

[USATKD Conflict of Interest Policy](#)

A conflict of interest exists when a personal, family, financial, professional, club, team or business relationship or interferes with, or maybe perceived to interfere with a committee member's ability to be impartial and participate in the selection process in a fair and impartial manner. Any member of the Selection Committee who has an actual, possible, or perceived conflict of interest must disclose it to the NGB's Ethics Committee prior to the start of the selection process and may be required to recuse themselves from the Selection Committee discussions and/or voting.

If a conflict exists, the NGB's Ethics Committee shall review the conflict and determine the committee member's level of involvement (e.g., whether that committee member must recuse themselves from participating in discussions and/or voting).

During its review, the NGB Ethics Committee may ask a Selection Committee member or an affected person for more information at its discretion. For example, if a Selection Committee member is required to recuse themselves from voting, the NGB Ethics Committee may still determine that a Selection Committee member who has relevant and necessary information related to athlete performance, such as a national team coach or high performance director, may, if requested by the Selection Committee, provide that information to the Selection

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Committee if the information is provided in a fair and unbiased manner and if the Selection Committee member with the conflict of interest does not vote toward the final decision.

Additionally, any person with a good faith belief that a committee member has a conflict of interest may report the alleged conflict of interest to the NGB Ethics Committee, smcnally@usatkd.org. Reports may also be made anonymously through the [USOPC's Integrity Portal](#). No committee member 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.

Any recused individual shall be replaced in accordance with the NGB Selection Committee appointment process.

SECTION 15: QUESTIONS REGARDING ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES

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

Name: Stephen Lambdin

Position: CPO

Email: slambdin@usatkd.org

Phone: (817)-797-3541

Name: Alex Lee

Position: Team USA Athletes' Commission Representative

Email: alexlee.usa@gmail.com

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 16: GRIEVANCES

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The NGB Grievance Procedures can be found here: <https://www.usatkd.org/v2-resources/bylaws>. (Section 15.1)

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 17: NON-RETALIATION

The USOPC and USATKD 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's Whistleblower Policy located here: <https://www.usatkd.org/v2-resources/code-of-ethics>
- 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's [Speak Up Policy](#).

SECTION 18: 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 2026 Pan American Championship, whichever is longer.

SECTION 19: DEVELOPMENT, APPROVAL & CERTIFICATION OF SELECTION PROCEDURES

The following committee of individuals developed these selection procedures.

NAME	ROLE
Stephen Lambdin	CPO
Eric Wninger	Director of National Teams
Alex Lee	AAC Representative

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

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POSITION	NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE
Chief Executive Officer	Steve McNally	<i>Steve McNally</i>	1/5/26

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

POSITION	NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE
Team USA Athletes Commission Representative*	Alex Lee	<i>Alex Lee</i>	1/5/26

* If the Team USA Athletes' Commission Representative has delegated authority to the Alternate Representative to sign the Selection Procedures, attach a letter from the Team USA AC Representative indicating the reason they have delegated authority.

* Signature by the Athlete Representative constitutes that they have read and understand the Selection Procedures. If the Athlete Representative reads and does not agree with the Athlete Selection Procedures being submitted by the NGB, they may submit those reasons in writing to their USOPC Sport Performance Team.

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

APPENDIX A – COMMONLY USED ACRONYMS

AAC – Athletes' Advisory Council

AC – Athletes' Commission

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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. The OCOG refers to the Organizing Committee of the Paralympic Games as well.

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

USATKD – USA Taekwondo

WADA – World Anti-Doping Agency

WT – World Taekwondo

APPENDIX B – GLOSSARY

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

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

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NGB for participation in the 2026 Pan American Championships.

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.

APPENDIX C – ATHLETE RESOURCES

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

SAFESPORT HELPLINE

The SafeSport Helpline 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 Helpline at 866-200-0796 or visit www.safesporthelpline.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 MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

USA TAEKWONDO

KYORUGI Athlete Selection Procedures

2026 Pan American Championships

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 <https://www.usopc.org/mental-health> for information about all available resources or complete our referral link at go.teamusa.org/referrals 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.