



2026 American Cup Selection Procedures
Fort Lauderdale, Florida | April 16-19
(Dependent upon funding)

INTRODUCTION

Nature of the Selection Procedures - The following procedures will be used to select the team that will represent the United States in the American Cup (the "Selection Procedures" or "Procedures").

American Cup Team Size – The maximum number of divers that USA Diving may enter under the rules established by the Local Organizing Committee is six (6) per gender in each of the individual Olympic events and one (1) team in each of the synchronized events. As host, Team USA may enter two synchronized diving teams per event. USA Diving will field a team of two (2) divers in the individual events and two teams in the synchronized events. Two (2) additional team selections will be invited in each individual event as a self-funded opportunity.

| Event | Women | Men |
|------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 3M Springboard | 2+ 2 self-fund | 2+ 2 self-fund |
| 10M Platform | 2 + 2 self-fund | 2 + 2 self-fund |
| Synchronized 3M | 2 teams | 2 teams |
| Synchronized 10M | 2 teams | 2 teams |

Section Four (4) of these Selection Procedures identifies how the two additional spots per individual event may be filled. Through the application of these Selection Procedures, USA Diving reserves the right to select fewer than the maximum number of athletes allowed by the LOC because some members of the team may participate in multiple events, there are funding restrictions, or USA Diving may elect not to enter specific events.

1/ ELIGIBILITY FOR SELECTION TO THE AMERICAN CUP TEAM:

1.1 General Eligibility

Every candidate for the American Cup team must, by the time determined by the High Performance Director:

- a) Be a citizen of the United States,
- b) Be eligible to represent the United States per World Aquatics sport nationality regulations
- c) Be a member in good standing of USA Diving,
- d) Comply with the USA Diving Athlete Agreement,
- e) Comply with the USA Diving Code of Conduct,
- f) Comply with the USA Diving SafeSport Policy,
- g) Have a current passport that does not expire for a minimum of 6 months (or other reasonable time, as determined by the High Performance Director) after the conclusion of each event.
- h) Not have an active suspension from the U.S. Center for SafeSport that would make the Athlete ineligible to participate in the World Aquatics Recognized Events,
- i) Not have an active sanction for an anti-doping rule/policy violation that would make the Athlete ineligible to participate in the World Aquatics Recognized Events,
- j) Agree to be bound by and adhere to all WADA, AQUA, and USADA 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 WADA, AQUA, USADA, or other Anti-Doping Organization as applicable,
- k) Meet all health and safety protocols, to include vaccine requirements and/or testing requirements set forth by the government, local laws, AQUA and/or the Local Organizing Committees.

1.2 Selection Events

USA Diving will select its team for the American Cup based on the results of the 2025 USA Diving Winter National Championships held December 12-16, 2025.

1.3 Determination of Team Member Participation

Determination of the final team composition, including staff, will be made by the High Performance Director in consultation with the CCE and approval of the President and AAC Rep. Team size will be based upon availability of funding and upon the acceptance by athletes of an invitation to participate.

An invitation to participate will contain a specific reply date by which the invitation must be accepted or declined. Failure of an athlete to accept the invitation by the reply date will be deemed a decline of the invitation.

2/ INDIVIDUAL OLYMPIC EVENTS – (3-meter & 10-meter)

- 2.1 The top two (2) ranked divers in cumulative score total over two (2) lists (preliminaries and finals) in each individual Olympic event at the 2025 USA Diving Winter National Championships will be invited as a funded member of the American Cup team.
- 2.2 If an invitation is turned down, then the next best ranked diver will be invited. No athlete finishing lower than 10th place will be invited.
- 2.3 In the event of a tie between two or more athlete members for one available entry position:
 - (i) then the athlete member with the highest single list score in the finals among such athletes shall be selected; and if a tie still exists,
 - (ii) then the athlete member with the highest percentage of consistency (hit dives) for the two lists (from preliminaries and finals) shall be selected. For this purpose, an average judge's score of seven and one-half (7.5) or above for a dive in the women's events will be considered a "hit," and below a seven and one-half (7.5) a "miss." In the men's events, an average judge's score of eight (8) or above will be considered a "hit" and below an eight (8) a "miss."; and if a tie still exists,
 - (iii) then the athlete member with the highest percentage of consistency (hit dives) for the two lists (from semifinals and finals) shall be selected. For this purpose, an average judge's score of eight (8) or above for a dive in the women's events will be considered a "hit," and below an eight (8) a "miss." In the men's events, an average judge's score of eight and a half (8.5) or above will be considered a "hit" and below an eight and a half (8.5) a "miss."; and if a tie still exists,
 - (iv) then the athlete member with the highest percentage of consistency (hit dives) for the two lists (from semifinals and finals) shall be selected. For this purpose, an average judge's score of eight and a half (8.5) or above for a dive in the women's events will be considered a "hit," and below an eight and a half (8.5) a "miss." In the

men's events, an average judge's score of nine (9) or above will be considered a "hit" and below a nine (9) a "miss."

- 2.4 After positions one (1) and two (2) are confirmed, then the self-funded invitations are sent for positions three (3) and four (4) to the American Cup.
- 2.5 If entries are not filled by the top 10 divers in each individual event, the entries will be decided by the High Performance Director in consultation with the CCE with final approval of the President and AAC Rep. The event may remain unfilled if it is determined to not be in the best interest of Team USA.

3/ OLYMPIC SYNCHRONIZED EVENTS – (3-meter & 10-meter)

Up to two synchronized diving teams per event may be selected to compete at the American Cup.

3.1 World Aquatics Championships Medalists

Synchronized diving teams that won a medal at the 2025 World Aquatics Championships will receive the first right of refusal to represent Team USA at the American Cup in the corresponding event.

- Both members of the team must accept the invitation
- Acceptance under this section will count as one of up to two available synchronized team entries for the event
- If one or both athletes are unavailable, or if no team meets this criteria, the selection process will proceed to Section 3.2

3.2 Selection Based on 2025 USA Diving Winter National Championships Results

Following the application of Section 3.1, any remaining synchronized team entries will be filled based on results from the 2025 USA Diving Winter National Championships, as follows:

- The top-ranked synchronized diving team, based on cumulative score total across two (2) lists, will be invited to fill the next available spot.
- If an additional team spot remains, the next-ranked synchronized team from Winter Nationals will be invited.
- No team finishing lower than third place will be considered
- Both members of the team must accept the invitation.

- a) In the event of a tie between two or more teams:
 - (i) the team with the highest single list score in the finals among such teams shall be selected; and if a tie still exists,
 - (ii) then the team with the highest percentage of consistency (hit dives) for the two lists (from preliminaries and finals) shall be selected. For this purpose, an average judge's score of seven and one-half (7.5) or above for a dive in the women's events will be considered a "hit," and below a seven and one-half (7.5) a "miss." In the men's events, an average judge's score of eight (8) or above will be considered a "hit" and below an eight (8) a "miss."; and if a tie still exists,
 - (iii) then the team with the highest percentage of consistency (hit dives) for the two lists (from preliminaries and finals) shall be selected. For this purpose, an average judge's score of eight (8) or above for a dive in the women's events will be considered a "hit," and below an eight (8) a "miss." In the men's events, an average judge's score of eight and a half (8.5) or above will be considered a "hit" and below an eight and a half (8.5) a "miss."; and if a tie still exists,
 - (iv) then the team with the highest percentage of consistency (hit dives) for the two lists (from preliminaries and finals) shall be selected. For this purpose, an average judge's score of eight and a half (8.5) or above for a dive in the women's events will be considered a "hit," and below an eight and a half (8.5) a "miss." In the men's events, an average judge's score of nine (9) or above will be considered a "hit" and below a nine (9) a "miss."

3.3 **When a Partner is Unavailable**

If fewer than two complete synchronized teams are confirmed after applying Sections 3.1 and 3.2, USA Diving will follow the process below to complete the remaining team spot(s), prioritizing the highest-performing athletes and teams.

a) World Aquatics Championships Medalists

If a synchronized team selected under Section 3.1 cannot be confirmed due to partner availability, and one athlete from that team remains

available, USA Diving will first attempt to identify a suitable replacement partner for that athlete based on one or more of the following:

- Prior competition history together
- Evaluations from Synchro Assessment Camps
- Another diver already confirmed on the American Cup team

If a suitable partner is identified and both athletes accept, the team will be confirmed.

b) Top-Ranked Team from Winter Nationals

If a synchronized team selected under Section 3.2 cannot be confirmed due to partner availability, and one athlete from the top-ranked team at the 2025 USA Diving Winter National Championships remains available, USA Diving will attempt to identify a suitable replacement partner using the criteria listed in Section 3.3(a).

If a suitable partner is identified and both athletes accept, the team will be confirmed.

c) Second-Ranked Team from Winter Nationals

If a synchronized team spot remains unfilled after applying Sections 3.3(a) and 3.3(b), and one athlete from the second-ranked team at the 2025 USA Diving Winter National Championships remains available, then USA Diving may determine whether to move to the next-ranked team or attempt to identify a replacement partner, based on score proximity and team availability.

If the Next-Ranked Team Is Within Three Percent

- i) If the third-ranked team from Winter Nationals was within three percent of the second-ranked team's score, that team will be invited. Both members of the team must accept.

If the Next-Ranked Team Is Not Within Three Percent

- ii) If a team was selected via 3.3.(c)(i) but cannot be confirmed due to athlete availability or if the third-ranked team from Winter Nationals was not within three percent of the second-ranked team's score, USA Diving will attempt to identify a suitable

replacement partner for the available diver on the second-ranked team using the criteria listed in Section 3.3(a).

d) Third-Ranked Team from Winter Nationals

If a synchronized team spot remains unfilled after applying Sections 3.3(c), and

- i) If the third-ranked team Winter Nationals was invited in 3.3(c)(i) but only one diver was available, USA Diving will attempt to identify a suitable replacement partner for the available diver using the criteria listed in section 3.3(a).
- ii) If the third-ranked team from Winter Nationals has not yet been invited, an invitation will be extended. If only one partner is available, USA Diving will attempt to identify a suitable replacement partner for the available diver using the criteria listed in Section 3.3(a).

3.4 Unfilled Entries

In limited circumstances, it may not be possible or appropriate to fill an entry. If no suitable synchronized team or pairing can be confirmed after applying Section 3.3, the entry will then be decided by the High Performance Director in consultation with the CCE with final approval of the CEO and AAC Rep. The event may remain unfilled if it is determined to not be in the best interest of Team USA.

4/ ADDITIONAL EVENTS

USA Diving may enter a maximum of six divers in each individual event. Four athletes will be selected via section 2 above. The remaining two spots in each event may be filled by divers selected in section 3, provided the diver competed in that individual event at the Winter National Championships. If a spot still remains, USA Diving may extend an invitation to the top-placing junior diver who was a finalist in the corresponding event at the USA Diving Winter National Championships as a self-funded opportunity (junior 10-meter divers must meet DD requirements). Then if a spot still remains, USA Diving may extend an invitation (self-funded) to the highest-placing athlete not already selected, provided the athlete placed in the top 10 at Winter Nationals. Then, if a spot still remains, USA Diving may fill the spot with a diver already on the team or the spot may remain unfilled.

5/ REMOVAL OF ATHLETES

5.1 Prior to each of the World Aquatics Recognized Event technical meetings, USA Diving has jurisdiction over potential nominees.

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

- 5.1.1. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete member must submit a written letter to the USA Diving CEO/President and USA Diving's High Performance Director.
- 5.1.2. Injury, illness, or mental health concern as certified by a physician (or medical staff member) approved by USA Diving. If an athlete member refuses verification of his/her illness, injury, or mental health concern by a physician (or medical staff member) approved by USA Diving, his/her illness, injury, or mental health concern will be assumed to be debilitating, and he/she may be removed.
- 5.1.3. Violation of USA Diving's Code of Conduct (<https://www.usadiving.org/resources/bylaws-and-policies>)
- 5.1.4. Non-compliance with the eligibility requirements listed in Section 1 of these selection procedures.
- 5.1.5. An athlete loses an adjudicated violation of WADA, ITA, and/or USADA anti-doping protocol, policies, and procedures, as applicable.

6/ REPLACEMENT ATHLETES

6.1 Individual Events

If an athlete needs to be replaced due to injury, illness or voluntarily withdrawal **prior to the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) deadline** of submission of entry names, the next placed athlete will be selected. Only the top 10 athletes from finals at the 2025 USA Diving Winter National Championships for each Olympic event will be considered.

If an athlete member voluntarily withdraws or is injured or due to illness and cannot compete **after the LOC** deadline for submission of names, it is to be handled on a case-by-case basis based on logistics, budget restraints and LOC approval.

Every effort will be made to replace a diver following the above procedures. If it is not possible, the High Performance Director, in consultation with the Committee for

Competitive Excellence (CCE) and the respective World Aquatics Recognized Events Team coach members will make a selection decision that is in the best interest of Team USA based on divers who are *already* on the American Cup Team.

6.2 Synchronized Events

If a synchronized team member needs to be replaced due to injury, illness or voluntary withdraw **prior to the LOC deadline** for submission of entry names, then the next placed team from the 2025 USA Diving Winter National Championships will be the replacement synchronized diving team unless the High Performance Director, in consultation with the CCE, makes a determination to replace only one athlete pursuant to the following:

Notwithstanding the foregoing, USA Diving has conducted many of its synchronized selections for other competitive events by allowing athletes to compete with multiple partners. For this reason and in the event that one member of a synchronized team has to be replaced, USA Diving's High Performance Director (HPD) will make a recommendation to the CCE as to whether another athlete can replace the removed athlete without having to replace the entire synchronized team or whether it will be necessary to replace the entire team. If the decision is to replace only one athlete, the HPD will make a recommendation to the CCE as to who the remaining athlete will be paired with based on previous selection trials' results and the High Performance Director's evaluations from assessments conducted since 2019. The CCE will then review the HPD's recommendation and make the final decision to replace either the single athlete or the entire team.

If a synchronized team member needs to be replaced due to injury, illness or voluntary withdrawal **after the LOC deadline** for submission of entry names it is to be handled on a case-by-case basis based on logistics, budget restraints and LOC approval. Every effort will be made to replace diver/team following the above procedures. If it is not possible, the High Performance Director and World Aquatics Recognized Event coach members will make a selection decision that is in the best interest of the team based on divers who are *already* on the American Cup Team.

6/ AMERICAN CUP COACH MEMBER SELECTIONS

****The coach member selection for the American Cup is dependent on team size, available funding, and coaches' availability.***

Coach of Record:

A coach member may be considered for selection as an American Cup coach member only if a diver in the selection events declares his or her “coach of record” prior to the start of the 2025 USA Diving Winter National Championships. Once declared by the diver, the “coach of record” cannot be changed unless approved by the HPD. Coach members must be current members in good standing with USA Diving to be considered.

The American Cup coach members will be selected in the following manner:

- 6.1 Select the coach member with the greatest number of spots.
(Olympic individual and synchronized events count as one spot per diver.)
 - a) If there is a tie –
 1. Select the coach member with the greatest number of Olympic event athletes.
 - b) If a tie still exists –
 1. Select the coach member with the highest point score based on athlete invitation order in the Olympic events. (First invited athlete = 4 points, second invited athlete = 3 points, third invited athlete = 2 points and fourth invited athlete = 1 point.)
 - c) If a tie still exists –
 1. Select the coach member whose highest-placing athlete achieved the best finish in any Olympic event. *(For example, a coach with a 3rd-place finisher would rank higher than a coach whose athlete placed 4th.)*
 - d) If a tie still exists –
 1. Prioritize a coach associated with a synchronized diving team that does not yet have a designated coach present at the event. If multiple coaches in the tie have synchro athletes, select the coach whose synchro team had the largest point spread over the next-ranked team in their event.

- e) If a tie still exists -
 - 1. The coach whose highest-finishing Olympic athlete had the largest margin of victory over 2nd place will be ranked higher.
 - 2. If an athlete finished 2nd, their margin from 1st place is used, and so on.

- f) If a tie still exists –
 - 1. The High Performance Director in consultation with the CCE and final approval from the President/CEO and AAC Rep will pick the coach member that best serves the needs of the team.

The remaining coach(es) of record with athletes on the team will be ranked according to the number of spots on the team. To the extent that credentials are available upon final allocation from the Local Organizing Committee and as funding allows, additional coaches of record may be named to the team in order of their ranking. The coach member with the greatest number of spots shall be named the Head Coach of the American Cup.

- 6.2 Selection of the team leader will be made by the High Performance Director in consultation with the CCE and approval of the CEO and AAC Rep. In the event that a team does not have a team leader, then the selected World Aquatics Recognized event head coach will also serve as team leader.

- 6.3 Team support members shall be selected by the HPD with final approval from the President.

- 6.4 An AQUA certified judge(s) will be selected by the Judges Commission.