

**USOPC IMS – Surfing**  
**Men’s and Women’s Shortboard**

PRELIMINARY NOTICE TO THE ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES

**2026 World Surfing Games**

March 26, 2026

To provide information in a timely manner, USOPC IMS – Surfing is releasing this Preliminary Notice to the Athlete Selection Procedures for the 2026 World Surfing Games (WSG). This document is being written as a complement, and not a substitute to the 2026 World Surfing Games Athlete Selection Procedures. Additional communication will be released once the Athlete Selection Procedures have been completed.

**A. Anticipated Athlete Eligibility Criteria:**

- Athletes must comply with all International Surfing Association (ISA) eligibility requirements posted at <https://isasurf.org/about-isa/isa-rulebook/>
- Athletes must be a national of the United States and hold a valid U.S. passport that will not expire for six months after the conclusion of the WSG.
- Athletes must adhere to all USOPC, USADA, WADA, and ISA anti-doping protocols, policies, and procedures including participation in Out-of-Competition Testing, if applicable.
- Athletes must comply with the applicable Background Check Policy and Athlete Safety Policy.

**B. International Surfing Association Qualification System Overview:**

- The maximum Team size can be three (3) athletes per gender. Quota is awarded by quota places to Team USA, not to the athletes by name.
- The ISA Qualification System can be found at <https://isasurf.org/about-isa/isa-rulebook/>

**C. Anticipated Evaluation Events:**

It is intended that athletes being considered for nomination to the 2026 World Surfing Games Team may be evaluated on their performance at any of the below listed events.

EVENT NAME	DATE/LOCATION
2026 World Surf League Championship Tour Events	April 1, 2026 - August 20, 2026
2026 World Surf League Challenger Series Events	July - August 20, 2026
2026 World Surf League Qualifying Series Events	April - August 20, 2026

It is anticipated that the highest three (3) ranked eligible athletes per gender on the WSL CT ranking as of August 20, 2026, will be nominated to the 2026 World Surfing Games Team.

- If an athlete declines their nomination, the next highest ranked eligible athlete will be nominated.
- If quota is not filled via WSL CT rankings, quota will be offered to the highest ranked eligible athlete on the WSL Challenger Series ranking as of August 20, 2026.
- If quota is not filled via WSL Challenger Series rankings, quota will be offered to the highest ranked eligible athlete on the WSL Qualifying Series ranking as of August 20, 2026.

**D. Potential Nomination to the 2028 Olympic Team**

Team USA may earn one (1) Country quota per gender for the 2028 Olympic Games if Team USA wins Team Gold at the 2026 or 2027 World Surfing Games. If Team USA wins Team Gold in either gender, the athlete in that gender with the highest finishing place on the winning WSG Team will be nominated to the 2028 Olympic Games\*.

- If Team USA wins Team Gold at both the 2026 WSG and 2027 WSG in the same gender, a tiebreaker will be used to determine which athlete is nominated to the 2028 Olympic Games. The tiebreaker will be outlined in the full Athlete Selection Procedures.

*\*Please note that if Team USA earns Country quota at the 2026 WSG or 2027 WSG, the Country quota will be lost if three (3) Team USA athletes in the same gender qualify by name for the 2028 Olympic Games. If Country quota is lost, Team USA cannot nominate an athlete to the Olympic Games based on their performance at the 2026 or 2027 World Surfing Games.*

**E. Disclaimer:**

This preliminary notice is based on the ISA rules and regulations as presently known and understood for the 2026 World Surfing Games, 2026 WSL Tours and the 2028 Olympic Games. The information in this notice is provided to assist athletes with their training and competition planning and is subject to change upon approval of the Athlete Selection Procedures for the 2026 World Surfing Games.

For questions about the 2026 World Surfing Games selection process, please contact Matt Cramer, Senior Director, Internally Managed Sports ([Matt.R.Cramer@usopc.org](mailto:Matt.R.Cramer@usopc.org)).

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
USOPC Senior Director, Internally Managed Sports	Matt Cramer	Signed by: <i>Matt Cramer</i> 73979EF965EB49D...	March 27, 2026   10:14:01 AM MDT
Team USA Athletes' Commission Representative	Candice Appleby	Signed by: <i>Candice Appleby</i> 4CDE200FBB2346B...	March 27, 2026   10:02:22 PM MDT